



Getting On and Falling Out

The focus on one of our assemblies this month was linked to our core values of reflection and reciprocity.

The children heard a story about a school where the children were always falling out, moaning and smiling never happened – definitely not a school like Newchurch. The children reflected on the story and discussed what needed to change to make the school in the story better.

'Friendship Tokens' were looked at. These are things you can do to show someone you are their friend and that you care, which makes the school a harmonious and happy place to be. The children thought about:

- Taking turns
- Sharing equipment
- Lending a helping hand
- Smiling at someone
- Listening to other people's ideas
- Being cooperative, and many more.

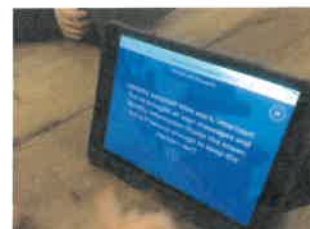
The children have made a pledge to try to give a friendship token to someone every day.

Staying Safe Online

February 8th marked the annual Safer Internet Day (SID) event across the UK and at Newchurch the children were involved in a huge range of activities, from thinking about their online presence to how they are protected and can protect others.

The first half term of spring marks our 'My Online Life' unit in all classes and coincides with the SID activities.

The result of this means that the children are always very well informed about the opportunities and risks of the internet.



The day saw children considering everything from PEGI ratings and how we receive information to our first steps into the online world in reception.

The children showed great maturity and the ability to explain not only the dangers but also the great advances that being able to work digitally offers.



The children also demonstrated that talking about online safety is essential and that our technological

age is not going away, so we all have a part to play in making it as safe as possible for our robins.

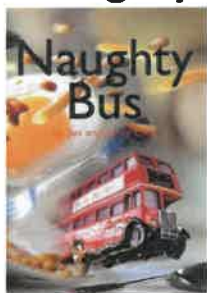


Useful Websites:

It is natural as parents to worry about your child's safety online and to at times feel overwhelmed by the ever-changing landscape of digital media. Here are a few links which may help alleviate some of these worries. Remember that Newchurch is always here to help if you need us.

- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2022>
- <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- <https://www.childnet.com/>

The Naughty Bus



Throughout this half term the children have been reading the story of the naughty bus. They have been using their phonic knowledge to write simple sentences about the buses adventures and creating maps of where the bus travels around London.



Betsy 'I made the house where Boris Johnson lives, its number 10.'

Carter 'We made the London bus with card and put our pictures on them.'

Chinese New Year



On the 1st February it was Chinese New Year and people around the world celebrate in lots of different ways. The children listened to stories and watch video clips of the ways in which people celebrate, from food, wearing clothes and festivals within the streets in the city centres. The children wanted to celebrate in their own way, so they created their

own dragon heads and they performed their own dragon dance in the hall. The year 4 children played the drums and created the music for the children to dance along to. It was amazing!

Lily Rhae 'we made a dragon head and we danced to the music.'

Oscar 'Year 4 played loud music and we could move the ribbons.'

The children designed their own role play area, which was a Chinese take away. They researched what food is served in the restaurants and then they created their own food in the creative area, using felt and wool.



Elsie 'I liked making the food in the take away.'

Grace 'we had noodles and pancakes.'

In computing this half term the children have been learning about how to use technology to communicate with people. They used their new skills using Google Meet to connect to other classes to take their take away orders for the Newchurch Chinese Take Away. They delivered menus to each class and then once their orders had been taken through Google Meet the children then delivered the food orders to the classes.

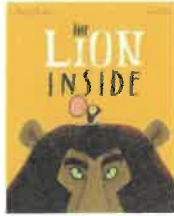


Edis 'we took food to classes.'

Jaxon 'we went on the bikes to deliver the food.'

English

In English, Year 1 have been reading the text *The Lion Inside*. They worked as a team and made predictions on what they thought would happen in the story based on what they already knew about lions and mice.



