



# Spring Newsletter 2026



Well, that term flew like the wind! We have packed so much into the spring term, I am not sure where to start. You can read all about our learning experiences in this newsletter, but it is only a fraction of what we have been up to. 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. Many of us celebrated Eid a couple of weeks ago and we will all celebrate with our Eid lunch at the beginning of June. As we approach the Easter break, we will also be judging the Easter egg competition and I am looking forward to seeing all the entries. Last year we had over two hundred entries which is amazing. Obviously, I cannot write this newsletter without mentioning our recent Ofsted inspection. I will be sharing the report once it is published, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank our whole school community for coming together and celebrating everything we do at Wingrove. The children, as usual, were true ambassadors. We have also had our reading competition with the winners spending some time visiting Seven Stories and having a wander round Ouseburn. The overall winner, Mysha in Year Five, is going to meet some of the Newcastle United First Team players who are going to sign the book she bought at Seven Stories. This competition was a WEST initiative and part of our collaboration with Newcastle United. Finally, we are saying goodbye to one of our teaching team, Miss Chaudry, who leaves us this week after working at Wingrove for nearly fifteen years. She is moving overseas to teach, so we will remain in touch, but we will miss her terribly as she has contributed so much to the ethos and values at Wingrove. I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the very best of luck as she begins this new and very exciting chapter in her life. We welcome Miss Darnell to the Year One team, who will take over from Miss Chaudry after Easter. We have also welcomed back Miss Kane who joins the Year One team after her maternity leave. You will all have also received the email sent out yesterday regarding Ms West's retirement from Wingrove. Whilst I will be so very sad to see her step down at the end of this academic year, I have managed to persuade her to stay with us in September for one day a week to support further school improvement work. She has been instrumental in refining our curriculum here at Wingrove and she has supported hundreds of children and families over the years. She will be a huge miss as she has become a firm friend to many of us on the Wingrove team. We welcome Mrs Guy to the post of Deputy Head Teacher, and you will all get the chance to meet her when she starts work after the Easter holiday. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Easter holiday, and now that the weather is beginning to feel 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 at 0835 on Monday 20th April, 2026.

*Mrs Mullarkey*

## *Eat Smart*

The Eat Smart project has been working at Wingrove during this half term. The project is to encourage less food waste within the school. Lots of children have become Waste Warriors, helping the project leader, Georgie, with two audits. The first audit measured how much waste we were creating and that was converted into a monetary value. Workshops took place all around the school with Georgie, helping the children to understand the impact of food waste and where our food comes from. Part of the workshops involved tasting food and Eesah, Y1, commented, "I loved tasting the blueberries; they were sweet and juicy!" After audit two the results were brilliant as the food waste has dropped significantly, resulting in a large saving of money. The children have also put into place ideas that the school can do at lunchtime to reduce food waste. Some of these ideas include not rushing out to play straight after lunch, trying new food and taking home packed lunches that could be eaten later. Let's keep the legacy going, Wingrove!



# Visits and Visitors

Year 2 have learnt about the North East and fire as their topics this term and they visited the Quayside as part of their learning. "On our Quayside walk, we spotted all of the bridges we had been learning about, plus lots of other landmarks such as The Baltic and Newcastle Castle. We even saw some trains coming in and out of Newcastle on one of the bridges. The walk 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. We even stood on the spot where Charles Bertram's chemical factory would have been and that exploded causing the fire to devastatingly spread. During our trip, we were also able to see how the renovations on the Tyne Bridge are going and we could even spot lots of patches of new shiny green paint." – Hooria, Y2



"We had a fantastic trip to the Victoria Tunnel which linked to our WW2 topic. Firstly, we got split into two groups. The first group were in a classroom session learning facts and experiences with a generous tour guide. In the classroom, we got to see a real, worn-out gas mask and a real WW2 bomb. The second group went into the historic WW2 tunnel, where they had a wonderful tour guide leading them through the tunnel and talking to them about WW2 facts. In the tunnel, we got to experience what it would have been like during an evacuation, along with eerie stories of the tunnel's past. Inside the tunnel, we viewed what a WW2 shelter bed would have looked like. The top bunk was for children, middle for pregnant women and the bottom bunk was reserved for key workers. Did you know, the tunnel is a preserved 2.4-mile long underground wagon way built between 1839 and 1842? It was used to transport coal to the River Tyne. Don't worry, both groups got a turn in each session!" – Mariam and Khadija 5AM



Year 3 visited Newcastle Cathedral on the 24<sup>th</sup> March as the culmination of our singing project. Miss Walker, one of the musical directors at the cathedral, has been coming into school to work with the children for months, so celebrating their hard work with a performance for children from other schools felt very special. The children sang a song called 'Tiri Vamwe' (We are Together). It was written during the 2020 Lockdown to celebrate being connected. It was composed by singers from Spain, Ghana, Pakistan, Poland and Zimbabwe who were living in Scotland and it is written in Shona, Twi, Spanish, Polish and Urdu. The children sang this wonderfully inclusive song beautifully; we were so proud of them all.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> February, Year 6 visited a STEM-tastic event at the Centre for Life in Newcastle. We took part in a range of workshops linked to space, physics and sound.

