



# Spring Newsletter 2025



Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter for this academic year. We have had a wonderful term. You will read about most of the learning in this newsletter, but we could not possibly fit everything in. As you may be aware, we were successful with our Turing application once again and we have been able to arrange two fully funded visits overseas, one to France and another to the Netherlands. We have been very busy booking restaurants and excursions and speaking to our colleagues in our partner schools. We have applied for funding for next year, and I will let you all know if we have been successful towards the end of next term. We have also celebrated Chinese New Year, and have welcomed Lip Lee back to school on his annual visit where he has run workshops across the school. We also celebrated the festival with a Chinese-style free school lunch for the whole school. This week we have also held our annual Easter egg competition. There were nearly 200 entries which is 'eggcellent!' It was a very difficult thing to judge them. Winners are to be announced at the Gold Book assembly on Friday. Well done to everyone for taking part and thank you to the staff and governors for donating the eggs. We have also had many fundraising events, including the WEST raffle of Bruno Guimaraes' football boots, which were won by a pupil who attends Moorside Primary School. We raised £3150 across the Trust which will go towards providing all of our WEST Year Six pupils a hygiene pack each during our annual Health and Wellbeing Week. We continue to work hard across our Trust of nine schools in order to provide our pupils with the best experiences. For instance, the science club, which takes place at the Centre for Life, the theatre club, which takes place at The Theatre Royal, and many opportunities we are given from NUFC and the Foundation. We are also lucky enough to get some funding to support our annual sailing trip where twelve of our Year Six pupils sail on a boat from Royal Quays to the Tyne and back again. They prepare and cook food together and they spend the night aboard the vessel, which is a fantastic opportunity for them. They also get the chance to meet other pupils from WEST, which should support transition to secondary school because they may meet people who are going to the same school as them. Finally, our term will end on Friday with Eid parties across the whole school. It is a non-uniform day, and all pupils should have been given a plate on which to bring a few snacks for them to have during the celebrations. We will also be waving goodbye to Miss Kane after Easter, who will be going on maternity leave, and Miss Reay will be moving from Year Six to teach in Year Two. We currently have three classes in Year Six, so it should not affect the rest of the school. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy holiday, and now that the weather is beginning to be a little bit warmer, I hope you can make time to get outside with your families and explore all the wonderful places in Newcastle. See you all bright and early on Monday 28th April, 2025.

Mrs Mullarkey

## Boccia and Bowling

This term, a team of Wingrovians were lucky enough to take part in two sporting competitions: boccia and bowling. The team were amazing and made it through to the regional finals for both competitions to represent Newcastle Schools in the finals. Schools from Northumberland, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Gateshead, Sunderland and South Shields took part in the first round and the top scoring teams from each area qualified for the regional finals. The children were amazing! Their attitude and support towards each other was outstanding. Even though we didn't win overall, taking part was an excellent experience. We are all so proud of the children and what they have achieved – some of the children on the team had never even been bowling before!



# Visits and Visitors

"This half term, the Year 5 classes went on a trip to the Victoria Tunnel. One group got to speak with a WW2 veteran survivor. This was amazing! She told us first-hand about her own experience of living through the war, including about rationing and how they had to make do and mend. The other group went into the tunnel – an actual tunnel which was used as a shelter when the air-raid siren went off. We learnt what it would have been like if we had to go into an air-raid shelter during the wartime. While walking through the tunnel, we learnt that the tunnel is actually 2.4 miles long. We also now understand how cramped it would have been in the shelters. We saw the wooden benches and beds that they would have had to sleep on and they didn't look very comfortable!" – Saima and Zara, Y5



"Year 3 enjoyed visiting The Great North Museum in the centre of Newcastle this half term to take part in the Festival of Languages celebrated in Newcastle. We met French students from Newcastle University, who helped us to discover objects and animals from all over the museum in their home languages through quizzes and trails. I liked learning a new language and talking to the university people. The museum has so many different artefacts and points of interest that it really is worth a visit if you have never been before." – Patricia, Y3



"Some of the Year 3 children had the opportunity to showcase their vehicles during the Primary Engineering Celebration event hosted by Sunderland University. The children designed, built and talked about their vehicles through their DT learning. Wingrove Primary School won prizes for the best themed designs! It was great winning a trophy for our train theme design. I loved it!" – Darismi, Y3



"In February, Year Two visited The Angel of the North in Gateshead and enjoyed a walk along The Quayside, as part of our learning about the North East. At The Angel of the North, we were amazed by the size of it because it doesn't look that big in pictures. We learnt lots of interesting facts about it, such as that it has an inspection door on its shoulder and the foundations are just as deep as it is tall! While we were there, we completed sketches of the statue from different angles. It's funny how the wings look so different when you stand underneath them. On our Quayside walk, we spotted lots of the landmarks we had been learning about such as The Baltic and The Millennium Bridge. It also helped us visualise the distance across the river and how it meant that some people were injured during The Great Fire of Newcastle and Gateshead, which formed our next topic theme. It was incredible to think that where we were standing, there had been a huge fire in 1854. During our trip, we were also able to see how the renovations on the Tyne Bridge are going and we could even spot some of the new shiny green paint." – Jannat, Y2

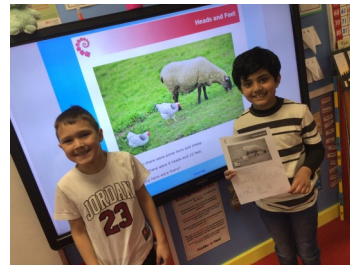


"This term, Year 3 have been able to experience the joy of singing at a special celebration event held at Newcastle Cathedral. The children have demonstrated excellent listening and singing skills throughout their singing sessions with Eimear Hurley – the music choral director. The children sang 'Happiness' in front of all the other schools. I loved singing the song. It is a great song about joy and wonder." – Menaal, Y3



