



# Autumn Newsletter 2020



Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year. As this first term of 2020-2021 draws to a close, I am pleased to report that we have not had to close any of our year groups or send any groups of children home. As some of the children describe in this newsletter, we have been fastidious in our routines and whilst it has created restrictions for staff and children, the systems are in place in order to keep us as safe as possible.

Our risk assessment is under constant review and we have made some changes along the way, as a result of renewed guidance alongside our observations of the new COVID practices. One of these changes was the decision to request that everyone over the age of eleven wear a face covering outside when on the school site. We know that it is mandatory to wear them in all public indoor places, and spending time outside can be safer due to better air circulation, but the science tells us that we should still wear a mask in areas where physical distancing isn't possible. This is particularly important when we are congregating on the yard and moving through the narrow entrance and exit points. I would like to thank all of you for your support in this and am happy to see that more than 90% of people on site are wearing face coverings.

Of course, it remains possible that a pupil or member of staff may become symptomatic and test positive in the coming days, requiring the School to undertake track and trace and inform all close contacts. We really hope that this is not the case, but we need to know if it is. We have set up a separate email address for the reporting of symptomatic pupils and those seeking a test, and we would urge all parents and carers to use this email to report any such case up until Sunday 20th December at 1530. From 21st December to 5th January, this email account will be checked sporadically, and only urgent queries responded to during this period. If a positive case is reported between 18th December and 20th December, we will need to contact close contacts and give instruction to self isolate for ten days following the last contact with the positive case. We will use the class platforms to send letters to any close contacts, so I would like to urge all families to check their Seesaw/Dojo accounts during this time. We have regular updates added to our online platforms and our website, including a useful flow chart to show all parents and carers the School's approach. The email to report positive cases and booked tests is below.

If any pupil cannot attend school on our return on Tuesday 5th January, 2021, it would be helpful if parents and carers can inform us via email at the earliest possible stage, please.

We would like to wish you all a very happy and safe holiday and I look forward to seeing you all from 0835 on Tuesday 5th January.

[covid.wingrove@wingrove.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:covid.wingrove@wingrove.newcastle.sch.uk)

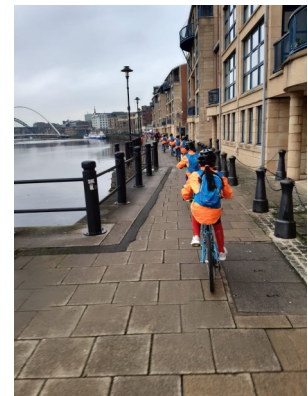
With very best wishes, Mrs Mullarkey.

## **Life in the Autumn Term**

"Things are a little bit different. We have to sit in rows and we use hand sanitizer as we come in to the classroom, but we don't mind because this makes us safe. We can't high five each other, but we can do an air high five. We don't hug, although we like to touch elbows as a way of showing we like each other. Some of us have to eat in the classrooms and it is fun because the teachers serve the school dinners and we get to watch films, cartoons and Newsround while we eat. The younger children can go to the hall in their bubbles and we hope we can join them soon. We still enjoy playtime, but we are only with our year groups. While some of us miss our friends and family in the yard, it does mean that we have more space and things to play with. Some of the things we are looking forward to in the future are singing together, attending assemblies and watching performances in the hall. We all love Seesaw and ClassDojo and we are looking forward to showing our families our class messages." – Younus and Wania, Y3.

## A RIVERSIDE CYCLE

As a reward for progress made in cycling during PE sessions, 30 Year 6 pupils took part in two cycle rides on the penultimate week of term. Both rides followed the River Tyne to the Cycle Hub café on Newcastle's Quayside where children enjoyed a packed lunch. The rides were organised by the PE department and supported by Ian Kendall of the Newcastle PE & School Sport Service. The 16-mile adventure is given more detail from Naafiah: "We really enjoyed the cycling trip because we got to do really amazing exercise. It was very enjoyable as we went past 5 bridges and we got to go over The Millennium Bridge, which was scary but quite exciting. The Cycle Hub was good fun and the staff were really nice and welcoming. When we went through the woods, it was very damp and soggy so, as a result, we were all drenched in mud and water! We loved the views; they were so beautiful."



## A LESSON FROM BEAMISH

This term, Year 6 have been exploring 'The Victorians'. Usually, we would have had the opportunity to go to Beamish Museum and explore what life was like for a Victorian child. Although our trip was cancelled, Beamish came up with a creative way to bring the Victorian classroom to us. Year 6 experienced life in a Victorian classroom via Zoom. Although it wasn't the real thing, we all had a great morning being transported back to Victorian Britain. "It was a great morning. I loved the lesson even though the teacher was quite scary!" – Ishaq



## Ukulele Lessons

"This term, 3JTW have been learning to play the ukulele. In case you didn't know, the ukulele is a stringed instrument with four strings. It looks like a small guitar. You make a tune by plucking or strumming the strings. At first, it seemed really difficult, but we persevered. Trying to coordinate our fingers and strumming with the other hand took great concentration. In the end, after much hard work and fabulous coaching from Chris, our music teacher, we became the world's best ukulele players - well almost! We will be playing for our parents next week and we can't wait! Watch out for us on See-saw!" - Sophia, Y3

## Supermarket Vouchers

If your child is entitled to benefit-related Free School Meals (FSM) you are entitled to supermarket vouchers for the two weeks the school is closed over Christmas. You should have received a £30 voucher for each child on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> December (sent to your email by the company Wonde – check your junk folder if you can't see it). If you would like to apply for FSM, you can do so online at [www.newcastle.gov.uk/services](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services) or, call in to the school office for a paper form, return it to us, and we'll apply on your behalf. Please come to the school office if you have not received your vouchers or if you are having trouble accessing them.

