



Spring Newsletter 2024



Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter for this academic year. We have had a wonderful term. You will read about most of the learning in this newsletter, but we could not possibly fit everything in. As you may be aware, we were successful with our Turing application once again and we have been able to arrange two fully funded visits overseas, one to France and another to the Netherlands. We have been very busy practising on our bikes in preparation for the Netherlands trip. We have been using our own bike track, but have also been to the coast and through the city centre to try and build our strength. We always receive positive feedback from the places we visit and I often receive emails and phone calls in praise of our wonderful pupils and how smart and well-mannered they are. It is fabulous. We have also celebrated Chinese New Year, and have welcomed Lip Lee back to school on his annual visit where he has run workshops across the school. We also celebrated the festival with a Chinese-style free school lunch for the whole school. The Nursery pupils received fortune cookies and prawn crackers as they do not stay for lunch. We have this year been working with JJ Coaching to run holiday clubs. The first one took place in the Christmas holidays, we were able to offer a fully funded fun-packed four day holiday camp which was well attended. We have invited JJ Coaching back to run the same camp during the Easter holiday. It will run in the second week and will be aimed at children from Y2 to Y6 and will run Monday 8th to Thursday 11th April from 10am to 2pm each day. Children will also receive a meal each day they attend. Some of you have already signed up for this, but check Seesaw for the link if your child would like to take part. The maximum number is 40. This week we will also be holding the annual Easter egg competition. Children should bring in their creations on Wednesday and place them on tables in the hall. We will then choose first, second and third place and children can then bring home their entry, and their Easter egg prize, if they are lucky enough to win one. This year our staff team has donated enough Easter eggs that we are able to offer a first, second and third prize to each class from Nursery to Y6, which is great. Thank you to everyone for their kind donations. Thank you too to all of our families who have generously donated food items for the local food bank. The team at the West End Food Bank were so grateful for everything we provided. Times are very difficult for some people in our local community and your donations will really make a difference. I am so proud of our School Council who came up with the idea in the first place. They are so mature and this act demonstrates the empathy they have for others. Their work on minimising the litter situation has also been really effective. Thank you for supporting our young people who really care about our local environment and the people who live in it. Now that Lemington Riverside Primary School has joined our trust, our children are really enjoying meeting new people and widening their circle of friends. You will receive a message on Dojo and Seesaw with regard to an additional training day we are having this year. It is Friday 14th June. School will be closed to pupils as staff will be having a training session on how to use technology to raise standards. We will be working with Mr P again and we have coordinated this as a trust-wide training package.

School Council

Some members of our Wingrove School Council met up with their counterparts from schools in the West End Schools' Trust. They discussed the work each school has been carrying out and shared ideas for future collaborative work. Wingrove were pleased to report that the local area has been much cleaner recently and fairly litter free on our local litter picks. Amaya remarked, "It was really nice to meet everyone from the other schools and to talk about our role in school and also how we can work together to do some collaborative work." It was the School Council's idea to collect food for the West End Foodbank to help local families. It was an idea that was shared in the Trust and all of the other schools in the West End Trust joined in too. We were amazed by the generosity of parents and carers. Asbah said, "It was an amazing effort from the Wingrove family and I feel proud that we worked together to donate so much to the foodbank to help others."



This term, the school have worked with Annabel and Molly from RISE. As well as holding whole school assemblies, they have been into classes to promote mental health and techniques to promote and support the children.

“Annabel taught us lots of techniques to help us control our negative thoughts. We also got lots of ideas for how to stay calm when we are feeling different emotions. For example: hot chocolate breathing, finger pull, chair push ups, counting colours and lots more. The whole class agree that the work with Annabel has helped us to deal with difficult emotions in all areas of our life.” – Zaynab, Y5

Year 3 Cathedral Visit

Year 3 have performed their class assemblies this term. Mrs Large’s theme was about their class novel, The Iron Man, while Miss Chaudry’s theme was about religious festivals: Advent and Ramadan. Year 3 have also participated in fantastic singing sessions taught by Clare Crinson from Newcastle Cathedral. The children have been able to perform these songs in school each week and it then culminated in a performance at Newcastle



Cathedral as part of the wonderful singing festival to share their talents. Barrira said, “I loved singing different songs in school, in choir and for the singing festival – it was so much fun to use my singing voice!”

The Angel of the North

“In February, Year 2 visited The Angel of the North in Gateshead, as part of our learning about the North East. It was a sunny morning and we were amazed by the size of it because it doesn’t look that big in pictures. Did you know it’s 20 metres tall, the same as four double decker buses? While we were there, we complet-

ed sketches of the statue from different angles.” – Haniya, Y2



STEMTASTIC WEEK

“This term, Year Six have enjoyed a Stemtastic Week at NUCASTLE – Newcastle United Foundation, the Centre for Life and the Discovery Museum. At NUCASTLE, we coded robots to shake, make noises and countdown from 10 to 0. We also visited the gaming room and got to play video games. We really enjoyed our visit to the foundation. At the Centre for Life, we made paper aeroplanes and tested how far they flew. There was a competition to see how far your plane could fly and the winner’s plane flew 9.87 metres! After that, we explored the planetarium and we saw how The Earth orbited around The Sun. We learnt how other planets orbit at various speeds and that on other planets we would be different ages. Afterwards, we inspected a murder mystery and we gathered information to see which suspect was the murderer. For the final trip, we ventured to the Discovery Museum. Here, we made boats to see how well they stayed afloat. We held a competition and the winning boat stayed afloat for 18 seconds when weights were placed on it. Next, we made switches to trigger lights using copper tape, as a conductive material, and a battery that powered the light. We then made an object similar to a camera and learnt how the



eye works. We were surprised to see that the light that was projected on the window showed us images in our camera. After that, we used Morse Code to send messages to each other using Lego and lights. Finally, we were free to explore the museum and we all had a really great time. All of us really wish that we could visit those amazing places again. It really was a brilliant Stemtastic Week for the Year Six pupils.” – Sa’ad and Muhammad, Y6



