



Autumn Newsletter 2019



As the final week of the first term draws to a close, pupils across the whole school have been fully involved in all the festivities. They began with the first of two performances from the Early Years' Team when they shared with us The A to Z of Christmas, which demonstrated the message of all of us working together as a team. We then saw the Key Stage Two performance of Five Gold Rings which shared the story of Matt and Lucy who were whisked away to a strange land, where they met Mr. Partridge of pear tree fame! He told them that everything was in a muddle because the fifth gold ring had gone missing. The two set off in search of the ring and met many characters along the way, including The Turtle Doves who were squabbling, the Calling Birds who were glued to their phones and the French Hens who were very eccentric. But, with the help of three 'assistants' (Fiver, Goldy and Ringo), Matt and Lucy managed to locate the fifth ring and everything was returned to normal. The final show was the production of Hey Ewe by Key Stage One children which told the story of the youngest ewe in a flock of sheep who was very inquisitive and we were all taken on a journey of delights which uncovered all sorts of surprises along the way for all of us. I was particularly impressed by Sa'ad who stepped in as deputy at the last minute and learnt all of his lines in one evening. He gave a fantastic performance.

The School Choir have been busy too and have performed in Eldon Square and Sutherland Court, bringing music and good cheer to the residents, who gave us a very kind donation of £100 to our school fund. This week sees all the parties and visits from Santa which has been a joy to watch. We have also had visits from our six youngest members of the Wingrove family, as Winnie, our first school dog, had a litter of six puppies. They are all off to new homes after the holidays, and we are delighted to share that three of them are going to become school dogs as they are a real benefit to any school community.

On behalf of all staff and governors, may we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and our very best wishes for the New Year. As I have said several times, over the last few weeks, we are so proud to be part of a diverse community which brings together a wide range of cultures, languages and faiths together under one roof. At this time of year, like other key festivals, we are reminded of this, as we all join together as one family to share kindness with one another.

Thank you once more for your continuing support. I hope you all manage to enjoy some family time over the break and we look to seeing you all in the New Year on Tuesday 7th January, 2020. *Mrs Mullarkey*

North Pole Challenge

"The staff and children, particularly Year 6, have been raising money for 'Crisis at Christmas', which is a charity that helps the homeless around Newcastle. Thousands of people will be without a home this Christmas and are in urgent need of shelter and food. For just £28.87, a place will be reserved for someone this Christmas which will give them shelter and food for the Christmas period. To raise this money, Year 6 have been running and cycling the distance from Newcastle upon Tyne to the North Pole; a staggering 2420 miles! Year 6 have had 15 days to complete the challenge; we haven't quite reached the North Pole yet! We have loved doing this knowing that we are making a difference to people's lives who are not as fortunate as us." – Areesha and Sabiha, Y6.



Visits and Visitors

“At the end of September, as part of Year 2’s topic about ‘*How Do Seas Change?*’, we visited St. Mary’s Lighthouse and had a great time. When we arrived, we were met by Sam and Pip who were our guides for the day and we walked across the causeway to reach the island. To start with, our class climbed the steep and curved steps to the top of the lighthouse. We could see for miles! We were told about the history of the lighthouse and lighthouse keepers. When we returned to the education room, we learnt about different types of seaweed and drew our favourite one. After lunch, we went outside and explored the rockpools. We found lots of interesting animals, but my favourite was the large crab. Before returning to school, Sam and Pip allowed us to take a shell home with us.” – Leah, Y2.



“Year 6 visited Beamish Open Air Museum in County Durham to learn about life in Victorian Britain. Whilst we were there, we visited a Victorian school where boys and girls were separated as soon as they entered the classroom; our Victorian teacher was extremely strict and scary; nothing like our own teacher, Miss Hopper! We also visited the town where we found out lots of really fascinating facts. The scariest place we visited was definitely the dentist as we were told lots of gruesome stories. For example, your grandparents’ false teeth were passed down to the



children once they died and the reason a dentist’s chair was red was so it could disguise the blood from patients! Year 6 had a brilliant day and we all really enjoyed it. If you have never been before, I would definitely recommend you go and visit.” – Sofiyah, Y6.

As part of Year One’s topic last half term, ‘*Where do you call home?*’ they read *Owl Babies*. After completing some fiction and non-fiction writing about owls, they were then lucky to be visited by Glen who works for North East Falconry with real owls. They looked at a variety of owls and learnt lots of new facts. They even got to feed an owl and watch them fly across the hall!



