



# Autumn Newsletter 2021



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2021-22, and you will see we have been very busy. It has been so lovely to be able to go on visits again as it really supports learning and the children have had some real first hand experiences, which we hope we can continue for the rest of this year.

We are so sorry that we have not been able to invite parents and carers in to school for parents' evening or for any of our class assemblies and Christmas productions this term. I made the decision to continue to avoid big gatherings at school, in order to prioritise the safety of our children, families and staff. I wanted to preserve all Christmas holiday plans for our whole community. I hope you all understand and support this decision.

We shall certainly be doing all that we can to make it a festive and enjoyable end of term for all of the children. Last week we had our Christmas lunch, offered free of charge to everyone. We had Christmas jumper day last Friday, where we raised over £200 for the Great North Children's Hospital. This week we have our Christmas parties, which is really exciting for all the children. We hope to share lots of photographs and videos of the different events on Class Dojo, Seesaw and Twitter so please look out for these.

I continue to update our school's risk assessment each time the Government updates the guidance and we will share with you any changes that may affect our school community. The latest guidance is urging all people over the age of eighteen to book their third vaccination (booster) in order to further protect everyone against the spread of COVID. The advice also suggests that children in primary schools, from the age of five, can use lateral flow tests if they are identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID. Can I suggest that you go online to order some lateral flow tests to keep at home in case you should be advised to use them. The link is: [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests) Demand has been quite high since the guidance was recently updated, but you can also organise to have a code sent to your phone and then you can use this to collect packs from a pharmacist. You can use the above link for both.

A reminder that the last day of term is Friday 17th December and we return to school on Wednesday 5th January, as Tuesday is a teacher training day. We would like to wish you all a very happy and safe holiday and I look forward to seeing you all from 0835 on Wednesday 5th January.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Jane Mullarkey

## SPACE SCIENTISTS

Year 1 have really enjoyed their space topic in the second half of this term. They have explored objects that they thought were from a missing space shuttle, made their own rockets, learnt facts about the planets and found out all about the first moon landing. They have also enjoyed carrying out science experiments to see which material would be best to fix the astronaut's glove, as well as mixing vinegar with bicarbonate of soda to launch their own rocket! To end the topic, Year 1 enjoyed a fabulous trip to the Centre for Life, where they visited the planetarium



and watched a science show. They discovered what it would be like to be a real astronaut in the space zone and even saw a space toilet! Enes said, "It was the best day ever. It was so much fun." Mariam added, "My favourite part of the day was when we watched the science show. It was amazing and cool!"



# Visits and Visitors

"In early October, all of Year 6 went to Beamish, County Durham, to experience what life was like in the Victorian times. When we were there, we took part in a Victorian lesson and the teacher was very strict! There were so many rules that we had to follow, such as keeping our elbows off the desk, saying 'sir' after speaking and staying silent. Later on, we went to the farm and fed the horse in the pit village, where the miners would have lived. We also visited the Victorian town and looked at some of the houses where wealthier Victorians would have lived. The dentist's house was scary with all the tools and equipment on display. We even visited the sweet shop and tried some Victorian boiled sweets. Delicious! Overall, we had a great time at Beamish and learnt so much about the Victorian period." – Yameen, Y6



"In early October, as part of our topic about 'How Do Seas Change?', Year 2 visited St. Mary's Lighthouse 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 other little sea creatures. We made sure we carefully returned them to their habitat after we'd looked at them. Sam then informed us about different types of seaweeds. I didn't realise there were so many different types! After our lunch and Sam had answered our questions, 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. Before we returned to school, we were also able to complete sand art using shells, rocks and seaweed. It was a really great trip and I look forward going back to the lighthouse again soon." – Hamnah, Y2



The children in Year 3 enjoyed visiting Thornley Woods this term and developed their exploration skills by using maps and followed trails by using the signs. "I really enjoyed the sculpture trail showing wooden animals carved into tree stumps and trunks. The beautiful River Derwent walk led us to a meadow where we were allowed to play and explore. The viaduct viewpoint was the highlight of the trip as we could see a great distance.

We have also been learning about the arguments for and against deforestation in school and we have become very passionate about saving the forests and local woods. We have gained a great understanding of the importance of protecting nature and wildlife for the future. I feel unhappy that many forests are being destroyed by humans and the trees and animals in Thornley Woods need to be protected in the future. Hopefully, we will be able to plant more trees in years to come to help reduce climate change." – Salice, Y3



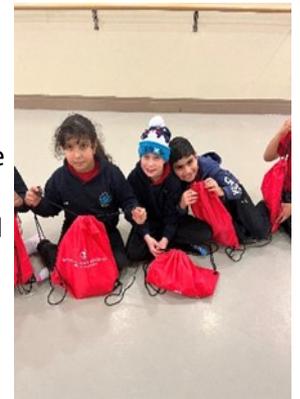
In November, Year 5 visited The Old Low Light Heritage Centre in North Shields. "We were led around the centre by volunteers and found out a lot about life and safety at sea. We explored the exhibition which was all about the work women did on the North Shields Fish Quay and studied maps to see how the Fish Quay has changed over the last 500 years. We were then taken to the Lifeboat Centre and were able to see a real lifeboat which is used during sea rescues. It was amazing to see. The museum was fascinating and we were so pleased to be able to go on our first trip since year 3!" – Favour, Y5



