



Hello and welcome

to the latest issue of our newsletter. We can't believe how quickly this term has gone - and what a lot we've been up to. We've had so many special weeks, it's quite hard to find a normal one... We've looked at Waste, Science, Autism, Books - you will find out lots more inside. Many pupils have taken part in exciting activities including

theatre visits - in school and in Manchester, Discos, Kurling competitions, Youth Elections and lots of fundraising. We have had brilliant curriculum activities going on and lots of guests visiting school. Our older pupils have been very busy with Enterprise activities - all trying to make money - as well as rehearsals for the fabulous production of Hairspray - oh, and a world premiere of our own film,

'The Cosmos Wheelchair' - all this whilst keeping up the hard work in lessons and outreach activities. There must be more than 24 hours in a Newfield day! We've had so much fun, lots of happy times and just all love coming to school and work every day.

But, we are a bit tired now - so we wish you a very happy holiday and look forward to seeing you in school very soon!





Hi Everyone!

Well another eventful term...I am very proud of the school's achievements, especially the children and of course the fantastic staff who help them on their journey!

The newsletter is packed with all the events and activities that make the school so great!.....too many highlights to mention here.... but I suppose finally seeing the new building underway and the difference it will make not only to the children with autism, but also the whole school who will benefit from the extra space and resources, has got to be a particularly special occasion for me.....three years in the design!....but only a year to build!

The new School for Autism @ Newfield will make such a difference to the current autism department and will then crucially provide additional space in our existing building for new resources and opportunities to meet our children's needs...

We really can't wait for it to be finished and so far everything is on course for an opening date of Spring 2018!

Have great Easter break!

Geoff Fitzpatrick



WELCOME TO OUR NEW PUPIL ESHA

We have had just 1 new child join us this term, she is settling in well, making lots of new friends and getting used to us.



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



Here is the first digger which is working on the old Crosshill site, beginning to prepare the land for our new School for Autism @ Newfield - it's very exciting and we like watching the hard work going on over the fence!

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS AWARD - WASTE WEEK 2017

The RRSA steering group decided to support the Waste Week initiative in March and members of the group helped facilitate the full week's activities. We did things to help us all think about the environment and what could be done to reduce waste and how we can all help to save the planet. We used resources from 'the pod' and we created posters to encourage our staff and students to think about waste.



Pupils have been making sure there is no rubbish in the school grounds this week - working with our site team and making sure any waste is properly disposed of and recycled where possible



We also investigated how much food waste we make each day at lunchtime and we recorded the results from the leftovers bucket. This encouraged us to think about what food we waste.



We up-cycled shoes, boots and old cups. The children really enjoyed filling the old, redundant items with soil and then carefully planting some pansy bedding plants into them and we were then able to sell some of them and make a profit!

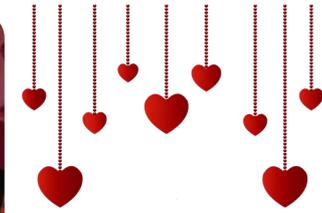


VALENTINE'S DAY EVENT

3

MOVIE SCREENING - THE COSMIC WHEELCHAIR

INTO
FILM



Love was in the air in February and students in 16-19 Department had a special meal - Helen the school cook and her catering team provided the pupils with a lovely buffet to celebrate Valentine's day. There were heart shaped sandwiches, vol au vents, chocolate mousse desserts plus much more. The pupils decorated the tables and could choose who to sit with. After lunch, there was the disco, where Helen and her team started off the dancing, the atmosphere was fantastic and romance was in the air!

Since December pupils in post 16 have been making a film with a professional director from Into Film - and at the end of March they attended the world premiere of their film and others screenings of student-made movies at Rhyddings Business and Enterprise School. They were delighted to see our own movie called 'The Cosmic Wheelchair' had come out so well. Everyone loved Sully, dressed as the character Mr Tin, entering Newfield as an Ofsted inspector to steal the Cosmic Chair. However Angus, played by Jordan and No, played by Aatika, stopped the Evil Mr Tin by pouring water on him causing him to rust. It was wonderful to see all the pupils' own ideas of characters and story come to life on screen. The pupils all received a well-deserved certificate for being young film makers - next stop Hollywood! We are considering screening the film in the summer at the Celebration of Achievement assembly.



