



Autumn Newsletter 2018



This term has been an extraordinarily busy one with many new enrichment opportunities for the children. Year Three children have been part of The Storywell Project for which our Trust received funding. Learning included exploring feelings and how to build resilience. The children have really enjoyed working with the puppets and having lots of time to talk to other adults. The staff who ran the sessions were very impressed with our children and said how welcoming our school is. We were all very proud to hear this. Year Four children have been taking part in a BU programme which is aimed at developing skills to maintain emotional wellbeing. We have had two of our team members learning about the programme and the intention is to run it again in the new year with the rest of the children in Year Four. The final session will be a full day at Forest School in Hexham on Wednesday. The children are so excited about it. The whole school is now taking part in Forest School this year as we have four members of the team who are undergoing their training. We have had cooking, fire making and den making to name a few of the activities. Read more about these in this newsletter. Many of you will be aware of our investment in the Talk for Writing approach, through the Primary Writing Project. Children learn a number of texts off by heart with actions to help them remember the sequence. This has had a huge impact on their writing ability which can be seen around the school. This has led to our school being asked to lead on training and become a host school for The Primary Literacy Project. Other head teachers and literacy leads from across the region have been visiting our school to take part in training and observe our teachers using this approach in class. They have been very impressed with what our children can do and have again said lovely things about our school. Nothing we don't already know, of course. We have taken part in lots of fundraising as well, and have a newly established Parent Teachers' Association (Friends of Wingrove) who helped to gather prizes for a raffle, as well as organising the Film Night a couple of weeks ago. Please see Mrs Jones if you wish to know more about the organisation—the more, the merrier! I would like to thank you all for your generosity with other fundraisers, including Children in Need, St Oswald's Christmas Appeal and Show Racism the Red Card, which have raised over £400 for very worthy causes. This year we supported The Peace Pledge Union with their white poppy appeal. Through this we remember all those who have died in wars across the world, we encourage people to practise non-violent means to settle disagreements and thus promote peace for everyone. We had a special assembly where each year group presented their pieces of work. We had some very talented, thoughtful pieces of writing along with some very striking artwork. This is currently displayed in our school hall. I hope you all managed to see it when you visited to watch the Christmas productions last week. They were brilliant, and whilst we may not all celebrate this festival, we, as the Wingrove family, recognise and celebrate difference. We might not all speak the twenty three languages of our school community but we all know the language of love, care and kindness. Thank you for your continuing support and I wish you all a very happy, peaceful holiday. See you in the New Year. *Mrs Mullarkey*

Chance

At the end of July, one of our school dogs, Topsy, gave birth to a litter of seven pups. One of the pups, Chance, arrived unexpectedly 13 hours after his brothers and sisters. When he was born, he was not breathing and we



thought that he wasn't going to make it, but, as you can see from the pictures, he did! He was partially hand reared so we all got very attached to him, which is how he became our third Wingrove dog. "Year 6 children were chosen to help train and look after him. He currently lives in Y6SP and we have been busy taking Chance for walks, training and feeding him. Don't worry though – he's very well behaved!" – Shehmeer, Y6.



Visits and Visitors

“At the start of December, on an idyllic winter’s day, Year 3 visited Thornley Woods, near Rowlands Gill, as part of their creative curriculum topic, ‘Who’s Creeping Around the Woods?’ When we arrived at school, we were shown different maps of the area and we looked at the red and yellow routes that we would be taking when we arrived at the woods. Once we arrived, we had a quick toilet stop before starting our walk through the woods. We kept stopping as there were wooden sculptures of animals to find and we had a little quiz sheet about each one. My favourite sculptures were of an otter and a Red Kite because its wingspan was huge! We then had to go down some very steep steps and through a kissing gate onto the Derwent Walk where we looked at the amazing view from the Nine Arches Viaduct. The frost on the grass made it look magical. After that, we went down some even steeper steps and walked along the River Derwent looking for more animals and we spotted not only ducks by the river, but a heron too. Following this, we climbed back up the steps and completed the animal sculpture trail. It was a really great day, even though it was freezing, and it gave us some fascinating ideas about who could be creeping around the woods.” – Lise and Taqwaa, Y3.