"In November, Eleanor from the Care Home Friends and Neighbours' Project came to our school and worked on a creative project with us. We had a Zoom link with Sutherland Court and it was very interesting to get to know the people in the care home. We made collages about ourselves using old magazines and shared them with the residents. It was fun to ask them questions and to find out about their lives. We cannot wait for our next session!" – Zahraa, Y5



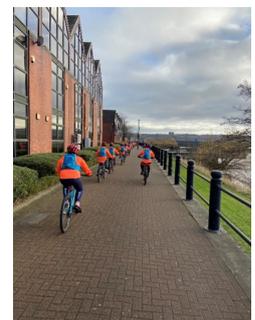
"Miss Chaudry's Year 3 class were invited to Dame Allan's School for a special dance lesson in their dance studio. We were able to explore different types of movement in small groups to music. Amazingly, we all received a generous bag of treats for participating and professional photographs were taken of some children performing the choreographed dance. I loved the dancing lesson with Mrs Turnbull and learning how to balance with my friends!" – Yousif, Y3



## Quayside Cycling

"A group of year 6 children all enjoyed a day out of school cycling along the River Tyne in December. In science, we have been learning about how important exercise is for our body - we felt great, but the cold northern air didn't help! On our trip we saw many attractions including buildings and the bridges crossing the River Tyne. We even saw the Metro Centre from across the river!

Firstly, we got into special tracksuits and jackets and then we were sized-up for our bikes, before we travelled from the school to the quayside. When we first started cycling, it felt amazing! We cycled from the Tyne Bridge and even cycled over the Millennium Bridge. It was quite scary at first, but we managed it in the end. The teachers were supportive and we enjoyed lots of breaks. We were given the chance to ride up a very steep hill, if we wanted to try. Some of us had a go and it was quite an achievement! We enjoyed a lunch at the Cycle Hub and then we cycled back to the minibuses. The day was an amazing experience and I would recommend it to everyone to have a go if they can. In total, we cycled just under 9 miles." – Mahdia, Y6



# SCHOOLS OF SANCTUARY

## Art Club

A group of Year 6 children are taking part in an art after school club, which is researching, exploring and understanding children's views and experiences of belonging, wellbeing and inclusion. They talk about a variety of topics including identity, race, culture, language, religion, acceptance, peer/ school relationships and other related things that the children feel are important to them. The group are invited to share their thoughts, perspectives and experiences of belonging, wellbeing and inclusion through a selection of art tools including drawing, painting, collage, crafts and creative writing. Then, participants will be invited to be 'researchers' to help analyse the data and look for themes, ideas, similarities and differences. This will involve group discussions and exploration through dance and drama.



## Paperchain People



This year's Action Foundation appeal is called *Gift of Words*, which is supporting their free English teaching classes for asylum seekers. They have reached out and invited us to take part in their fundraising this year by designing paperchain people and expressing the message, *Refugees Welcome!* Some classes have written welcoming words and phrases on paperchain people, Year 6 cyclists have created a real one and have even displayed the welcome words in most of the languages spoken in our school.

## Heritage Months

Heritage or Culture Months are periods within the year that are designated to celebrate and acknowledge various ethnic and marginalised groups. These are times not only to celebrate, but also to educate others on various groups' histories and highlight their vast contributions and rich identities. These important times help us understand some of our own cultures and identities, as well as others. We are lucky to have a diverse school community, but we do not get many opportunities to talk more about our cultural identities. We have carefully chosen a variety of activities and events to bring the school community together by educating, appreciating and celebrating another's culture. The Culture and Heritage Months chosen for this school year are:

- Sept – Oct Hispanic Heritage Month
- Nov – Dec Roma, Gypsy and Traveller Heritage Month
- Jan – Feb Black History Month
- Mar – Apr Women's History Month
- May – Jun Asian Heritage Month



## **Sportshall Athletics**

"A team of 16 Wingrove athletes from Years 5 and 6 participated in this year's Sportshall Athletics competition in early December, held at Walker Activity Dome. This fantastic event encompasses a wide range of different athletic events, including individual sprints, team relays, javelin, triple and long jump and much more. The event takes place over several days, with over thirty Newcastle schools and hundreds of young athletes taking part. I loved the feeling of being part of a team and trying our best to beat other schools. I really enjoyed the whole event, the arena was massive and it was a fantastic new experience. We eagerly await the results from the competition and look forward to practising the events in our own school." – Zaid, Y6

## **Football Team**

"This term saw the long-awaited resumption of the West Trust Year 5/6 Football League, after 18 months without fixtures, due to the pandemic. It has been fantastic to offer our children a competitive opportunity again, to meet up with footballers and staff from other schools and to see how much our team have enjoyed playing in the league. We have played 5 matches so far and we currently sit in 5<sup>th</sup> position in a highly competitive league. Ibrahim in Year 6 scored a fantastic hat-trick in our most recent game and Areeb has proved to be a fantastic captain this term. We have also had two Year 4 pupils, Moise and Ionatan, playing against boys 2 years older than them and more than holding their own. We can't wait for more fixtures in the spring." – PE Team