They wrote character descriptions and as the story unfolded they used drama to show what the characters said to each other. They got a surprise at the end of the story when it was revealed that the lion was scared of the mouse! They loved creating their own story, based on *The Lion Inside*, using animals of their choice and used some fantastic vocabulary!

James: In a huge tree there was a strong eagle!

Archie: There was an elephant who was nervous to be the mouse's friend.

PSHE

This half term, Year 1 have been focussing on what it means to belong to a community. They have explored the importance of rules in society and the difference between right and wrong choices and how these affect others. They listened to stories, such as *The Eagle's Egg* and discussed the choices made by the characters. The children used drama to

retell how the characters in the story argued over who should put the egg back into the eagle's nest but overcame the problem by working as a team and listening to each other.

Music

Year 1 have been exploring how different animals move and using percussion instruments to create sounds to represent how they move. They had to think carefully about the dynamics, using loud sounds for loud animals and quiet sounds for quiet animals! They also listened to and watched a range of choirs performing and discussed what they liked and disliked.



Henry: The second choir we listened to sang a song with a slower tempo. I didn't like that song so much.

They took inspiration from the choirs and then performed their own animal song. They did a great job of changing the dynamics when making animal noises in the song!

Chester Zoo

Year 1 had a great trip to Chester Zoo recently. They were lucky enough to see a range of amazing animals and they learned lots of new facts!



Dangerous Dragons!

This half term, Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed reading 'The Dragon Machine'. As they reached the end of their text, they have written stories detailing what they think would happen next based on what they know about the main character. The children enjoyed planning their story and using all of the skills they have learnt to write their own stories.

Finley – I think that George and his new dragon go on an adventure to dragon world.



Luca – I think in the next part of the story they go on an adventure to a chocolate factory.



Music

This half term, children have enjoyed their African safari themed music lessons. The children have been able to recognise sounds that animals might make as well as being able to produce these sounds using their bodies and eventually moving to using instruments and performing their own musical sequences.



Follow the Tracks

Year 2's history topic this half term has been all about George Stephenson. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the history of trains and have also enjoyed finding out how this links to them locally. They shared their experiences of Linear Park and then they watched old footage of the railway that used to be there.



PSHE

The Year 2 children displayed excellent reflective skills when they discussed the meaning of mental health as part of Children's Mental Health Week. They were able to reflect on times when they had negative feelings and discussed why it is harder to fix than if you fell and cut your knee. The children then went on to identify people they can rely on for help and support when they need it and also set themselves a personal challenge that would help them to grow as a person.

Rose – If you keep your sad feelings inside and don't tell a grown-up, it will make you more upset.

Darcey – It will make you feel better if you tell a grown-up that you trust.



English

This half term, the children of Year 3 have been studying the text *Stone Age Boy* by Satoshi Kitamura. They have looked at a range of different elements such as punctuating speech, writing in the past tense and using a range of varied and rich vocabulary. From this the children have written a recount of the story, either from the boy's perspective or Om's perspective. They have all worked exceptionally hard during this unit and the writing the children have produced has been truly wonderful.

Sienna - We wrote our own story from the Boy's point of view, it was really fun.

Music

After the amazing music concert back in December, the children have been learning a range of new skills and songs that include the new elements. One of the newest chords that they have been learning is G - green. They have applied G chord to songs such as 'Shotgun' by George Ezra and 'One Love' by Bob Marley.

Harry - I found playing G tricky because it uses 3 fingers.

G chord



PSHE

Year 3's focus in PSHE this half term has been looking at living in a wider world and belonging to a community.



The children have looked at the golden rules, the different types of families and everybody has a right to an education. They have also taken part in children's mental health week where they spent time thinking about the people around us who lift them up and set themselves new personal goals to achieve.

Edith - We used the stars to set ourselves new goals and spent time reflecting on the people who lift us up and support us.

Geography

This half term, the children have completed a geography unit focusing on changes over time which links with our previous history unit of the Stone Age. The children have looked at how landscapes change over time and the reasons for that. They have used the atlas to name and locate UK regions, cities and towns. They have also looked at human and physical geography and applied that knowledge to our local area.

