



Spring Newsletter



Welcome to the second newsletter of this academic year, and as you can see, this term has been a very busy one indeed. We continue to work on different ways to enhance the curriculum by providing exciting opportunities for learning so that the children can achieve their very best. We are also looking at ways we can support others, in order to develop responsibility for the wider community. The Fairtrade work supports this effort, as well as the work of the eco-warriors and the Global Citizen work with which we are heavily involved. We have been working towards developing a greater understanding of our impact on the environment. Year Two children looked at deforestation and Year Five have been exploring the ecosystems in our oceans. They have been disgusted to discover how much plastic is used and then discarded, most of which end up in our seas. We have seen the devastating effect this can have on coral reefs and all the animals that live in or around our seas. Year Five presented an assembly to share this with parents and we hope this enables many of us to change our ways and recycle our waste responsibly, whilst avoiding buying products with lots of packaging. We have also recently completed a music project concerning global warming and we have written and performed pieces about the causes and effects of this whilst raising awareness of energy and cost saving tips to keep our planet as well as our wallets healthy!

Swimming lessons continue to focus on all children in Year Three. This is because we feel that it has a greater impact for the children, allowing them the time to acquire such important skills. It does mean that the rest of the children across the school do not have swimming lessons. Can I therefore urge parents to visit the local pools to build upon the skills and allay any fear children may have of the water.

Thank you to those of you who came to parents' evenings this term. As always, they were very well attended. I always collect the figures and present them to our governors. The turn out is always above 80% in each year group which is good to see. Next term sees the introduction of the new lunchtime menus from Chartwells, our catering company. Menus work on a three-week rota system and include a salad bar, fresh bread, yoghurt and fruit and milk as part of the regular daily offer. Meals are £10 per week, payable in advance on a Monday. The envelopes and post box are all in the main foyer of the school. If you think you may be entitled to a free school meal, please come to the main office and a member of the team will advise you. Did you know that for every child in receipt of free school meals, the school receives additional money in the budget? We use this money to fund extra staff, resources and specialists in order to ensure that all children are given the same opportunity to thrive. See the website for further details about the Pupil Premium spend. You will have all noticed in the press that schools' budgets are being cut and this will have a huge effect on all schools in the future. Please ensure that you have completed free school meal application forms (available from the Office) in order that we can continue to provide all the additional staff who work with us at Wingrove. Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Easter holiday. I hope you can find time to visit new places, so children can share these new experiences with their friends when they return to school on Monday 24th April. Remember we have a training day on Friday this week and we will therefore be closed to pupils. *J. Mullarkey*

National Energy Action's Big Sing

During the term, we have worked with National Energy Action. They financed musicians to come in and work with Years 3 and 4 to create songs about how we get our energy and how we can save it to help our environment. They also discussed the issues we are facing, such as the effect of Global Warming on animals like polar bears. Year 4 collaborated with Ken and Richard to write and perform some of their own songs about energy and they have decided that their favourite song was 'The Power of Invention'. We were invited to take part in the 'Big Sing' at the Tyne Theatre with other schools in our trust. Two of our pupils from Year 4, Harcharndeeep and Malak, were chosen to tell the audience what they had learnt and the songs they were singing. All of the classes enjoyed their afternoon at the 'Big Sing' and had a great afternoon out. Luckily, the whole school were able to enjoy all of the songs too as we held a rehearsal for the performance in our assembly before the big event.



Visits and Visitors

"School councillors from The West End Schools' Trust have been visiting each other's schools this term. Wingrove were visited by representatives from Hawthorn, Bridgewater and St Paul's. The children had an exciting day full of Wingrovia activities, including an opportunity to walk the dogs and to read to the younger children. They enjoyed their day and loved meeting Topsy and Winnie. The councillors all agreed that the best thing about visiting other schools was meeting other School Council members, making new friends, sharing good ideas and discussing how to make their schools better." – Umar and Zeynab, Y4.

When asked what they wanted people to think about their schools, the school councillors said that they wanted people to think their schools were perfect, that the children looked after their community, that they were responsible and caring towards each other and that anyone who visited any of the seven schools would want to visit again. In the future, the children hope that MPs, local business people and even Theresa May herself will visit the schools to see for themselves how great they are.



At the end of January, we welcomed Lip Lee to the school to help us celebrate Chinese New Year. "He told us all about how Chinese people celebrate and that 2017 is the year of the Rooster. I liked when we could try on the dragon's head and attempted a Chinese version of football kick-ups but it was much harder than with a normal ball. Each class completed a workshop with Lip Lee and in our class we made different origami emperors and empresses. We had to listen very carefully to the instructions as it was quite tricky! To finish our celebrations, we enjoyed a traditional Chinese lunch instead of our normal school dinner." – Abdulhakim, Y3.



