



Autumn Newsletter



Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year, following a very busy term which culminated in the Christmas productions across the whole school. The Early Years Foundation Stage children's production of Humph the Camel, told the story of a very grumpy camel on a journey with his friends and at the end he realises there are more rewards in life when you smile and speak to people. The Key Stage One production of Seven Little Penguins was all about working together as a team. Key Stage Two children shared Aspects of Christmas, which showed how families prepare for the great event. All of the key stage one children were lucky enough to go to the pantomime once again this year. This year's production of Dick Whittington at The Theatre Royal was once again funded by the Community Foundation, to whom we are very grateful. The Wingrove choir has been out and about across the city singing to raise money for The Rotary Club and Marie Curie. Their behaviour outside school has been commented upon, as always, 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. But Sumaia in Y6 came up trumps with her second hand clothes stall and non-uniform day to raise money for a butterfly garden on our school site. She and her small team made £289. They will begin work on the area during the spring term, and I'm sure they will be asking for some hardy volunteers to help with the digging and planting. The Winter Wonderland event last week was very well attended and lots of fun was had by all, including the staff when they jumped on the bouncy castle at the end of the evening's events! We raised £375 for our school fund. Our non-uniform 'super hero' day in aid of Children in Need raised a whopping £387.50. Thank you all very much for all your support in all that we do. I continue to enjoy greeting you all in the morning and I am very pleased to report that our attendance figure for last year, 2014-15, at 96.2% was above national average. This is the first time we have ever achieved this. 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 4th 2016.

Mrs. Mullarkey

Minibuses

This term, we have acquired two minibuses with the support of the Community Foundation. They have already been put to good use by taking Year 3 to swimming on a weekly basis, taking groups to the Alan Shearer Centre and taking Year 6 on a cycling trip to Holy Island, as just some examples. We are sure they will be a great addition to our school and will make trips a lot easier to coordinate.



THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development

World Leaders have committed to seventeen Global Goals to achieve in the next fifteen years. The three themes are: to end extreme poverty, to fight inequality and injustice and to fix climate change. The Global Goals for sustainable development could get these things done in all countries, for all people. If the Goals are going to work, everyone needs to know about them.

In school, each class has chosen a Global Goal to think about and work towards. Visit our website and follow the link for more information and to help you choose your Global Goal.



Visits and Visitors

Over the second half of the term, groups of children from Year 2 have been visiting Exhibition Park on a weekly basis. They have been working with Vince Jenkins, the Park Ranger at Exhibition Park, to complete a variety of activities. Areesha said, "I loved going to Exhibition Park. We went on a nature walk and we had to look for different things such as something prickly, something shiny and something tiny like a leaf or flower. We also got to go on the huge slide and it was lots of fun!"



During the first half of the term, Year 2 participated in singing sessions with Piccolo Music. Alaiya said, "We learnt new musical terms - pulse, dynamics, pitch and tempo. I loved learning all of the new songs." Tom added, "We followed a rhythm to play a clapping and snapping game called Cherry Pear. It was also great to put on a performance at the end of our sessions."

"In October, all of Key Stage 2 watched an informative play related to e-safety. It was about a girl who had run away because she hadn't been safe on the Internet and was now being cyber bullied. We were told about many things we should consider when we are online. We were reminded not to make friends with strangers, just like we wouldn't in person. We were also reminded to check our privacy settings and we were told to remind our parents to check theirs too! We were advised to make our passwords complicated so no-one can access our accounts and we should always make sure that we log off after using a computer. If we ever come across bullying on the Internet, we shouldn't join in with it, but we should be a friend and support the person being bullied. Always remember if anybody asks to meet you, just say, 'NO!'" - Kulsuma and Sumayyah, Y3.



Make Believe Arts visited our school to help our Year 2 and 4 children learn facts about, and the importance of, sleeping. They performed Perchance to Sleep and the children and staff all had a great time. Sania, Y2, commented, "I loved the part where the Sandman's daughter sprinkled dream dust onto the King's head." Aishah, Y2, said, "I found out that antelope split into two groups when sleeping. The antelope that are on guard wiggle their bottoms to wake the other group up! I was also able to learn about how cats and giraffes sleep. It was very interesting."



