



Autumn Newsletter 2024



Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year. The end of term culminated in four amazing performances to celebrate the festival of Christmas. The children in Early Years dazzled us with their wonderful costumes as they shared with us *The Magic of Christmas*, which tells the story of Frosty the Snowman which was all about friendship and joy. The Nursery pupils provided us with a choir of stars. The next performance was by all children in key stage one as they shared with us *Seven Little Penguins*. This told us the story of Goggles the penguin who is upset at being left behind by his brothers and sisters. Goggles then has unwanted visitors in the form of Snitch the fox and Nick and Nock the polar bears, the notorious local robbers. Eventually, with the help of PC Blubber and the icicles, the robbers are captured and the gifts are recovered. Finally, on Friday, we welcomed you all into the hall again to watch the amazing key stage two performance of *Bah Humbug* which was fantastic. It is, as the title suggests, a retelling of the Charles Dickens' classic story, *A Christmas Carol*. I think we had the largest audience yet, which is brilliant to see. All of the pupils across the school had a part to play in their performances and they were very entertaining. I am so proud of all of our Wingrovians and would like to thank you all for coming along to support each and every performance. It means a lot.

We have celebrated visits out and visitors in to school. Educational visits are something we believe are vitally important to enrich the learning experience for all of our pupils, and we thank you for supporting us in this endeavour. We continue to work with Suzy from Yogibeas. We will be continuing with our gymnastics club next term. We are really grateful to Rise North East for providing the funding for this through Opening School Facilities Fund. We continue to work closely with two of our West End Schools' Trust (WEST) partners, the Theatre Royal and Centre for Life who run after school clubs. We were also offered 60 tickets for the *Little Mermaid* pantomime dress rehearsal, which was a brilliant opportunity for our pupils and their families. Our links with Newcastle United Football Club (NUFC) have also grown stronger this year. NUFC continues to support WEST pupils to access the stadium, to take part in outreach sessions in school and to visit the newer venue, *NUCASTLE* (Newcastle United Foundation) which again is a great opportunity. We will continue running competitions linked to NUFC values of collaborative, hardworking, passionate and disciplined working. The collaborative award was given to Amin, Ayan and Juleb in Y6 who designed a banner which will be displayed on the railings next term. They visited St James' Park, interviewed some of the academy players and were given afternoon tea. The hardworking award was presented to Rayhan in Y5 who celebrates with two tickets for the director's box for the Brentford vs Newcastle match on Wednesday 18th December. There is lot more to share with you all, but I am running out of space!

So, finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and a wonderful break with your friends and family. I look forward to welcoming you back to school between 0835 and 0845 on Monday 6th January 2025.

Mrs Mullarkey

Net Zero Heroes

In early November, our School Council had the privilege of attending Newcastle City Council's *Net Zero Heroes* awards day. This inspiring event celebrated efforts across the city to protect the environment and move closer to net zero goals. We are thrilled to announce that Wingrove's School Council, led by Mrs Jobson, was recognised for their hard work on several environmental initiatives last year. From organising litter picks to running a pen recycling scheme, collecting old cables and promoting our walk-to-school initiative, their efforts have made a real difference in helping our community become greener. In addition to receiving this well-deserved recognition, the School Council enjoyed a day filled with talks and presentations from local and national agencies. These sessions covered important topics like environmental protection, sustainability and how we can all play a part in combating climate change. Huge congratulations to our School Council for their dedication. They've shown us all how small actions can make a big impact. Let's continue to work together to create a cleaner, greener future for everyone!



Visits and Visitors

The children in Year 3 enjoyed visiting The Alnwick Garden this term. They learnt about the deadly plants in The Poison Garden with the Deadly Nightshade being their favourite. The children demonstrated excellent listening skills towards the staff and asked lots of questions about the plants in the garden. The children finished off their day in the Alnwick Maze, where they had to use their listening and oral skills to find each other and make their way out. Mila said, "I loved going to The Poison Garden and it was so scary! The plants were protected in boxes so we couldn't touch them."



"This term, Year 6 have been working with the Newcastle United Foundation to take part in a series of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) workshops. We have completed a variety of tasks such as building electrical circuits, understanding binary and creating the longest possible paper chain. As well as building on our knowledge of STEM, the tasks also encouraged us to develop our teamwork, communication skills, leadership and confidence. We also made a trip to the NUCASTLE Foundation, where we had the chance to explore STEM through LEGO. We built LEGO robots and coded them to make them move. At the end, we got the chance to race our robots! I think overall it was my most enjoyable trip; I love working with NUFC because they allow us to experience things that we may not get a chance to do in school." – Omar, Y6



