



Spring Newsletter 2019



As I moved around the hall today (Wednesday) trying to pick three of the best for each year in the egg designs, I was reminded of how thoughtful and caring our children truly are. There were many Elmer-themed egg creations, due to our whole school topic, but also some other thoughtful designs which focused on trying to be the best you can be. Some of the messages read:

"Diversity is shown in Elmer because he's patchwork and the others are not. In Wingrove, we speak 23 different languages and we respect it."

"It's okay to look different. We all look different, but it's okay."

"We are the ones who can fill the world with sunshine."

I am so proud to be part of this wonderful school where we try to show care, consideration, empathy and acceptance for each other. It would be a wonderful thing if we could spread this positive, intelligent attitude across the world and make it a better place for all living things. We continue to try and influence others to see this. We also had Dumbo, Peter Eggbit, Egg Shearon, Eggs Factor, Gooseeggs, I wasn't eggspecting that, Eggocity, England vs Eggstralia (football), Humpty Dumpty and we even had a Brexit-themed eggstravaganza! Thank you to all of you who made the effort to enter the competition. Every year we are surprised to see the creativity. I hope they all got back home safely so they can be shared with family and friends.

A few weeks ago we took part in Comic Relief and we all wore red, painted our faces, put on rubber noses and donated a pound to do so. Thank you again for all your support with this. All money raised will go towards supporting injustice and poverty across the world. We also celebrated World Book Day on the last day of term by dressing as a character or coming in to school in bright colours like Elmer. There is a true reading buzz around our school. We have newly appointed librarians who are managing the library. They asked if they could run reading groups at lunchtime and they have begun with reading sessions with younger children from Reception and Year One. It was wonderful to see this peer to peer work going on in our school, especially when the children are the leaders. Winnie, Tipsy and Chance have also been involved in these sessions — that is when they're not out and about at play and lunchtimes!

As we approach the end of term two, can I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful holiday. We break up on Thursday 4th April and return on Tuesday 23rd April following the Easter break and the bank holiday. Try and get out to visit some of the wonderful places across our city over the break. We have places like The City Library, The Great North Museum, The Laing Art Gallery, The Discovery Museum, The Baltic Art Centre, The Ouseburn and the Quayside in the city centre and then we have the most amazing coastline and countryside virtually on our doorstep. All of these are free places to explore and the children will be so excited to come back and tell their friends all about it after the holidays. As always, thank you for your continuing support.

J Mullarkey

Ukulele

This term, both Year 3 classes have been visited by Chris Collins from the Newcastle Music Service each Friday as they have started to learn how to play the ukulele. "We started by learning to play note 'c' in the first couple of weeks and we played games to help build our confidence, such as *Don't Play This One Back*. We then learnt to play notes 'a' and 'g' and this helped us to learn and play *Rockin' All Over The World* by Status Quo. The song was really

upbeat and we felt like mini rock stars, especially when Chris brought his electric ukulele in to show us! Although, changing between the chords was really tricky, it was great fun and we hope we can learn more in the future." – Ibrahim, Y3.



Visits and Visitors

In February, Lip Lee returned to Wingrove to help us celebrate Chinese New Year. "He told us all about how Chinese people celebrate and that 2019 is the Year of the Pig. I liked when we could try on the dragon's head and attempted to play some traditional Chinese games, but they were quite tricky! Each class in the school completed a workshop with Lip Lee and in our class we made different origami emperors and empresses. We had to listen very carefully to the instructions as it was quite tricky! As part of the celebrations, we also enjoyed a traditional Chinese lunch instead of our normal school dinner." – Habiba, Y3.



The children in Reception have enjoyed their visit to see the dentists at Angel Dental Care this term. They have been so excited to learn about the dentist's special job and to look at all of the tools that they use during a check-up appointment. The Reception children have had lots of dental visitors into school to discuss healthy eating and oral hygiene care too. All the children in Reception have their own personalised toothbrush and have the chance to brush their teeth at school every day. Omar said, "I brush every day to make them clean and strong – once in the morning and once at night time." Yara added, "I can brush my teeth for 2 minutes using a sand timer!"

In addition, dental students from Newcastle University came in to talk to Year One about the importance of dental hygiene and cleaning our teeth regularly. "They showed us lots of equipment and we carried out experiments to show the effects of sugar on our teeth. We enjoyed dressing up as dentists and we all got our own toothbrush and toothpaste to use at home!" – Alaa, Y1.



