



Summer Newsletter 2022



Welcome to the final newsletter for this year, where we bid a fond farewell to some of our Wingrove family, as well as welcoming new members. We say good bye to two of our teaching team members: Miss Rutherford, who leaves us for a promoted post in another school and Miss Witherspoon, who is finally able to take a career break to go travelling! We will also be very sad to say goodbye to Miss Maudling, who is off to university in September. We would like to thank them for all that they have contributed to the team, and we wish them all the very best in their new ventures. We have lots of new members to our ever-growing support team: Mrs Bashir, Mrs Robson, Miss Scanlon, Miss Turner, Miss Large and Mrs Begum. We welcome back from maternity leave, Mrs Lawson-Perfect and Miss Hopper- who will be known as Mrs Appleby in September. We welcome Mrs Paxton (Hayley) as our newly appointed Attendance and Welfare Officer. And finally, we welcome Miss Fullerton, who joins our year six teaching team in September. The staff and children have worked exceptionally hard this year and our results, although lower than 2019 (the last to be published), have not been too badly affected by COVID interruptions. The English outcomes have been more affected by COVID than maths, and this will be a continued focus for us next year. Children who engaged with the online learning offer, have continued to make progress, which is a very positive picture. More details follow below:

Early Years—end of reception 63% achieved a good level of development, which is a drop of 9% on 2019 results.	KS1	Reading Writing Mathematics	53% @expected with 9% @ greater depth-20% down 52% @expected with 5% @ greater depth-12% down 64% @expected with 14% @ greater depth-5% down
Year One Phonics 66% passed the test , which is an increase of 5% from 2019, but lower than previous years. This will continue to be a focus next year.	KS2	R W Grammar, punct. & spelling Ma RW&M	62% @expected with 10% @ greater depth 5% down 53% @expected with 7% @ greater depth 22% down 53% @expected with 20% @ greater depth 12% down 63% @expected with 22% @ greater depth 9% down 50% @expected with 0% @ greater depth 9% down

This year we have worked with Sacred Heart High School and West Jesmond Primary School to support both SCITT and Schools Direct, teacher training programmes, and have had trainees working with us across the year. We have also worked in partnership with Newcastle University as part of their post-graduate teacher training programmes and have had six trainees working with us at different points across the year. As part of the post-COVID support from the DfE we were able to appoint Miss Gray, our academic mentor, who has worked across Year Two and Three this year. The DfE have extended this offer, so next year we will welcome our new academic mentor, Miss Smibert. We wish Miss Gray all the very best as she goes back to university to study to become a teacher, and we thank her for all of her efforts this year.

We have also worked with some fantastic volunteers and teacher trainees this year—too many to name individually, but we thank them for their contributions.

This year, we have re-introduced our school visits and have had lots of visitors in school. We have also had our very first overseas residential trip where Year Six pupils enjoyed a fully-funded visit to France, to visit Paris and our partner school, Les 5 Fontaines, in Nancy. The Turing Scheme has offered us the same again for next year, which is amazing!

Finally, we say goodbye to all sixty of our wonderful year six pupils, who have worked incredibly hard this year. We are sending them off to nine different secondary schools, with half of the cohort joining Excelsior and Emmanuel College. We wish them all the very best as they continue their learning journey and we ask them to work hard and be kind to people, whilst carrying Wingrove in their hearts. We look forward to hearing about their future successes next year and beyond.

Thank you again for your continuing support and I wish you all a lovely summer holiday.

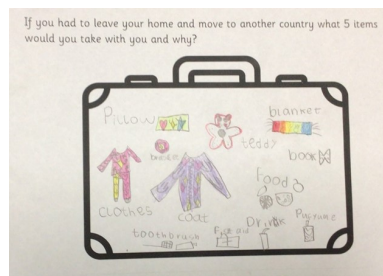
Schools of Sanctuary

A Day of Welcome

On Friday 17th June 2022, we invited children and staff to come dressed as their personal hero and celebrate *A Day of Welcome*. The aim was to build an understanding of the experiences and contributions made by refugees and asylum seekers, uncover and celebrate little-known stories of refugee migration, as well as signpost Refugee Week events which pupils, families and staff could participate in. This celebration was designed to support schools and families across the UK in marking Refugee Week (20-24th June) and to send a clear message that for those in need of sanctuary, our communities are welcoming places. We had very inspiring stories behind the children's and staff's choices of costumes with many choosing to dress up as their parents or other relatives, while others chose important figures from world history or current iconic people.