LEGO EDUCATION

You may well remember we had oodles of Lego Education delivered to us, that we had training on it and started an after school club too, with ten Lego wizards, back in December. In January, we moved onto working with Lego Prime and the Spike robot. "We've been working diligently and have learnt an incredible amount, ready for our competition on the 13th March. This was our chance to showcase everything we had learnt about Lego Education Spike: we had our robots, including their attachments; our innovation projects about augmented reality in the home; our masterpiece mats and models; and a whole lot of excitement! Each team had three separate attempts to generate as many points as possible within a three minute timeframe. We had been told that 120 points would be an excellent first time score. How did we do? Wingrove Spike Squad's best score: 130 points; Wingrove Lego Engineers' best score: 150 points! Incredible! We also had to present our innovation projects and robot designs to the judges. The group were phenomenal! One of the judges said that one of our team's presentation was 'outstanding' and 'one of the best they have seen in three years.' Finally, came the awards ceremony. We were very excited to celebrate everyone's achievements as some of the robot designs we had seen were remarkable, not to mention scores as high as 225 points! But then came a special moment: a second judges' award had been created 'because we [the organisers] felt one team needed special recognition' as they had an excellent performance all round but 'had just been pipped by another team in each area.' The winners of the second judges' award? Our very own Wingrove Lego Engineers! Wahoo! At the day's conclusion, the overall winners of the day were the Wingrove Spike Squad and incredibly in second place were the Wingrove Lego Engineers! We can't believe it! We are Regional Champions! What does it mean? We now have a road trip down to Harrogate to compete in the National Finals: competing against schools from England, Scotland and Wales. What a dream!" – Fola and Jamie, Y5



Protest!



"In the penultimate week of term, the whole of year 6 took part in a peaceful protest outside the school gates. We wanted to show the public what we believe in. We protested for: peace and justice, equal rights, climate action and quality education. We felt that the public reaction to our protest was very positive as lots of people waved to us or honked their horns in support. We all feel very encouraged and more confident to stand up for what we believe in." – Wania, Y6

Homework Projects

"In Year 5 this term, we have completed a homework project linked to our topic, 'Can conflict ever be positive?' We researched a country that was involved in World War 2 and focussed on the geography of that country. We found out about the physical and human features of the country, as well as the food, culture and their involvement in World War 2. We then had to use our oracy skills to present our research to the class. We spent a lot of time working on our projects and we enjoyed finding out new facts. It was a bit nerve wracking when we presented to the class but it was nice to show off all our hard work!" – Maariya, Y5



T!NARTS

Over the last term, the children in Key Stage One have been enjoying STAR dance sessions every Wednesday with Kelsey from TIN Arts. "We began by watching a recorded performance of The Ugly Duckling, focussing closely on how each character acted and moved. In the following weeks, we studied the movement of each character in turn; ducklings, ducks, cats, frogs and foxes! Week by week, we have developed our dance skills by practising jumps, stretches and turns to move our bodies in different ways. We have also been able to play dance games and select the type of music we have wanted to dance to. We are really looking forward to showcasing what we have learnt in a final dance performance at the start of next half term." – Moeez, Y2



Vehicle Engineers

On Thursday 29th February, eight Year 4 pupils visited CitySpace in Sunderland to attend the Reece Foundation celebratory event for primary engineers. Previously, in school, we had worked in pairs to create a moving vehicle which was tricky, but great fun. We travelled to the venue by minibus and on arrival, we were shown to a large hall and asked to create a team name. Our team was called The Eagles as we had decorated our vehicle to look like a bird. Lots more schools arrived, the judges introduced themselves and the competition challenges began. Initially, we had to direct our vehicle in a straight line and then we completed a ramp challenge. We had to see how steep of a ramp our vehicle would go up and it managed two out of the five available. Finally, we had an interview with two real life engineers who asked us questions about our vehicle and we were allowed to ask them questions too, such as, "When did you know you wanted to be an engineer?" It was a bit nerve-racking but interesting too. At last, the judges decided the winners. My team won best communicators and we won a trophy, an engineering cap and a certificate. We were thrilled to have won and we all had a really fun day." – Zara, Y4



DINOSAURS

Year 1 have had a fabulous second half term learning all about dinosaurs. Zwiika and Abdullah said, "It started with the discovery of an egg in Forest School. We wanted to know more about it and started our topic, 'Where have all the dinosaurs gone?' We have learnt all about the role of a palaeontologist and the work of Mary Anning. We also made our own dinosaur fossil replicas and that was so exciting. The topic has been so much fun!" In addition, Year 1 had a great time visiting Fenham library. Ammar and Ibrahim commented, "We enjoyed listening to stories, reading new books, as well as exploring real fossils! Going to the library was exciting, and we loved seeing all the new books. One of the best parts was seeing the fossil because it looked like a real T-Rex."

