



# Autumn Newsletter



Welcome to our final newsletter of 2017 at the end of an incredibly busy first term. These last two weeks have been so enjoyable for everybody at the school.

We have seen four performances across the school: Key Stage Two performed *Sasha Got Swept up the Chimney*, which told us the story of four orphans who visit Santa and are given the best gift of all, the gift of love, when they are adopted and welcomed into new families. We then saw Key Stage One performance, *A Christmas Tail*, which portrays the journey of Minty Mouse who is in search of a new Christmas Tail. She finds it in the end and also discovers the Christmas **Tale** along the way. We then saw the youngest children in the school as they performed 'The A to Z of Christmas' with the Nursery children acting as a choir of angels and stars. We were very proud to see them perform for an audience for the very first time. This year we invited parents to stay after the performance in order to take part in workshops. We hope you enjoyed seeing the progress your children have made this term.

The whole school enjoyed their Christmas lunch last week and we saw some fantastic Christmas jumpers on Friday as we raised £206 for Save the Children. Earlier in the term we raised £310 for Children in Need. We also raised £666 for our school fund with our, very well attended, Cinema Night and Winter Wonderland. Thank you for all of your support with all of these fundraising events.

Our attendance for the term was 96.2% which is very good and above national outcomes. If we maintain this we will have achieved our whole school target. Remember, every day counts!

This year, following the return of Paddington, we have decided to adopt him as our school's mascot. He was a refugee from Peru who was welcomed, eventually, to the UK. I believe that our school is an inclusive school which celebrates diversity, and welcomes everyone. So, look out for the arrival of lots of Paddington Bears in our school, and changes to the curriculum as we move through this year.

Finally, we are very sad to share the news of the death of one of our true supporters, Harry Carter, Mrs Rutter's father, who died recently. He and his wife, Ethnie, worked tirelessly to support our school over the years, and it is down to Harry that we began the running of our very first allotment on Fenham Hall Drive. He will be sadly missed by the whole of our school community, but we are so happy to have had the time to work with him and gain so much from his horticultural knowledge.

We wish all of our families and friends a fabulous Christmas and lovely holiday from school. I hope you can all spend some time together and can get out and explore new places. I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 8th January, 2018 when we return to school ready to take on the new challenges presented to us.

## THE ROUNDHOUSE

Many of you will have noticed our new structure in the Forest School area of school. As part of our school improvement area to develop the outdoor learning environment, we are now proud owners of our very own roundhouse. It's very exciting as it means we can use this to enhance our curriculum and use it to shelter from the ever changing weather. We have had maths lessons, Forest School, art and breakfast club in there and will continue to use it in many exciting ways in the future. We worked very closely with Space 4 Learning with our current Year Six pupils helping in the design and construction. It is built with all natural material and has a living roof which will change over time. Come and ask to have a look if you've not yet had the chance!



# Visits and Visitors

At the start of the school year, we welcomed the Mad Alice Theatre Company to school as they performed a series of nonsense poems. Ridhan, Y3, said, "The show was hilarious. They performed lots of different poems and tricks and it was very clever how they linked them all together. My favourite trick was at the end when the man had his face covered in shaving foam from a trick. The next day they came back to complete a workshop with us and we made our own nonsense poems based on everyday objects." Our thanks go to Greening Wingrove for supporting this event.



Year 4 have been learning about the Anglo Saxons this term and they enhanced their learning with a trip to Bede's World. "When we went to Bede's World, we had so much fun. First, we visited an Anglo Saxon church and then we had to draw part of the building and it was quite difficult. After that, we went inside the church where we pretended to be monks. It was so funny bring dressed up! After lunch, we went to the Anglo Saxon village and we looked around the farm and met some very strange looking animals. Did you know that when it rained during Anglo Saxon times, the animals actually slept in



their owners' bedrooms? At the end of the day, we visited an Anglo Saxon house that had an open fire in the middle of it on the floor. We all sat around the fire and a lady told us part of the Beowulf story." – Daniyal and Nusrat, Y4.

