



Autumn Newsletter



Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year, following a very busy term which culminated in a visit from Ofsted on Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th December. We have been expecting an inspection for the last year since our last one in 2012, and whilst we can't yet share the outcome, we are very pleased with what the team said to us. We are particularly proud of our children whose behaviour, as always, was exemplary. One of the inspectors commented upon our ethos saying that the attitudes of caring for others and understanding of other cultures ran like a golden thread through the school. We are so proud.

The Wingrove choir has been out and about across the city singing to raise money for The Rotary Club. Their behaviour outside school has been commented upon which makes me feel very proud to be part of this wonderful school. We have so many caring pupils who have independently conducted their own fundraising events such as cake stalls and tuck shops.

This year, we have tried to incorporate our fundraising efforts into the curriculum and children in year three have already completed theirs. You will find out in due course about the rest of the exciting events. As a school we are supporting a campaign to eradicate polio across the world by 2019. In an attempt to raise awareness, we have planted some crocus bulbs in the large square planters at the front of the school. We hope to have a fabulous display of purple flowers in each container by the spring time. The bulbs were donated by the Rotary Club. The colour purple is symbolic of the colour of thumb nails of all people once they have received their vaccination against the disease. Look out for the blooms appearing as the weather becomes milder.

I continue to enjoy greeting you all in the morning and I am pleased to report that our attendance figure for last year, 2015-16, at 95.8% was close to national average. We need to aim for 96% or above this year if we are to achieve above our figure for the previous year and the national average. Can I thank you all for your efforts with this, particularly to those of you who have kept appointments and holidays to holiday periods, avoiding disruption to the school day. We continue to work to improve attendance and punctuality at school. We need to work in partnership to ensure our children have the very best opportunities to achieve their full potential and this includes building good habits with attendance and punctuality. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy holiday. I look forward to seeing you back at school at 0845 on Monday January 9th 2017. *Mrs. Mullarkey*

SONG OF THE TYNE

In early November, some of the best singers from Wingrove were chosen to represent the North East in the 'Magnetic North' launch concert at Sage Gateshead. Along with children from several other primary schools, they performed a song especially written for the occasion by celebrated author David Almond and musician Kathryn Tickell, called 'Song of the Tyne.' They also sang a traditional Geordie song before watching some of the fabulous



musicians of our region. Sabiha, Year 3, explained, "It was great because we got to stand and perform on the stage and when we sang everyone thought we were fantastic. We liked the song because we learned all about the River Tyne." The children rehearsed with great dedication and performed with tremendous confidence, which was especially notable since they were amongst the youngest children involved. Their teachers were extremely proud of both their hard work and their performance. As Sofiyah, Year 3, said, "I liked it because I love singing and it was so special because everyone watching thought we were fabulous." And she's right; they did!

Visits and Visitors

Year 2 had a fabulous musical experience at Newcastle University in November. Wingrove were invited to an orchestral workshop, led by Tom Edney and members of ICMuS outreach, to become familiar with the different instruments of the orchestra. Each musical family played a composition which reflected the range and timbre of their instruments. The children were particularly impressed by the percussion family; one of which was so loud it needed its own protective noise barrier! "We also joined in with the orchestra to sing, 'Do Re Mi', the popular song from 'The Sound of Music'. We had to learn the words and melody very quickly, but we were keen to impress the musicians!" – Masa, Year 2.



As part of their topic, Commotion in the Ocean, Year 2 visited St Mary's Lighthouse in the first half term. It was an action packed day, which included rock-pooling, climbing the lighthouse, as well as making fun arts and crafts. They all had a fabulous day and the weather stayed dry for them, thankfully. Manpreet said, "Year 2 had a brilliant time at St Mary's Lighthouse. My favourite part was when we climbed to the top of the lighthouse



and I loved looking at the enormous light. It was a great view of the North Sea too!"

Earlier this term, Year 4 visited the Castle Keep as part of their Monsters and Monstrous Times topic. Each class was given a guided tour of the castle, which involved a trip to the rooftop to see the beautiful views

our Quayside has to offer. They also took part in a gruesome workshop with a 'death doctor', where they found out about all of the strange 'cures' available during the Black Death. Daniyal, Year 4, said "I loved it when Mr Henderson put his head in the stocks. It was so funny!"



Year 5 have been reading the novel, *The Robe of Skulls*, and were lucky enough to have a visit from the author Vivian French. The children were taught different authorial techniques and given many tips on how to be a successful writer. Both classes had prepared writing, in Vivian French's style, and gave them to the author as a gift, at which she was delighted. She left extremely impressed with the talent and potential our children have as future authors!