The children from Reception went to Gibside this half term to complete a Christmas trail adventure. They had to follow clues to find Christmas and winter related objects within the gardens. The children really enjoyed the experience, despite the rain, as they were wearing their wetsuits and wellies. The boys and girls were surprised to see Santa, who waved from his garden house window, while his helpers were busy wrapping up presents and gifts. The final clue was the sleigh pulled by Rudolph the Reindeer. Maisie said, "I liked Santa's reindeer and Santa's sleigh!"



“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 visit if you haven’t already!” – Ruhan, Y6.



“Towards the end of the term, Year 4 visited Jarrow Hall as part of their topic about Anglo-Saxons and St. Bede. We learnt all about the crimes and punishments that people suffered and how much you had to pay too. We went inside an Anglo-Saxon Mead Hall and we saw an old bed alongside other kinds of artefacts. As a special treat, we were also able to taste an authentic biscuit that they ate in Anglo-Saxon times – yum! Jarrow Hall is a great place to visit and Year 4 highly recommend that you go.” – Khadija, Y4.



“Miss Hopper’s class went to Haltwhistle Camping and Caravan Site for one night at the beginning of October. On arrival, we set up our tents immediately because it was raining and it also meant that we had to eat on a mat. After lunch, we put on our waterproof clothes and went for a walk. However, it was raining for the entire time so we didn’t see much. When we returned to our campsite, we sat in our tents and waited for our food to arrive from my Dad’s restaurant. Once it came, we enjoyed a warm feast in the bus. We even got to eat pizza! After a night of not much sleep because we were so excited, we enjoyed our breakfast while the teachers deconstructed our tents in the rain. Finally, we headed back to Wingrove Primary after what was a very fun trip. I hope the rest of our trips this year will be just as exciting as this one!” – Samia, Y6.



“At the end of November, Year 5 visited Eden Camp, which is in North Yorkshire. Eden Camp is a former prisoner of war camp – did you know there were 2000 in the UK during WW2? It has been transformed into an amazing interactive museum: each former hut has a specialist theme full of genuine WW2 artefacts. There are a total of twenty nine huts to go to! We learnt really exciting facts about life in the 1940s, such as women making the uniforms, bullets and guns for the war effort as the men were sent to fight. Life at home was also very different during the blackouts. Of course, Hut 15 was a favourite: you could buy souvenirs or gifts! We had a fabulous day getting lost in a world of history – even with the four hour round trip!” – Nusrat and Sofiyah, Y5.



CHOIR

“It has been a busy end of term for the school choir. First of all, we visited the Civic Centre in Newcastle to sing at the Citizenship Ceremony. We had to wait quite a long time to sing our song, but it was worth it in the end. After the ceremony, we enjoyed some snacks and had our photo taken with the Lord Mayor. In December, we performed in Eldon Square, with Santa hats on, to raise money for The Rotary Club. We sang lots of different songs, including Christmas ones, and the crowds really enjoyed listening to us. It was also great to see some parents there too. As a thank you, The Rotary Club had organised a very special treat for us when we finished – a trip to McDonald’s for a Happy Meal. On the way home, we used up our remaining energy as we continued to sing in the minibuses.” – Habiba and Harleen, Y3.



ONLINE SAFETY

We welcomed back *Barking up the Right Tree Theatre Company* in October to deliver a new Internet Safety performance to Key Stages One and Two. “During the show, we learnt how to be safe online. We learnt not to respond to nasty messages, but to keep them as evidence. We also learnt that we should be a friend online, use trustworthy websites, check our privacy settings, keep passwords safe and most importantly never to talk to or meet strangers from the Internet. My favourite part of the show was towards the end when children had to get up to show the type of messages that you might receive on the internet and we had to decide whether they were positive or negative. It was also really funny to see Mr Hields and Miss Jordan go head to head in their challenge too. We supported both of them!” – Aisha, Y3.



Science Club

In the second half term, some budding Year 3 scientists were invited to the WEST Science Club at the Centre for Life. "It was really good fun. Each week we learnt about something different ranging from what animals eat to how make an efficient paper aeroplane. One week, we investigated what astronauts eat in space. Did you know that they use tortilla wraps instead of bread because all the crumbs from the bread would interfere with their systems? The ideal meal for astronauts is a Marmite, peanut butter and honey wrap as it contains all the different parts of a balanced diet. My favourite week was when we studied rocks. We made rock crystals using a special solution that we then poured onto a tile and when it set, crystals were formed. We also looked at layered rocks and squashed plasticine together before cutting it up to see how those types of rocks are formed. To show sedimentary rocks, we had to shake a test tube of solution and then we could see the different parts clearly. Thank you to Noel at the Centre for Life for helping us learn more about science." - Areeb, Y3.



