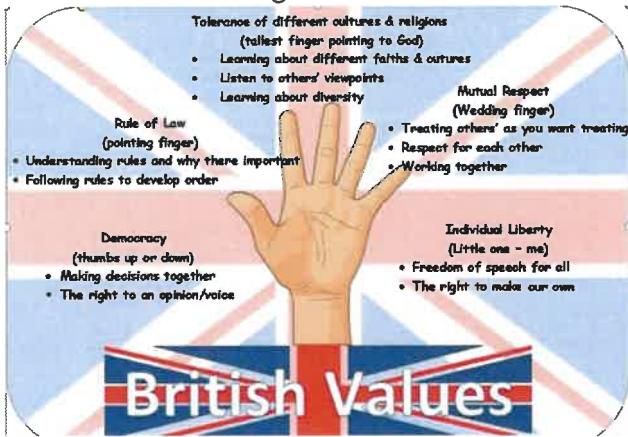




# Newchurch Newsletter

January 2023

What a great start to the New Year the children have had! It has been wonderful seeing how they have come back to school full of energy and enthusiasm for learning.



Over the last few weeks, the assemblies delivered with the children have explored the theme of **DISCRIMINATION**. The children have been extremely mature in their discussions about incidents where people have been discriminated against because of the colour of their skin and their religion.

Continuing to ensure that the children have a firm understanding of the Fundamental British Values, the children looked at the importance of 'Mutual Respect'. Exploring how footballers on opposing teams showed respect for one another was a vehicle for some great discussion regarding how we should show respect for one another and treat others as we would like to be treated.

**Ben A (Y6):** We should all respect each other because it would be a horrible world. If someone is mean to you, there is no need to be mean back to them.

## I have a dream...

The 16<sup>th</sup> of January marked the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr Day. The children learned that at the time Martin Luther King lived,



much of America did not allow the same rights to all its citizens - for example, a black person might not be allowed to go to the same places or do the same things as a white person. They discovered that Dr King devoted his life to finding peaceful ways to struggle against that injustice and became a figurehead for what is known as the Civil Rights Movement. They went on to learn that he is particularly famous for a speech he gave - one of the most famous speeches of all time - in which he outlined his vision for a fairer, more just society for everyone - the 'I have a dream' speech.

The children watched the following video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=113wJ7pJUig> which helped them understand how society can discriminate against people because of the colour of their skin and help the children understand about 'white privilege'.

**Frankie (Y6):** when I first saw the picture I didn't realise who he is. I know now he was a really good man and how he stood up for black people to have their own rights.

## Holocaust Memorial Day

Our last assembly in January, focused on the memorial of the Holocaust.



Children learned

about the discrimination towards people of the Jewish faith during World War Two. We were so very proud of the maturity of the children during this assembly and the way in which they showed so much empathy for the Jewish children



they learned about in the assembly who were alive during the war.

**Charlotte B (Y6):** I didn't really know most of the information and learnt lots of new things. I knew about Anne Frank but didn't realise that the Nazis had different rules for Jewish people. It made me feel sad to hear of people being treated badly because of their religious beliefs.

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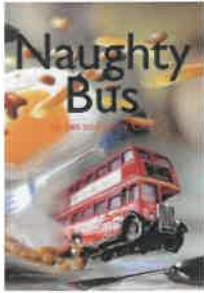
Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway  
[www.newchurchprimary.co.uk](http://www.newchurchprimary.co.uk)

**If you have any concerns about Child Protection or Health and Safety,  
Please contact school**

# Reception

January 2023

## The Naughty Bus



Throughout this half term the children have been reading the story of the Naughty Bus. They have been using their phase 2 and 3 phonic knowledge to read and write simple sentences about the buses adventures. They have been matching pictures and words.



**Betty:** "The Naughty bus has been in lots of trouble."

**Oliver :** "We named all the parts of the bus."

## London Landmarks

The children have been learning about all the famous landmarks in London. Using block play, the children have been recreating landmarks such as Big Ben, Tower Bridge and even Number Ten Downing Street.



