



Autumn Newsletter 2023



Welcome to the first newsletter of the new academic year 2023-24, and what a very busy term it has been, culminating in four amazing performances to celebrate the festival of Christmas. The children in Early Years looked resplendent in their glitter and sparkles as they shared with us the *A to Z of Christmas*. My favourite was **L for love** we share with our families and friends. We then had *The Twinkly Nativity* which was presented by children in Years 1 and 2, who shared with us a shiny retell of the story of the nativity. Our final production was performed by all the pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, *No-one Wraps Like An Elf*. This production tells the story of Santa's elves working hard in The North Pole to find the perfect wrapping for each child's handpicked gift. Meanwhile, closer to home, in Wimpole, a wicked plan is underway to replace all the beautiful gifts with tacky toys from Plasticopia and to destroy the magic of Christmas. The smash and grab twins tried their very best to replace the heart of Christmas with the pound sign, but Little Elf manages to save the day, along with help from the MINT spies. Well done to all of the children, staff and volunteers who have worked hard to make them all spectacular this year, and thank you to all of the friends and families who came to watch each and every performance. We are so proud of our Wingrovians!

As you will see in this newsletter, we have had many visits out this term. It is really good to read all about this through the voices of the children. Educational visits are something we believe are vitally important to enrich the learning experience for all of our pupils, and we thank you for supporting us in this endeavour. We have also had the pleasure of welcoming many visitors to our school and we have taken part in many different activities which have been led by specialists. We continue to work with Suzy from Yogibeets. She has worked with Year 6 this term and will be working with Year 5 next term. We have had TIN Arts Dance School working with Years 5 and 6 for 8 weeks, and then they will run sessions for children across the rest of the school, beginning with Years 1 and 2 in the spring term. Children North East are also working alongside this programme and will offer support for children and their families, if they wish. Next term we have RISE working with us. They are going to lead on training for staff in school, running workshops for parents and carers, and delivering sessions for pupils in Years 1 to 6. The focus is on mental health and wellbeing. Further details can be found on noticeboards, on our website and on all of our learning platforms (Class Dojo and Seesaw). We continue to work with our regular visitors to school which range from cathedral singing in Year 3 to Rocksteady band practice across Key Stage 1 and 2. We also have Chris from Newcastle Music Service who teaches Ukulele and Djembe sessions which will continue throughout the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and a wonderful break with your friends and family. I look forward to welcoming you back to school between 0835 and 0845 on Monday 8th January 2024.



You might think a 'mountain of Lego' was typical hyperbole for getting a bit of Lego, but not on this occasion! In September, two pallets of Lego landed at Wingrove. Since then, our Lego team has had specialist training with Phil Ainsley and we spent time unboxing, unpacking and organising our Lego in our new Lego corner. Immediately after our training, we established a Lego Club, entitled Lego League Legends, where we are using both Lego and programming to make dynamic, exciting models. In March next year, our very own Lego League Legends will be participating in a regional tournament against other schools, challenging each other and our robotics skills. We just can not wait! If you would like to see what we are up to, have a look on the school website, under clubs. In fact, you can find an amazing activity book that has over fifty games to play with the family using just six bricks!



Visits and Visitors

At the start of the school year, Year 6 visited Beamish to help with their learning about The Victorians and had the best time. Leah said, "I really enjoyed the Victorian classroom because it was really interesting learning about how different Victorian school was compared to how it is now. I think the teachers were very strict!" Ionatan was a big fan of the transport at the museum. He commented, "I enjoyed travelling around Beamish on the tram. We got to sit right at the front, on the top level! It was amazing to see Beamish from high up and I wish we had more trams in Newcastle." However, Corey was impressed by some of the old maps and said, "It was really interesting looking at the maps in the Victorian travel agents because I am really interested in geography and it was cool to see how territories have changed over the years."



"Year 6 visited Safety Works in September and learnt lots of different ways to keep safe and how to even save lives. My favourite part was learning about what it is like in a real police station and the police officer was really nice and I was able to learn a lot from him. I loved pretending to be a police officer and got to arrest Muhammad for shop lifting! We were also able to learn about fire safety and peer pressure and strategies to support us with this." – Mia



"In December, Year 4 jumped on a time machine and travelled back 1400 years into Anglo-Saxon England, a time also known as the Dark Ages. How? We went to Bede's World (and you should definitely go yourselves)! Bede's World is more than your typical museum: it has its own living farm, with sheep, goats, bulls, ducks, pigs and geese. They live in enclosures just as they would have done in Anglo-Saxon times. The ground was rather squelchy though, following the recent snow and rain. We then went to see the Great Hall: a surprisingly cosy Anglo-Saxon house where we were treated to listening to one of the myths of Beowulf and the monster Grendel, whilst sitting comfortably around a warm, crackling fire. In the afternoon, we learnt about the Anglo-Saxons' writing system, called runes, before making our own. We also learnt about Anglo-Saxon medicine and you certainly wouldn't want to try yourself. Yuck! Before leaving, we found out about Anglo-Saxon crime and punishment. Not one of us wished to live in that grizzly time. We guess that's why those books are called Horrible Histories! We had a fabulous day."

– Haleemah and Hadiyah, Y4



Year 1 enjoyed visits from The Bare Toed Dance Company, based at Dance City, this half term in conjunction with their space topic. The children explored different ways of using their bodies to imitate shooting stars, orbiting planets and whooshing rockets. They used ribbons, hoops and twirling sticks, as well as balancing upside down! Lynn and Jo, who led the sessions, both expressed how delighted they were with the creative and imaginative ways the children embraced the workshops.

