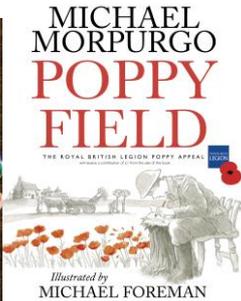




Newchurch Remembers



As part of our Remembrance celebrations, our delightful Reception robins painted poppy themed pebbles and hid them around the village. It was great to see so many being found and people sharing them on our Facebook page. We believe it is very important that our children remember those who were so brave and those who continue to work to keep us safe.

Anti-bullying Week

This year's theme for Anti-bullying Week is 'United Against Bullying'. Newchurch is committed to ensuring that all our children recognise and celebrate everyone's differences and learn to contribute positively to society. Bullying will not be tolerated and is dealt with seriously.



Our week started with the children wearing odd socks to celebrate the uniqueness of each and every one of us, and also the diversity within our society. Over the course of the week, the children completed a number of activities. Children explored some very challenging issues which they needed to really consider how they would deal with them.

There were two important messages we wanted the children to know at the end of the week:

Bullying is:

- Intentional
- Persistent
- Has an imbalance of power

And that it is important to TELL someone if they are being bullied or they know someone is being bullied.



Our KS1 children looked at the book, 'The Crayon box that talked.' We have a beautiful display in the entrance hall to remind us how we must be kind and support one another.

Virtual Tour and Promotional Video

As we are unable to have our usual Open Days for the children who are due to start school in September 2021, we have needed to really consider different options to promote our school. It was important to us that our warm, friendly atmosphere was portrayed, as well as the rich and ambitious curriculum Newchurch offers to the children.

To support us in sharing our wonderful school, we have had a 360° virtual tour of the school done, which will be a computerised tour of the school, allowing us to guide prospective parents around the building with the touch of a button. In addition to this, we have had a promotional video made which shows the workings of the school, and includes the children – the heartbeat of our school.

We hope that this, along with a video conference with Mrs Narraway, will help any new parents looking for a school for their child to see what a special place Newchurch is.

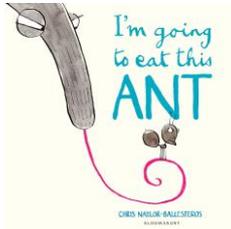


Reception

30th November 2020

Autumn

I'm Going to eat this ANT



In Reception, the children have been reading the story of 'I'm going to eat this Ant.' They have been finding out interesting facts about anteaters and what they look like. The children decided that they were very funny looking and they loved the fact that their tongue was 50cm long! The children painted pictures of the anteater, using the correct colours for the fur.

The role play area changed into a mini beast hotel where the children collected, sorted, counted and measured all the different mini beasts. They used the non fiction texts to research information about their favourite mini beasts. They labelled and painted pictures of lots of different mini beasts.

On outdoor learning, the children went to the allotment and went digging for mini beasts. They found lots of worms, spiders, woodlouses, earwigs and they even found some caterpillars.

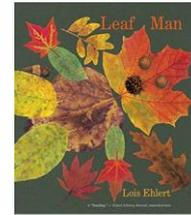
All the children have really enjoyed finding out facts about anteaters and mini beasts.

Karl: "I love the worms because they wriggle around."

Frankie: "I have painted an anteater and it has a very long tongue to eat the ants."

James: "I liked watching the anteater eat all the ants."

Cruz: "I liked painting the anteater."



The children have been exploring the season Autumn and what Autumn looks like. They can identify that the leaves fall from the trees, the leaves change colour and conkers and acorns fall from the trees.

They used the Leaf Man book as a stimulus, which is a fantastic picture book. They went on leaf hunt around school, finding different shaped leaves. They discussed the colours and the shapes of the leaves. They had great fun throwing the leaves in the air and watching them fall down. After collecting the leaves they made their own leaf man pictures and they made autumn crowns.

Harper: "I liked making the crowns and sticking the leaves on."

Billy: "I made a leaf man and I cut out the leaves."

Phonics



In October, the children started learning Phase 3 phonics and they can now recognise that 2 letters made one sound and these sounds are called digraphs. Using their phonic knowledge the children have started to read and write simple sentences. They are amazing!

Tilly: "We have been learning new sounds."

Harry: "I like learning letters and singing the songs."

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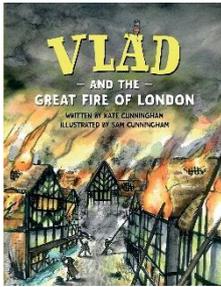


Year 1

30th November 2020

This half term in Year One...