## Dog Squad

We would like to say a special thank you to our Dog Squad members across the school for their commitment to ensuring the dogs are walked, fed, watered and happy. We know that Chance, our youngest dog, found it quite hard to adjust to school life after a long period of time at home. However, thanks to hard work and dedication, the Year 6 members of Dog Squad have settled him in and he is now very well behaved, in and out of the classroom. Equally, Winnie and Topsy are well loved and enjoy regular cuddles with their team. Inaya and Naafiah, Y6, said, "We really love being a part of Dog Squad because it brings us joy to be with the dogs. Thanks to COVID-19, it has been a weird time, but being with the dogs has been a fantastic experience for us both."



## School of Sanctuary

We are absolutely delighted to share with you the great news of Wingrove being awarded School of Sanctuary status. We have always been a school that have welcomed and embraced all people and strongly opposed discrimination. As well as working to continue this, we needed to create awareness among staff and children about why people become refugees, why they needed protection and the difference between them and other migrants. We achieved this by weaving these themes into our existing curriculum and designing it so children explore issues related to refugees and asylum seekers, like studying the book *The Other Side of The Truth* by Beverley Naidoo, which is about Nigerian political refugees. We have organised a school-wide Refugee Week and invited in refugee volunteers to speak to both staff and children.

Before school closures, Year 6 took part in a musical workshop about sanctuary with guests Charden and Sam. The children discussed sanctuary and wrote lyrics around the theme. Charden said, "My experience working on the *Change the Narrative* project with Wingrove is that they are a great school. Whenever we went there to run our musical workshops, it always felt like a safe place for both students and teachers. The diversity of their staff and pupils, as well as the presence of therapeutic dogs in the building reinforced that feeling of care and understanding. Wingrove Primary School definitely has great potential of becoming a point of reference for other schools that would like to create a safer and more welcoming environment in the region. It was a pleasure working with you." As a member of the Schools of Sanctuary network, we were recently asked to join and support Action Foundation's fun and interactive Paperchain People social media challenge to raise funds for their InterAction Drop-in project, supporting and empowering refugees and asylum seekers in the community. We are planning more activities to celebrate and support this cause so close to our hearts in the near future.



In recognition of its work and ongoing commitment to engage with and celebrate the positive contribution of refugees and asylum seekers  
Wingrove Primary School  
is hereby awarded the  
School of Sanctuary Award  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

Rosie Tapfield, Newcastle City of Sanctuary



## News from Nursery

The children have enjoyed retelling stories this term. They have been developing their communication skills to express stories and to name the characters. Our favourite stories have been *Owl Babies* and *The Gigantic Turnip*. The children have loved retelling them with their friends by dressing up and using props. Eric said, "Pull... POP! Turnip out!" - Miss Chaudry.



## What's Beyond the Stars?

Year 1 have enjoyed learning about space in their topic, 'What's Beyond the Stars?' They explored which materials space rockets might be made from and why, as well as turning into science investigators to help fix a hole in an astronaut's glove. They have also learnt about British astronauts, Helen Sharman and Tim Peake. The classes were especially thrilled to receive a special message from Tim Peake himself! After watching videos showing what it is like to be a real astronaut in a space rocket, the children enjoyed tasting space food to see how it is different to food we eat back on Earth! The children have been so creative, designing and making their own rockets, making colourful clay aliens and using lots of junk modelling materials to make different space themed projects. It was wonderful to see that the children enjoyed learning about space at home too with some fabulous homework projects that were shared with the class. Well done, Year 1!



## FUNDING GRANT

During lockdown, an application was made to the David Dockray West End Young People's Fund for money to renovate Wingrove's sensory garden and further develop the school garden. In the past, the David Dockray Fund has supported Wingrove on several occasions, including the purchase of camping equipment and school minibuses, and we are delighted to inform families that this application was also successful. Despite the winter weather and the challenges of the pandemic, the impact of the funding can already be seen. Gardening equipment designed for children has been purchased, including leaf rakes and two wheelbarrows, and the children used them to collect fallen leaves throughout autumn. In 2021, a selection of features, surfaces, objects, and plants that stimulate our senses through touch, sight, scent, taste and hearing will be created and installed by pupils.