"Year 6 visited Sacred Heart Primary School to listen to the very talented author, Katherine Woodfine. We listened carefully to her 'Sinclair Mystery' stories. Katherine told us all about how she became an author; she was really inspiring. She started reading her latest novel to us and it was brilliant.

Year 6 have continued to read her novels in class this term." – Sabah, Y6.



Throughout the term, Year 5 have been learning about World War II and this culminated in a trip to Eden Camp. On returning to school, they completed a diary entry about their trip. Below is Haadi's entry:

"My Eden Camp Diary,

When we went on the bus, I was a little nervous but, after the bus journey, I felt better. On the bus, I saw the ruins of a monastery and the views were amazing. It took two hours to get there, but it was worth it. We had a look at different huts about different events during World War II. My favourite hut was the 'Blitz' because it was dark and scary inside and there were lots of mannequins that stared at us.

Some even moved! Also, I liked the 'Rise of Hitler' hut because I saw lots of propaganda of Hitler and learnt a lot about him. By lunchtime, I was starving but luckily I brought lots of food to eat. After lunch, there was time to visit the gift shop and I bought a light-up ball for my little sister because I thought she would like it. The journey on the bus back to school wasn't as good as the one there and I think that was because we were all so tired! Back at school, I went home with my Dad after having great day and my little sister enjoyed her light-up ball."



“At the start of December, on a lovely winter 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 changed into our wellies and started 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 sculpture was of a Red Kite. Its wingspan was huge! We then went 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. After that, we went down some even steeper steps and walked along the River Derwent looking for more animals – we even spotted a spider hanging from a tree making a web. Following this, we climbed back up the steps and completed the animal sculpture trail. It was a really great day and gave us some fascinating ideas about who could be creeping around the woods.” – Sarah, Y3.



In November, members of Newcastle University’s Music Society came into school to work with Year 3. Each week, the society visited different schools with different sections of the orchestra and when they came to Wingrove, the brass ensemble accompanied them. We learnt about the different brass instruments and some of us even got to try the trombone and trumpet. We were then taught a sea shanty called, “Leave her, Johnny.” In December, we then sung the song, with the full orchestra, at a concert at the Great North Museum with other schools from across the city. It was a great afternoon hearing the full orchestra perform songs. My favourite was the Pirates of the



Caribbean theme tune. I was also very lucky to be selected, with Sarah from our school, to go to the front and conduct the orchestra by myself with a baton. I had to make sure I counted in time or the musicians would have made a mistake!” – Idir, Y3.



“The NSPCC visited our school with their friend Buddy. They taught us all about their work and how they help to keep children safe. We were able to talk about and watch different scenarios to see what we would do in such a situation. They also taught us that if we ever needed to talk to someone, one of our options could be to ring Childline, which is free. The number is 08001111.” – Jessica, Y4.



“To celebrate National Poetry Day on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September, we welcomed Valerie Bloom for a special performance. She performed a collection of her favourite poems in English and Jamaican patois. She also discussed the process of writing them and where she gets her inspiration from. It was a very insightful experience! My favourite poem was called ‘Pinda Cake.’” – Adnan, Y3.



## Safety Works

"In November, we were fortunate enough to attend a Safety Works workshop at the Newcastle Safety House. This involved us talking to professionals such as paramedics, police officers and firefighters. We loved this trip as it was full of practical activities where we were able to learn how to be safe in different situations. For example, we were shown exactly what to do if there is a fire in our homes and how to dial 999 and speak to the operator. In addition,



we were also we shown how to implement the recovery position if someone is injured at home or in the local area and what would happen to us if we were ever in trouble with the police, which is never! We all thoroughly enjoyed it and learnt lots." – Alizah, Y6.

## NURSERY NEWS



Our newest members of the school, in Nursery, have settled in well and have been enjoying their first term at Wingrove. They have especially enjoyed forest school and have been working as a team, developing their skills and exploring the environment. They were extremely excited when it snowed recently and even brought some inside to investigate what would happen to it. They've also enjoyed learning about shapes and sharing stories.



