



Summer Newsletter 2021



Welcome to the final newsletter of yet another challenging and disruptive year for all of us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support during this time and I really hope we will be facing something closer to normality from September. Until then, we have everything crossed that this week is a full and enjoyable one for all of us.

I would like to begin with wishing a fond farewell to three of our colleagues. Miss Jordan retires at the end of this term after thirty five years at Wingrove. We would like to thank her for all her hard work over the years. She has coordinated music across the school and given the children many opportunities to perform as members of the choir. Mrs Alexander is also leaving us after securing a promoted post as an advisor with the Local Authority. Mrs Alexander has worked at Wingrove for twenty five years. During this time, she has made a huge difference to pupils and families in her role as Inclusion Manager and SENDCo. She will continue to work with us in her new role in supporting the school with all inclusion matters. In addition, she will offer support and guidance to Miss Hopper who is taking over the role from September. We are saying a temporary goodbye to Miss Hopper, but only for two terms of the next academic year as she will be on maternity leave. Miss West and I will be covering the role during this time. Miss Nicholson (Annabel) is also leaving us this year. She is now a qualified psychotherapist and is going to concentrate on developing her private business. We also say goodbye to our amazing team of Year Six pupils as they set off on their secondary journey. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the very best of luck. As always, I ask that they keep Wingrove in their hearts.

We welcome Mrs Wahie and Mrs Muse who have been working with us in Upper Key Stage Two and will continue to do so from September. We welcome Mrs Mead as an Early Career Teacher, she joins the Year Five team from September. Mrs Paxton is returning to Wingrove and will work in Early Years from September. She will also continue to run her Metafit sessions with the children. Finally, we welcome Miss Holland who joins us as our Nursery teacher from September whilst Mrs Lawson-Perfect and Mrs Van Rossen take a career break until next year.

The pandemic has created lots of worry and loss for many of us again this year, but there are some good things to come out of it. We have now created further ways to communicate with families and share the children's learning. Seesaw and Class Dojo have proved to be invaluable ways to share information, and we intend to continue to use these in the future. We celebrated the end of the school year with our Wingrove Extravaganza and, whilst we could not have families join us, we could share the many photographs of the children having a brilliant time. We also have begun the powder runs this week, so watch out for rainbow-coloured children returning from school throughout the week! We have been lucky that we have only had to close one year group (Year One) and two smaller bubbles from Reception and Year Five during this challenging time, which has meant children's learning has not been further affected than it has through the imposed lockdowns. I would like to wish you all a safe, happy holiday whatever you have planned and I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 7th September.

Take care, everyone.

Mrs Mullarkey

CYCLE RIDE

Pupils from Year 5 and 6 put their newly acquired bike skills to the test when they cycled from Newburn to Prudhoe, and back, in May. The 12-mile route west along Hadrian's Cycleway followed the banks of the River Tyne and tested pupils with long climbs, bumpy tracks and narrow gateways, but the pupils took it all in their stride and thoroughly enjoyed the adventure. A passing member of the public was so impressed with the behaviour and presentation of pupils that she took the time to email Mrs Mullarkey praising the pupils saying, "You should feel very proud that your pupils are so well mannered and representing your school in this way. It certainly made a big impression on me."



YEAR 6 STEM TASTIC WEEK

"In mid-June, Year 6 had a fantastic STEM TASTIC week and all of the other trust schools took part too. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and maths. We had a range of different activities planned for us, as well as a brilliant interactive workshop with some science experts from the Centre for Life. To kick the week off with a bang, we designed our very own lab coats which we wore for the full week. Over the week, we took part in some very exciting activities: bottle rockets, designed and created roller coasters, mini medics' workshop, testing out the best aeroplanes and LEGO building. We had the best week and found out so much about STEM." – Fatima, Y6.



JOHN QUINN



"In April, John Quinn, who is an artist, came to work with Year 3 to develop our creative skills. Firstly, he told us a story about a mythical creature called a Boglin, who protects his or her village from all sorts of danger. John then tasked us with making our own Boglin. The materials we were allowed to use were clay and anything else we could find lying around Forest School. Obviously, we had to make sure they looked quite scary otherwise, the Boglins would not be able to scare even the most timid of creatures! We loved the experience and actually became quite attached to our Boglins." – Sa'ad, Y3.