## WEST MATHS DAY

During March, we took part in the inaugural WEST Maths Day, along with the other schools in our trust. The day was about having fun solving maths problems involving number, shape or patterns. Each year group had different activities provided to them by the different maths leaders across the trust. We started the day by watching a wonderful welcome video to our activities in assembly by celebrity Bobby Seagull, who explained how he uses maths in everyday life. From there, each class explained how their non-uniform was mathematical and everyone was able to come up with a fantastic explanation. Some of the activities were based on books, such as *The Snail* and *The Whale*, some were based on Red Nose Day and Year Six enjoyed completing an escape room themed task. Abu-Ubaydah, Y3, said, "I wasn't really looking forward to a whole day of maths, but actually it was brilliant. The tasks were great fun and really engaging." We look forward to hosting another WEST Maths Day next school year.



## Spanish Adventure

In March, Miss Watling's Year 5 class had a fantastic morning at Newcastle University as part of the North East Festival of Languages. The trip was all about discovering the Spanish language through fun and interactive activities. The children used the ENACT app, developed by Newcastle University, to learn Spanish in a creative way while exploring Spanish culture and cuisine. One of the highlights was making *datiles con queso* (dates stuffed with cheese), where they practised their Spanish and enjoyed a delicious treat. The fun continued with a flamenco dance session, where the students learned some lively steps and embraced the energy of this traditional Spanish dance. It was an exciting morning full of learning and laughter, and our pupils returned with new skills, great memories and a love for Spanish language and culture. A huge thank you to Newcastle University for making it all possible – we can't wait for more adventures like this.



## Spring Term in Year Six

"This term, Year Six have worked with Laura from the Theatre Royal. We took part in a series of drama sessions; these involved fun games where we got the chance to be creative. Her visits were linked to the novel *Pig-Heart Boy*, which is about a boy called Cameron who is in desperate need of a heart transplant. During the sessions, we learnt about the heart, which linked to our science curriculum. In May, we are very lucky to have the opportunity to visit the Theatre Royal to see *Pig-Heart Boy* on the stage!" – Jamie & Tamim, Y6



"Year Six enjoyed a trip to the Centre for Life to take part in different STEM tasks. I really enjoyed the murder mystery because we had to decipher lots of clues to find out who did it! We met members of the RAF and learnt about flight. We then got to make paper planes and had a flight competition. It was great fun." – Amin, Y6.



"In early March, Year Six went on a trip to the Discovery Museum. We participated in four different activities. One of the activities was making a camera obscurer (when you look through it everything turns upside down). We also played a board game about climate change, where you had to invest in things to lower the Earth's temperature. It was really fun!" – Juleb, Y6

## Mums' Coffee Mornings

We're delighted to remind all our wonderful mums that our Coffee Mornings continue every Monday from 8.35am in the Community Room. This is a safe and welcoming environment where you can meet new friends, enjoy a chat and find extra support on various topics. Some weeks, we have community practitioners joining us, ready to offer guidance and insights. If there's a specific professional you'd like to hear from, we can invite them on demand. Our Coffee Mornings are not just about support, they also provide a lovely opportunity to socialise over a warm drink. Occasionally, our fabulous mums contribute treats for special occasions, adding a delightful touch to our gatherings. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the mums who help make these meet-ups such a special event. We're looking forward to seeing you at our future coffee mornings.

## Parent and Toddler Group

Our Parent and Toddler group for children aged 0-4 is growing and we're excited to welcome more families. The group meets every Tuesday morning from 8:50 to 10:00, in the school hall, offering a fun and relaxed environment where parents and toddlers can enjoy a range of activities and games. We provide snacks and drinks for the little ones and there's plenty of time to socialise with other parents. Occasionally, we have professionals, like community practitioners, drop in to offer advice and support. For example, during the Christmas period, we even had a special visit from Santa where he posed for photographs with families and brought lots of festive cheer. There are still spaces available, so if you're looking for a friendly and welcoming group for you and your toddler, come along. We'd love to see you there! Please see Mrs Radu if you require any further details.

## Lego League

In mid-March two exceptional teams, The Dynamic Dolphins and The Wise Wingrove Whales, represented the school in the Regional Lego League Competition, held at The Village Hotel. The day consisted of three robot tournaments, where our teams achieved impressive high scores of 145 and 115 points, showcasing their excellent programming and problem solving skills. Additionally, the teams presented their innovative projects, with great enthusiasm and clarity. Due to their thoughtful project on how to address the pressing issue of plastic pollution in the ocean, The Dynamic Dolphins were presented with the Innovation Project Award. Adding to the successes of our teams, The Wise Wingrove Whales earned the Core Values Award, as they consistently demonstrated remarkable teamwork, dynamic thinking, inclusivity and most importantly, a sense of fun throughout the day. In addition to this, their outstanding efforts in all areas, led them to secure an impressive 2nd place overall. The event was a celebration of creativity and collaboration, and our teams made lasting memories. It was truly a super day out and we can't wait to find our next year's theme!



## DINOSAURS

Year One have had a great term learning about dinosaurs. As part of their learning, they enjoyed a trip to Fenham Library where they enjoyed looking at books, listening to stories about dinosaurs and even made their own! During the topic, they have made their salt dough dinosaur fossils. Ayaan said, "I loved making fossils, just like palaeontologists!" To end the dinosaur theme, they were visited by Beth, a real palaeontologist. She talked to the children about her job and some of her discoveries. Nuria commented, "We enjoyed learning about Mary Anning and the discoveries she made, including the Ichthyosaurus. I want to be just like her."