**Carter:** "We made the city of London and we built all the different places. We worked as a team."

Using large pieces of paper, the children created their own maps of London, added the landmarks and labelled the places. The children were able to talk about the landmarks.

**Milan:** "I made a map of London and I drew a picture of Big Ben."

## PE - Apparatus

The children have been exploring the large apparatus, where they have been using their balancing and climbing skills. Each week, the children have been taking more risks by climbing higher on the climbing frame and on the ropes. They are showing their core values.

**Charlie:** "I can use the ropes to swing and I can swing over the top using two ropes."

**Carter:** "I can balance on the benches and I can jump from the top of the red tables."

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### Crazy Crime Scene!

Year One came into their classroom one day to find a crime scene! There was porridge left in three bowls and even some all over the floor! There were even three chairs, a small, medium and a big one! There were signs to say that an intruder had been spotted and they could not cross!

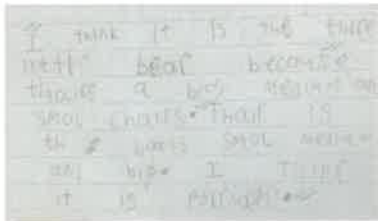


After some super investigatory work Year

One came to the conclusion that they thought it could have been Goldilocks or the Three Bears who had been sneaking around our classroom. The

children started their new text 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and thought it must have been them!

Children then went on to write their own stories.



We also started a new text 'Goldilocks and Just the One Bear' where children used the knowledge from our other book to come up with predictions about what our story could possibly be about.

### Geography

As part of their new topic, Year One's have been learning all about maps. We explored different site maps and looked at how keys can be used to represent different places. Children then applied their knowledge and created their very own map of the classroom and used a key for reference.

Children have also explored the school grounds and used directional language to describe where different places are.

**Tommy:** *I liked looking for human and physical features all around the school.*

**Pippa:** *There are lots of physical features in Forest School.*



### Moving Monkeys!

As part of their new PE topic Year One are putting their bodies into action. Children have tested different shapes and looked for all the different ways they can move their bodies. Children listened to music and animal sounds and moved their bodies accordingly. Children were able to use their bodies to represent the different animals and how they might move.



### Computing

Children have been learning about the different ways people communicate online.

They have discussed how they might use technology online; like Mathletics and online reading as well as reflecting on how grown up at home and in school might use different platforms to communicate. Children learnt

about emails and we even sent one to Miss Sullivan to see how teachers communicate.

Children then

composed their own emails to teachers across school and uploaded them to Seesaw.

Dear miss stacey

I have been happy to, Day .

Have you been happy to,iv bin very happy evry day.

Love from Mutahara and bella

Dear Miss Nawarway

The three little Beirs came in to are class room and thair was porrij on are flar.

Love from Jasmine and Nancy-am



### Father and I into the Wood

Year 2 have made a fantastic start to their English lessons this year, exploring the poem **Father and I into the wood** by **David McCord**. Inspired by the onomatopoeic vocabulary, the children revelled in the task of creating a whole class woodland poem, which they were able to perform with confidence. The children then used the rich vocabulary they had acquired to produce some amazing shape poems, word poems and individual versions of woodland poems. They rose to the task of using interesting adjectives, verbs, onomatopoeic language, alliteration and rhyme and were eager and excited to celebrate each other's success when their poems were read out loud.

**Jack:** *We made shape poems and it was fun thinking of different ways to describe the animals.*

### PE



This half term year 2 have been participating in unfamiliar tagging games. They will be working to develop their

dodging, teamwork, co-operation, co-ordination and communication skills, as well as improving their travelling skills, by learning and applying the rules of the different games. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning these new games and have been enthusiastic in suggesting ways in which they can make adaptations.