Halle - We used atlas to help us understand where cities are located

Brilliant Board Games

As part of our current science topic of forces and magnets, the children have applied their knowledge of what a force is and have looked at how pushes and pulls are used in daily life. The children used this learning to help them design and make their own interactive board games. Once made the children were able to share and play each other's games.

Georgie - We used magnetics to make and control our own games. I liked playing other people's games.



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English – Blue John



Year 4 are now coming to the end of their class text, Blue John. They have used this text to create some amazing work including researching and writing non-chronological reports about the Treak Cliff Caverns. They then went on to using this information to reply to a letter from the 'Curious Caver', answering questions that he had asked the children now that they are cave experts. Some of the children have even been to the Blue John Caves during this and have brought some of the famous Blue John Stone into class to talk about.

Ralph – I've enjoyed doing the report because I found out lots of information about the Blue John Caves.



Footprints around Europe

Throughout this topic Year 4 have been learning about different countries in Europe, including some parts of Russia focussing on the difference between human and physical features of these countries and making comparisons between data of temperatures and tourism numbers. They have also worked in groups to research a capital city of their choosing, created a non-chronological report and presented their findings with the rest of their class.



Tom - I really enjoyed learning about different countries and finding out information about Berlin for my report.

Celebration – Sponsored Run

The children put in a fantastic effort for their enterprise task. They collected sponsorship money and ran 100 laps of the school field throughout the day. So far the class have managed to raise a huge £577 which will go towards their residential trip to Arête when they are in Year 6. What an achievement! Well done!



Jack G - I enjoyed doing the run and raising money for our residential trip.

Rock around the Clock

The class have been listening to and learning about music from the 1950s. They have focussed on the origins of the music and they have learnt and sang the song Rock Around the Clock and performed the hand jive.



Harry - I enjoyed learning Rock around the Clock because singing is one of my favourite hobbies and I love dancing too so I liked the hand jive.

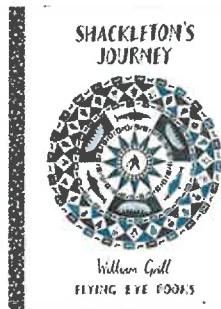
Belonging to a community

Year 4 have learnt about so much during PSHE. They have been focussing on their local community and the significance of people's jobs within it and how it impacts on them. They have also looked at the lives of others in less affluent parts of the world and compared their lives with that of others.



Ella - I've liked learning about different cultures and comparing it to our lives.

Epic Journeys



For several weeks now, Year 5 have been immersed in the epic story of Ernest Shackleton's attempt to cross the Antarctic. Using William Grill's beautifully illustrated text Shackleton's

Journey as their vehicle, the children have been considering what it would be like to spend years trapped in the frozen wastes and the skill, courage and camaraderie of the crew to try and survive.



Initially, the children looked at the forming of the crew – their varied skills and backgrounds; considered the equipment needed to survive and also what the world itself was like at the time. They quickly became enthralled with Shackleton's determination and desire to 'make a name for himself' using this as the basis for a range of grammar, reading and written tasks. We are all looking forward to reading the children's extended writing tasks based on the text.

Isabelle W – I thought it was really brave of the photographer to hang from the boat while he took photos. I wouldn't do that!

Music

Over the past six weeks, the children have been investigating South and West African musical heritage and the importance of language within

musical culture. Through their work on the music of the Bantu people, Year 5 have developed deeper awareness of percussive rhythms and how tempo and dynamics change the effect for the listener.



The children used singing, drumming and dance to perform the Shosholoza. Check out the link to hear their great performance.
Charlotte C – I enjoyed singing a solo and learning about songs from different countries.

Where am I?



As part of their cartography work, the children have been looking into how we locate our

position in the world. The systems they have studied may seem confusing but can be a matter of life and death. The children spent time in class looking at how Ordnance Survey (OS) maps can help us use landmarks and the features of the land to navigate. They then moved on to work with four and six-figure grid references. The link below can help you test your own knowledge.