## CHOIR

"The school choir have been out to spread festive cheer on several occasions during December, whilst raising money for good causes. First of all, we performed at Central Station in aid of Health Poverty Action. It was a little bit different to our rehearsals because we were unable to sing to music as there was nowhere to plug our CD player in! Luckily, we had music for our carols when we went to Wyevale Garden Centre before performing twice at Eldon Square to raise money for Marie Curie and The Rotary Club. The crowds really enjoyed listening to us and it was great to see some of our parents there too!" - Manpreet and Naafiah, Y3.

## Eco-Warriors

The Eco-Warriors have been busy promoting energy saving and recycling across the school this term. At the recent Winter Wonderland event, they decided to plan and organise three fundraising stalls. One stall sold cakes made by the Eco-Warriors, one was a recycled craft stall and the other was a recycling game. They raised about £20. "We were full of exhilaration when we heard that our stall had been a big success." – Alizah and Aqeeda, Y6.

## BREAKFAST CLUB

We offer a daily breakfast club with the doors opening at 08:15. The last entry is at 08:35. It costs 75p/£1 and the children are offered a range of cereals, toast and drinks. The first Thursday of each month is a free breakfast club, starting at 08:00, where all of the family are welcome to come and enjoy a healthy breakfast and take part in activities.

## DRAGONS

Year 2 have had an exciting term learning all about dragons. They looked after a dragon egg in the classroom until it hatched. They also learnt how to trap a dragon before making traps in the woods just in case the baby dragon returned. They have also written some amazing dragon adventure stories.



## Science Club

This term, some of Year 6 and Year 3 were invited to the WEST Science Club at the Centre for Life. Ruhana, Y6, said, "Whilst I was there, I had the opportunity to do lots of fun experiments, which included making Oobleck and setting my hand on fire! I really enjoyed the last week because we did spooky science. In spooky science, we made a piece of ribbon float in the air by using static electricity; it was brilliant!" Aws, Fatima and Yuvraj, Y3, added, "It was really good fun. Each week we learnt about something different ranging from what animals eat to how Christmas crackers work. One week, we investigated magnetism and it was amazing to see iron filings being moved around behind a sheet of Perspex by a magnet. However, our favourite week was when we went into the planetarium. It was amazing to see all of the planets in detail and to learn more about space in general."



## ONLINE SAFETY

In October, Key Stages One and Two watched a separate Internet Safety production, but they both reinforced the important message of being safe online. "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 and use emoji cushions to show how people would feel in different situations that they may face online." – Anoshay, Y3.



## SPORTS NEWS

This term saw the start of our WEST Year 5/6 boys' football league, hosted by St. John's Primary. So far, we have had six schools from the trust taking part in eight games across two days and Wingrove are joint top of the league! Following a 1-1 draw with St. John's, we closed the first day of games with a fantastic 3-2 win over Hawthorn Primary. The next day, we battled to a 0-0 draw against Bridgewater and an entertaining 2-2 draw against Broadwood to leave us on six points from four games. We have had eleven different boys represent the team so far this year and we will no doubt see this number increase as we go into our final league games. There will be more opportunities too in the several cup games we have coming up.

We have also seen some of our girls take part in a Year 4 girls' football fun day organised by Newcastle PE & School Sport Service with the Newcastle United Foundation to celebrate Girls' National Football Week. The event saw our girls take part in a skills session run by Newcastle United coaches, play in several friendly matches against girls from different schools and the chance to meet two players from Newcastle United's women's team!

These events were the first opportunity for our children to wear our fantastic new Nike football kits, kindly donated as part of the Premier League Primary Stars programme, and they are worn by our girls in the image.



# WALK TO SCHOOL

POLITE NOTICE: Can I remind everyone that our school is a NO SMOKING school, which includes E cigarettes.

May I also encourage you all to put safety first as you drive by the school to drop off and collect your children. We need to keep the gates clear at all times and remind all of you to use the road markings to guide you as you search for a safe place to park. Many of our families live very close to school, and in the interests of health, fitness and the environment, can I suggest you walk or ride your bikes to school instead of using the car.