**James:** *I have really enjoyed learning different ways to play tag and thought it was more fun when there were more taggers.*

### The Queen's Handbag



In Geography this term, the children are being virtually transported around the four countries of the UK, with the help of Steve Antony's book 'The Queen's Handbag'. The children are confidently able to locate all four countries on a map, name the capital city of each country and identify key characteristics; for example the famous Loch Ness in Scotland or the beautiful White Cliffs of Dover in England. As well as the physical features of each country, the children are able to identify and name human features of the countries such as the historic Edinburgh Castle in Scotland and the royal residence of Buckingham Palace in London, England. The children have delighted at being able to share personal stories of places they have visited within the UK and the different landmarks they have seen.

**Thomas:** *I have enjoyed learning about all the different countries of the UK. I found it interesting that Edinburgh Castle is built on a volcanic plug.*

### Computing

In computing this term, Year 2 have been learning about internet safety and how everything they do online leaves a trail called a digital footprint. They understand the importance of using technology safely and respectfully and the need of keeping personal information private. We have looked at how we can improve the efficiency of our online searches and the types of websites that are best for children to access when looking for information. The children are aware of how they can identify inappropriate content and the people they can go to for help.

**Finlay:** *We have been learning about how to stay safe. I know not to tell people my personal information.*

## The River's Tale

Year 3 made a great start to their English lessons this month by exploring an extract from **Rudyard Kipling's** poem **The River's Tale**. They loved listening to the poem, exploring unfamiliar vocabulary and using their historical knowledge to interpret what they thought the River Thames was remembering when talking about the past. They enjoyed working in teams to map historical events along their own river creations. They then used this to write their own poems on what they thought the river saw throughout time. They worked really hard to make their poems 'ear-catching' by using interesting adjectives, verbs, adverbs, alliteration and rhyme. They produced some amazing work and it was great to see the pride they took when writing and illustrating their poems and the eagerness to read their poems out loud.



**Dexter:** I remember the resting round house being guarded by a shimmering sabre-tooth tiger.

## Computing

In computing, Year 3 have been learning how to stay safe and protect their identity online. They have explored online bullying and have thought about how they should behave online.

**Darcey:** You should treat people online the same way you would in real life. You should be kind and speak nicely to people.

## PE

Year 3 are enjoying exploring the different skills needed in netball. So far, they have been developing throwing and catching and have practised the bounce pass, chest pass and overhead pass. They had fun applying their skills and taking on the roles of thrower, defender and receiver in short games and tasks and have started to explore the rules of footwork in the game, practising their pivots to perfection!



**Mariela:** In a chest pass you use both hands to make a W shape so you have control of the ball and can pass quickly.



## History

Year 3 are enjoying learning about life in Ancient Egypt. They have started to explore key events and achievements and have created a timeline to show these. They have begun to explore pharaohs, pyramids, mummification and have explored how and why the River Nile was important to Ancient Egyptian life.

**Luca:** The Egyptians used the river to fish and to wash. The river would flood and they would grow food in the mud.

### Minecraft Madness

Last half term, the children were tasked to complete a range of challenges linked to minecraft. The children already had a great understanding of the app itself and used what they already knew to apply it to different tasks and challenges.

**Noah** - We had to use our knowledge of minecraft to complete different challenges. We all really enjoyed it.



### Let's get physical...

This half term year 4 will be taking part in bench ball. They will be working to develop their passing, defending and teamwork skills by learning and applying the rules of the game to compete in teams. So far, the children have been looking at the skills linked to the game so have been working on their throwing and catching skills, as well as developing different ways of travelling.

**Jacob** - We have been working hard to practise our attacking and defending skills.



### Footprints around Europe

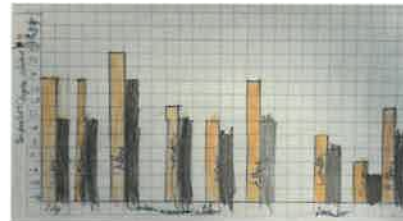
Throughout this topic Year 4 have been learning about different countries in Europe, including some parts of Russia focusing on the difference between human and physical features of these countries and making comparisons between data of temperatures and tourism numbers. They have also worked in groups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

**Beatrice** - I really enjoyed learning about Europe and making a non-chronological report on Berlin.

### Poetry Perfection

Windrush Child by John Agard is a poem based on the journey made by children

and their families as part of the Windrush Generation.



on. Inspired by this, the children of Year Four were tasked with writing their own poem imagining that they were leaving Britain and heading for Jamaica. Alliteration and similes were the focus for this poem and the children came up with some excellent examples of them.