Year 5 also got active using their mapping skills when they used our new orienteering map around the school grounds.

Jonah – I like using the grid references to find things on the map and creating my own six-figure references.

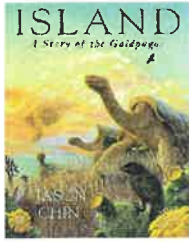
PSHE

We all have rights which govern what life should be like for each of us and for children these are very specific. Year 5 have been

investigating their place in the global community and how we can show the respect for others that all robins treasure. They maturely discussed the need for rights and how when these break down society suffers. This learning also extended into their RE studies of the Jewish faith and how the commandments guide the lives of believers.

Sienna – I liked learning about human rights and I found out that the law isn't the same for everyone and I think it should be fair.





English

Closely linked to our Science topic 'Evolution', Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed learning about the constant cycle of life which occurs on the Galapagos Islands. The

children studied the work of Charles Darwin and demonstrated such a strong understanding of the significance of his Theory of Evolution, that they were able to create a wonderful journalistic report about the Islands and, in particular, Darwin's findings. In addition to this text, the children also studied the text 'Jemmy Button' which tells the story of a native boy who was taken from his home on the HMS Beagle (the ship which took Darwin to the Galapagos Islands). Based on their understanding of the text, the children debated whether or not taking Jemmy was morally justified and this led to a superb balanced argument about the event.

Tyler: *I really enjoyed finding out about Darwin's discoveries and understanding more about adaptation.*

Music

Year 6 continue to take part in their weekly gospel singing lessons and each week, they take their performances to the next level! This half term the children have been learning a number of different songs but the one which stands out is 'Amazing Grace'. The harmonies produced by the children in this moving piece are simply stunning and staff around school who are fortunate enough to hear the children are taken back by how beautiful it sounds.

Caroline, our gospel teacher from Accent Music, has been waxing lyrical about just how talented our Year 6 cohort are and we echo those sentiments!

We are hopeful of being able to perform to our parents/carers in the run up to Easter so watch this space for more news!

Alex B: *I have enjoyed learning about the meanings of songs as well as just singing them. Gospel singing can impact people's lives in a positive way.*

History

Our Viking topic has been a real hit with the children this half term with many of the class showing great enthusiasm for learning and finding out more. Across the unit of work, the children explored the Viking attack on Lindisfarne (which was the dawning of a new era in British history), the reasons behind the invasion and how Britain changed because of these events. As well as learning about key events, the children developed their historical inquiry skills by understanding about primary, secondary and tertiary sources of evidence, then explaining which were most reliable and why.

Alexander W: *The history of the Vikings is fascinating. I enjoyed learning about the unique powers of the Viking Gods.*

PSHE

Stereotyping and discrimination have been two key areas of focus during our PSHE lessons this half term. The children were introduced to these terms and given scenarios to consider where there were examples of the two taking place. Interestingly, the class were startled to hear that in years gone by, there were jobs which were seen as 'gender specific'. It was another fine example of just how mature and inclusive our children are. It has been mentioned before but well worth mentioning again, discussions around sensitive subjects like the aforementioned truly emphasise what well-rounded young citizens we have here at Newchurch.

Rowan: *I enjoyed our discussions because it was a reminder to everyone to come together and realise that stereotyping isn't acceptable.*



Celebrate SUCCESS

Dancing to Success!



Anais in Year 2 took her first ballet and tap exams just before Christmas and she passed. She was awarded with rosettes from the International Dance Teachers Association (IDTA) in Ballet - Beige Rosette and Tap - Red Rosette.

All her family and friends (both at home and at Newchurch) are very proud of her achievement. goes to Golden Dance Studio in Atherton.



Nancy-Ann in Reception recently took part in a show with her ballet friends in front of an audience. How wonderful that our dancers are able to perform in front of audiences again.