At the end of September, Year 3 visited The Havannah and Three Hills Nature Reserve as part of their Dahlicious topic. "When we were there, we explored the land, but more excitingly we picked thousands of blackberries. When we got there we were met by Ms West's Dad and he gave us a guided tour, as well as lots of apples from his own garden. It was a really sunny day and we had a great time at the nature reserve. When we got back to school, we washed all of our fruits before producing apple and blackberry crumbles and blackberry muffins to sell to the school. We raised nearly £30 and this money was donated to Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity. Our products were scrumptious and thank you for supporting our chosen charity." – Areesha and Daniyal, Y3.



Project for Remembrance

Churches Together in Fenham contacted our school and invited us to participate in their Project for Remembrance by producing art work to display in the churches in the local area on and around Remembrance Day. Each year group thought about remembrance in a way that was appropriate for them and we produced a large collection of art which was displayed in our hall, before being taken to the local churches. Zaara, Year 3, said, "I enjoyed creating our poppy collage and the project helped me learn about the importance of remembering fallen soldiers. They were very brave." We have received two letters of thanks, one from *Churches Together in Fenham* and one from a local lady who had been really touched by our efforts.



World War 2 Day

In the second half term, Year 5 have centred their learning around World War 2. They have had great fun learning about the different leaders, where they came from and what ordinary people had to live and work through. They have also learnt about the Home Front, made their own Ration Books, and created mobiles on the Battle of Britain. Mr Barker's class even performed a class assembly based on the Battle of Britain. They capped off their World War 2 experience with a whole day dressed as evacuees. "We had to work on various activities, including posters, Morse code and espionage. We have all developed a feeling of sadness for the children who had to evacuate from their schools during this topic." - Dania, Year 5.



Chain of Peace

In November, the whole school took part in a city-wide exhibition to promote peace in our communities. 'Chain of Peace' was founded in December 2014 and currently includes 26 worshipping communities across the city including 2 cathedrals, 2 mosques, the Hindu and Sikh temples and a number of local schools. Schools and other communities were encouraged to spread the message of peace in creative ways. Wingrove children worked together across the school to create artwork which was then displayed in St Thomas' Church at Haymarket. The organisers of the event have since been in touch and told us, "The young people have touched the hearts and minds of many Newcastle residents and expressed their hopes for a future of peaceful relationships across the city and in the world."



ONLINE SAFETY

In October, Key Stages One and Two watched an Internet Safety production. "It was called, 'How to Save the Internet,' and a girl needed to save the Internet from being shut down by mean and nasty people. During the show, we learnt how to be safe online. We learnt not to respond to nasty messages, but to keep them as evidence. We also learnt that we should be a friend online, use trustworthy websites, check our privacy settings, keep passwords safe and most importantly never to talk to or meet strangers from the Internet. Our favourite part of the show was the quiz at the end." – Bassam and Ibrahim, Y3.





A team from *Clued Up Kids* came to our school to help us think about how to be healthy. They started with a quiz where the children used voting handsets to answer health related questions. Each class then took it in turns to take part in workshops on the yard where they got to ride a bike that made a smoothie, as well as discussing



healthy foods. Thomas, Year 4, said, "I loved going on the website and entering my points that I earned by being healthy and doing healthy things. You could also score points for working hard and I even scored points for completing my homework. The points we scored, as a school, are going to be converted into new playground equipment for us. I can't wait for it to arrive!"

Four Corners Music Project

Musicians Ken Patterson and Richard Scott have been working in our school, along with other schools in our trust, to help the Year 4 children write a song for a Big Sing event at the Tyne Theatre in March. The children have helped to develop the lyrics for a song about energy and a song about inventions. "We liked the part when we looked at different ways to make energy. Ken and Richard taught us songs to get us started with and then we used what we know about what needs energy to write our own." – Aisha and Basiya, Year 4.

Reception Feel The Chill

The children in Reception have been learning about ice during their Winter Wonderland topic. They were keen to investigate what happened to a colourful ice hand and they used their senses to explore it when the ice was left in the classroom at room temperature. Asena said, "It was so cold and freezing!" Jody explored the ice hand and said, "I knew it would melt because of the heat."



