



Welcome back

How great it has been to all be back together under one roof and we are so excited about what this half term will bring. We are delighted with the way in which the children have shown so much resilience and engagement in their learning.

As mentioned in our letter on Monday, we are moving to a monthly newsletter, which will be packed with information about the different curriculum activities the children have been engaged in. We hope that this will give you an insight into the broad and balanced curriculum Newchurch has to offer. Each class has their own page and we have included the PTA in this also. We hope you enjoy it.

Celebrating Black History Month



During the month of October, virtual assemblies have centred around the celebration of Black History Month. This has given the children an opportunity to learn about interesting and inspirational people in black history. They have found out about Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Jimi Hendrix, Martin Luther-King, Mary Bowser, Mary Seacole and Bill Richmond.

Isabelle (Y6): I really enjoyed learning about influential people during Black History Month and how they took a stand for what they believed in. These incredible people changed the future of the black community for the better.

Katie (Y6): The videos we watched were very informative and helped me to understand more about the plight of black people. In particular, I enjoyed hearing about how Harriet Tubman freed so many people from the hands of slave traders.

New starters September 2021



Do you know of anyone who has a child who is due to start primary school in September 2021? Please let them know that we are available for bespoke tours of our lovely school at their convenience. They just need to give us a ring or drop us an email.

A star is born...



For those families who have seen older siblings move through Newchurch, you may recall Gary Curtin who has been our Year 6 brass teacher for many years. Gary was the first euphonium player to study at degree level at the Cork School of Music, and he went on to study at Masters level. During his time at the Cork School of Music he was also awarded the Yamaha Solo Prize along with many other accolades. We are very lucky to have such an exceptional talent teaching our children. You can find more out about him on this website.

<https://www.fodensband.co.uk/about/band-members/soloists/gary-curtin/>

Gary has just released an album which displays his talented euphonium playing. Check out:

<https://www.lastrowmusic.com/eire-time-by-gary-curtin/>



Reception

30th October 2020

The Gingerbread Man



In Reception the children have been learning about the story of the Gingerbread Man and the different characters within the story. The Gingerbread Man even came to visit the children: he danced around the room and he delivered biscuits. The children made thank you cards, wrote letters and drew pictures.

The role play area changed into the Newchurch Bakery and the children enjoyed taking orders for food, putting the goods into bags and writing their own menus.

They made their own Gingerbread Men and used them to retell the story, saying, 'Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I am the Gingerbread Man.' They made their own story maps and innovated on the story by adding different characters to their own stories.

On outdoor learning the children made bridges and houses for the characters in the story and they worked together in teams. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Gingerbread Man.

Harry: "I liked it when the Gingerbread Man bought us cookies. Yummy."

Billy: "I liked making my own Gingey and I got to laminate it too."

Lissiella: "I liked playing in the Newchurch Bakery and making food for my friends."

Harper: "I liked it when we mixed all the ingredients together."

Numberblocks



In maths, the children have been exploring Numberblocks and they have been learning about a new number each day. They have been engaged in the different characters and how they help each other to make the new numbers.

The children can now identify different ways to make numbers to 5 and they can recall number facts to 5 too, which is fantastic!

The children have used these numbers to recognise o'clock, coin recognition 1pence, 2 pence and 5pence, the number of sides on a shape and how the numbers can be represented in different ways.

Jack: "I like learning about a new number every day."

Frankie: "I like using the cubes to build the numberblocks, we have painted with them to."

Harry: "We can make signs with our hands for equals."

Phonics



In September, the children started learning Phase 2 phonics and they can now recognise letters and the sounds that they make: some can even read and write simple cvc words. Phase 2 phonics involves playing games, learning new songs and actions and beginning to form letters and words. The children have made amazing progress.

Archie: "Singing the songs is the best bit."

Tilly: "I like phonics because I like learning new letters and capital letters."

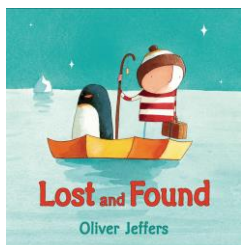
James: "I like playing the cowboy game."



Year 1

30th October 2020

This half term in Year One...



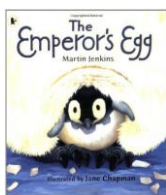
In English lessons, Year 1 have been exploring the text 'Lost and Found'. The story follows the adventure of a little boy trying to return a lost penguin to his home. A new friendship blossoms and the boy realises all the sad penguin needed was a friend.