**Edith** - We used Windrush child to inspire our own poems all about leaving Britain and the things we would miss.



### My Online Life

As part of their computing curriculum, all of our Newchurch Robins look at their relationship with social media and the internet as a whole. Having covered ways to keep themselves safe in previous years, Year 5 investigate their online persona and what it says about them. So far they have considered the often skewed reality of what we see online, how their actions are viewed



Kids react to mean comments

and how they are ultimately accountable for their online reputation. The content is challenging and shows the children just how uplifting or detrimental our online actions can be.

**Harry - 'It is important to be sensible when posting to the internet because it will remain somewhere on the internet forever.'**

### Dance Masters

The PE curriculum is a varied one with common elements, such as athletics and ball games, being accompanied by wider elements of adventure and creativity. Dance is certainly in this bracket and Year 5 have looked at how they can use their dance vocabulary, such as motifs, tempo and balancing, to create their own sequences. The result has seen the children create expressive and ambitious dances building on their PE skills and their teamwork.



**Ella - 'We have been learning all about how we can use changes to height, tempo and direction to create a sequence of movements.'**

### North America

We may not be able to jet around the world in reality but that has not stopped Year 5 from getting to grips with our neighbouring Atlantic continent. Initially studying the topographical features through mapping, the children have moved on to investigating biomes and making comparisons with their own locality.

Thinking like a geographer is the real skill, one which they will be able to apply to their learning about any part of the planet. Year 5

will be taking advantage of their library visit on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb to carry out some fieldwork in the village and compare Culcheth to Churchill, Manitoba – one of the most northerly settlements on the planet.

**Sophia - 'We have been learning about biomes which refer to a specific type of land in a specific area. A few different examples include Alpine, grassland and desert biomes.'**



### Song of Hiawatha

This half term's poetry unit took Year 5 to the Great Lakes of North America and 'Gitche-Gumee', which we call Lake Superior. There

they encountered the tale of Hiawatha and his epic battle with the giant sturgeon Mische-Nahma. The children investigated rhythm within poetry, crafting their own

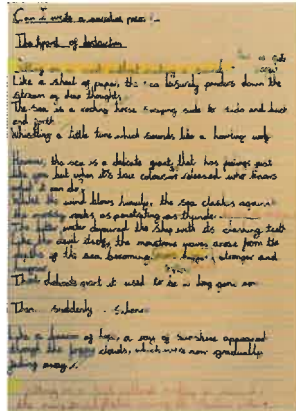
syllabic verses which played with imagery and the reader's experience of the verse.

**William - 'We were inspired to write our own poems using eight syllables per line to tell the story of Hiawatha using ambitious vocabulary and the style of the poet.'**



## English Poetry - The Sea

To begin the year, the children have been broadening their vocabulary by creative narrative poems. Using figurative language features such as personification and metaphors, they were able to bring the sea to life with some beautifully crafted writing. In order to ensure their writing is of the highest standard, there has been a real focus on proof-reading and editing to identify opportunities to develop ideas for the benefit of the reader. A video of some of our children performing their poems can be found on our Twitter page @NewchurchCP.



**Ruby:** We studied the effectiveness of figurative language and identified how it was an excellent way of expressing yourself as a writer, but also a strategy to help engage the reader.

## Horrible History!

Crime and punishment throughout British history is the theme of our history topic this half term. Dating back to 400BC, the children first looked at how the Romans brought criminals to justice through an ancient court system. We then fast-forwarded to Anglo-Saxon times where the children identified that justice was neither fair nor

proportionate to the crimes committed. To help share their understanding, Year 6 produced some fantastic information booklets about Anglo Saxon crimes



and punishments for other classes to read and enjoy.

