

Winter Wonderland 2021

PORTADOWN GETS ACTIVE

The aims of Portadown Gets Active (PGA) are to provide Primary School age children, who are eligible for free school meals, with a healthy breakfast and lunch outside of school term-time, as well as providing opportunities to learn something new, participate in physical activity and most importantly have fun with their peers. Referrals also come through the Craigavon & Banbridge Family Support Hub (FSH), Community Intercultural Programme, Family Intervention and SHSCT. Children from Portadown, Craigavon, Lurgan and Banbridge attend the Programme.

Oasis Youth, PGA's lead community partner, works in partnership with key agencies and organisation to ensure PGA has run successfully since 2017.

Aspire Peer Mentors were highly involved in designing, delivering and evaluating of this celebration event and over a 6 week period they put in over 30 hours to ensure this event was a great success. All the stalls right down to the Santas Grotto was lead by a peer mentor and the feedback from the evening was very positive! It was a great opportunity for families to come out and experience a little bit of Christmas spirit, it will be hard to top next year!

GETS ACTIVE IN NUMBERS

13

Different Stalls

11

Activities run by Peer Mentors

121

Participants and Peer Mentors

74

Additional Visitors

15

Nationalities



FOOD

On the night, we provided **195** Christmas Loaded Chip to all participants along with hot chocolate and other treats. We also gifted **60** healthy veg boxes to families in need.

ACTIVITIES

Peer Mentors put together 13 different stalls including:

- Santa's Grotto
- Santa's Workshop
- China- peace apples
- N.Ireland - traditional food
- Poland - dumpling making workshop
- Portugal - Nativity display
- Christmas Quiz- multicultural
- Gingerbread House- snacks and hot drinks
- Christmas Games
- Multicultural Family Traditions
- Photobooth
- Face painting
- Family Food Box Stall



CHILDREN AND PARENTS FEEDBACK

We asked 46 families to rate the food and their overall Winter Wonderland Experience out of 5:

FOOD



WE ASKED CHILDREN WHAT THEY LEARNED OR ENJOYED THE MOST ABOUT THE DAY. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THEIR ANSWERS:

- " Learning new traditions".
- " Spending time together"
- " Chinese peace apples"
- " Learned about Polish traditions-lovely way to celebrate that I have never known"
- "Learned about different cultures"
- " The festive atmosphere"
- " I learned that each country has different traditions".
- " I liked everything !"
- "Santa's Grotto because he was so nice to me".

WE ALSO ASKED PARENTS FOR ANY OTHER FEEDBACK/ COMMENTS ABOUT WINTER WONDERLAND:

- "Young people (peer mentors) had great attitudes and were very helpful ".
- "All family had brilliant time, thank you! "
- "Everything was great, really fun! "
- "Great job as per usual "
- " Excellent night, loved it! And great Christmas spirit"
- "Was a great event. I got the Polish Christmas chat from Patryk. What a great lad! Massive project of work and well worth it "



PEER MENTORS

WE ASKED PEER MENTORS WHAT IMPACT HAVE WINTER WONDERLAND HAD ON THEM AND WHAT SKILLS THEY HAVE GAINED:

- " It helped me find new friends".
- " I got really confident"
- " I learned how Christmas is celebrated around the world, gained leadership skills and was able to run a station with confidence"
- " I've gained more confidence when it comes to speaking with people"
- " It's given me a reason to get out of the house and push myself out of my comfort zone talking to new people. I improved my communication, teamwork, time management and organisational skills"