Firstly, the children made predictions based on the clues they had from the front cover. They gazed into their crystals balls and used their imaginations to predict what could possibly have happened for the boy and penguin to be floating on an umbrella. Throughout the half term, they used their inference skills to explore character's feelings, took a closer look at the characters themselves before re-writing the story using the incredible vocabulary they had discovered along the way.

Jessica: The boy was worried because he couldn't find the penguin.

Chloe: They built a boat and were in a storm.

As the story came to life, so did their classroom. The children took on the job of sorting lost animals in the 'Post Office' before our role play corner transformed into a polar expedition centre. Penguins took over of our learning and the children painted stormy seas and collaged different South Pole creatures! The children had the opportunity to use the water tray to re-tell the storm scene from the story.



Sneek peek at Science...

In Science lessons this half term, the children have been investigating different types of materials and their properties. We kicked off the unit using the text 'Jumblebum'- a beast created from a vast amount of stinky, disgusting materials.



They named materials, grouped them and thought carefully about their purposes. Year One tested what materials they could use for a boat for the penguin and even what we could make Mr.Duckett's rain coat from! A paper coat was definitely not the best choice- unless they wanted him to get very soggy!

Getting into the rhythm...

Year One have truly blown Mrs.Storey away with their Musical talents during their music lessons each week. They have joined in with songs and developed their skills playing a glockenspiel.



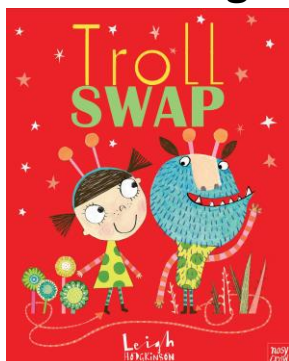
Mrs.Storey: The children have been amazing at finding the pulse in rap songs! They were confident in identifying the different instruments that they could hear in The Rapper's Delight and then played some of the notes on the glockenspiel.



Year 2

30th October 2020

Year Two's reading corner...



Year Two have been exploring the text, 'Troll Swap' by Leigh Hodgkinson. The story is about Timothy Limpet who feels out of place in the troll family – he likes things to be just so, and most trolls, frankly, don't. On the other hand, Tabitha Lumpit likes things to be loud, loopy and messy and she feels like a fish out of water in her very neat family.

Sometimes they wonder if their families really see them for who they are, so when Timothy and Tabitha meet on the bridge they each decide the other's family is a better fit and swap places . . . with hilarious and touching results.

Based around the time-honoured theme of 'home is where the heart is', this warm and witty story is a celebration of the individual and offers a valuable lesson on not judging others.

The children used the text to explore the use of expanded nouns to describe the setting and the characters. They had the opportunity to create their own troll and describe it. We definitely have some children with great imaginations in our Year Two class.

Georgie: I loved it when he went into the cave and it was all tidy because it made him happy.

Edith: It was a lovely book and in some parts it made us laugh. I really liked my troll and used some good adjectives to describe it.

With Christmas fast approaching, here are some other titles the children may enjoy:



What is also great is that every Nosy Crow paperback picture book comes with a free 'Stories Aloud' audio recording - just scan the QR code and listen along!

Inspired by Lowry



As part of their learning in Art and Design this half term, the children looked at the work of L.S Lowry. They found out that he was inspired by the place he grew up in. The children explored the use of colours to make different colours and how Lowry went about his paintings.

Halle: I found out that Lowry only used five colours: red, blue, yellow, black and white. He had to mix the colours different ways to make the colours he needed for his paintings.

Bronagh: Lowry painted matchstick people and factories. The paintings are quite dark – there are no bright colours really.

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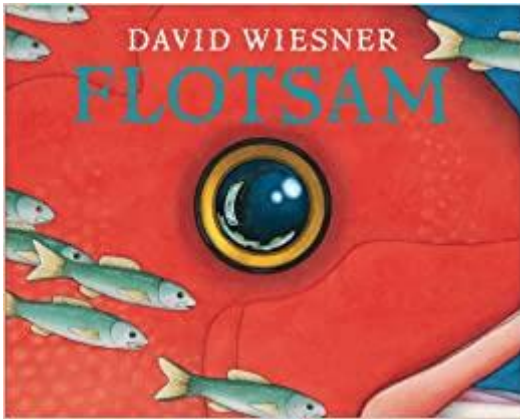
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Year 3

30th October 2020

Year Three's Reading Corner presents...