**Aiva:** I discovered that trials and punishments in Roman and Anglo Saxon times were flawed because the likelihood of being found innocent was highly unlikely - even if you were!

## Gymnastics



Gymnastics is our focus in PE lessons this half term. The children have been pushing their boundaries in challenging themselves on the apparatus. Of all the equipment, they found it tricky when climbing the ropes and maintaining their grip. As the weeks have progressed, so too has their grip and core strength and now we are seeing the children take delight in their ability to scale up and across the ropes. They have also been working on balances and counter-balances at a range of heights.

**Sienna:** We have developed our balancing ability on each piece of equipment. I have enjoyed working on the beam the most as I have been challenging myself to cartwheel across without falling off.

## Safer Internet Skills

Our topic for this half term centres around the ways in which we can stay safe online and understand that not everything we read is indeed factual information. The children have been provided scenarios involving influencers, social media and marketing ploys which they could easily be exposed to in the real world. They were able to identify potential threats and were clear on ensuring that they inform a responsible adult when unsure of how to deal with a situation themselves.

**Joe:** I learnt not to be lured into believing everything I read online. IT is important to get all the facts before forming an opinion.





### The dancing gymnast!

We are super proud of Lily (Y1) after entering her first gymnastics competition in November, she did amazingly well and was placed second in her vault routine.



She also had her first official dance exam in front of an independent judge. Her teacher describes her as 'an explosion of sass'! She danced her little heart out and passed her exam scoring 'very good' in every category. Congratulations, Lily.



### Music Sensation!

Congratulations to Carter (Y4) who has recently passed his Grade One in trumpet.

### Karate Kid

Alexandra (Y6) recently completed her first grading for her brown belt and achieved it. She will be taking part in another two brown belt gradings over the coming months in order to go for her black belt. Each of these gradings and belts are equivalent to different adult belts. She has been training with North West Karate Academy since she was 5 years old and practices a number of different Katas, padwork (Kumite) Sparring and self defence (Tequmi) techniques.



### And there's more...

Alexandra also competed in her 1<sup>st</sup> Competition of the cheer season at the beginning of December which was held at Winter Gardens in Blackpool. This year Alexandra is competing with a higher level team (Juniors Level 1) Her team placed 4<sup>th</sup> in their division; they hit zero (no drops or mistakes) and scored the maximum pints they could for their routine. Well done, Alexandra.



*Please remember we would love to hear more of any children's achievements outside of school. Simple send us a photograph and a little write up and we will share our Newchurch Robins' achievements.*



## Key Information



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.

**Year 4 are currently leaders with twenty-five points.**

### Attendance since the start of the year:

EYFS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
94.8%	94.0%	96.2%	96.2%	96.8%	97.6%	96.8%

**Our whole school target is 97%. Currently we are at 96.1%.**

January 2023

### GIRLS RUGBY TRAINING

Would you like to try a different type of sport? We are looking for primary school aged girls to join our club and have fun playing rugby.

**Culcheth Eagles already has a number of girls' teams but we are looking for new players to join!**

Training is every Monday and Wednesday during the season

Under 12s Squad  
Under 16s Squad

We offer an inclusive training environment. Each Squad covers a range of different primary school year groups

**It doesn't matter if you have played before or have no experience, why not come along for a no obligation training session and chat with our fully qualified and experienced coaching team and our current players**

If Parents/ Guardians would like more information on training times, or just an informal chat about the team, they can contact the Coach, Graeme, on 07980 728502

**Author Visit (Year 5 and Year 6)**  
**10<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

### About the Book

The Hooters is the mysterious first novel penned by primary school teacher and private tutor Amy Watson. It centres around Benjamin and his dad as they deal with the loss of Benjamin's mother and lock themselves away to ignore the world without her in it. Until one day they are visited by a beautiful creature with familiar eyes, who they believe holds her soul, and they set out to live a nocturnal life so they can be a family again.

**Author Book Signing Happening Here Soon**

Available to order now from the following retailers

A letter will be sent out for books to be purchased at a cost of £5 each and the author will sign the children's copy.

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