**Mount Pleasant school children love sewing with the Embroiderers’ Guild**

On Valentine’s Day, year 3 children at Mount Pleasant Primary School welcomed the Embroiderers’ Guild to their class for a workshop on how to make stuffed love hearts.

The Embroiderers’ Guild taught the pupils about the history of the love heart as a symbol and how it came to represent Valentine’s Day, whilst also testing out their control of motor skills by making stitched, stuffed love hearts.

At the start of the session, the children discussed and made choices on which would be the best fabric to use before carefully cutting out their templates on card and fabric. Using a needle and thread, they were then taught how to do a basic stitch, secure knots and sew buttons onto the fabric.

Jo Blackham, head of school at Mount Pleasant Primary School, said: “Having the Embroiderers’ Guild at the school really gave the children a chance to be creative, whilst also teaching them how to use tools such as scissors and needles safely.

“Some of the children met the Embroiderers’ Guild at an event at Cockerton Library earlier this year and were really interested in the pieces of embroidery and patchwork on display, so Gloria Brunning kindly offered to deliver a workshop in the school.

“The children thoroughly enjoyed working with the Embroiderers’ Guild and we hope to continue working with them in the future.”

Gloria Brunning, Chairman of Darlington’s Embroiderers’ Guild, commented: “We are really passionate about what we do and we hope that these workshops inspire the younger generation to become involved.

“I think it’s really important for children to have the opportunity to try new activities to help with their personal development. Creativity and the design process are very therapeutic and can help to build a well-rounded personality. The skills learnt, such as safe working and discipline, can be transferred in to other areas of learning too.”