Tree Planting

Pupils have planted 105 saplings across the Wingrove site, as part of The Woodland Trust's Big Climate Fight Back that aims to plant 50 million trees across the country. By locking up carbon, fighting flooding and cooling cities, the trees will help the UK in its efforts to reach zero net carbon emissions by 2050. Pupils planted a variety of trees, including oak and willow, that they hope will grow as big and tall as the mature trees we already have on site.



Wellbeing Week

In July, Year 6 had a fabulous time taking part in their annual Wellbeing Week. "To get the week started off energetically, we had a session with Hayley and did Metafit which was great! We had lots of exciting visitors during the week who all did fun sessions with us: Newcastle United Football Club, Dance City, Sens8tional and Zone West. At the end of the week, we were really lucky to receive great goody bags. We all had a fabulous week!" – Inaya, Y6.



Reception News

"It has been another busy term in Reception to end the school year. We have thoroughly enjoyed our weekly visits to Ouseburn Farm, looking at all of the animals and exploring the farm area. We have been able to hold guinea pigs and we have seen a wide range of animals. Thank you to Mr MacLeod for organising this for us, as it was so much fun. In the penultimate week of term, we enjoyed our trip to The Wingrove Extravaganza despite the wet weather. Most of us had a little ride on Ed the horse, which was an amazing experience, and our thanks goes to Mrs Dick for making this happen. It has been a very strange and difficult year for us all in school, but we are so proud of our Reception children and what they have achieved since September. You have astounded us with your questioning and your ability to explain what you have learnt. Reach for the stars in Year 1, we know you will all keep shining. A HUGE well done, Reception." – Reception Team

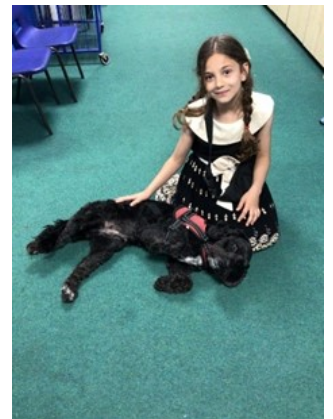


Thank You, Dog Squad

Dear Doggy-Loving Wingrovians,

Thank you to all of the children who took such good care of us this year. The Dog Squad settled us in to our classrooms and made sure we had everything we needed to keep us healthy, safe and happy. Other children have helped too and we feel very well looked after. We know we are not always easy! Topsy sometimes runs into Forest School and chews her belongings, Chance is often curious and wanders around looking for cuddles and Winnie makes lots of fuss and noise when she can't see Ms McCarthy. So, as the dogs of Wingrove, we want to say a big, soft Cockerpoo thank you to every single one of you who has filled our water bowls, fed us, taken us for a walk, given us a treat, cuddled us, read to us, trained us and so much more. We feel like the luckiest pooches in the universe. We wish Year 6 all the best for their move into Year 7 and we look forward to seeing the rest of you in September. Have a lovely summer; we will miss you.

Lots of love,
Winnie, Topsy and Chance (woofety woof woof)



Drumming Lessons

"Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to drum in the final half term of the school year. Chris, from the Newcastle Music Service, came in each Monday to teach us the bass and slap techniques to use on a Djembe Drum. We found out that the bass technique was louder than the slap technique. We played lots of games to help us learn and my favourite game was hide and seek. In this game, Chris secretly pointed at someone and we had to guess who it was by playing our drums louder or quieter depending if we were close to the person. I hope to continue drumming in Year 3." – Fola, Y2.



The Festival of Thought and Sanctuary

“It has been a difficult year for us all as we have experienced life in a pandemic and this has included lots of restrictions, particularly through lockdown. During this time, we were not able to see friends or family and we could not attend school. Wingrovians are a welcoming, supportive and fun community made up of pupils, teachers, teaching assistants and families. We all love belonging to this community but the guidelines that keep us safe mean we have been restricted from gathering for assemblies or playing with other year groups at play time. We have not been able to invite families into school and most of us have had to eat in our classrooms for part of the year, if not all of it. So, it hasn't felt like the open community we are used to. We recognise that this hasn't always been easy and to say thank you to the children for being so resilient and strong throughout, we transformed our library and music area into the Festival of Thought and Sanctuary. The children had the opportunity to explore the ‘big questions’ that they might not usually get the opportunity to ask or think about and have had a safe space to let go of any of the stress and worry they may feel.