Last half term, Year Three explored the wordless text 'Flotsam'. The story follows a bright minded boy how goes to the beach equipped to collect and examine flotsam-anything floating that has been washed ashore. Bottles, lost toys, small objects of every description are among his usual finds. But there's no way he could have prepared for one particular discovery: a barnacle-encrusted underwater camera, with its own secrets to share and to keep.

Firstly, the children looked at the new vocabulary used and explored the definitions. They explored different sentence types, used nouns and adjectives to create expanded noun phrases. During the half term, they used their inference skills to explore the main character's feelings and took a closer look at the images before writing a recount of the story.

Harry: I really enjoyed predicting what the book would be about.

Lilly-May: I really enjoyed writing the recount.

Working Scientifically

As part of their learning in science, Year Three have been exploring light and dark. They have looked at light sources and what happens when a light source isn't present. Whilst exploring the topic of light, they have looked at how light reflects on different surfaces and how light reflects from mirrors.

Most recently, the children have been learning about the sun and the benefits and dangers that comes from it.

William: I enjoyed learning about how the sun can be dangerous.

Jack G: We have been learning about how light reflects from different surfaces.

Delving into the Stone Age

Year 3 have had their historian hats on as they have delved deep into the Stone Age. They have used their knowledge of chronology to create timelines. The children have looked at artefacts to make inferences based on what they could see and how they were used.

They have looked at cave paintings, why they were used and even had a go at making their own cave style painting. The children have also been practicing the skill of research when researching Stonehenge and the history behind it.



Lewis: My favourite lesson was the cave art lesson.

Walter: I liked using the iPads to research Stonehenge.

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Year 4

30th October 2020

The Wizard the Ugly and the Book of Shame



The children have been exploring the book, The Wizard, The Ugly and the Book of Shame. They started by predicting what would happen based on what they could see from the front cover and then after reading the first few pages had discussions about who the characters were, whether they are 'goodies or baddies' and why they think this. This is such a wonderful story with a very funny and happy ending that I know the children will love.

Ruby: What I like about the story is that all the characters have a different personality and it makes you wonder what is going to happen and why they are acting in a certain way.

Amazing Art

The children took their learning outside to work on their drawing skills in the style of Dan Mather by turning themselves into super heroes.



Lily: I liked how you could draw an outline of each other and I liked it how you colour it in and make which ever superhero that you wanted to.

What's the matter?



Starting their States of Matter topic in science, the children carried out an investigation to answer the question: 'Are all liquids are runny?' They compared water, custard and cornflour mixed with water by blowing bubbles, shaking and trying to mould it into shapes. The results were extremely messy, but worthwhile.

Emily: I enjoyed doing this investigation because when we had to shape it into a ball, the confflour and water stayed in the same shape and then it turned back into a liquid.

Hail Ceasar!

Right at the very start of the half term, Severus Septimus spent the day with Year 4 so they could learn all about the Roman lifestyle. They were shown different types of clothing, artefacts, tools and weapons that the Romans used. A fantastic day was had by all!



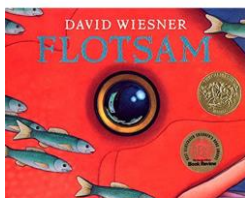
Charlotte B: I enjoyed when our visitor showed us all the weapons and when we learnt about what they ate and what they carried around.



Year 5

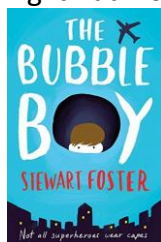
30th October 2020

Year Five's Reading Corner presents...



During the first half term, Year 5 (along with other KS2 classes covering a bridging unit) have been investigating a range of texts starting with the David Wiesner book *Flotsam*. The narrative, a journey into intrigue and imagination, takes place at the beach where a solitary young boy happens upon a strange object washed up by the sea. As the tale unfolds, the wondrous journey of the object through time and space is revealed. The children investigated a range of creative aspects linked to the text, along with the mechanical elements of writing: relative clauses, fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases.

Will: I got to know that flotsam was something which had fallen from a ship. I thought the book was interesting considering it had no words.



For pleasure, the children have been learning about the challenging life of Joe (the bubble boy). Enclosed in a hospital room since birth, Joe is susceptible to even the slightest of illnesses. In the current climate it is a heartwarming tale of resilience, friendship and the support of others. The children have used the text to develop their own guided reading skills.