In English lessons, Year 1 have been exploring the text 'Vlad and the Great Fire of London'.



It all began with a voice message from Vlad himself explaining how he was in danger and needed help! The children hunted for hidden clues around the classroom and used their inference skills to try and figure out where Vlad was. The children made predictions before diving into the story and following the events through the eyes of Vlad. Along the way, they looked at adjectives, plurals and capital letters. The children followed the rollercoaster of emotions the character felt at different parts of the story. The emotion words they came up with were incredible!

Our role play area became Pudding Lane Bakery and the children became little bakers! They tackled phonics cupcakes challenges and created a range of Art work thinking about different scenes from the story.



Topic... Disaster on Pudding Lane!

In our topic this half term, we have been learning all about The Great Fire of London. We travelled back in time to 1666 and found out that the world looked very different in the past compared to today. We went on a journey down Pudding Lane and found that the fire started in a bakery before spreading across London. We identified the different equipment used to put out the fire and had a go at saving a London street with our leather buckets! We explored paintings of the fire and learned about Samuel Pepys and how his diary tells us all about the fire. We even had a go at cracking a code to read part of his diary!



Anti- Bullying week

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, Year 1 explored the story 'For the Birds'. Here they met a flock of small birds who struggled to show kindness to each other. When a large bird, who looks a little bit different to them, comes along, they make fun of him, whisper about him and walk away. Check out the animation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYTrIcn4rjg>

They talked about the behaviour of the birds and how they would feel if someone treated them that way. They also did some amazing drama work to retell the story and thought carefully about how to show the actions and facial expressions of the birds at different points in the story.

They then came up with lots of ideas on how the birds could show kindness to each other.

Darcey: They could share, cuddle or say hello.

Theo: They could snuggle, care and show manners.

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Year 2

30th November 2020

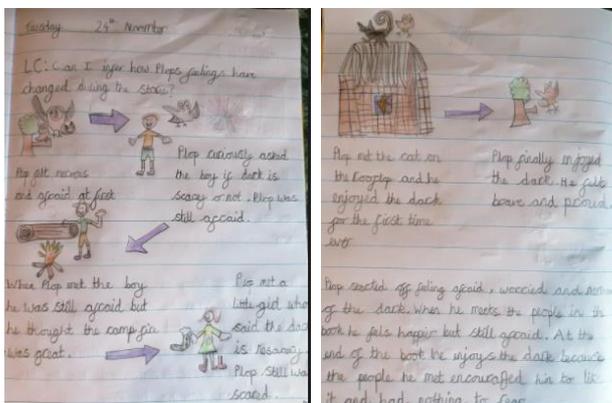
We are reading...



Year Two have been exploring the text *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*. The story is about a young owl, Plop, who is scared of the dark and he goes on an adventure to find out more about the night.

Plop meets a range of different people, who all have wonderful things to say about the dark. After exploring many aspects of the night time, Plop goes on to enjoy the night time, and everything it has to offer, which allows him to embrace that he is a night bird.

The children in Year Two have been able to use a range of wonderful adjectives to describe many aspects of the story – including Plop himself. As the story went on, children were able to use their inference skills to explore how Plop's feelings changed as the story progressed, and we created story maps to demonstrate this:

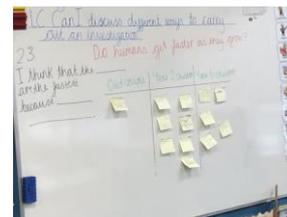


Do humans get faster as they grow?

In Science, they have been exploring whether adults get faster as they grow up. Year Two discussed many ways in which they could go about investigating this. As a class, they decided that the best way to do this would be by testing a Year Two pupil, a Year Six pupil and a teacher. They discussed ways to make this a fair test, and agreed that each person will be given a set time to run a distance – to see who is the fastest! They are looking forward to carrying out their investigation in the coming weeks.

Bobby M: Some think that the younger ones will be faster because they have more energy. I don't think that because I couldn't run when I was a baby.

Isla: We need to keep it a fair test, otherwise our results might not be right.



Feeling festive...

As part of our Christmas door competition – Year Two looked at the book *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* by Dr Seuss. They looked at the message '*...perhaps Christmas means a little bit more*', and they created baubles to display what Christmas means to them!



Anya: Christmas means laughing together, playing games and putting the star on the tree.

Noah: Christmas means spending time and playing games with people I love.