Rachel, our school nurse, visited Year One to talk about the importance of brushing their teeth carefully and reminded them to go to the dentist regularly.



“On the 20th November, Year 5 went on an excursion to the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle. It was a fabulous trip where we studied a range of art work from all over the world, including stories of love, sadness and celebrating people in history. We found our favourites before choosing the most interesting piece of art. After, we had to think of powerful vocabulary to define our artwork of choice before whittling these words to one, and only one, word that summed up our chosen piece. We then journeyed back to school and spent time recreating our word of choice in our own way. We expressed our thoughts and feelings through poetry, stories, collage and pastel works. It was an incredibly memorable trip! We can’t wait for the next one and recommend you go too! Its free, so there are no excuses!” – Nouran, Y5.



This half term, Year One have really enjoyed their topic about space. They have explored objects that they thought were from a missing space shuttle, made their own rockets, tasted space food, learnt about the planets and explored information about the first moon landing. Their learning culminated a fabulous trip to the Centre for Life where they visited the planetarium, dressed up as astronauts and had a great day exploring.



Year One have been visited by Chris from Newcastle Music Service this term. The have really enjoyed their djembe drumming. “We have learnt how to tap out a rhythm, follow simple notation and play the drum, changing the dynamics.” - Jamie, Y1.



Salma Returns

At the end of November, we were delighted to welcome back Salma the elephant from her appearance on Elmer’s Great North Parade in aid of St Oswald’s Hospice. The art piece, designed by two former Wingroviens and lovingly created by around 30 of our pupils, is now proudly displayed in our foyer for pupils and visitors to appreciate. Attendance figures for the parade are yet to be released but it is thought that well over half a million people took part in the event, including 30 of our Year 5 and 6 pupils that volunteered for a sponsored walk from The Sage Gateshead to Stepney Bank Stables where Salma was displayed. Welcome home, Salma!



ONLINE SAFETY

In October, we welcomed back *Barking up the Right Tree Theatre Company* to deliver a new Internet Safety performance to Key Stages One and Two. "It was a really entertaining show with important messages. During the show, we learnt how to be safe online and how we shouldn't respond to nasty messages, but to keep them as evidence. We were also told that we should be a friend online, 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 when the children selected had to throw sponges at each other and then decide if the messages on them were good or bad." – Ruby, Y2.



Baking Club

Each half term, ten Key Stage 2 pupils have been baking once a week in the community room as part of Mr MacLeod's baking club. The after-school sessions have been a fun, relaxed and sociable time where pupils have learnt all about the basics of baking such as food hygiene, kitchen equipment, techniques, ingredients and the importance of weighing accurately. Each week, pupils have then used their newly acquired skills and knowledge to bake an item to sell the next day at lunchtime. All the money raised then goes back into the baking club to buy ingredients for the following week and any profits at the end of the year will go towards the Friends of Wingrove fund.

Fahima, Y4, attended the first half term of Baking Club and brought with her a lot of experience gained from baking at home. She said, "In the first week we made vanilla cupcakes. The ingredients were butter, flour, sugar, eggs, vanilla extract and a dash of milk. The next day we sold the cupcakes on the yard at lunchtime and we were really pleased when they all sold. In the following weeks, we made chocolate cookies and brownies. The brownies were difficult to make because we had to melt the chocolate and stir it hard. For the final week, we made cherry flapjacks with a chocolate topping. We had to be extremely careful as the recipe involved melting sugar and butter at a very high temperature. We sold these to pupils and staff who said they were really good."



News from Reception

"We have had a fantastic term in Reception, welcoming new children and making new friends. In Reception, we have been enjoying our weekly forest school sessions. The children have been 'buddying up' with a Year 6 child to support them with the activities. We have heard some wonderful language and conversations between the younger and older children. In December, some of our children visited Robinson's Florists on the West Road with John and Ryan to buy a Christmas tree for our outdoor space. We have all had great fun, decorating (and re-decorating) it." - Mrs Blashford and Mrs Rutter.

FOREST SCHOOL

“All year groups have taken part in Forest School sessions this term, which they have all loved. We have been given the opportunity to do some really cool and exciting things. Every year group has been able to: cook, den build, use tools and create bug hotels. Our personal highlight of Forest School this term has been when we got to make jam doughnuts and eat them too; they were delicious! Year 6 have been teaming up with Reception each week and it has been great fun.” – Manu and Daniyal, Y6



Nursery have also enjoyed their Forest School visits this term. They have been developing their independent self-help skills to dress appropriately for the winter season. Their favourite story this term has been ‘Dear Zoo’, which the children have loved retelling at Forest School by walking as their favourite animal from the story two by two with a friend. Asbah said, “I know all the names of the animals!”



