

Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter. What a busy term we have had! We have invited lots of visitors to our school and the children have been out on visits to expand their knowledge. Year six children have been working with all the other year six pupils from across the all eight primary schools in our trust. It has provided them with the opportunity to meet pupils they may be joining at secondary school, and this really supports them with the transition to the next stage in their learning. We also have our Health and Wellbeing Week in June, which follow the same principle of mixing with children from other schools and allows the children opportunities to learn about how to stay safe and make healthy choices. We have also raised nearly £2000 for various charities, which is brilliant.

Today (Thursday), I walked around the hall trying to pick three of the best for each year group in the egg designs. What a difficult task it is. We have been doing this for a number of years, and every year the children come up with different and unique designs. This year we had the largest number of entries I think we have ever had. We had a number of designs which celebrated the King's Coronation, lots of Marvel designs and superheroes, farmyards, fairy tale characters, the World Cup, under the sea designs, Dennis the Menace and the Beano and the biggest bunny rabbit I have ever seen to name just a few. See below for some examples of the entries:



Well done to everyone who took part in the competition. I hope you all enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter. Have a lovely holiday and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 17th April at 0845.

Mrs J Mullarkey

BIKEABILITY AT WINGROVE

Newcastle Council's Bikeability instructors have been regular visitors to Wingrove during the second half of the term, teaching several levels of cycling classes to over 70 pupils. Pupils in Years 3 and 4 took part in Learn to Ride and Level 1 sessions, while Year 5 cyclists took to the roads of the West End in their level 2 sessions. Danyal, Y3, shares his experience of learning to ride. "During the sessions, I learnt to ride a bike without stabilisers. It was really hard at first and I fell off once, but after a while it became easier. My main problem was that I kept taking my feet off the bike, but the instructor did well in teaching me and I was really proud of myself for never giving up. It taught me that you should never give up and believe in yourself."



Visits and Visitors

The children in Year 3 have enjoyed visiting Fenham library this term and this has helped them to develop their reading and storytelling skills. Some of their visits included a LEGO workshop, which involved creating robots that were linked to their recent class novel of 'The Iron Man'. The library also hosted an arts and crafts activity area in which adults from the local community demonstrated practical workshops to encourage dexterity skills – our Wingrovians were able to see how to knit puppets first hand and it was incredible to watch. Haleemah said, "I have enjoyed visiting the library because I got to read lots of fun non-fiction books. Being able to watch the puppets being made was also brilliant. They are very skilled people!"



Throughout the term, on each Tuesday, Year 2 have been learning to play the djembe drum with Chris from the Newcastle Music Service. "I had never played the drum before, so I have really enjoyed learning about it. First of all, we learnt how to sit properly so we could play the drum easily. Chris taught us that you can play the drum in two ways. One way is to hit the drum in the middle with your palm and that is called *bass*. The other method is called *slap* and you tap your fingers around the rim of the drum. After learning how to do this, we have learnt different songs and played lots of different musical games. Sometimes it is the class versus Chris and we can never beat him! I am looking forward to learning more with Chris in the future." – Ayaat, Y2



Year 3 have participated in fantastic singing sessions taught by Laura Oldfield from Newcastle Cathedral. The children have been able to perform these songs in school and within choir club. Daria said, "I enjoyed singing different songs and this has helped me sing songs in choir. Laura has a lovely voice and she is a great singer."



In the penultimate week of term, 30 pupils enjoyed a trip to the cinema to watch *Raya and the Last Dragon*. The trip was to reward pupils for improved or consistently good behaviour, attendance or both. The screening was provided by the charity IntoFilm and pupils were treated to toffee popcorn and juice provided by Mrs Paxton. The next reward trip will be a morning at Gibside's play park.