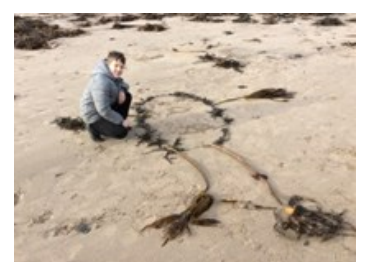
At the end of March, Year 1 visited St. James' and St. Basil's Church. "We walked to church with a partner and when we saw it, we thought it was a castle because it was so big! We looked around with Neil, the curate, and we really liked the high ceilings and the stained glass windows which made the church look pretty. Neil showed the Year 1 classes the baptismal font and pretended to baptise a doll. It was quite funny because the doll was soaked! Before we went back to school, we had a drink of juice to give us energy for the walk back." –Lise, Y1.

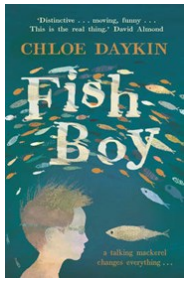


"Our beautiful beaches cannot be more stunning and unique than the one at Newbiggin by the Sea. So beautiful it looked, with its sand like golden powder stretching around the bay. I have visited a lot of beaches but none of them as wonderful and full of adventure as this one. Gazing at the amazing beach, when I arrived, filled me with both anticipation and exhilaration. The sun was gazing over the crystal-like sea and white wispy clouds streaked across the sky. I could not wait to get onto the beach and explore the rock pools. Stretching for miles was the sand sprinkled with gold, the wind whipped the waves and I wondered what we were going to do that day. First, we visited the maritime museum to learn about the history of shipping in the area. It was so interesting. After that, we met the volunteers from the RNLI who told us about their wonderful work as life savers. Their stories were



amazing to hear. Finally, we spent time playing on the beach, creating fabulous art work with the sand, seaweed and shells before we were able to rock pool. It was the most brilliant day. As I strolled across the beach, back to the bus, I felt my heart leap and at that moment, I swore to myself I would come back in the future." – Alizah, Y5.





Year 5 were invited to Sacred Heart Primary School and got to take part in a workshop with a new author, Chloe Daykin, who was launching her novel 'Fish Boy'. The children reported that they felt inspired and many wanted to go home and begin writing their own novels, following the session.

This term, Year 3 have been visited by Chris Collins from the Newcastle Music Service each Monday as they have started to learn how to play the ukulele. "We started by learning to play note 'c' in the first couple of weeks and we played games to help build our confidence. We then learnt to play notes 'a' and 'g' and this helped us to learn and play *Rockin' All Over The World* by Status Quo and *Johnny B. Goode* by Chuck Berry. These songs were really upbeat and we felt like mini rock stars! Although, changing the chords was really tricky, it was great fun and we hope we can learn more in the future." – Sarah and Aishah, Y3.



Year 4 have welcomed Gill Essam from Greening Wingrove this term to teach them more about the environment. They learnt about the effect we have on the environment and the consequences of this. "We especially enjoyed learning about the atmosphere and the effect carbon dioxide and methane has on the environment. Carbon dioxide and methane are both greenhouse gases. We learnt the difference between renewable and non-renewable energies. Non-renewable energies are usually made from fossil fuels which cannot be made again. We agreed that we should use more renewable energies in our homes and try to cut down on the amount of fossil fuels that we are using. To do this, we could do things like turn off the TV at the plug and not leave it on standby. My favourite activity was when we had a boat race. We had to use solar energy to power a motor on our boat to make it travel through the water as fast as possible. We have loved learning about the environment and we are all going to try to save energy and use renewable energies in the future." – Muhammed, Y4.



World Book Day

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, we welcomed a production of *The Trial of the Wolf* from the traditional tale of The Three Little Pigs. The whole school enjoyed the performance in which we found the wolf to be not guilty of eating the little pigs. We agreed that the wolf had been suffering from a nasty cold and his sneezes blew the houses down and not his greed for food. Following the performance, Years 3 and 4 completed a drama workshop with the actors. "We walked around the hall pretending to be the characters from the performance. I liked walking around as the wolf. We also learnt about 'freeze frame' techniques and this bit was really fun. It helped me to understand the feelings of the characters in greater detail." – Alberto, Y3.

On World Book Day, we dressed in our pyjamas and onesies and enjoyed completing book related activities. Children swapped classes across the school, as children from Key Stage 2 read their favourite bedtime stories to children from Early Years and Key Stage 1. "I enjoyed reading with the children from Year 5. It was lovely to hear someone different reading a story to me." – Aisha and Hussein, Y1.



Mindfulness

Mrs Reynolds has been running mindfulness sessions for Year 4 on a Tuesday afternoon and a Thursday morning. "These sessions have focussed on how we can control our thoughts and feelings using our breathing. The breathing techniques can help us to stay on task and concentrate. We have been using what we have learnt in our classes every day. During discussions and class activities, we are focussing on how we can be mindful of others. To be mindful of our peers we must concentrate, listen and respect others. Our main objective in mindfulness is to 'focus on the here and now.' Our favourite part is when we do Tai Chi because we have to focus on our different feelings during the activity." – Umar and Denisa, Y4.