“At the end of September, as part of our topic about ‘How Do Seas Change?’, Year 2 visited St. Mary’s Lighthouse on a beautiful sunny day and had a great time. We travelled by coach and when we arrived, we were met by Sam who was our guide and helper for the day. We walked across the causeway to reach the island, where Sam gave us our instructions for the day. To start with, we went rock pooling. It was quite tricky to catch some of the creatures,



but we did manage to catch some small fish, crabs and prawns, as well as our star attraction – a small lobster! We made sure we carefully returned them to their habitat after we’d looked at them. We worked up an appetite before lunch as we went inside the lighthouse and climbed to the top of the tower. There were so many steps and it was quite tiring, but the views at the top were incredible. After lunch, we were also able to complete sand art using shells, rocks and seaweed. It was a really great trip and I look forward to going back to the lighthouse again.” – Haniya, Y2

"Year 3 visited the local Gurdwara this half term to learn about Sikhism and to see how the community celebrate Diwali - the festival of lights. We were able to ask questions and listened to a beautiful melody sung by a member of the Gurdwara for the Guru’s birthday that they had recently celebrated. This place of worship was peaceful and calm and everyone is welcome into a Gurdwara. The Langar, a community soup kitchen, also helps to feed the community and homeless people every day for free because of the volunteers. All of the food that is served is vegetarian.” – Aleeza & Umar, Y3



“In November, Year 5 visited the Old Low Lights Heritage Centre. We learnt some interesting facts about the Titanic and had the opportunity to use a telegraph to send Morse Code S.O.S signals. We also learnt about the largest modern cruise ship today, which is so big, it has a water park on board! The volunteers taught us about how sea travel has changed since the Titanic disaster. We also had a chance to go and visit the RNLi lifeboat station and find out about rescues at sea. It was a great day and the volunteers were very knowledgeable.” – Zaynab, Y5



Into Film Festival

This year’s Into Film Festival took place from 7th November to 24th November. Its aim is to inspire young people to watch, understand and make film in new and creative ways. Mr MacLeod was able to secure screenings for every class from Year 2 upwards across a range of cinemas in the area. Classes travelled on the school minibuses and watched a range of films from The Minions to Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Ihsan, Y6, said, “The movie was amazing and really caught my attention.” Zaki, also Y6, added, “We all enjoyed the film festival. I really liked the part when the Ninja Turtles defeated the monster. I also learnt that you shouldn’t hide yourself and keep trying because our differences make us unique and special to others.” Meanwhile, Denis, Y2, said, “I loved watching Trolls 3. The songs were really catchy and because we were on the back row of the cinema, we could even dance along to some of them. I hope we can go the cinema again.”

Toy Sale

“In December, Ms Sweet’s Year 5 class hosted a toy and book sale in their classroom. We raised money for the Disasters Emergency Committee as we have been learning about the causes and effects of climate change. The toy sale was very popular, particularly the books! We sold out of everything and raised over £90 for the DEC. This money will be used to help people affected by disasters across the world. Thank you to everyone who donated their unwanted old books and toys and to our buyers as you have helped a great cause.” – Salice, Y5



SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

This year's school councillors have started litter picking in the local area and have been continuing to help recycle pens in school. Inaaya said, "I think, helping to pick up litter is important because we all need to work together to help the community, help the planet." Some of our school council pupils have also visited the residents of Sutherland Court and took some poppy wreaths that Year 1 had made. They took Tipsy, one of our school dogs, with them and they all had a lovely time. Salice commented, "I enjoyed going to Sutherland Court because I met lots of residents and helped make them smile."



In addition, we have met with the other West End Schools' Trust school councillors to discuss what ideas we can work collaboratively on. We decided to join in with 'The Let's Spread Peace Picture News Campaign' and we made our own Trust peace chain. Every child made a link for our whole school peace chain, which is 22.7 metres long, and altogether the Trust chain is just over 132 metres! The idea is that once everyone's chains from across the country are joined together, they will cover the distance of Land's End to John O'Groats. Sébastien remarked, "It was great to meet up with children in the other schools and share ideas. Making a peace chain is a wonderful way to help spread joy and peace to the world."

Choir

Our KS2 choir rehearsed diligently this half term ready for carol singing in the community. They visited Fenham Library to spread a little festive joy among the librarians and patrons at Cowgate's Morrisons, giving excellent performances on both occasions; tuneful singing, cheery smiles and consummate professionalism! The invitation to perform at Morrisons was in liaison with Search- a charity supporting older people in the west of Newcastle, who managed to collect £60 in the 30 minutes the children sang! The children received many sincere compliments on their singing and their exemplary behaviour. They are a credit to our school and true Wingrovians.



Science Club

"This half term, it has been the turn of Year 5 to visit the Life Science Centre for a weekly club of six exciting science sessions. We visited the planetarium and discovered all about the night sky and the Solar System. Over the course of the six weeks, we explored many aspects of science, including satellites and rocket building. Our highlight was building space landers; we really liked using fake money to buy materials to make a sustainable parachute to help our space lander land safely." - Yousif, Nadia and Omar, Y5



NSB Problem Solving Competition

"In October, a team of four Year 6 children attended a problem solving competition at Newcastle School for Boys. There were many other teams from schools across Newcastle. We were given two challenges, both equally difficult. The first round was problem solving, which was very complicated. In the second round, we were given a few sheets to work through as a team. The marks of all the schools were then totalled up and the winning school won a trophy and certificates. The next week, we were presented with our own certificates at school for participating in the event. I found the experience to be very educational and entertaining." – Idrees, Y6