During March, Year 2 have been learning about the impact of fire and how it changes the world. "After briefly learning about The Great Fire of Newcastle and Gateshead in 1854, we visited the Newcastle and Gateshead Quayside in our first week back after half term. This helped us to learn more about it because we could look at the area that was devastated by the fire and imagine what it must have been like. The fire started in Wilson's cloth factory and spread to Bertram's chemical warehouse, creating a huge explosion that could be heard many miles away. Wilson's cloth factory stood where there is a tower for the Tyne Bridge on the Gateshead side of the river and there is even a plaque to commemorate the fire on the wall of the tower. Mr Hields read the plaque to us and we learnt that 53 lives were lost during the event. It was also great to walk along the river because we were able to spot other landmarks that we had learnt about earlier in the term such as The Millennium Bridge, The Baltic and The Sage." – Aniyah, Y2.



In March, Year 5 visited the Victoria Tunnel as part of their World War II topic. The tunnel goes 26 metres underground and is over two miles long. Year 5 had a guided tour and learnt all about how the tunnel was used as a shelter during the Blitz. They even listened to an air raid siren and heard Neville Chamberlain's famous speech declaring the country was at war. "I loved everything about it, especially the siren," commented Aminah. In the afternoon, the class visited Seven Stories and had an opportunity to visit the different exhibitions. A particular favourite was the Wildwoods Gallery, inspired by the theme of magic. Sophia said, "We really enjoyed it and had a great time. I loved the Harry Potter section!"



Year 2 visited the Angel of the North in mid-February, a day before it celebrated its 25th birthday, as part of their learning about the North East. "After travelling there on the school minibus, we walked around it, stood back and admired it, as well as creating sketches of her from different angles. I enjoyed seeing the sculpture in person. When we learnt about it in the classroom, it's hard to imagine how tall it really is. As it was 25 years old the next day, we also made the Angel of the North a birthday card and sung happy birthday! It was an enjoyable couple of hours." – Fauzan, Y2.

Year 5 Cycling

16 pupils from Year 5 have been chosen to travel by bicycle to Holland this May, accompanied by the charity, Bike4Health. The trip, funded by a grant from The St Nicholas' Education Trust, will see pupils cycle from Wingrove to North Shields, where they will catch the ferry to IJmuiden. After a night on the ship, pupils will cycle around Amsterdam and on to a hostel, where they will stay the night before returning home, cycling a total of 90 miles over four days. Pupils are working hard to prepare for what will be a fun, but challenging experience. In Cycling Club, they have worked on slow speed bike control and riders have racked up the miles in PE and lunchtime cycling sessions. Day rides from Blyth to Whitley Bay and around the Derwenthaugh Riverside Park were great opportunities to work on gear selection, while being aware of other path users. In the final



week of term, the 16 riders will work with instructors from Newcastle Council to complete a Level 2 Bikeability award to improve their safety.

Litter Picks

Mrs Jobson and the School Council have decided to tackle the amount of litter in the community after several pupils and parents raised the issue. Since January, the School Council have carried out weekly litter picks along neighbouring streets, each time collecting several bags of rubbish that have weighed in excess of 10kgs. To coincide with Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean initiative, the School Council arranged for a week of action which started with an assembly by Rebecca Wilson, Waste and Recycling Engagement Team Leader at Newcastle Council. In Forest School time, each class then carried out a litter pick, with KS1 concentrating on the school grounds and KS2 on the local streets around school. The pupils cleared so much litter from the local streets, that a tipper truck had to be sent to collect it! Well done, everyone.



LIP LEE

It was wonderful to welcome back Lip Lee to Wingrove for a couple of days at the end of January, as part of the Chinese New Year celebrations. He completed a workshop with every class and shared his wealth of knowledge with the pupils. Each class completed an art and craft based activity linked to the celebrations. "Lip Lee taught us that 2023 is the year of the rabbit. He also brought in lots of Chinese artefacts, including a dragon that we could put on our heads. During his session with our class, we made an origami rabbit and a dragon that could be concertinaed up and then extended. The whole school also celebrated with a special lunch that was yummy. I look forward to Lip Lee coming back again in the future." – Asbah, Y2.



Science Is My Superpower!



