



Spring Newsletter



March 2018

Welcome to the second of our newsletters for this academic year. As you can see from it, there has been a great deal of learning taking place in school. We have had an incredibly busy term once more where we have welcomed visitors from other schools, ventured out on educational trips and have continued to enhance our curriculum with creative and inventive ways of learning. This week, Miss Hassan's class had a visit to Whittingham Primary School, in Northumberland, where they spent the morning with their new reception friends. They visited the local church where the vicar, Jane, talked about new life and Easter. They then had a tour of the school and the children were amazed at how tiny it was compared to ours. They then had an Easter egg hunt on the school field. The children were so excited to meet their new friends and we are extending the invitation to them to spend time with us in the near future. I am sure that they too will be overwhelmed by the differences here at Wingrove. They have also been invited to celebrate Eid with us later in the year. Our children have spent their time this week making thank you and Easter cards to send to Whittingham. This is such an exciting opportunity for the children from both schools to celebrate diversity and understand different cultures.

Thank you for your support during the bad weather when we battled against 'The Beast from the East' a few weeks ago. We managed to keep the school open for the most of the time, but we were defeated for one of the days when we were closed to staff and pupils on Thursday 1st March. Well done to all of you who managed to get into school on Friday 2nd. I was very disappointed that some families did not make it in, as the vast majority live within walking distance of the school, but I am very impressed with the determination and resilience shown by those of you who came in. Keep up the hard work!

In order to create another channel for communicating with families and beyond, we now have our school Twitter account. A letter seeking permission has been sent out and there are spare copies at parents' evenings. Please follow us to see what is happening in school. Our address is [@Wingrove Primary](https://twitter.com/WingrovePrimary).



BIKE TRACK

Over the first half of the term, a new 350 metre bike track was constructed around our grounds. It is now in full use and Key Stage 2 have been using it in their PE lessons and after school clubs. After Easter, Key Stage 1 and some budding cyclists in Reception will start using it too. Zakariya, Y6, said, "This is something we have all eagerly been awaiting for some time now! Our first time on it was during PE and it was definitely a highlight of this academic year. Riding on it was amazing; every single second felt like a dream. It was challenging, but very fun as there are bumps and curves. We are very thankful as most schools don't have these resources. It's definitely a shame that our year group is leaving after this year and we won't be able to enjoy it for longer."



Visits and Visitors

“At the end of March, Year 5 ventured out on a quest to understand life at Newbiggin by the Sea as part of this term’s Creative Curriculum question, ‘*What lies beneath the ocean?*’ Located on the North East coast, about 20 minutes from Fenham, Newbiggin is a sea-side resort boasting great beaches, a fabulous museum and very interesting art work. First of all, we went into the Maritime History Museum to find out about the history of Newbiggin. Did you know, that in 2007, around 500,000 tonnes of sand was brought from Skegness to replenish the beach - required after years of erosion and mining subsidence had lowered the beach level? We saw the impressive sculpture, *Couple*, by Sean Henry. It is a sculpture of a man and a woman standing on a plinth, looking out towards the horizon. Impressively, they are about the height of a double decker bus. There is a life size version of them on the promenade. Can you find them amongst the crowd of Wingrovians?

We also carried out a litter pick, which was essential, as we have learnt how damaging litter is to the seas and the animals and plants that live there. While we were carrying out our litter pick, we also found all sorts of things too- a lobster, a bird’s skull, a crab’s claw. We did actually pick up litter though! We all agreed it was a fabulous trip and we recommend that you visit.” – Sarah and Samia, Y5.



“Year 6 went on an exciting trip to Beamish open air museum in County Durham to experience what life would have been like in Victorian Britain. Our day was jam packed with exciting activities; it was very interesting. My favourite part of the day had to be the trip to the sweet shop; watching the sweets being made and even getting to buy some delicious treats to take home. Overall, Year 6 had a fantastic day and we would definitely recommend you to visit if you haven’t already.” – Anaya, Y6.



“As part of our Chinese New Year celebrations in February, the school welcomed a special visitor, named Lip Lee, to work with each class and teach us origami and Chinese words like 新年快乐 (Happy New Year in Chinese). He was also able to inform us about Chinese traditions and he showed us some traditional Chinese artefacts. Some year groups made origami Chinese Emperors and Empresses and others made dogs, as 2018 is the year of the dog. After the origami and some other games, we attended an assembly where we were able to watch some Chinese dancers perform a fantastic dance routine.” – Pedro, Y6.