There was a range of activities to encourage the children to think about how they feel at the end of this sometimes stressful year and they included:

- ◆ Growing kindness: the children wrote examples of kindness they have received on a strip of paper and added it to the chain.
- ◆ Fizzy forgiveness: the children thought of someone they want to forgive or something they wanted forgiveness for. They dropped a fizzy tablet into the water and watched it dissolve as they let go of the feelings and learnt to forgive others and themselves.
- ◆ Saying thank you or sorry to a person/people of their choice.
- ◆ Letting Go: some children spent time in the tent using the mirrors and gadgets to help them breathe in the calm and breathe out and let go.
- ◆ Community: the children thought about what they love the most about their school community and then decorated a sticker with an image or a word that represents them and added it to a giant image of the school logo showing that they are part this wonderful community as a Wingrovian.
- ◆ Peace and global goals: the children thought about the UN global goals and how they want to work towards peace. They then wrote prayers or wishes for the world and coloured in peace stickers to wear, showing the community that they stand for peace.



Amir, Y3, said, “I loved adding my link to the kindness chain and thinking about who I wanted to thank.”

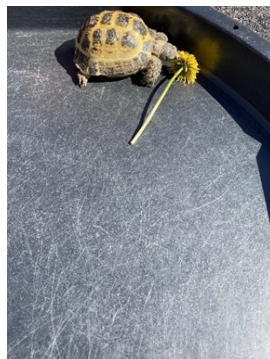
Meanwhile, Jamie and Sébastien, Y2, added, “We liked adding our answers to the bunting questions. We answered the questions about if the school pets could talk, what would we ask them and also what are our dreams? We both loved the lights and the relaxing music, as well as the tent of peace with the cool mirror with the lights. We felt very relaxed during the whole experience.”

The festival has been a resounding success. All the children from Nursery to Year 6 have been respectful, thoughtful and have engaged positively with the space. We hope to hold another Festival of Thought and Sanctuary again next year.” – Mrs Reynolds



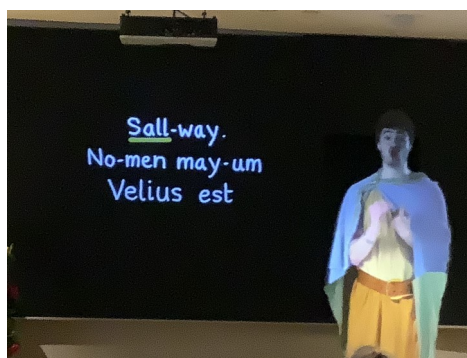
News from Nursery

This term, Nursery's favourite stories have been based around food and growing. The children have loved retelling the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* with their friends. They have also been busy observing 5 real caterpillars, who will soon transform into butterflies. In Nursery, they also have a pet tortoise called Nemesis that they care for and Haniya said, "Nemesis loves eating yellow dandelions!" Nursery have also collected lots of snails from Forest School. Ali said, "I can see the snails wiggling!"



The Roman Army Museum & Vindolanda

"Hurrah! We were the first year group to go out on a trip this year when the restrictions eased to allow it. Where did we go? As part of our work on the Romans, we visited the Roman Army Museum and the Roman Fort at Vindolanda on the Roman Wall at Bardon Mill. Even though it rained for most of the day, it was great fun and we learnt so much. Did you know the Romans spoke Latin? We were taught how to speak like a Roman by a virtual Roman teacher called Velius. If you want to say hello to someone, you would say 'salve' and goodbye is 'vale'. We saw all sorts of interesting artefacts such as children's shoes and weapons. It is amazing to think that these artefacts are 2000 years old. We would recommend visiting the Roman Wall to you in the holidays." – Sophia & Liyana, Y3.