Mixing with legends



Cruz (Y1) and his sister, Milan (a future Newchurch robin) attended the Westham verses Kidderminster to watch their Daddy play. They were able to go on set and meet Alan Shearer and Dion Dublin, the football pundits. Sadly they didn't get the result they wanted, but only just.... Kidderminster were 1-0 for the majority of the game and would have made history. We even spied Cruz and his mum on TV. To top the day off, Cruz got Declan Rice's shirt too and was in the Guardian and Times newspaper!



Double Celebration



Ffion (Y2) took part in her district beaver challenge, this involved several work bases around her scout hut (inside and outside) where

each team had to solve a puzzle, try out a new skill or take part in a game. All activities were scored based on each team's effort and resilience to work together to problem solve through a task. There were 7 teams of 6 from each beaver colony around Warrington, Ffion is in 12th Warrington East. Ffion's team won and will take part (later in the year) representing the county for her challenge badge.

Rightly so, her parents are super proud of her. The weather was a shocker at the time of the challenge but it didn't put her off in the slightest.



In addition to this, Ffion also completed her swim stage 3 at her swim class, picking up her badge and certificate too.

How fantastic are all our robins? Well done.



Key Dates and Information

Dairy of Dates

Date	Event	Class involved
28.2.2022	School Opens	
1.3.2022	School Class photographs	All classes
3.3.2022	World Book Day	All classes
3.3.2022 @ 6pm	KS1 and KS2 SATs Meetings	Year 2 and Year 6 parents
7.3.2022	Reception Parental Conferences	Reception
7.3.2022	Art exhibition	All classes
7.3.2022 – 9.3.2022 and 14.3.2022 – 16.3.2022	Bike Right	Year 5
8.3.2022	Year 2 Parental Conferences	Year 2
9.3.2022	Year 3 Parental Conferences	Year 3
10.3.2022	Year 4 Parental Conferences	Year 4
10.3.2022	Gaia Exhibition – Parr Hall	Art, Science champions and Protectors of the Green team
10.3.2022	Reception and Year 1 Phonics and Reading workshop	Reception and Year 1 parents
11.3.2022	Year 5 Parental Conferences	Year 5
14.3.2022	Year 6 Parental Conferences	Year 6
15.3.2022	Year 1 Parental Conferences	Year 1
18.3.2022	Red Nose Day – World Sleep Day	All classes
23.3.2022	Lunchtime passport – Mexico Donations of Easter Eggs	All classes
25.3.2022 9:15am for KS2 parents 2:30pm for KS1 parents	Thank you service	All classes
1.4.2022	Easter Bingo	All classes
7.4.2022	School Closes	
19.4.2022	School Opens	
19.4.2022	Easter Eggstravaganza	All classes
20-22.4.2022	Kingswood residential	Year 4
5.5.2022	TTRockstars Day	All classes

January 2022

Date	Event	Class involved
9-13.5.2022	KS2 SATS week	Year 6
16-20.5.2022	KS1 SATS week	Year 2
25.5.2022	Lunchtime passport – Greece	All classes
27.5.2022	School Closes	
13.6.2022	School Opens	
13.6.2022	Multiplication Checks	Year 4
24.6.2022	Dare to be different day	All classes
7-8.7.2022	Burwardsley residential	Year 2
4.7.2022	Chester Zoo visit	Year 1
7.7.2022	Year 1 Warrington Museum	Year 1
7.7.2022	Synagogue visit	Year 5
11.7.2022	Reports sent home	
14.7.2022	Feast of Choirs	Year 6
15.7.2021	Robinfeast	
18.7.2022	KS1 Sports Day	KS1 classes
19.7.2022	KS2 Sports Day	KS2 classes
20.7.2022 @ 9:30am	Year 6 Production	Year 6
20.7.2022 @ 5:30pm	Year 6 Production and award ceremony	Year 6
21.7.2022	School Closes	



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 award 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 35 points.

Point to note...

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

Attendance:

EYFS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
93.6%	94.4%	93.4%	94.2%	93.7%	91.8%	91%

Our whole school target is 97%. Currently we are at 92.9% - 6.2% authorised due to COVID

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