16 girls from Year 5 have been taking part in Science is My Superpower, a year-long scheme run by Newcastle University and Newcastle High School for Girls. The aim of the scheme is to encourage more girls into science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). At the start of March, the 16 girls travelled to Newcastle High School for Girls for a session all about maths in the structures around us. Pupils looked, in particular, at the Tyne Bridge and the strength within tetrahedrons. The girls then joined forces with pupils from other primary schools and, as teams, they built solid structures with some being taller than six feet.

FOREST SCHOOL

Despite a persistently cold and damp start to the year, Forest School lessons have continued throughout the term and the fire pit area was especially busy as children cooked tasty snacks to help keep them warm. Years 1 and 2 showed off their culinary skills by making pizza quesadillas on the campfire, while Year 3 made a healthy spiced vegetable soup. They had to wash, peel and chop all of the ingredients themselves, learning more skills in the process. Years 4, 5 and 6 all enjoyed making campfire doughnuts and then enjoyed eating them even more! The doughnuts proved so popular, that we were inundated with children asking for recipe so we have provided it below:



Campfire Doughnuts Recipe

- Loaf of white bread (slightly stale is OK!)
- Jam – your choice of jam
- 100g flour
- 1 egg
- 300ml milk
- Dusting of sugar (could add some cinnamon for added flavour)



Moving Parts Arts

In February, Year 2 welcomed Chloe and Will from Moving Parts Arts for a puppet workshop based on Newcastle and its surrounding area. "When they arrived, we were split into two groups. One group stayed with Chloe in the classroom, while the other group worked with Will in the community room. In the classroom, the group made puppets with wheels and handles that you could move along a surface. Will's group made puppets using cloth, sticks and glue. To start with, both groups needed to write a short story about their favourite place in Newcastle on a postcard and then the puppet was to be a character in the story. After that, we made our faces, designed the puppet's clothes and then assembled them together, before everyone had the chance to show off their puppet through a picture frame. It was a great experience to have." – Moustafa, Y2. Moving Parts Arts will be part of the Newcastle Puppetry Festival across a range of venues in Newcastle from 8th – 16th April. Visit www.movingpartsarts.com for further details.



Kindful Cooking

Katy and Amy from Cornerstone continued their Kindful Cooking with Year 2 this term. After their success with corn muffins in November, they taught the children about wheat, before making tasty pizzas. "We learnt about which foods contain wheat, where it comes from and how it is used. Our pizza bases contained wheat and we had to start by rolling them out. We then added some tomato puree, vegetables and cheese to create our toppings. After a short time in the oven, they came out smelling wonderful. I couldn't wait to get home to eat it and when I did, it was delicious. I am already looking forward to our next session and I can't wait to find out what we are going to make next." – Ali, Y2.



Year 1 Dinosaurs

Year 1 have had so much fun learning all about dinosaurs. It started with an egg discovery in Forest School. Ranveer said, "We have learnt about which animals hatch from eggs and we made predictions on what we thought might be inside the egg. We knew it couldn't be a real dinosaur, as we know they are extinct, but we wondered if it was an animal similar to a dinosaur. This led us on to explore which animals are alive today that have evolved from dinosaurs." They have also made their own dinosaurs and learnt all about fossils. Some of their fantastic learning has been shown through the fantastic homework projects that have really showcased their artistic talents. Well done, Year 1.



STEM WEEK

Year 6 enjoyed an amazing STEM Week, with visits to the Life Centre, The Discovery Museum and NUCASTLE. We were joined by other schools from our trust and everyone had a fantastic time. Immad said, "I really enjoyed my visit to NUCASTLE when we learnt to program the robot as the noises it made were cool. It was one of the best trips ever!" Abdullah added, "The best part was when we went to the gaming area because we could play lots of different games. I liked the big TV screen because lots of us could play together. Not only did we have a fantastic time enjoying activities that helped us better understand science, technology, engineering and maths, we also won a competition." Children across the trust made catapults and used them to project a pom pom across the classroom. The team with the longest distance won. We were delighted that the winning team was from Wingrove, with Ifra and Ana achieving a stupendous distance of 8.84m. We are yet to be awarded our winning trophy, but look out for it on display in the foyer soon.

