

Whole School Shakespeare Play Focus

During the final term in the summer, the whole school focuses on a Shakespeare play. The learning involves developing an understanding of the plot and characters, appreciating and speaking the words of Shakespeare and looking at the creative aspects of a play through design and performance. This term involves a lot of drama-based activities but the focus also enriches children's written work through ideas they develop.

Over the past few years the school has: put on a whole school performance of *The Taming of the Shrew*, in which each class performed a section of the play; developed a design concept for *Julius Caesar* and performed in a promenade show in Stratford; designed and developed costume for *The Comedy of Errors* working alongside RSC practitioners.

The plays are selected mostly by taking advantage of what our local theatre, the RSC, is currently producing so that there are opportunities to watch these plays as well. The RSC puts on *First Encounters* productions which are more accessible for younger audiences which we also take children to watch.

The aim of the Whole School Shakespeare focus is to familiarise children with Shakespeare's language and have the chance to explore and use it. By the time children have left Bishopton, they will have encountered and worked on 7 of Shakespeare's plays.