Dylan: I felt really bad for Joe, because he has been in the bubble for so long.

Beyond our atmosphere...our favourite learning.



Across the wider curriculum, Year Five have been learning about North America including the life of rivers and how settlements are established. They have become master map readers through their studies of grid references. However, they have reached far further in their learning this half term...beyond the stars, in fact. From the way that gravity affects objects with mass to the relationship that the earth has with the sun and moon, the children have reached out into the cosmos.

To support their learning further, they are moving onto the text *The Darkest Dark* – the autobiographical story of Chris Hadfield and his own, very real, journey into space.

Rowan: I never knew what a black hole was until I started learning about space. Now I know that it can bend light and pull things in.

Joe: Before our topic, I never knew a lot about space. Now I know about matter and energy. I also know about what planets need to be inhabitable.

Imogen: I never realised that there was a star bigger than our sun. I also know more about gravity.

Zak: I know about enormous stars and I have also done lots of my own research at home – including about UY Scuti.

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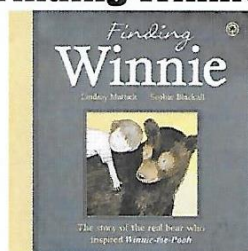
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Year 6

30th October 2020

Finding Winnie



Year Six are currently exploring the text, 'Finding Winnie'. It is an exciting and engaging book which tells the story of the real Winnie the Pooh, and ties loose ends together seamlessly with some truly beautiful artefacts which leave the children in awe.

From a learning perspective, the book is a wonderful tool to help the children develop their ability to infer and deduce information which we have already seen in class. The children are showing excellent knowledge of how to support their viewpoint with evidence from the text.

Our studying of the text will culminate in the children demonstrating their knowledge of learnt grammatical features to produce a biography for a very famous war veteran.

William: I am looking forward to finding out how the main character, Harry Colebourn, influenced the war and raised a famous bear!

Shocking Science

Electricity is Year Six's current Science topic and our Robins have begun their learning by carrying out some self-exploration to discover whether or not circuits would work under different conditions.

It has been fantastic to see how immersed they were and asking many, 'What if...@ questions to find out more.



Over the next few weeks, Year Six will be exploring electricity much more in-depth and completing an investigation to find out if we can light up a bulb using a lemon of all things!

Finley: We buildt circuits and had to look closely for errors in the circuit which would prevent the electrical components from operating correctly.

Music to my ears!



Brass instrument lessons are proving a real hit with the children. It is quite unbelievable how quickly they have picked up a new skill and are eager to continue their development.

Be inspired...



Inspired by the work of the famous watercolour artist, Sosthene Weis, the Year 6 children have been working hard to develop their painting technique to create some truly stunning artwork of their own. They mixed colours effectively to alter the shade and tint, and in doing so, produced beautiful compositions.

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Newchurch PTA

30th October 2020

PTA AGM

Last night, the PTA held their Annual General Meeting. The officers for the coming academic year are:

Chair	Lisa Beilinski
Vice Chair	Claire Howarth-Platt
Secretary	Vicky Beddall
Treasurer	Jill Saunders
Risk and Communications Officer	Helen Buckley

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!

Monster Mayhem – our first fundraiser of the year!

The school uniform was very interesting today as the children donned their favourite ghoulish costumes in exchange for £1 towards our school fundraising. The children look absolutely amazing! Each child has been given a 'treat' of a tube of smarties which they can devour after school; however, there is a 'trick'! Once the smarties have been eaten, the children must use the tube to collect 20p coins in exchange for doing chores around the house or simple acts of kindness. Here are some of our great costumes!



We hope the children have a safe and enjoyable Halloween. Remember, there is a scavenger hunt in the village.

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Key Dates and Information

30th October 2020



Dairy of Dates

Date	Event	Class involved
30.10.2020	Monster Mayhem dress up day	All classes
4.11.2020 at 6:15pm	Parent Board meeting	Members of Parent Board
w/c 16.11.2020	Anti-bullying Week	All classes
w/c 23.11.2020	Progress Week	All classes
27.11.2020	Dress down day (donations for foodbank)	All classes
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	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 RECEPTION are the ones to beat who have 20 points having had two 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 classes as an authorised absence anyway on the system.

Current attendance figures to date are:

EYFS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
98.5%	97.9%	97.9%	98.5%	98.6%	94.3%	98.3%

Our school target is 97%. Well done everyone!

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