At the beginning of October, Year 2 ventured out to Seaton Sluice as part of their topic about how seas and oceans change. "After a trip on a coach, we met Sam and Brian at Seaton Sluice Community Centre where they explained what would happen during the day. Our first activity was rock pooling in our groups. We worked as a team to lift up rocks and place our nets underneath to tickle out the mini sea creatures. We caught some huge crabs, fish and many other exciting creatures. After sharing our findings with everyone, we headed back to the building for lunch. In the afternoon, we enjoyed a coastal walk and we could see St. Mary's Lighthouse being renovated in the distance to one side and all the way up to Blyth on the other. Sam explained to us that the hills in the area were called ballast hills because in the olden days when they took coal down to London, the ships had to have ballast on their return journey and this was dumped in the area before they could reload with coal. Before we left, we were met by a volunteer called Hugh who had especially opened The Watch House for us. He explained lots about the history of Seaton Sluice and how people were rescued from ship wrecks many years ago. Instead of rowing out to save them, they would shoot a rope out to their ship and haul them in. It was a really interesting and exciting trip. Like most of my class, my favourite part of the day was rock pooling." – Jannat, Y2



"Year 3 visited the local Gurdwara this term and learnt more about the religion, Sikhism. The classes showed lots of interest in the Sikh religion and we now know that the word Sikh means 'learner'. We were able to answer some questions asked by the member of the local community too, as we had learnt about it in school before our trip. Personally, I loved seeing all the pictures about the Gurdwara and all of my friends respected my religion" – Ranveer, Y3



"In November, Year 6 were invited on a behind the scenes trip to the Theatre Royal. We found out about the theatre's dramatic history; part of the building was burnt down in 1899 and was rebuilt to look exactly like the original. We were taken backstage and the guide explained how the actors, directors and crew work together to create a performance. We got a chance to go under the stage, see secret trapdoors and we saw lots of the props being prepared for Hairspray, which was on at the theatre that evening. The most exciting part of the tour was when we were allowed to step onto the stage. Finally, we had the chance to sit in the audience seats and imagine what it would be like to watch a performance. Our favourite part was when we were told that every theatre has its own ghost – we were told about the ghost of the Grey Lady which was fascinating!" – Gabi & Taqwa, Y6



LEGO League

It's back! A new school year and a new team are getting ready to embark on another robo-tastic adventure, using the Lego SPIKE Prime Robots. They are going to dive deep into this year's challenge: Submerged. Our robots have to explore the depths of the ocean to help solve problems from plastic pollution and animal welfare to uncovering the mysteries of the deep. Currently, our Wingrove Robotic Engineers have learnt the basic skills and have started to move on to the advanced robot designs. Soon, we shall be back to using sensors and dozer blades. Roll on the new term!



Drumming

"This term, Year 3 have been able to experience making music with djembe drums and we learnt how to listen to different rhythms. We had to show excellent listening skills in these sessions and we asked lots of questions about where the drums originated from and how they are made! We took part in lots of fun games and had to design our own rhythms on the drums. It was a little tricky, but fun!" – Musab, Y3



Sports News

Girls' Football

This year, we have entered our very first Girls' Football team in the WEST League, which is held at Walbottle High School. Our Year 5/6 girls participated in their first round of fixtures in October and they won one game and drew the other two, so we are currently sitting second in the league and unbeaten. Well done, girls!



Year 5/6 Sports Hall Athletics



Recently, we took a team of Year 5/6 pupils to the Lakeside Centre in Killingworth to compete in the Sports Hall Athletics competition. We participated in a variety of events across the afternoon, such as obstacle relays, sprinting and jumping. Each pupil was aiming to get as many points for our team to give us an overall score. We finished in a superb 8th position, competing against a lot of schools from across the city.

Football Boot Collection

The Newcastle United Foundation offered us an amazing opportunity to choose pupils to receive a pair of football boots. As a result, pupils from KS2 travelled to the Newcastle Foundation where they could choose a pair of football boots to keep! All pupils were grateful and thankful for the opportunity. We are sure the new boots will help them improve their skills!



PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

We are delighted to share some wonderful news about our Parent and Toddler Group! Thanks to generous funding from The Community Foundation, we can continue to provide a warm and welcoming environment for our families with babies and toddlers aged 0-4. A special thank you goes to NAPI for their ongoing support and for supplying a fantastic range of toys that our little ones have been enjoying. We are also grateful to Findel Education for their wonderful donations, which have brought even more joy to our sessions. Our weekly sessions take place every term time Tuesday from 8.50am to 10.00am, offering a safe space where parents and caregivers can connect, share experiences and seek advice. We encourage anyone who may have worries or concerns to take advantage of



our regular professionals dropping in for support and guidance. Additionally, we provide snacks and drinks, ensuring that everyone feels comfortable and relaxed. There are still some spaces available, so we invite new families to join our vibrant community. Additional information and sign-up forms are available from the school office. We look forward to seeing you at our next session.