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Year 3

30th November 2020

Winter's Child



The children in Year 3 have been exploring the book, 'Winter's Child' by Angela McAllister. This is a beautiful story of family and friendship, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed.

The book follows Tom who wishes winter would never end. Tom meets another boy who shares his love of snow and ice. Playing together everyday, Tom hardly notices that spring doesn't come – until he realises the terrible effect of unending winter is having on the countryside and his sick grandma. His friend is Winter's Child, and for the seasons to go on, the friends must say goodbye until next year.

The children started by looking at key sentences taken from the story to make a prediction. They then looked at the front cover to expand their predictions further. During their unit of work, Year three have crafted beautiful sentences using expanded nouns and similes to describe the wonderful illustrations within the book.

They have also looked at different characters within the story and explored their thoughts and feelings. Alongside this, the children have been practising the creation of dialogue between the characters, giving them the opportunity to learn how to use speech punctuation correctly.

Art Appreciation



Year 3 have continued to look at the artist, George Seurat. They have studied his work and have developed the technique of pointillism. In the build up to their final pieces, the children practiced painting small distinct dots of colours directly onto the paper, without mixing the paint. They have recreated some of Seurat's famous artwork, adding their own style and creative flare.

Aaliyah: It was fun because I love painting.

Ted: I liked doing the dots to make the picture. I had great fun!

Sporting Superstars

Developing their understanding of ball games has been Year Three's focus in PE this half term and in particular, netball.

So far, the children have mastered a chest pass, bounce pass and an overhead pass. They are continuing to learn the tricky skill of pivoting.

What is great, is the way in which the children's enthusiasm for PE is always clear to see. They are always so keen to learn new skills and celebrate each other's achievements.

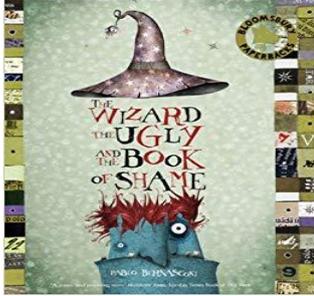
Natalie: I enjoyed doing the chest pass because I could stretch my arms out.



Year 4

30th November 2020

The Wizard the Ugly and the Book of Shame



The children have been reading, The Wizard, The Ugly and the Book of Shame as their class text. Using this book they have been able to draw wonderful story maps to sequence and highlight key events of the story and then plan and write recounts and diary entries in the role of one of the main characters. The ending to the story made them laugh a lot. Everybody loves a happy ending! The whole class have worked so hard on their writing skills throughout this story.

Heidi: It is a really good book because it is quite interesting. Chancery is a great character because he is cheeky when he goes into the Wizard's book of spells.



Crazy Cricket!

Year 4 have been putting their cricket expertise to the test to improve their catching, throwing, batting and fielding skills in PE. Each week you can see the precision of throwing and hitting the ball getting better. The class have worked brilliantly in their teams.

Remi: I learned how to play cricket. I found the different ways of throwing difficult but I got better as I practiced.

Bright Sparks!

After ending their states of matter topic by eating ice lollies before they melted, Year 4 have begun to explore all things electrical. They were given a number of electrical components and asked to make them work, without any instructions. They were amazing, eventually they had bulbs lighting up, motors working and helicopters spinning around.

This was extended to exploring electrical conductors. The look of amazement on their faces when the bulb lit when they tested out different materials was wonderful to see!

Rotten Romans!



Year 4 have nearly finished their Roman history topic - what a lot they have achieved! They have found out the answer to the age old question 'What did the Romans do for us?' They have designed and made their own roman shields. One very memorable lesson was an investigation to find out whether there were any better materials to use after going to the roman toilet other than a sponge on a stick, what a messy business that was!

Carlota: I loved making the shields because I could be creative and put your own style on it. You could use ideas from a real Roman shield. We put protective layer of glue on them to make it shine.

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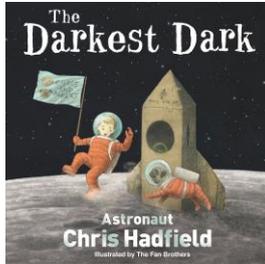
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Year 5

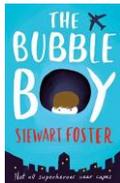
30th November 2020

Year Five's Reading Corner presents...



This half term, Year 5 have been looking at *The Darkest Dark* by Chris Hadfield. The autobiographical text investigates the astronaut's rise from being afraid of the night to walking in space. It is a positive and inspirational text which shows that even our heroes face challenges. To compliment the text, the children have investigated a range of grammar and punctuation features: using semicolon, applying the perfect and progressive forms of a verb, adding parenthesis to add greater detail to their writing and much more. This is all very challenging; however Year 5 have been applying themselves brilliantly.