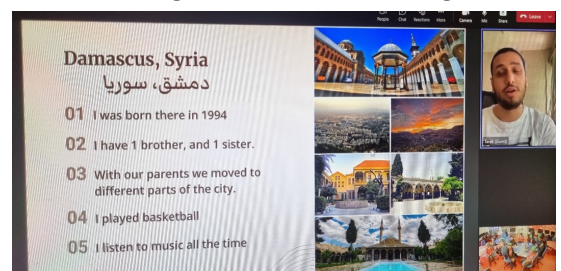
During Refugee Week, Year 3 joined in with approximately 170 schools around the UK for an online webinar with Miriam Halahmy, author of *The Emergency Zoo*. She led a poetry workshop and talked about her new book, *Saving Hanno*, a tale of friendship inspired by the Kindertransport – true stories of refugee children who came to Britain fleeing The Nazis. In addition, Year 1 were able to write messages of welcome and talked about which five items they would take with them if they had to leave their home country and why.

We are very happy to have raised £301, which we are donating to City of Sanctuary. City by city, community by community, they are building a more welcoming UK for people forced to flee their homes. Every penny you gave will help them provide vital resources, expert advice and the practical support the network needs, as well as educational and participation opportunities for people and much more. Thank you for your support with this fundraising.



A SESSION WITH TAREK

NaTakallam Language Partner kindly offered us a free online session with a refugee speaker, Tarek, who has experienced forced displacement. Our School Council members came prepared with thoughtful, respectful and open-ended questions that invited full and more detailed answers from our speaker. Tarek started by introducing himself and shared information about where he's from, about his family, where he lives now, his hobbies, a typical day in his hometown and some of his favourite things to do there. After answering our question on this part, he described what changed in his hometown when conflict began and when and why he decided to leave. Most of our children were well-informed and asked very sensible questions about his life during the conflict. Following that, Tarek told us about what life is like today, describing where he lives, what he's doing now and he mentioned positive things and challenges about his new location. It was brilliant to have been able to hear his experience; it has inspired us to be more thoughtful about the things we take for granted and how we can further support refugees and asylum seekers.



Welcome Letters

A few of our year groups have written a welcoming letter or poem to all the new children that might join our school, but especially for refugees and asylum seekers. They are so inspiring and heart-warming, particularly because they are personal and many children speak from their experience as a new admit in our school. We have made new friends across the city too, with Year 2 sharing letters and information posters with St Michael's Primary School. Here are just a few examples:

Our 5KM Class Welcomes YOU!

If you were new to our school, we would show you around,
If you were feeling lonely, we would be there for you,
If you were sad, we would put a smile on your face,
If you were heart-broken, we would replace the broken pieces,
If you were alone, we would play with you,
If you cannot speak English, we would teach you,
If you do not understand, we will be there to help,
If you feel left out, we would include you,
If you miss your family, we would give you hope,

Year 2's Welcome Poem

If you came to our school, we would introduce ourselves,
If you came to our school, we would show you around,
If you came to our school, we would be helpful,
If you came to our school, we would be your friend,
If you came to our school, we would play sports with you,
If you came to our school, we would share our languages,
If you came to our school, we would share our culture.

Extract from Areeb's (Y6) Welcoming Letter

"Dear...

I know you are our next Wingrovia and I understand you might be terrified, but I can assure you that you'll be fine. I know this because I have also been through this and I haven't been bullied or made fun of since I joined. Everyone is so kind here. This school is not just an ordinary school, this is a School of Sanctuary. I guarantee that you will not be left out in any activities, me and my classmates will be your friends.