Lights, Camera, Action! Into Film Festival

During November, pupils from Years 2 to 6 had an exciting opportunity to attend the Into Film Festival – a national event designed to inspire young minds through the magic of cinema. Each class went to see a specially selected film, sparking creativity and enthusiasm for storytelling, filmmaking and the arts. The films shown included *Wild Robot*, *Kensuke's Kingdom*, and *Migration* with each one captivating the audience with unique adventures and meaningful messages. The children were thrilled to see these stories come to life on the big screen with many saying it was a highlight of their week. The festival not only encouraged pupils to visit the cinema, but also introduced them to the possibility of a career in the film industry. From directing to acting and animation, the event sparked imaginations and discussions about the endless opportunities in filmmaking. To make the day even more special, some lucky pupils received a free cinema ticket to enjoy another trip to the movies. A big thank you to Into Film Festival for this unforgettable experience! We hope this has inspired a new generation of filmmakers and storytellers in our school. Who knows? Maybe we have a future director or screenwriter among us!



Choir

The Wingrove choir have been out singing in Newcastle, raising funds for The Rotary Club and spreading Christmas cheer. The children spent many weeks rehearsing a wide range of festive songs, showing perseverance and an excellent work ethic. They delighted their audiences in Eldon Square and the Grainger Market with their performances. The children received many great compliments about their singing.



Science Club

“This half term, a group of seven Year 5 students had a blast taking part in Science Club at the Centre for Life. We took part in lots of exciting activities looking at topics such as sound, animals, electricity and many more. We enjoyed exploring everything from hands-on experiments to interactive challenges. The highlight of our time was when we competed against other schools in a balloon motor car design challenge and we won! It was a fantastic way to end our Science Club experience! It was amazing and fun to try different experiments and the best part was making the balloon powered car.” – Rayhan, Y5



Pedalling to Success with Bikeability

This term, Wingrove welcomed staff from Newcastle City Council who visited three times to help our pupils achieve their Bikeability qualifications. These sessions were a fantastic opportunity for children to develop their cycling skills and build confidence on two wheels. We congratulate the 36 pupils from Year 5 who completed Bikeability Level 2. This programme taught them how to ride safely on the road by preparing them to be confident and responsible cyclists. Meanwhile, 20 enthusiastic pupils from Year 3 successfully completed Level 1, learning



essential cycling skills like starting, stopping, and cornering. Cycling is not only a fun activity but also a great way to stay healthy and reduce our carbon footprint. The programme has equipped our pupils with valuable skills they can use in their daily lives. As the weather warms up in spring, cycling sessions will return and offer even more pupils the chance to join in the fun and learn these important life skills. A huge thank you to Newcastle City Council for their support in making this happen. We look forward to seeing more confident cyclists zooming around in the future!

Monday Coffee Mornings

We are excited to invite all parents to our regular Monday Coffee Morning, held every week during term time. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather, share a cup of tea or coffee, enjoy some snacks, and connect with other mums in a warm and welcoming environment. Whether you are looking for a chat, a little support, or just some time to unwind, our Coffee Morning is a safe space for everyone. We would like to say a huge thank you to all those who contribute with delicious homemade treats—it is always a highlight! Your kindness is much appreciated and adds to the special atmosphere we have created. Our Coffee Morning is not just about enjoying a drink and a snack as we are also able to invite professionals who can offer guidance on a range of topics. Whether you need support with job applications, taking up a course, or any other help, we are happy to connect you with people who can provide assistance. If you are free on a Monday morning, please join us from 8.45 am. It is a great chance to meet new faces, ask for help if you need it, and feel part of our wonderful school community. We look forward to seeing you there.

Nursery News

Nursery have settled into their new school life and routine so well and we are incredibly proud of them all. To round off a great term, they did campfire cooking with John, Olivia and Mr MacLeod making pizzas and popcorn. The forest school team were so impressed by how well behaved the children were and how much they ate! The children commented on how delicious the food was too!



HADO with NUCASTLE Foundation

In November, pupils in Years 4, 5, and 6 had an amazing time exploring HADO, thanks to a visit from the NUCASTLE Foundation. HADO is a thrilling augmented reality sport that blends gaming with physical education, providing a unique and energetic experience for everyone involved. Using virtual reality (VR) headsets and wrist sensors, players stepped into a virtual arena to launch energy blasts and dodge attacks in real-time. This combination of



technology and active movement made for an exciting and fast-paced activity that left pupils buzzing with excitement. The VR headsets were a particular highlight, with many pupils saying they felt like they had stepped into a video game! The NUCASTLE Foundation offers opportunities for children to take part in HADO and other engaging activities. It's a great way to stay active, have fun, and explore cutting-edge technology. For more information on how to get involved, visit the NUCASTLE Foundation's website. We're grateful to them for bringing such an innovative and enjoyable experience to Wingrove and we look forward to more exciting events in the future!