Fundraising

The RNLI depend on donations from the public to help them save lives at sea. Linked to their topic, Year 5 decided to organise a Pirate Day in order to raise money for them. "We made jewellery and goodies to eat and sold them lunchtime for a week. At the end of the week, we held a non-uniform day where we all dressed up as pirates. It was great fun, but more importantly we raised £398 which we donated to the lifeboat station at Newbiggin by the Sea.

Mrs Rutter's class have also been fundraising this term, but for Red Nose Day. Her class raised over £50 selling their iced biscuits and red nose crispy cakes. We also held a red-themed non-uniform day to support the cause. In total, we raised £330. Thank you for all of your support.



Sports News

In January, our Year 4 hockey team won through to the finals of the Newcastle Schools' competition. It was the first time our school has achieved this and we are all really proud of their efforts.



In March, our Year 5 basketball team took part in two competitions: one against schools throughout Newcastle and the other against members of our trust. Once again, our team performed admirably and had a great time competing.

News from Reception

The children in Reception have been learning about growing seeds. They have been digging and planting seeds during their Forest School sessions along with planting cress seeds and runner beans. The children have enjoyed investigating what will happen to the seeds in different conditions and they have demonstrated great care and concern to plant life. Mayar said, "You need to look after the seeds because they will grow tall into a beanstalk and you need to give them a little drop of water, lots of love and sunshine!"



Reception have also been developing their Mathematical knowledge this term. They have used Numicon to investigate different ways of making 10. "9 and 1 makes 10 and so does 7 and 3. There are lots of ways to make 10. However, 9 and 1 is 10 and 1 and 9 is 10. It's the same." – Anya and Fiza. In English, they have been studying fairy tales. "After reading The Gingerbread Man, we made our own gingerbread men. We were shocked one day to see a video of the gingerbread men running out of our classroom! To help find them, we made posters and put them up around school." – Samiul.



Clubs

CROSS STITCH

On Tuesdays, a group of Year 3 children have been learning how to cross stitch patterns with Mrs Duncan. "I have really enjoyed making my bookmark, but some people decided to make a coaster. Mrs Duncan has taught me how to safely sew with the needles and thread and I will use these skills in the future."- Katie, Y3.

MATHLETICS

Mrs Large has held a Mathletics club on Mondays and Thursdays for children who can't access the site at home. "I have found it very useful and it has helped improve my Maths results in school. I love playing the different challenges and I feel really proud when I earn 1000 points to win a certificate." - Yahya, Y3.

CRICKET

"Mr Henderson has been running a cricket club every Tuesday after school. During these sessions, we have focussed on fielding and batting. We have learnt how to throw the ball accurately and how to correctly catch the ball. We have also developed the long barrier technique for when we are fielding. When we are batting, we have practised how to hit the ball so that it stays on the floor and doesn't go in the air, therefore meaning there is less chance of getting out! At the end of our sessions, we use what we have learnt and apply it to a match situation. We have been playing games such as Kwik Cricket. My favourite part of cricket is batting because you get to hit the ball as far and as hard as you can." – Haadi, Y4.

SCIENCE

This term, pupils from Years 3 and 4 have been invited to the W.E.S.T science club at the Centre for Life to complete scientific experiments. "Year 3 had an amazing time. We learnt lots about space and created space food for astronauts! Did you know that instead of eating bread they eat wraps because wraps produce fewer crumbs that could cause problems in the air systems? In our wraps we had a mixture of foods and some people even created one with chocolate, cheese and cucumber! On another week, we learnt about rocks and we even tried to create our own. We made igneous rocks by pouring a solution on a tile and we watched it crystallise and we looked at sedimentary rocks by shaking a test tube full of matter before letting it settle. Our investigation of metamorphic rocks meant cutting open a tube of Aquafresh toothpaste to see that the different layers are formed when it is squeezed through the small opening. We learnt lots during the club and we would love to go again." – Adam and Heela, Y3.



"I loved science club because we got to do something different every week. We investigated sound, protein and electricity. My favourite part was making burglar alarms. We had to make them so that we would know if our family members were trying to steal our things. We used different materials such as cardboard, tin foil, masking tape, split pins and Blu Tack to make our burglar alarms." – Tabaan, Y4.



CYCLING



At the end of March, our Year 5 cycling club had a great trip out. They started at Newburn and cycled along the River Tyne and finished at Wylam, passing George Stephenson's house along the way. "It was a great cycling trip and although it was quite tiring, it was really good fun. The weather wasn't brilliant, but that didn't put us off. We loved riding through muddy puddles, but John and Ryan didn't enjoy cleaning the bikes when we got back to school!" – Ryan, Y5.