A DAY OF WELCOME

On the Friday before we celebrated Refugee Week, the children and staff joined the national event of *A Day of Welcome* and came dressed up as their hero. It was very impressive to see pupils costumed as their heroes. We celebrated the day by learning some key facts relating to refugees, tried to understand some of the experiences faced by young asylum seekers and refugees before and after their arrival to the UK and looked at small acts of kindness that promote an ethos of welcome and support for refugees. We raised £236.10 which was donated to Refugee Action, a UK based charity, and they support refugees and people seeking asylum to rebuild their lives. By giving Refugee Action our support, we are putting our hands up as a school and saying that we care about refugees. We then celebrated Refugee Week and the teachers helped children develop a further understanding of refugee experiences based around this year's theme of 'We Cannot Walk Alone'. We thank you for your support towards this cause.



National School Breakfast Programme

Wingrove's time with the National School Breakfast Programme comes to an end in the final week of the term. The scheme, which started in October, was scheduled to end in spring, but carried on to the end of the academic year when government funding was extended. The aim of the scheme was to provide, to every pupil that wanted it, a healthy breakfast that prepared them for the day of learning ahead. Since October, 5500 breakfast packs have been distributed to pupils and staff have toasted over 7000 bagels in school and served countless bowls of cereal and juice to pupils. It has been a huge undertaking that would not have been possible without the help of the breakfast monitors that came in early each morning to help set up and serve breakfast to their classmates. We would like to thank them for their hard work and thank their parents who brought them to school early each day. Even though the scheme has come to an end, we hope that pupils now realise the importance of breakfast and will continue to make the time each morning to enjoy a healthy start to the day.



MY NEIGHBOUR AND ME

In partnership with a school from County Durham, Miss McCarthy's Year 5 class have been representing Wingrove by working collaboratively as a part of the *My Neighbour and Me* project. The aim of the project is to link schools by allowing reflection on the idea of community, considering the similarities and differences, which in turn provokes discussions about what makes a good neighbour. To launch the project, the class considered the qualities of a good neighbour, designed their own recipes and acrostic poems to illustrate their thinking. They then discussed our school community and neighbourhood, answered the partner school's questions about our class and designed a PowerPoint presentation, which was then shared with them. The second part of the project was an online lesson with various faith leaders. They gave the pupils an opportunity to reflect on how people of all faiths have been forced to become more resilient and mindful of the needs of others in our society during lockdown. Year 5 really enjoyed being a part of this project and we look forward to meeting the partner school in the near future.

My Good Neighbour Recipe

Ingredients

For dough:
 ½ cup of positivity
 A teaspoon of kindness
 50g of respect
 500 ml of smiles
 1 dessert spoon of love
 A sprinkling of happiness 50 g of joy

Toppings:
 A handful of helpfulness
 1 cup of gratefulness

Method

1. Heat the oven to Gas 4.
2. Combine all ingredients together in a large bowl until you are have a dough.
3. Prove for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, prepare the toppings by mixing adding the helpfulness in gradually.
4. Bake the dough for 1 h and top with the dressing once cooled.

Now you have created a neighborly friendship!!!

N ice
 E xcellent
 I ncredible
 G rateful
 H ilarious
 B eloved
 O bedient
 U nderstandable
 R espectful

N ice
 E njoyable
 I rreplaceable
 G iving
 H appiness
 B eing kind
 O pen-minded
 U nderstanding
 R espectful

N ice
 E ntertaining
 I mportant
 G ifting
 H elpful
 B eing kind
 O ffering things
 U nderstanding
 R espectful

Easter Club

Over the Easter holidays, 60 pupils were invited back to school to take part in Wingrove's first ever holiday club, kindly funded by Ringtons Tea and the charity, Street Games. Year 5 and 6 pupils each enjoyed two days filled with activities including sports, Forest School, arts and crafts, dance, science experiments and games. Lunch was also included each day and local sandwich shop, Lunchbox, provided high quality, healthy food for pupils. The children who took part were asked for feedback at the end of their two days and the comments were overwhelmingly positive, showing just how needed the spring sessions were after a winter spent largely in lockdown. We hope that the holiday club will be the first of many and we will be running a week of activities this summer.