This term has seen the Newcastle United Foundation delivering their Match Fit & Family Learning Programmes in school. Year 3 have benefitted from Match Fit, during which they learn about nutrition, rest and healthy eating in the classroom before then taking part in a football lesson with

some of the coaches. The Family Learning Programme has taken place after school on Thursdays for children and their parents and carers. They have been able to come along and take part in a fun and challenging session, involving games such as football and also activities that improve our understanding of healthy living. Both programmes have been well received and participants will be invited to a special awards ceremony later in the year.

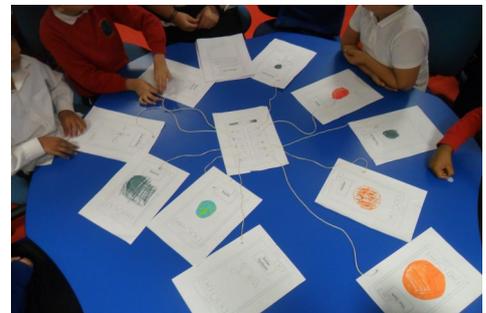
The Spring Term has seen Positive Energy North East delivering Metafit sessions to our Year 6 children. Metafit sessions are a combination of a high intensity, full body workout aimed at improving the children's fitness levels and meditation towards the end of the session, giving the children a chance to slow down and reflect. The sessions have proved extremely popular with our children who have seen a noticeable improvement in their fitness levels and they fully appreciate the positive effects meditation has had on them as well. Positive Energy North East will continue to provide delivery throughout this academic year, and beyond, across a range of age groups and we look forward to seeing how all of our children respond.



Year One visited Gibside National Trust as part of their topic, 'Is There Magic in the Forest?' Despite the weather not being the best, they took part in a fairy tale trail and made various pieces of art through nature. Corey said, "We had a fabulous day exploring the outdoors and looking for magic in the forest. I liked finding fairy tale characters, but my favourite part of the day was making the art using the twigs. I thought our fairy tale house window looked very realistic."



In March, Mr Hields' class were visited by Derek from The CTRL Pad in The Gate. He came to school to talk about the process of making an app for a phone or tablet. "I couldn't believe that we had to start with pens and paper to draw different planets. I never realised that an app would start like that. After we had drawn the different planets in our Solar System, we had to link them to the home screen page with string. This helped us to see the connections that are needed to form the app. While we out at play time, Derek took pictures of our designs and uploaded them to the computer so we could see the next step of the app making process. It was a really insightful session." – Areeb, Y3.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

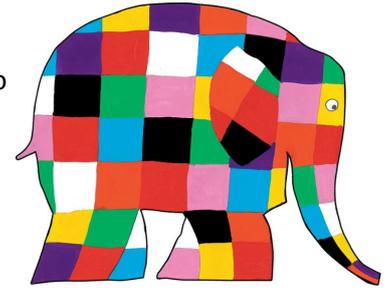
Wingrove's School Council have been incredibly busy this term with a variety of projects. To start with, all of the schools in the West End Schools' Trust were asked to design a logo to represent the Trust School Council. Basiya, in Year 6, had her design chosen as the best one out of all of the entries. You can see the new WEST School Council logo below. Another project the School Council have been involved in was a litter pick of the local streets surrounding Wingrove. They were very concerned about the amount of litter in the local area so they decided to participate in a litter pick with the help of 'Greening Wingrove'. The members worked as a team and in half an hour collected 15 full bags of rubbish from just one street! They are hoping to do this more regularly and they hope to involve more parents in their quest to clean up the local area.

In addition, they launched a poster competition with Key Stage 2 asking them to highlight the importance of recycling and keeping our local area clean. Three winners were chosen and they were Kulsuma, Samia and Fatimah, all from Year 6. The School Council are hoping to visit local shops and businesses for permission to stick a few of the fantastic posters in their windows to help raise awareness of the problem in our local area. The area needs your support to keep Fenham clean and encourage local residents to pick up their own litter.



ELMER

Following the huge success of 2016's Snowdogs, this autumn will see a herd of brightly coloured elephants stampeding across the North East for Elmer's Great North Parade. One of those Elephants will belong to Wingrove and we need you to design it.



The public art trail, in aid of St Oswald's Hospice, will be made up of 170 imaginative elephant sculptures based on the beloved and iconic children's character: Elmer Elephant. The sculptures, together with an app or map, will take visitors on a tour of the region from the beaches to the city centre via forests, parks and attractions. 700,000 visitors are expected to see the trail that runs from 19th August to 27th October, providing a perfect opportunity to showcase the amazing talent we have here at Wingrove.