...We all respect you and I am looking forward to making another friend. YOU!"

Refugee Shelter Building

During Refugee Week, we offered the opportunity to all schools applying for the Schools of Sanctuary award to join us at Wingrove for a Forest School activity. West Walker Primary and St Catherine's Primary brought a few of their School Council members and, together with our children, they worked as a team in building shelters. They were provided with a few materials, but they also had to use their own initiative, creativity, critical thinking and collaboration skills to make sure it could protect from a variety of uncontrollable factors. Most of them passed the 'rain' test brilliantly, but more importantly, they managed to reflect on it and also see the connection to Refugee Week. We finished our session enjoying some cool milkshakes and agreed that even though we made friends and it was a fun activity for us, this is the reality for refugees and asylum seekers, having to leave everything behind and finding safety and shelter in a totally new country. We discussed what more could we do to support them, or any new students that might join our school, and we are looking forward to working with their schools again in the future.



Visits and Visitors

"Year 3 enjoyed visiting Segedunum Roman Fort in Wallsend this term, as our topic is all about The Romans. We were excited to view Roman ruins, the glass viewing tower and look at Roman artefacts at the museum. On returning to school, we were able to talk about lots of different facts that we had learnt and one of the best bits was that we had the opportunity to dress up in Roman-style clothes. We found out that The Romans created better tools than the Stone Age people to use for weapons in battle because they were incredibly skilled and great invaders. We were also able to imagine where Roman soldiers used to prepare for battle inside their Roman Fort by looking at the ruins." – Gaby, Salice and Taqwaa, Y3



Mrs Jobson's Year 1 class have been making new friends with children from Stobhillgate First School in Morpeth. Mr Henderson, who used to work at Wingrove, came to visit with his class and had a great day, making popcorn and developing new friendships. Our children then went to Stobhillgate to see their school, where they had an amazing day. Together, the classes completed a scavenger hunt, took part in their own mini sports day and made each other medals. It has been lovely to see new friendships being formed.



"In May, both Year 5 classes visited Gibside, a National Trust property and grounds. When we arrived, we were given maps and compasses and took part in an orienteering task. We had to use the map to find specific points placed all over Gibside. We walked for miles! After lunch, we worked together to build shelters out of wood and branches, which we found in the forest. It was great fun but very tiring. We had a great day and we even had time for a quick play in the adventure playground before returning to school." – Anya, Y5



On Thursday afternoons, Reception pupils have been visiting Ouseburn Charity Farm where staff members Hugh and Darcy have introduced them to the farm's residents. The first groups of pupils to visit the were lucky enough to go into the lamb pen to pet and bottle feed the cute new arrivals but, by our last few visits, the animals were too big for pupils to get close to. Children enjoyed feeding Suzy the pig (but weren't keen on the smell coming from her pigsty) and spent time in the exotic animal room learning about a wide variety of animals including snakes, bearded dragons and parrots. To finish the sessions, pupils enjoyed a drink and snack in the sun, while potting a plant to take home and nurture.



Hawkhirst

Our Year 6 children had a wonderful time at Hawkhirst this year and they impressed everyone with their determination to succeed, kindness to others and fantastic teamwork! Luckily, the weather was good and the scout leaders welcomed us enthusiastically, commenting that they always enjoy it when Wingrove stay. Some of the activities included abseiling, bell boating, archery and paddle boarding. The experience ended with a visit to the bird of prey centre, where we all enjoyed meeting some of the largest and most fascinating collections of birds of prey in the North of England. We also got to watch some of the birds fly, such as the eagles, hawks, kites and owls. It was stunningly impressive. Ibrahim said, "I really enjoyed my time at Hawkhirst. The activities I enjoyed the most were paddle boarding and climbing. With the paddle boarding, it was difficult at first, but I quickly found my balance and found that I was good at it. The climbing wall was insanely tall and I was a bit scared. I managed to climb up it and I was disappointed that we couldn't have another go! The bit about Hawkhirst that I enjoyed the most was being with my friends and trying out new things."



BONJOUR, NANCY!