World Book Day

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, the children and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters. There were some fantastic costumes on show and we had characters ranging from Horrid Henry to Harry Potter. A week later, we continued the celebrations as we welcomed Barking Up the Right Tree to perform a World Book Day themed play. Idir, Y3, said, "It was based around a library that was due to close and the main characters, which were trying to save it, jumped into the library and found themselves transformed into book characters to suit all the school ages. They ranged from Oliver Twist to The Cat in the Hat. It was amazing how many characters they were able to change in to in just less than an hour! My favourite part was when they turned into the characters Hansel and Gretel because we have studied that this year. The witch wasn't as scary as in the real book, but the house made of gingerbread looked tasty."



Stepney Banks Stables

"Over the last couple of months, six Year 6 pupils have been chosen to go to Stepney Banks Stables every Thursday to learn how to care for horses and how to ride them. This experience has really helped me to build resilience and confidence. When I first went, I was really scared of riding the horses. However, by the end I felt really confident riding them. I really enjoyed my time at the stables; I feel very lucky to have been chosen." – Layla, Y6.



Snakes

"In Year 6, we are very fortunate to have gained two new class pets – corn snakes! They are named Poppy and Tutti-Fruity. One currently resides in Miss Pemberton's class and the other one is in Ms McCarthy's. Once a week, they are both fed mice, which many of us have had the opportunity to do. Disgusting, but cool! We have also been passed on the responsibility of ensuring that they have water and are cleaned out regularly. It is quite tiresome having a pet, but well worth it and it has definitely taught us to be more considerate of an animal's needs. We hope you would love them as much as we do." – Rukhsar, Y6.

TRUMPETS

This term, Year 3 have been learning to play the pocket trumpet with Mr Rudkin from the Newcastle Music Service. "We learnt how to play notes A, C and G. It was quite tricky learning which valves to push down at the right time at first, but we eventually managed it with lots of practise. We were taught accompaniments to five different tunes. Our favourite was called Mexican Wave, where we had to finish with a three beat clap. In our last session, we were able to show off what we had learnt to other members of the school by performing a short gig." – Marwah & Adnan, Y3.



Meet the Author: Robin Stevens

"On Friday 16th March, Year 4 and Year 5 were invited to Sacred Heart Primary School to meet the author, Robin Stevens. She writes murder mysteries about Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells. She talked about her most recent one: A Spoonful of Murder. She also talked about herself and her childhood. She told us that she has a bearded dragon named Watson, who is nine. She was born in California and moved to England when she was three. We made our own murder mystery with her and we decided that it would focus on an American politician being murdered. Some children brought money and bought a signed book with a bookmark and badge. I really enjoyed it and I hope to meet more authors in the future." – Alaiya, Y4.



Seven Stories

The children and their parents in Reception, who visited Seven Stories to learn about reading for pleasure, loved their recent visit. The children and parents were involved in several workshops to promote reading in different ways by using props, puppets and musical instruments. Everyone also had the chance to explore the interactive comic books gallery and dress up as a superhero. Maliha said, "I like reading my favourite story with my mummy and my baby sister together." Obai added, "I like making the sound of the rain with the musical shakers!"



NURSERY NEWS

It has been another busy term for our children in Nursery. They have been learning the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and have used actions to help tell the story. They have made their own story maps and painted pictures to help retell the story. Nursery have also had a special visit from a fireman, who talked about the importance of smoke alarms and what to do if there is a fire in a house. Some children were able to try on a special firefighters' outfit. As part of their Forest School activities, Nursery have also been enjoying looking for the early signs of spring. So far, they've found worms, flowers and a bird's nest to name just a few.



Parents' Views

It is very important to us, as a school, that we are providing the best possible provision for our pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN). I would really appreciate it if you could spare a few minutes to complete the questionnaire that was sent out to families of pupils with SEN, as this will help us know what is working well and where we could improve further. I will collect the results after the Easter holiday and publish the information on our website. If you have any questions or are unsure about anything on the questionnaire, please contact me via the school office. – Mrs Alexander, Inclusion Manager

Cycling

This term, our Reception children have welcomed Melissa from British Cycling in to school. She has helped them with their skills on balance bikes through a variety of games. The children have really enjoyed it and are looking forward to learning more next term.



Sports Competitions

In February, our Year 4 hockey team competed in the School Games Quicksticks Hockey competition. We finished 4th out of the 12 teams and we are looking forward to future competitions.

Our football team are doing well in the WEST league. At the half way point of the season, we are currently in 3rd position. We are hoping to move up the league after Easter when we'll have home advantage as we'll be playing all of our matches on our school pitch.