Jessica: I like how it tells you about how Chris Hadfield overcame his fears and about his life.



At the end of the day, the children have continued to learn about the life of Joe (The Bubble Boy) and his struggles with existing within a single room for his entire life. The children have learnt more about Henry, Joe's American friend, who suffers from the same condition and also Amir, the unusual and often confusing nurse.

Olive: I think the book is really imaginative and educational, it tells you how other people in the world have to live.

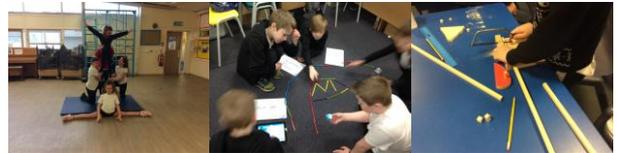
Mathematics



Year 5 have been spending the half term studying multiplication and division methods and have been showing that they can work with arithmetic methods and practically. They have also studied area and perimeter, including getting outside and showing their knowledge of shape and measurement. The children have worked on rectangles and have also looked at complex polygons in class.

Will: I have enjoyed working on multiplication and division as it has made me much stronger with my tables.

Across the curriculum.



Creating podcast, computer game scores and coding our Sphero units – it has been a busy time in computing.

With the support of Miss Ingham, the children have developed their dance skills and worked in their transitions and balancing.

Finally, with Christmas quickly approaching, Year 5 have demonstrated their precision and control in DT. Their wooden Christmas decorations including measuring, accurate sawing, adhesives and decoration. They will look beautiful on any tree.

Imogen: I enjoyed using Sphero because I have never used it before and didn't realise that there was so much you can do.

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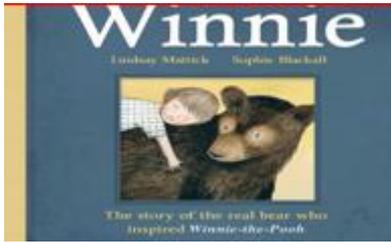
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Year 6

30th November 2020

Year Six Class Text

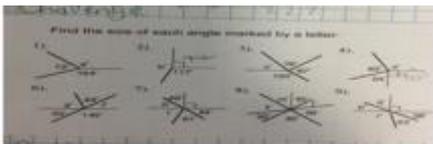


This half term, the children have thoroughly enjoyed studying the text, 'Finding Winnie', which is a fantastic true story about how Winnie the Pooh came to be. With military and animal themes, it was always going to be a text to engage this current Year 6 cohort as they are two areas of great interest.

The children have used their learning from the text to develop their own writing and have so far written a beautiful piece of emotive dialogue, a balanced argument and a biography about the main character, Harry Colebourn.

Isabelle: I would never have guessed that the book was actually based on a real story. It seemed very fiction-based but the twist at the end was very surprising.

Mathematics



Throughout November, Year 6 have been exploring many areas of geometry such as angles in polygons, angles on a point and identifying the value of missing angles by utilising their prior knowledge of the properties of shape. We have been really pleased with their reasoning skills to be able to articulate their answers which, in turn, demonstrates their excellent understanding.

Thomas: I enjoyed the problem-solving aspect of finding missing angles. I applied my understanding of shape to help me with my working out.

Physical Education



Racquet sports have been the area of focus for the Year Six children this half term and in particular, badminton. The progress which the children have made from week one to now is quite astounding!

They have shown huge improvements in hand-eye coordination, reflexes, agility and strategic game play to help develop their game.

What has been most pleasing to see is how much the children have engaged with the sport and have genuine excitement for our weekly PE lessons! Fingers crossed that inter-school competitions can restart again in the New Year so that the children can compete and showcase their talents.

Chloe: I love playing badminton and my skills and understanding of the sport have definitely improved since we started racquet sports this half term.

Reading Plus

Year Six have really immersed themselves into reading this year and have shown excellent dedication to using Reading Plus in their own time. In doing so, they are making phenomenal progress in terms of reading speed and comprehension skills. Between them, they have read over one million words already this year, which is quite an impressive achievement!

Xander: Reading Plus is helping me to increase my reading speed. I'm now reading almost twice as many words per minute as I did before using Reading Plus.

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Newchurch PTA

30th November 2020

Next PTA meeting

The next PTA meeting is Thursday 3rd December at 7pm. If you wish to attend, please let the school office know and we will be able to send you a link to the meeting.