## National School Breakfast Programme

It has been nine weeks since Wingrove joined the National School Breakfast Programme. With over 80% of pupils signed up, it is hard to miss all the children with their bags of bagels and boxes of cereal and porridge at home time. As well as the take home breakfast packs, morning Nursery and Reception pupils have had the opportunity to have breakfast in school each morning. Further up the school, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have enjoyed a bagel and a book with a cup of juice thanks to specially chosen bagel monitors working alongside Mr MacLeod and Mrs Radu. Next term, it will be the turn of Years 1 and 2.

Pupils across the school are now more aware than ever of the difference a healthy breakfast can make to their learning thanks to the combination of take-home packs, in-school breakfasts and short lessons on the importance of the first meal of the day. Pupils have said that they think it was a good idea having breakfast in school because people might not have time to eat breakfast at home and that they like it because it gave them more energy to complete their work.

The National School Breakfast Programme will continue to the end of term 2 and families are still able to sign up by speaking to a member of staff.



## Cowell's Garden Centre Donation

In September, local garden centre, Cowell's, generously donated a large selection of flowers that Mr MacLeod and a selection of Year 5 children then planted in the school garden. Pupils have worked hard over the previous year to get the garden ready for planting in the spring, but the pandemic and school closure prevented them, so it was lovely to finally see the flowers going in.

Many of the Year 5 children were surprised at just how hard it was digging and planting, but after a lot of hard work, the plants were in and the garden was looking all the better for it. Pupils are excited for spring when they can start planting a variety of vegetables and plants and see the garden really come to life. Sam, supervisor at the family run business, also gave the school a discount on onion and garlic sets that have now been planted in Forest School and will be made into a tasty soup when they are ready to harvest.



## Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust, the largest woodland conservation charity in the United Kingdom, have chosen Wingrove to help them with their Big Climate Fightback campaign to get 50 million more trees in the ground.

Trees are our strongest warriors in the battle against climate change. They lock up carbon, fight flooding and cool our cities, but there are simply not enough of them. To hit The Government's 2050 carbon net zero target, the UK desperately needs more trees and in March, Wingrove will receive over 100 saplings including rowan, silver birch, wild cherry, common oak, field maple and grey willow. The saplings will be planted on the school site and it is hoped that within eight years they will start producing wood that can be used in Forest School lessons as well as provide some much-needed greenery to the West End.



## Speech and Language Therapy

Claire Randles, from Speech and Language Therapy, has joined our team for two days each week. She will be working with individual children, small groups and offering support and training for our staff. If you have any concerns about your child's speech and language development or any other special educational need, please contact Mrs Alexander, our Inclusion Manager, and we can discuss it in more detail.

## Language of the Month

At Wingrove, we have a large number of children whose first language is not English. To help us find out more about one another, our languages and cultures give us all the opportunity to speak to more people and therefore make more friends. As a result, we have decided to introduce a Language of the Month, featuring languages spoken by children within our school.

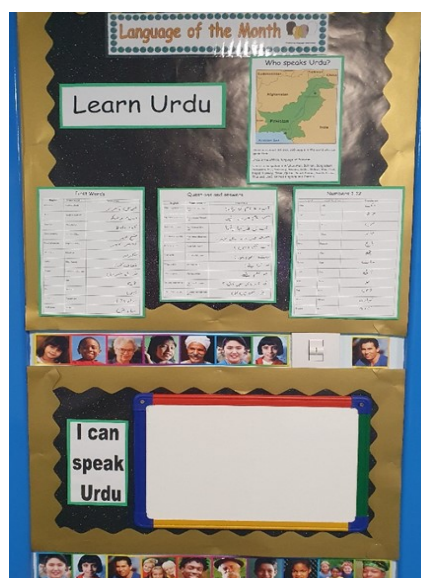
We will learn some words and phrases, find out about the country and the history of one of our ten most spoken languages. We use the Newbury Park Primary School website to support the teaching of Language of the Month. They have created a fantastic interactive video website, which helps us celebrate the diverse languages in our schools today. You can use it to listen to children speak clearly in their home languages and as the basis for a host of extension activities.

There are many reasons why we should know about one another's languages, including the following:

- to give bilingual children the opportunity to demonstrate the language skills they bring to school;
- to broaden the horizons of monolingual English speakers;
- to show respect for other languages and cultures;
- to give parents an opportunity to be actively involved in their children's learning.

Here are the languages for this academic year:

Urdu	September
Bengali	October
Arabic	November
Punjabi	December
Romanian	January
Pashto	February
Spanish	March
Gujarati	April
Turkish	May
Czech	June
Yoruba	July



We hope you join us at home and have fun discovering new words, phrases and learning about our languages from around the world with your children!

## Non-Uniform Day

In the week before October half term, a non-uniform day was held in aid of the West End Food Bank, a local charity that offers emergency food assistance to people living in the west of Newcastle. We were touched by the response from pupils and their families. The generosity shown and the messages of support we received were heart-warming. It was clear that the charity means a lot to staff and families alike. In total, £508.00 was raised for the food bank, who have faced severely increased demand since the start of the pandemic. School staff also held a food collection throughout the term, collecting cupboard essentials and hygiene products that were delivered to the food bank centre on Benwell Lane. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that took part and donated. Finally, any families facing food crisis this winter are encouraged to speak, in confidence, to our family support office.