Andy Stanton

"In November, Year 3 were invited to Sacred Heart Primary School to meet the author, Andy Stanton. He is famous for his series of Mr Gum books. He informed us about how he became an author and told us about his family who inspired him when he was younger. It was a really entertaining talk and the audience were always involved. At one point, Andy had a little bit of an accident as he tripped over a child and hit his head off the door and he also hurt his finger. Luckily, he was able to continue with his talk. At the end of the session, he posed for photographs and he signed some copies of his books too." – Mahdia, Y3.



Balance Bike Derby

At the beginning of December, 8 of our Year 1 children were lucky enough to represent Wingrove at the first ever Year 1 Balance Bike Derby, jointly hosted by British Cycling and the Newcastle School Games team at Benfield Sports Centre. All of our children commented on what an amazing experience they had and how much they loved the opportunity to take part in such a great event. There was a fantastic atmosphere throughout, with over 100 mini cyclists taking to the track! With the help of the fantastic equipment and facilities already within our school, we look forward to supporting all of our children with their cycling and we may even produce some velodrome stars of the future.



Many thanks to Year 6 for the food they collected for the West End Foodbank, this term. We also really appreciate all of the donations that have been made by our families too. We will start collecting again in January, so please leave any donations on the trolley in the foyer and Year 3 will also have collection boxes in their classrooms. Please remember that we can't take any fresh produce. Thank you for your continued support, Mrs Alexander.

FOREST SCHOOL

In September, Miss Hassan, Mrs Rutter, Ryan and John underwent the first week of training on their way to becoming fully qualified Forest School practitioners. Using what they learned during the course, we have started to introduce Forest School lessons throughout school, from Nursery and Reception all the way through to Year 6. Children have loved the array of activities and lessons they have taken part in so far, whether they have been making dreamcatchers or picture frames, going on trips to Exhibition Park, scavenger hunts or cooking pizza wraps and popcorn in the fire pit! Class teachers have played an active part in lessons and we cannot wait to carry on working on Forest School for the rest of this year and beyond.



WEST Football League

“So far this year, we have played 4 games as part of the Year 5/6 WEST Football League. We have made a fantastic start, winning 3 of our 4 games and we are currently joint top of the league on 9 points. In total, we will play 14 games in the league, as well as taking part in a cup competition. We are really hoping that this year is our year to bring a trophy back to Wingrove!” - Muhammad, Y6.

Sportshall Athletics Competition

“This term, 15 of our Year 5/6 children took part in the annual Sportshall Athletics competition, organised by the Newcastle School Games team at Walker Activity Dome. We competed against 36 other schools, with a total of over 550 athletes taking part. The events included javelin, triple jump, sprint races and team relay events. We all did fantastically well and we were proud to have the opportunity to represent our school in such a big event.” – Debora and Sumayyah, Y6.

WHO LIVES IN SPACE?



Year 1 have had fun exploring, ‘Who Lives in Space?’ They received a letter from Buzz Aldrin, the astronaut, and then they explored his rocket parts. Sa’ad said, “We sorted the items by looking at the materials and their properties. We then had lots of fun making our own rockets using junk materials. I made my rocket out of cardboard boxes and milk cartons. I used a cup to lid to create my nose cone.” Corey added, “There is loads of junk in space because astronauts have left rubbish behind after they have visited planets. It’s dangerous because it hits satellites. Did you know that Venus spins the opposite way to Earth?”



Circus Central



This term, in a special assembly, a team from Circus Central performed some amazing circus acrobatics and juggling skills. They were absolutely amazing. The tricks they carried out were almost super-human! The performers then taught the Year 5 children how to perform some tricks of their own. Harris said, “We loved it, even though all the activities were a challenge.” If you would like to learn circus skills, the Circus Central team run an after school club between 4pm and 5pm at Mill Lane Youth Centre, Sceptre Street, NE4 6PR. We would definitely recommend it!