For the first time ever, Wingrove took on Europe! We received funding to take a group of lucky year 6 children to France. The children were excellent advocates of our school and we are all beyond proud of their attitude during the trip. After a long journey on three trains, Wingrove pupils and staff arrived in Nancy, a city in France where our partner school is situated. They then spent four days exploring Nancy and completing a range of activities with their new friends, such as a visit to the aquarium, a guided tour of Chateau Montaigu and a great trip to Fort Pelissier, where they participated in numerous team challenges - three pupils were soaking wet after tumbling into the water during one challenge! On Friday, Wingrove said their farewells to their new friends and boarded the train to Paris, where they enjoyed a boat trip down the River Seine. It was a fantastic experience, passing so many famous landmarks, such as the Eiffel Tower and Notre-Dame. Fifteen very tired pupils (and five extremely exhausted adults) eventually return to Central Station on Friday evening to a very warm welcome. What an amazing experience!

Fahima said, "I enjoyed my time in France so much. I learnt a lot and had fun with my friends. I was surprised at how easy it was to socialise with the French children when we visited their school. Even though we don't speak the same language, we all understood each other and I feel like I have made new friends. I thought the aquarium and Eiffel Tower were fascinating."

Areeb added, "I had a great time France and will never forget it. I enjoyed meeting the pupils in our partner school and making new friends. Also, the activities were great fun - my favourite activity was our trip to Fort Pelissier, where we took part in lots of underground challenges."



DEBATING COMPETITION

"In early July, seven Year 5 children visited the Civic Centre in Newcastle for the annual Schools' Debating Competition. We were all nervous, but excited at the same time. We were asked to argue for the motion, 'Should the Queen continue to reign at 96 years old, or should the heir to the throne succeed her?' Saja was our main speaker and, as a team, we presented our argument. It was fun working together to respond to the other schools' questions. After we finished our debate, we had refreshments while we waited for the judges to make their decision. Luckily, they decided that Wingrove presented the stronger argument and we were crowned victorious. We celebrated with a trip to Exhibition Park!" – Saja and Zahraa, Y5



School Council

The School Council members have been working really hard to keep the school tidy and litter free. They have been carrying out litter picks within the school grounds and also in the local area. In addition, they have tried to



discourage the use of single use plastic within school. This work has included promoting the school's 'plastic pledge', reminding children and staff of how we can help the environment by limiting single use plastic items and thinking of ways that the school can continue to make changes to help the planet. They have also written to local members of parliament to highlight the problems with litter in our local area and asked for their support in tackling this ongoing issue.



Schools North East Cycling Project

In our previous newsletter we told you about an exciting cycling project that 30 KS2 pupils had just started. At the time of writing, our cyclists had only completed one of four rides: Blyth to St Mary's Lighthouse. Since then, we are pleased to tell you that they have now completed the remaining three rides and, in the process, have visited some stunning attractions. In early May, pupils braved the elements to cross the Holy Island Causeway and later that month, in true Spring weather, they experienced rain, hail and sunshine as they rode around the grounds of Wallington Hall. The final ride was the most daring of all, with pupils riding from Kielder Dam to its Waterside Park. The ride involved climbing over 600ft and descending through the forest on twisting, turning trails. Staff involved in the project,



kindly funded by Schools North East, hope that it has given pupils a taste for adventure and provided them with a great opportunity to improve their cycling.

Washington Wetlands Centre

Year 1 pupils travelled to Washington Wetlands Centre in May to take part in the Generation Wild Project. On arrival, children met Ava (who was part girl and part bird) in her life-size nest. She explained that her parents had abandoned her and she needed Wingrove's help to find out who she was and where her parents had gone. Pupils split into groups and set off around the wetlands to complete activities that, once completed, would reveal Ava's identity and the location of her parents. This was a great way for pupils to explore the site and learn about all the different birds and animals including flamingos, swans, otters and geese. As a thank you for helping Ava, pupils were rewarded with a free family ticket to the Washington Wetlands Centre which we really hope families will use as the centre is a fun day out.