Cycling

20 children from Years 5 and 6 visited Holy Island in October for a cycling trip. "We stopped off at a bird hide, the beach and an observation tower. It was a great view from the top! Although it was a really tiring day, it was great fun." – Lucy, Year 5. Another trip this term, which involved children from Years 4, 5 and 6, saw a group cycle 20 miles from Blyth to Widdrington. "We had to work especially hard on this trip, because we were pointed in the wrong direction at one point! There were some steep hills, but we battled through and showed great determination to finish our ride." – Mohammed, Year 4.



News in Brief

- ◆ The closing date for applications for September 2017 Nursery places is 31st January 2017.
- ◆ Please note that the training day, scheduled for Friday 21st July 2017, has been cancelled. If you require a new calendar of the term dates, they are available from the school office.
- ◆ We raised £402.20 for BBC Children in Need and we have raised £496 from the Winter Wonderland. Thank you, as ever, for your support.
- ◆ We hold free ESOL classes on a Thursday morning, in the Community Room. Sessions are available for beginners and more advanced learners. Please speak to Mrs Dick for more information.
- ◆ JET are delivering a host of training opportunities, on a Thursday afternoon, for women. Please see Mrs Dick if you are interested or would like any further information.
- ◆ Mrs Hussain continues to run a Parents' Group and this term they were visited by the NHS Breast Screening team who offered support and advice. In the future, the group will be receiving first aid training. If you would like to join the group, please see Mrs Hussain.



CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Carols for Christmas

At this time of year, in particular, we encourage our school community to consider those who are less fortunate than ourselves and what we can do to make a difference, to be good citizens of our world and good Wingrovians! So, with great dedication and enthusiasm, nearly 40 KS2 pupils travelled to Eldon Square to sing carols and raise money for the Rotary Club. Seevan, Year 4, said, "The singing is the best part of the trip. I liked all the songs!" Salma, Year 3, added, "My Mum came to see me and she said it sounded so good!" The Rotary Club is an international membership organisation made up of people who share a passion for, and commitment to, enhancing communities and improving lives across the globe. As Sumayyah, Year 4, said, "It was good to sing for those people because we raised money. People shopping put their change in buckets and together we have helped people and tried to feed them." The children practised carols for six weeks, giving up their lunchtime to rehearse, and produced some truly beautiful singing. Many shoppers in the city centre stopped to listen and pay compliments about the quality of the music. As ever, the pupils did an amazing job of representing our school in the community. We've already been invited back to sing next Christmas by two different branches of the Rotary Club! Tabaan, Year 4, summed up our trip perfectly. "One, it was really good fun! Two, the money we raised might be sent to buy medical equipment for people who really need it." And that, I may suggest, is the true spirit of Christmas time.— *Mrs Lawson-Perfect*

It's Showtime!

At the end of Autumn Term, we always celebrate by performing Christmas songs and stories for our parents, teachers and friends. Everyone works especially hard to learn lines and lyrics, make costumes and props and practise acting and performing to produce the best shows we can.

This year, Foundation Stage told the story of a very willing but absentminded angel called, 'Whoops-A- Daisy', who is eventually chosen to bring shepherds, kings and the angel host to see the newborn baby Jesus. The children have loved singing the songs and learning the Nativity Story with actions.

KS1 told the story of, 'How Rudolph got his Red Nose.' The show is opened by two elves, played by Aws and Marwah from Year 2. Marwah said, "I'm Ellie Elf and I want to be the star of the show, but Alfie Elf makes me tell the story and I don't become famous!" Naafiah, Year 2, explained, "I'm Rudolph and all the other reindeer laugh and call me names, and never let me join in their reindeer games. Then, Fairy Fae and I fall asleep and Donder, the naughty reindeer, performs magic on me! He turns my tail blue, my antlers green and spotty and my nose bright red. Santa then interrupts and says his sleigh headlight is broken. Fairy Fae says, "What about a reindeer with a bright shiny nose?" and Santa says, "Yes!" so I guide the sleigh and all the reindeer love me."

KS2 showed their audience, 'Pictures of a Christmas World.' A group of children meet a little elf, lost in time, and help him to catch up with Santa Claus. As they work to save Christmas, the children travel through many countries who celebrate Christmas in a variety of ways and styles and at different times with different traditions. Aishah, Year 3, said, "I really liked the Christmas lullaby, 'Wind Through the Olive Trees'. I love taking part in the Christmas production because I learn new stories and songs." The message of this show is one of acceptance; that although we may have many differences, we are all equal and valuable and must respect the beliefs and traditions of others. As Mrs Mullarkey concisely put it, at the conclusion of the performance, what this show gives us is knowledge of cultures around the world, and knowledge is power! — *Mrs Lawson-Perfect*



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

from,

Winnie and Topsy