Copies of the minutes and reports will be uploaded onto the school website by the start of next week

Recycle for Schools



Recycle for school is a recycling clothes bank. It's a free fundraising scheme that helps school raise funds through textile recycling. We are awaiting the delivery of our onsite clothing bank where you can conveniently drop your unwanted items of clothing. Our aim to help school raise money in a way that is eco-friendly and we will also receive money back for our school funds! There will be more details sent out once the bank is on site with all the items you can recycle.

What happens to your clothes?

Well, once your clothes are loaded onto the van, they start a journey that could take them to any corner of the world. Different items will be more likely to end up in different climates; that old ski suit isn't likely to be making its way to Africa any-time soon! One thing all the clothes do have in common is that they are going to a place where they will provide affordable clothing to people who need it.

Other ways to help the PTA raise funds for school...

smile.amazon.co.uk

Do you, our members of your family, have a plethora of deliveries from Amazon? If the answer is 'Yes', then please read on...

With Christmas fast approaching and the way we shop is changing, the PTA have also adapted and registered with Amazon Smile. Amazon have accepted the Newchurch PTA charity to become a recipient of their "Donations to charity programme". It's very easy: you shop and Amazon donates!!! No additional cost to yourself or the PTA Charity.

To do this, all you need to do is shop through smile.amazon.co.uk or in your AmazonSmile-enabled app.

When using this site, or app, you have the option to select your charity, Newchurch PTA and then shop as usual. You will find the exact same process, selection and shopping experience, but with the added bonus that Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price to the Newchurch PTA Charity. It's easy and can make a big difference.

Insert the link below into your search bar and it will directly link you to our PTA page, all you then do is register and you're done.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/519392-0>

Happy Shopping!

Festive fun in aid of the Warrington Foodbank

Well, Newchurch had an early start to the festive season when the children donned their favourite Christmas jumper in exchange for a donation towards Warrington Foodbank. We were overwhelmed with the generosity of our families and extend our gratitude to you all for your kindness towards those who are in need of our help this Christmas.



We would like to extend our thanks also to one of the dad's of our reception children for kindly offering to use his van to transport your donations.

Our next dress down day is for donations of selection boxes again for Warrington Foodbank.

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Key Dates and Information

30th November 2020

Dairy of Dates

Date	Event	Class involved
3.12.2020 and 4.12.2020	Year 2 Phonics Screening	Year 2
9.12.2020	Catch Up Flu vaccinations	Selected children
11.12.2020	Christmas dress down day (donations of selection boxes for food bank)	All classes
16.12.2020	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day	All classes
18.12.2020	Christmas Parties Virtual Christmas Pantomime	All classes
18.12.2020	School closes	
4.1.2021	School opens	
15.1.2021	Year 2 Parental Conferences	Year 2 parents
18.1.2021	Year 4 Parental Conferences	Year 4 parents
19.1.2021	Year 1 Parental Conferences	Year 1 parents
20.1.2021	Year 3 Parental Conferences	Year 3 parents
21.1.2021	Year 6 Parental Conferences	Year 6 parents
22.1.2021	Year 5 Parental Conferences	Year 5 parents
26.1.2021	Reception Parental Conferences	Reception parents
1.2.2021	Children's Mental Health Week	All classes
12.2.2021	School Closes	
22.2.2021	School Opens	



As the children have returned we have seen a significant improvement in their attendance. The staggered starts to the day seem to be impacting positively on punctuality also. Thanks you for your support in this.

Just a reminder that holidays taken in school time will not be authorised. We appreciate that many of you may have had to cancel holidays that are booked, and like many people, are desperate to get away. However, from an educational point of view, the children have missed so much schooling and more so than ever we need to ensure they are in school. Many thanks in anticipation of your support with this.

We have an attendance reward system for the whole school, which is based on each class's attendance at the end of the week. The system works as follows:

100%	Gold award	10 points
Class with the highest attendance of the week	Silver award	5 points

The class with the most points accumulated at the end of the school year gets a very special treat of a trip paid for by school. At the moment **YEAR FOUR** are the ones to beat who have 40 points having had four 100% attendance weeks.

Point to note...

Obviously, if your child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, please **do not** send your child in – this will be classed as an authorised absence anyway on the system.

Current attendance figures to date are:

EYFS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
99.0%	96.2%	95.6%	97.9%	98.1%	94.6%	96.9%

Our school target is 97%. Well done everyone!

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