The awards ceremony...
Filming of 'The Cosmic Wheelchair' in January



THE JUNGLE BOOK

On the 3rd March, M & M Productions brought the theatre to school with a fabulous performance of 'The Jungle Book'. We were all very lucky today to be treated to the performance by M&M Theatrical Productions. It was extremely colourful and engaging for our pupils who were entertained throughout by the wonderful actors. Some of our pupils also took part in a workshop after the performance. It was fantastic to be able to go back stage and see and feel all the different costumes and props used in the performance. We all thanked the company for coming to Newfield and thanks to The Happy Days Children's Charity who once again funded the visit!



happy days
helping children experience what life has to offer

CELEBRATION OF DANCE

On the 8th March A group of our older students and staff joined several other schools in Blackburn with Darwen at the annual celebration of dance at King Georges Hall. Newfield started the proceedings by performing "Reach for the stars". It wasn't long before the audience were joining in with the actions and supporting us all the way!! The dance which included solos from Lucas and Mackenzie was beautifully choreographed by Mel Utley. We always enjoy this opportunity to showcase our skills and enthusiasm to other schools. Well done everyone!!



WORLD BOOK DAY

2 MARCH 2017

This term, Newfield celebrated World Book Day with fun and exciting activities to promote the love of reading. We had the studio set up to create the world of the BFG where pupils had the opportunity to feel and listen to the fizzy bubbles of frobscottle and smell and taste the snozzcumbers (in our case cucumbers!) Pupils also had opportunities to make their own sensory dream jars with oils, glitter and water.



We had guest readers come into the school, including some familiar faces past and present, to read stories to our pupils. Early Years were visited by a "very hungry caterpillar", Primary explored "We're going on a bear hunt", Secondary read "Harry Potter" and Post 16 explored "Walter's Windy washing line" where they actually made a washing line in class!



We finished the day with an assembly for the pupils to show off their marvellous costumes. There were some excellent creations this year; it was really very hard for Geoff to choose a winner! Many thanks to all who dressed up and shared a story!



This Guide Dog works hard helping blind people - he visited the whole school



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2017

13TH - 17TH MARCH



Meeting exotic animals from Curious Critters - a barn owl...



Exploring animals and their environments together



... a tortoise and a giant lizard!



Science in the world of work - beauty salons and catering both involve lots of science and changes of states - older students used oils & nail varnish with Blackburn College beauty students, left, and above looked at melting wax crayons to experiment with different colours & effects for artwork.



Learning about the Earth with a bush craft session where pupils have used natural things to make bread and cook it on an outdoor fire.



We had a fantastic time during Science week and the culmination to it was holding a Science Fair, for everyone to show off what they had been learning - our newest girl had a great time as you can see below. Parents & guests came along and were very impressed with what they saw - and the fabulous tea service from Sully & Mushy on the left!





World Autism Awareness Week

27 March-2 April 2017



World Autism Awareness Week is commemorated across the world to raise awareness of autism and how it impacts on the lives of individuals and their families. The week culminates with **World Autism Awareness Day** which is designated by the United Nations.

This year, as we move towards the opening of our new autism provision, we wanted to emphasise working with partner agencies and within the community.

At the start of World Autism Awareness Week we held a parents and professionals workshop on Autism where they had a presentation and then were able to take part in a practical session making a variety of resources to take home, including 'now and next' boards, visual schedules etc. They also had the opportunity to speak to the National Autistic Society and Karen from Action ASD. Colleagues from Appletrees and social care also came along.



