

## Reception Brown Bears and Polar Bears Governors Report

Wow once again we have had a fantastic year in Reception! Full of excitement, learning, challenge, laughter and fun! We hope you enjoy reading about some of the exciting learning experiences we have had.

### Lord Mayor Competition - Angel of the North

At the beginning of the year we entered a competition commemorating 800 years of Mayoralty. The brief was to provide recycled art work, sculpture or floral design to celebrate 800 years of Newcastle Lord Mayor. We looked at local landmarks and decided to recreate the Angel of the North using plastic milk bottles. We had great fun planning and creating our model and learnt about the importance of recycling.



## The local area

Over the Autumn term we visited lots of different places in our local area. Our visits included:

Hodgkin Park - we looked at seasonal changes, sculptures and the new developments in the play area. Whilst on our visit we recorded our observations, drew pictures and took rubbings of the many interesting things we saw.



Scotswood Café - we transformed our home corner into a role play Café which the children loved. In small groups we walked to Scotswood Café and had some toast and juice. We looked at the menus and helped to count out the money to pay for our food. Following the visit the children were even more excited to engage in the Café role play; taking orders, making food and paying for their snacks.





St James' Church - we spent a chilly frosty morning exploring the cemetery and engaging in Forest school activities. These included, building a home for a mini beast, collecting and comparing leaves, ordering them by size, making a leaf animal and learning about the wildlife that can be found living there.



Newcastle City Centre - we used public transport to travel into town, spotting and discussing familiar sights along the way. Seeing it was Christmas we visited Fenwick window and were very excited to see it was based on the tales of Beatrix Potter this year. We were so excited to read some of her stories when we got back to school. We also walked through Eldon Square to look at the Christmas decorations and finished with a walk through the Christmas market - the smells were amazing!



The Post Office - after writing our Christmas letters to Santa we visited the local Post Office to send them off to the North Pole. In small groups we each took our letters to be weighed, stamped and then put in the bag ready to be delivered to Santa.



### Build-a-bear visit

As an incentive for the children to come to school every day we had a trip to Fenwick in town. We visited Build-a-Bear where each class got to choose and help to make a bear to bring back to school. We had lots of fun looking at all of the different teddies, clothes and accessories and had a vote to decide which ones to choose. The Brown Bears have Scooby the dog and the Polar Bears have Sparkles the monkey; both teddies go home with someone each night to have a sleepover. Every Friday, the bear's go home with a child who has been in school all week for the weekend. We really look forward to reading and hearing about what the bear's got up to with our children at home.





## Christmas

Christmas is always a very exciting time at Bridgewater! We all dressed up smartly for our Christmas party day. We played games in the hall and had a dance to some of our favourite songs. One of the most exciting parts of the day was a visit from Santa Claus. All of the children were delighted to see him in our school and were wondering where his sleigh and reindeers were?



We had lots of Christmassy fun during December, such as comparing different baubles and decorations, making Christmas crackers and helping Santa to weigh his presents. We were also very lucky to have two of Santa's Elves to live in our classroom! Buddy and Elvis were always watching and listening, and sometimes left us little challenges and jobs to do.



The Trust once again held its annual recycled Christmas tree competition for all classes. So this year we decided to use old CD's and created a masterpiece...unfortunately we didn't win, but we had lots of fun making it and learning about recycled materials.





We were invited to a special winter performance in the hall called the Starlight Show. The children were very engaged throughout the performance and had great fun watching it. We also watched KS1's performance of Babushka and KS2's performance of Magpie Manner, which of course were both fantastic. Along with the Koalas, nursery classes and 0-3 children, we put on a Nativity performance for the rest of the school and parents. We learnt some new songs and some of us got to dress up and have a part on the stage. As usual we were fabulous and made our teachers and parents very proud.



On the final day of term we joined the rest of the school for a carol service at St James' church, this was a lovely way to finish the Autumn term and welcome in the Christmas holidays.

## Chinese New Year

For Chinese New Year the children learnt and practised new skills, for example, using fine paint brushes to copy Chinese writing. We also designed and made our own Chinese kites which we were so excited to fly on a windy day. We used the internet to research what it is like at Chinese New Year parades and danced to some of the music.

## Book Week

During Book Week we had the opportunity to dress in our pyjamas or as a favourite book character for a day, experience lots of different stories and write about our favourite character or story. An illustrator Liz Millions came to visit us in school. She showed us how easy it was to draw animals and our favourite story characters, which some of the children had a good go at doing afterwards. We chose to focus on 'The Mixed up Chameleon' during book week. We enjoyed reading the story then using the internet to find out new information about chameleons, which we then used to write our own fact files. We also explored using different media and creative resources to make our own chameleons, which are proudly displayed in our classroom. Some children also got to visit Waterstones at the Metrocentre, to bring back the books we chose to get with our book tokens.







## Broxfield Farm

We had a visit in school from a farmer called Mr Thompson. He brought different seeds for us to have a look at and showed us how he harvests them to make wheat. Later in the year we were very lucky to be able to visit Mr Thompson's farm. We were able to explore a forest area where we had to look for photos of animals which live in forests, which were hidden amongst the trees. We also got to go into the cow's barn and feed them some hay - they were very hungry and loved all of the attention from us! Mr Thompson also brought two lambs to show us which we got to bottle feed. We had a lovely day at Broxfield farm and were lucky enough to have our picnic lunch in the sun. After an amazing fun filled action packed day, we headed back to school feeling exhausted and listening to a few gentle snores from the back seat!



## Assembly

Since we always have such a busy day in Reception we decided to show the parents what a typical school day is like. We certainly have some budding actors; acting out being the teachers and children in the class. All of the children were very brave and took on their roles with a smile! The hall was packed and every grownup left feeling very proud of all of the things which we accomplish in a school day - despite the children telling them we do 'nothing!' As a treat for doing so well, we had a lovely picnic in the garden.





## Enterprise Week

The children had an action packed timetable during Enterprise Week learning about the world of work and the many different occupations they could choose when they are older. Our role play area was transformed into a Vets Surgery and we talked about the job a vet does. We learned about the role of a Dentist from some visiting student Dentists. They talked to the children about how important it is to look after their teeth, and showed us some of the equipment that Dentist's use, which we learnt is nothing to be scared of!

Throughout the week we made 'alien slime jelly' and star cakes, which we sold to our grownups. We enjoyed a visit to the fayre at the end of the week, where all of the children were able to buy goodies and play games to win prizes.



### Rainbow Challenges

During the Summer term we have introduced Rainbow Challenges for the children to complete. Every couple of weeks there are different challenges that we encourage the children to do. Each challenge is coloured and as the children complete them they get to build up their rainbow on the wall with coloured lolly sticks. The children have enjoyed having a go at the challenges and have really tried their best to complete them and get their Rainbow certificate. It has been lovely to see just how independent the children are and to see



them applying what they have learnt throughout their time in Reception.



### Read Write Inc

This year we have started using Read Write Inc to teach phonics. The children are in ability groups across both classes and access two groups each day. All children have learnt the Set 1 sounds and some have moved onto Set 2 which includes 'special friends'. The children enjoy their group times and we have lots of fun celebrating the good work they do! We are so proud of the children for trying their hardest in every RWInc group and they are certainly becoming very confident and independent readers and writers.



### The Future is Bright!

Although we have reached the end of this school year we still have lots to look forward to. The children will be taking part in Health and Fitness Week, Sports Day, Science Week and our end of year trip to the beach. The fun and learning never stops!!

We have had an amazing year with the children and we are so proud of how hard they have worked and the progress and achievements they have made.