STEPNEY BANK STABLES

This half term, a selection of Key Stage 2 pupils have been visiting Stepney Bank Stables in Byker to learn how to ride and care for horses. Tanbir, Y6, explains what the children have done each week: “Every Monday, eight students, including me, have gone to Stepney Bank Stables. One group would learn about horses while the other rode horses around the arena. We would then swap over. My favourite part of going to the stables was learning all about the horses. Now, if a horse needed help, I would know what to do. Riding a horse is fun but also tricky. I learnt that there are many things you must remember to make sure a horse does not throw you off and there are things you mustn’t do as it could hurt the horses. The horse riding lessons have improved my balance and I’m now a confident horse rider.”

While the same eight Key Stage 2 pupils have visited Stepney Bank Stables each week, Mr MacLeod and Mrs Radu have taken different groups of Key Stage 1 children on a treasure trail around the Ouseburn. The area is an exciting place known for its creativity and abundant local history. On their trail, pupils have looked at the animals at Ouseburn Farm, sculptures, murals and graffiti, the boats and the River Tyne Barrage, very old and very modern buildings and the bridges that cross The River Tyne.



Kellogg’s

“In October, Year 6 wrote to Kellogg’s about the standard of their cereals. We asked them to increase their portion size to reflect the amount children eat on a daily basis, put traffic lights on all their boxes and most importantly, to decrease their sugar quantity. A week after completing our letters, we received a video reply from Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall – as he had been campaigning to reduce sugar content in food – who told us that he was very impressed with our letters. The smallest actions can make the biggest difference.” – Alaiya, Y6.



Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall
@TheFightAgainstFat

Following

Hi year 6! I am delighted you are helping me out with my campaign. I can't wait to hear your letters to Kellogg's!



THE WILD WEST END PROJECT

Over the past term, Ruth Hayward of The Wild West End Project has been visiting school to work with our Eco Warriors. Together, they have monitored the wildlife visiting, and living on, the school grounds and working to make Wingrove Primary School a more inviting place for wildlife, in particular, hedgehogs.

In September, Ruth loaned the school a hedgehog tunnel. For one week, the tunnel was placed on the school grounds to monitor hedgehog activity by recording the footprints of animals that crawled through the tunnel to eat the food that was left inside it by our children. Every morning, pupils were delighted to find hedgehog footprints along the bottom of the tunnel and the food had gone.

After such great results, Ruth returned to Wingrove with volunteers from Newcastle University's Volunteering Project to work with our Eco Warriors on making the grounds even more inviting to hedgehogs. Jessica from Year 6, said, "The Eco Warriors were asked to plant wildflowers in the butterfly garden and as I'm part of the team, I was lucky enough to be asked along with three other Year 6 pupils. First, we dug the soil and turned it over to make a place to plant the wildflower seeds. Then, we looked at all the seeds and Ruth told us the flowers each seed would produce before planting them in the soil. The volunteers from Newcastle University built a hedgehog house for us so we put it at the bottom of Forest School where there are lots of bushes and trees. Finally, to hide the house and make it warm and cosy for the hedgehogs, we gathered fallen leaves from the butterfly garden and used them to cover the house. As Eco Warriors, we do lots of work with plants and nature, taking care of the butterfly garden, sensory garden and school grounds."



INTO FILM FESTIVAL

Between November 6th and 22nd, 135 pupils from across the school took part in the annual Into Film Festival: three weeks of engaging film screenings, workshops and special events provided free of charge by the Into Film charity. The nationwide festival, designed to get young people passionate about film, was attended by over half a million school pupils and college students at venues across the country.

As luck would have it, one of the six screenings we were able to book was the film adaptation of Year 5's class novel, Wonder, showing at the splendid Art Deco Forum Cinema in the historic market town of Hexham. The film was a good adaptation of a great book and Year 5 pupils really enjoyed seeing it brought to life on the big screen. Another highlight of the festival was taking 15 of our Year 6 pupils to see the highly acclaimed Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse, a computer-animated superhero film. Ahmad, Y6 said, "I'm very grateful to Into Film for giving us free tickets to help us become passionate about films and maybe one day consider starting a career in the film industry. We went to The Gate to see our film, Spider



-Man. The animated film was set in New York and there was lots of rap and hip-hop music in it. The movie screen was massive with very loud speakers all around us. I rated the film 9 out of 10 because it was very funny and the story behind it was intriguing."