On Thursday we hosted a fun general knowledge quiz at Shadsworth Children's Centre to raise awareness of autism and raise money towards our school funds. We invited parents, carers and friends to attend. We had a great turn out and had some fantastic competition for the top prize. As part of the morning we hoped to raise awareness of the support and strategies that we use here at Newfield, the event was structured with a visual timetable and requests for snacks could be made using a PECS book. Fun was had by all, including our helpers Mushy, Sully, Darren, Waqas and Adnan. We also organised a raffle and we had some fabulous prizes donated from both local companies and well-known attractions including a family pass to the Sea Life Centre in Manchester and a family pass to Legoland!



Friday saw our whole school event. This involved a range of activities for staff and pupils to enjoy, including exploration of a sensory pod filled with a multitude of blue coloured items; a social games pod and finally there was a role play pod. The pods proved to be very successful in engaging all of our pupils to use and develop their existing skill set. Friday afternoon brought even more interesting and fun activities, with pupils gathering together for a social event to 'light it up blue' by decorating some biscuits and have a drink with their peers. There was also an opportunity to buy some handmade jewellery in support of Autism Awareness. Finally we brought together the rainbow handprints pupils had made earlier in the week for our display - 'share our similarities, celebrate our differences'. A wonderful day to end a brilliant week of celebrating our incredible pupils.

hairspray



Post 16 department finished this term with their own production of Hairspray. The weeks of endless rehearsals and learning of the songs finally paid off as the students took to the stage and impressed everyone! We had a great turn out of parents and visitors, including Crosshill School pupils and members from Youth Zone. Post 16 sang and danced to renditions of catchy songs including; Good Morning Baltimore, New Girl in Town and I can Hear the Bells. Everyone was really impressed and we even saw a few parent's eyes well up! Needless to say we were blown away by how brilliant our students were and thrilled to see all their hard work had paid off.



**RED
NOSE
DAY**

On 24th March we were fundraising for Comic Relief by joining in the Red Nose Day fun! Pupils and staff paid £1 To wear red, there was a cake stall and for lunch everyone enjoyed Red Nose Pizza. Staff took part in a very special lunchtime quiz while pupils took part in an Art competition. In the afternoon we finished it all off with the one and only, famous Red Nose Day Newfield disco! We are delighted to report that we sold out of noses in school and raised a grand total of £226.48. Thanks very much to all involved!





At the start of March a select few pupils were lucky to have the opportunity to go to the Lowry in Manchester to experience Frozen Light's performance of 'Home'. The theatre company performances are specifically focused on pupils with PMLD and they only let 6 people in, with individual support, to be part of the show. For this show - Home - they created a sensory stimulating environment of a desert land. The pupils had so much fun experiencing the multi-sensory elements of the story; including smells of aniseed mixed with the touch of sand, golden confetti and glitter to represent the sand storm, as well feeling sensory water beads and a tasty spray on the tongue to represent filtering drinkable water.

The staff were delighted to see reactions from our pupils that we've never seen before, and Frozen Light said that our group were one of the most responsive they had ever come across - just shows you our amazing pupils together with theatre can do fantastic things! We hope to be able to go to see them again soon.



EASTER ASSEMBLY

On April the 5th, the whole Newfield community came together to celebrate in our Easter assembly. Once again, Andrew Raynes of Christ Church Blackburn came as a guest speaker and music was provided by our very own 2-11 choir. This year we reinstated our Easter Bonnet competition, with classes each entering an Easter bonnet using recycled materials as a theme. The pupils and staff once again came together to make the hall awash with colour with Easter gardens, which were built by the classes in lower KS2 as part of the last half term's coverage of the theme Rocks and Soils. It was a lovely Spring affair to get us ready for the holidays! After the assembly, all of the children received a Cadburys Crème Egg which were kindly donated once again by National Integrated Systems Ltd - a local company who supply and maintain high quality security systems.



Easter Holiday

School closes:
Friday 7th April 2017
School re-opens:
Monday 24th April 2017

Bank Holiday Monday:

School closed:
Monday 1st May 2017

Spring Half Term Holiday

School closes:
Friday 26th May 2017
School re-opens:
Monday 5th June 2017

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