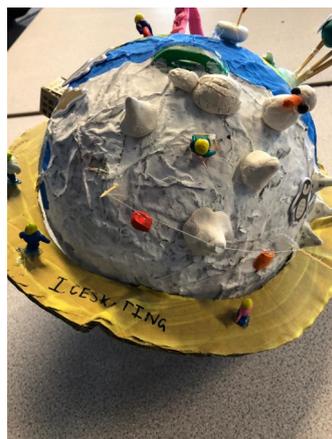
In preparation for designing our sculpture, children across the school have been learning about Elmer and discussing the important themes of the series, such as diversity, the environment and health and well-being. We're now at the exciting stage of designing our elephant and are asking pupils, their families and even members of the wider Wingrove community to contribute ideas and designs by Wednesday 24th April 2019, after which we will choose a winning design or a combination of ideas from several submissions.

The Easter holidays are an excellent opportunity to get inspired and start designing. Before breaking up, pupils will receive a template on which they can draw their designs and this will also be available to download from the Elmer section of the Wingrove website: <http://www.wingrove.newcastle.sch.uk/website>. To get as much inspiration as possible for our design, we are also welcoming mood boards, sketch books, concepts, photos and related text.

Design a New Planet

On 20th July, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first Moon landing by Neil Armstrong. As a result, Vision for Education held a competition for children to design their own planet and accompany it with a fact file about it. Members of our school entered the competition and out of over 200 entries across Newcastle, Year 3's Taqwaa was chosen as the lucky winner. Her prize was a telescope for our school. Taqwaa has compiled the following information about her planet design: "My planet is called The Holiday and Resource Plant. One half of the planet is a holiday resort where people can go and relax away from the chaos on Planet Earth. There are lots of islands on this resort with lots of different activities to do on each one. For example, on one island, there is a water park and on another there is a tropical rainforest with lots of tropical animals to see. This tropical rainforest cannot be damaged in any way, such as deforestation that happens on our planet.

The other side of the planet consists of ice and snow. Here we can find penguins, polar bears and other animals that live in colder climates. This ice and snow will not melt and the animals living here will not lose their homes. There will also be skiing and cable cars. On this side of the planet, there will be huge water reserves under the ice. These reserves will never dry up and water can be taken to Planet Earth. This will overcome the problem of water shortages in many countries. The black holes are wells of natural gas which can also be used on Earth as a reliable energy source. There are also yellow rings around the planet. On the holiday side, this is used for roller skating and ice skating on the other side."



Hockey Competition

"This half term, the hockey team were invited to a competition. It was an amazing experience and we are all so proud of one another for our performance on the pitch. In the first round, we won every single match and without even conceding a goal! We were also lucky enough to earn a chocolate bar each, thanks to John. Our team made it to the regional finals thanks to our hard work and determination. Unfortunately, we didn't win in the finals, but we still put up a great and spirited fight!" – Muhammad, Y6.

Booster Groups

"During this term, Year Six have been working incredibly hard in the build up to SATs; there have been lots of booster sessions going on in school and we are all enjoying attending them. Three mornings a week, some of us have been coming in early to read 'Treasure Island' by Robert Louis Stevenson to improve our reading skills (it's really good – you should definitely read it!). I'm enjoying coming in early and enjoying a brilliant book over breakfast with Ms West! Year 6 SATs will commence on 13th May 2019." – Duaa, Y6.



INVENTIONS

"Wow, what an amazing half term Year Four have had as part of their inventions topic. We were lucky enough to work with Matt, who was the inventor in residence at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle. Matt came into school to work with Year Four for a week, but also amazed the whole school with his wonderful science demonstrations during assembly. I don't think I have ever seen such an exciting assembly!" - Mr Henderson.

"During Matt's time in school, he worked with the children on many different aspects of inventions, which built upon the work we had already completed, such as renewable energy, as Matt taught us more about solar panels. We are also lucky enough to be getting a solar panel fitted to our outdoor toilet in forest school, so we have some fully working lights in there.

One of the most exciting projects we worked with Matt on was the deconstruction of various different inventions including laptops, keyboards, phones and remote control toys. We had a wonderful time doing this and learnt all about different components, how things work and how they are constructed. This work has been displayed around school and looks truly amazing.

From the learning that took place with Matt, we were also able to construct wooden lampposts (based on our novel *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*) and construct a working circuit with a bulb and switch in it. We were all very proud when we managed to get the circuits to work.

To build upon all of this wonderful learning, we also visited the Centre for Life and Discovery Museum. During these trips children were able to take part in the interactive exhibits, visit the planetarium, watch a science show, have a go on a 4D motion ride and learn a great deal about George Stephenson and electrical circuits as part of two different workshops. The trips really helped bring our learning to life. Thank you to the parents that came along to our celebration event at the Discovery Museum. Remember, this museum is free to visit, as well as many other attractions in our city. Please try some of them out over the holidays." - Idir, Y4.