"Year 3 were visited by School Health to discuss the importance of looking after our teeth. First, the lady showed us different models of teeth and the ones that were rotten, because they hadn't been cared for, looked disgusting! The visitor then told us that we should brush our teeth twice a day, in small circles, for about 2 minutes each time. I then learnt an interesting fact. She told us that you shouldn't rinse your mouth after brushing because it washes away the fluoride in the toothpaste that protects your teeth. We had a great time because some of us pretended to be the dentist while our friend was the patient. The lady also asked my teacher, Mr Hields, to brush his teeth after chewing a disclosing tablet. It was quite funny because Mr Hields' mouth turned purple and he looked silly! He was able to brush it all off though in the 2 minutes he was given. I really enjoyed her visit and I found it very interesting." - Fatima, Y3.



We have recently spent some of our sports funding on the purchase of 34 new bikes. Years 5 and 6 have been learning to ride with help from John, Steph and Bikes 4 Health. As part of our new bike initiative, we have created a bike track at the top of the field which includes various types of ramps. A'ishah, Y6, said, "I have really enjoyed cycling with Year 6 recently. John and Steph have helped me to ride a bike perfectly and I wouldn't have been able to do it without their help. The new skills I have learnt are fabulous and something I'll be able to use for my whole life." Some keen cyclists recently went on a trip to Holy Island. "On 20th November, 10 children from Wingrove joined another 10 children from St. John's Primary and we all went on a cycling trip to Holy Island. It was great to make some new friends. There were lots of fun and interesting things to see and do while we were there. Some of the tracks we had to ride on were very challenging, but it was certainly worth doing. My favourite part was when we rode our bikes over the causeway leading to Holy Island. It was the best trip ever! John and Steph, who took us there, bought us all a hot chocolate to warm us up at the end of the trip. It was really needed!" - Jareen and Maryam, Y6.



OMELETTE CHALLENGE

"Year 5 recently took part in the Excelsior Mini-Chef Omelette Challenge. Two groups, with the fastest time to make omelettes, were selected to go to Excelsior to compete against other schools. It was really fun and we all received a certificate for our efforts. It was a brilliant experience and we will use the skills we learnt in the future. We might even cook omelettes for our families, if they are lucky!" – Alishba, Y5.



Mathematics at Wingrove

OUR FIRST ROCKSTAR

Our Key Stage 2 children are working hard to improve their speed and accuracy with the recall of multiplication and division facts. The children have made a brilliant start with 'Times Tables Rockstars' which they can access online, at home or school, using their Mathletics log-in details. A huge well done to Othman Khalid in Year 5 who was the first pupil to reach 'Rockstar' status by taking an average of 2.7 seconds to answer times table questions. Look out for his picture in our Rockstars Hall of Fame!

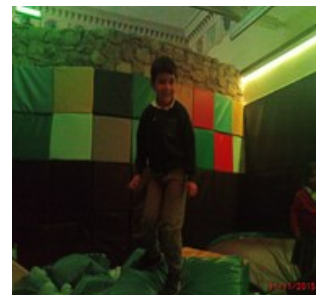
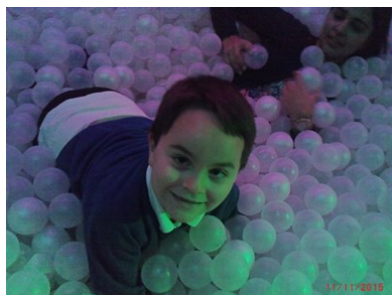
PRIMARY MATHS CHALLENGE

Well done to all of our children in Years 5 and 6 who took part in a national maths competition last month. The Primary Maths Challenge is a fun, interesting and very challenging test of 25 problem-solving questions. All of the children received a certificate from the Mathematical Association for participating. A special congratulations to Moeed Aslam in Year 6 who was the highest scoring Wingrovian.

LUNCHTIME CLUBS

Thank you for encouraging your child to play on Mathletics and TT Rockstars at home. These are fun and easy ways to support your child in maths. If you do not have internet access at home, please let your child's class teacher know, as we do run maths lunchtime clubs in our Computer Suite.

Wingrove is now a member of the 'Alan Shearer Activity Centre', which is a specialist resource for children and adults with a disability or a Special Educational Need. All the facilities are completely free to use and include a hydrotherapy suite, sensory rooms and cave, a giant ball pool, a music room, seasonal activities and a café. This term, Mrs Jones has taken a group of Reception and Year 4 children every week and we will be inviting pupils from other year groups throughout the year. The children (and staff!) have had a fantastic time and have had the opportunity to develop their language and learning skills. At our recent SEN coffee morning, some parents also expressed an interest in visiting the centre and this took place on Friday 4th December. If you would like to find out more about the centre or become a member out of school, please contact Mrs Alexander for details.



ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Wingrove participated in Road Safety Week at the end of November. Each class across the school welcomed members of the Road Safety Team from Newcastle Council. Years 3 and 5 were able to go out of the classroom and practised crossing the road safely. "We were split into 2 groups. Inside, we learnt about the Green Cross Code, different places to cross roads and how to be safe in a car. When we went outside, we were able to watch and analyse how people crossed the road before we practised for ourselves. We also learnt about how long it takes a car to stop when they are travelling at 20mph. At the end of the session, we were all given a free orange wristband to help us be seen in the dark." - Haadi, Y3.



Forest School

Reception have enjoyed exciting days at Forest School, exploring the woods in our school grounds this term. They have followed instructions to make special magic wands using natural materials and colourful ribbons. The children have been learning magic spells and casting their spells out loud to one another during their play. Lise said, "Abracadabra! I will turn you into a princess tree house!"



We have recently recreated our school website. The web address remains <http://www.wingrove.newcastle.sch.uk>. We hope you will find the new website easier to use and more informative. You will be able to find information about the curriculum, events, governors and news amongst other things on the new website. Please take a look!

Swimming

As part of the PE curriculum, Year 3 have been enjoying swimming lessons on a weekly basis. "Each Friday we go swimming with Mrs Duncan and John. We travel in the minibus to the swimming baths and that's quite fun. We have been learning to swim on our front and back, as well as using woggles to help us. I like jumping from side to side in the pool and I felt really proud of myself when I was able to swim 10 metres. Before coming back to school, we have a shower in the changing rooms to wash off all the chlorine. I have really enjoyed our swimming lessons because they have been so much fun." – Malak, Y3.

Next term, after Christmas, it will be Mr Hields' class who will swim every Friday. Mrs Duncan will continue to take them as she is able to drive the mini bus and is a qualified swimming instructor. Year 6 will then swim in term 3 as they haven't been swimming with school. Next year, and in the future, we will focus solely on Year 3 for swimming lessons.

Recycled Christmas Trees

In December, we entered a recycled Christmas tree competition with other schools from our trust. Wingrove put forward 3 entries and Melanie Wallace, from Eco-Schools, visited all the trust schools to choose the first, second and third trees. The great news is that the Eco-Warriors' entry won first prize! It is now going to be displayed at The Beacon on the West Road over the Christmas period. The Year 5 Eco-Warriors involved worked incredibly hard on the sport themed tree with John during lunchtimes and did an amazing job, so well done to all of them!



TIPSY AND WINNIE

In September, we welcomed two new members to our school. We are now the proud owners of two Cockapoo puppies, Winnie and Topsy. They come to school every day and already have a timetable which is nearly full. Some classes spend time in the library reading to them, some children are chosen to take them for walks and children in Y4 are responsible for training them. They also join us at lunch time and we hope to extend this to Forest School and educational visits. Risk assessments are in place and we have introduced a policy to guide all members of our school team. When children are with the dogs, they are supervised by an adult at all times, and the adults in turn are responsible for clearing up any mess the dogs may create. These new arrivals add to our animal collection of rabbits, Guinea pigs, snakes and a tortoise, and are proving to be very popular indeed. There are lots of good reasons to have dogs in school. Research suggests children, especially those who struggle, can be nervous and

stressed when reading aloud in class. Dogs can play a key role in this, it argues, as they are non-judgemental, attentive and perfect listeners. A dog doesn't judge or criticise and so it helps to build self-esteem as well. The children sit down and stroke the dog and this lowers their blood pressure. They feel in a relaxed and comfortable state. It also gives children additional responsibility, fostering independence and developing empathy. Please speak to Mrs Dick if you require any further information about our new furry friends.



Term Dates

Spring Term: Monday 4th January - Thursday 24th March. Pupils finish on Wednesday 23rd March.

Half Term: Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February

Staff Training Days: Monday 25th January and Thursday 24th March

Summer Term: Monday 11th April—Friday 22nd July

Half Term: Monday 30th May—Friday 3rd June