Rahela shared that she won a medal for making and throwing a paper aeroplane the furthest in the RAF workshop. We all had fun making and flying the planes, but we also learnt a lot about how planes fly. Hashir enjoyed the planetarium, where we studied the constellations and what different groups of people believed. Did you know there is a constellation that the Māori people believe show a mother and her daughters?



“On an overcast day in February, Year Two visited The Angel of the North in Gateshead, as part of our learning about the North East. We were amazed by the size of The Angel of the North because it didn’t look that big when we were reading about it in the classroom. We learnt lots of interesting facts about it, such as that it can withstand 100mph winds and it is as tall as four double decker buses stacked on top of each other! The weather was horrible while we were there, so we completed sketches of the statue from different angles when we returned to school.”  
 – Musa, Y2.



On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, Year 6 enjoyed taking part in STEM activities at NUCASTLE (Newcastle United Foundation). Saima explained, “We used Lego and coding to build a hopper. I really enjoyed how you could explore the different ways you could change the coding and the design to try and make it move in a straight line.” Afnan added, “We loved visiting the Foundation’s gaming room! We developed our teamwork skills to help each other succeed within the games, but we also had to be resilient and problem solvers to calculate how to win!”



## REGIONAL LEGO LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday 10th March 2026, seven of our brilliant Year 5 and 6 pupils set off with Mr Barker, Mrs Walker, and Mrs Anastasi to represent Wingrove Primary at the First Lego League Regional Tournament in North Tyneside. The theme for this year’s competition was “Unearthed”, and they were up against 20 schools, including high schools. Our team gave an incredible performance in the Robot Game, scoring an impressive 190 points twice—just 10 points away from the winners, George Stephenson High School. But the excitement didn’t stop there! Our pupils also won the Innovation Trophy for their clever project: a VR headset for schools that lets children explore archaeological digs or experience historical sites, like a Roman fort, with Romans walking around as if in real life. By the end of the day, our Wingrove team had achieved an outstanding second place overall out of the twenty schools competing. The children’s teamwork, creativity and determination shone brightly throughout the competition and their smiles said it all—they had the most memorable, fun-filled day, making new friends and showing just what they can achieve when they put their minds to it. We are so proud of our young engineers and innovators—their energy, ideas and enthusiasm truly made Wingrove shine. Well done, team!



## WEST Maths Day

Towards the end of the term, we took part in the second WEST Maths Day, along with the other schools in our Trust. The day started with a fantastic assembly from Mr Hields' class all about maths and it culminated in, mathematician and tv presenter, Bobby Seagull sending us a video wishing us luck for our day ahead. He even set us a challenge to work out what the total amount of money you would have if you added up every coin and note that we use in the UK. 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. The children were invited to come in wearing 'normal' clothes, but they had to explain to their class how their non-uniform was mathematical and everyone was able to come up with a fantastic explanation, whether it was a repeating pattern or numerical in some way. Some of the activities were based on books, such as *The Snail and The Whale*, while Year 6 enjoyed completing an escape room and a magic calculator task. Daniyal, Y2 said, "I had a great WEST Maths Day. The tasks were great fun and really engaging, although I did have to think hard to solve some of them." We look forward to hosting another WEST Maths Day next school year, where will hopefully be able to ask another celebrity to share their experiences of maths too.



## Nursery News

Nursery have had a great term! All of the new starters are now settled and they have enjoyed learning about the changes that happen in springtime. They have planted their own beans and sunflowers and are enjoying watching them grow and change. Piccolo music has worked with both morning and afternoon classes this term, which the children have thoroughly



enjoyed and they are looking forward to their allotment visits after Easter to spot all the changes that have happened since their last visit in autumn.

## Sports Teams

It has been a successful term for our sports teams. We took eleven Year 5 children to NUFC Academy. The pupils had the fantastic opportunity to be coached by the academy players. Fifteen pupils across Years 4 and 5 took part in a Girls' Football Festival to celebrate International Women's Day at Walker Activity Dome.

Our Year 5/6 girls have had a brilliant season finishing second in the Newcastle City West League. Our Year 6 mixed football team have recently started their fixtures, competing against other schools within our trust. The team have already showed great teamwork to score some fantastic goals!



## PUPPET QUEST PROJECT

Since January, Mr Barker's class have been busy exploring the Puppet Quest Project. Using their design and technology skills, the children created their own alien puppets from a distant planet. This project celebrated the children's home languages, English and other languages they are learning—with some even showcasing Japanese! The class also practised non-verbal cues and learned how to act with their puppets, perfecting synchronised movements and voices to make their aliens come alive. As part of the project, the children composed their own lively song, reflecting their personalities and experiences and used a green screen to create a fantastic video of their puppets performing for new visitors. They also crafted thrilling backstories for their aliens and the Intergalactic Consortium, turning each puppet into a character with its own adventures. In the last week of the term, the excitement continued as we visited the Alphabetti Theatre to meet our alien neighbours from Canning Street School. We explored their puppets, enjoyed their songs and films, and sampled a range of out-of-this-world foods. The children also exchanged their imaginative pen pal letters, sharing their alien stories and adventures with their new friends.

