

Written by
The Reporters of
Years 6 at St.
Lawrence's
Primary

St. Lawrence's Chronicle.

Volume 1, Issue 2

Autumn Term
2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Announcements	2
School Updates	3-6

Mr Brown's Message

It has been another term of great progress at St Lawrence's. The children continue to improve more and more with their attitude and respect for one another. This means more to me than anything. We have prioritised improving attendance and children have really taken this on board. Our current figures are above national averages which is amazing. We have welcomed Mrs O'Hara and Miss Kimmitt on to our staff fulltime and they have both made a super impact. I have walked around our school many times and I just get more and more proud of the special place that we are and the desire for excellence shared by brilliant staff and wonderful children. Thank you St. Lawrence's.

Bye for now.

AWESOME ROUSING AUTUMN TERM REINDEER RALLY

St Lawrence's has had another hard-working and fulfilling term to start our new academic year.

There have been lots of exciting activities that the children of St Lawrence's have been involved in and lots that we have done in and for our community.

Inside this edition of our newspaper, you will find all our latest news, our exciting visits and school activities and our efforts to help raise money for charities and support people who need help within our communities.

On Friday 4th December, St Lawrence's held a Reindeer Rally, which was to raise awareness of Multiple Sclerosis and to raise money for the MS Trust.

All classes from Reception to Year 6 took part in the day, which was run by Mrs Warwick and her family, with help from Miss Graham and Miss Allen.

The children paid £1 to come in their own clothes and took part in a range of activities, such as a throwing activity to try and knock Santa off the chimney and a balance activity which involved walking across benches to feed carrots to the reindeer. The day was a fantastic success, with staff and children having great fun.

Mrs Warwick, Year 5 teacher and co-organiser of the Rein-

deer Rally, told us, "the aim of the day was to raise awareness of MS and to help a small charity that do fantastic work helping people diagnosed with MS and their families. I am very grateful to the children and staff for participating so wholeheartedly and once again St Lawrence's school shows how fantastic they are. Special thanks must go to Kimberley and Kyle in Year 4, who raised extra money to support this cause."



St Lawrence's helped the MS Trust.

An amazing £254.70 was raised by the school. We all thoroughly enjoyed the day and hope that we can do it again in the future.

Reporters

- Ella
- Lucja
- Christian
- Courtney
- Caitlin
- Amelia
- Katie H
- Lucia
- Jonathan
- Curtis

Amazing Attendance

To improve attendance in school, Mr Brown has been offering entry in to a special prize draw to anyone with 98-100% attendance, over the course of a term.



Two lucky winners can win a bike!

One boy and one girl will be chosen randomly from the children who achieve this and they will win a bike of their choice! Definitely a prize worth winning.

We can't wait to find out who will win them!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Carol Concert

On Tuesday 22nd December, St Lawrence's will be holding their annual Christmas Carol Concert.

We hope to give people some time out of the madness of shopping and the busyness of the run up to Christmas and remind everyone of the real reason we celebrate Christmas. It involves all the children in KS2 and readers from Year 6 and children from Year 3 and 4 creating a tableau.

The carol service will be held in the school hall and will start at 2:15pm. All welcome.

Marvellous Mass

On Tuesday 15th December, children from St Lawrence's held a mass for St Lawrence's parents and parishioners as part of their Advent preparations and to celebrate the approach of Christmas.

The mass was led by Year 6 and included carols sung by all children. It was a beautiful mass and helped all involved prepare for Jesus' birth.

On behalf of everyone at St, Lawrence's, we wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Cracking Christmas Fayre

On Friday 18th December, St Lawrence's held their Christmas Fair to raise money for school funds.

There were lots of great stalls, such as the hook-a-bag stall, the face painting stall and the tombola. A great time was had by all and lots of money was raised.

St Lawrence's work hard to enrich the curriculum with lots of trips and visits so the money will be put to great use by helping fund educational visits for all classes throughout the year.

Incredible ICT

This term we have had some major changes to our ICT provision. We have invested in some fantastic new laptops, which means that we are able to have ICT lessons from our own classrooms.



There are lots of free great sites available on the internet but for those of you with smartphones and tablets, there are also some fantastic free apps available:

- Book Creator
- Chicktionary
- Sight Words Free EYFS and KS1
- Puppetpals
- Morfo
- Popwords
- Spell Fix
- 10 Minutes a Day Times Tables
- My Times Tables
- Numberline Lite

As part of their Geography curriculum and our International Schools work, Year 5 took part in a European Day earlier this term. One of the items they made was rye bread which is eaten in the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and much of Central Europe.



Here are the instructions so you can try this at home:

Ingredients:

- 500g rye flour
- 500g strong white bread flour
- 20g fresh yeast (or half a sachet of instant)

- 700g warm water
- 25g caraway seed, lightly cracked with a rolling pin

1. Combine the lot in a bowl and stir initially with a fork or scraper then turn it out onto board and knead it for at least seven minutes.

2. Shape into a large ball, coat with a little more flour and place in a bowl covered with a clean tea towel.

3. Leave the dough to rise. In a warm place, it should grow to be 1½ times its original size in an hour or two.

4. Half an hour before you're ready to cook, put a baking sheet in the oven and turn it up full.

Welcome...

This term we would like to welcome Mrs O'Hara, Miss Kimmitt and Mr Stephenson who will be working full time at St Lawrence's. We would also like to welcome Miss O'Hare who is currently working in Year 6 and Miss Allen and Miss Graham who are currently working in Year 3. We hope that you all enjoy our school as much as we do.

This year, Mr Jeffrey has moved into Year 4 and Mrs Dowling/Mrs O'Hara are teaching Year 3.

We are sad to say good bye to Mrs Newey, who has taught singing to KS2 over the last year. We wish her every success in her new job.

Cookery Corner

5. 5 minutes before baking fill a small ovenproof dish with hot water from the kettle and stick it in the bottom of the hot oven.

6. Finally turn your dough out of the bowl straight onto the hot baking sheet and stuff it back into the hot, steamy oven as fast as you can. Try to leave the door open for the shortest possible time so the temperature doesn't drop.

7. After 10 minutes, drop the oven temperature to 180C and open the door. This lets you check on your loaf and allows the oven temp to drop a little faster. After about 20 seconds, close the door and leave for another 20 or so minutes.

8. At the end of this time the loaf will sound hollow when tapped on the bottom.

TERMLY EVENTS

Great Gift Day! Fantastic Food

On the Friday 9th October, Year 5 went on a trip to Sacred Heart High School in Fenham.

Mr Wilson, one of Year 5's teachers, accompanied them to this visit to Sacred Heart to take part in "Gift Day". The purpose of the visit was to learn about growing in faith together.

Year 5 were all really excited about the visit.

Sophie Gallon, Year 5 pupil, explained, "I was really excited because I was going to spend the day with other schools from around the city, to learn some new and exciting things."

The Youth Mission Team also attended and taught the class lots of new songs and prayers.

Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their day and learned lots about their faith.

On Thursday 26th November, Year 2 had an exciting visit from Food Adventures who came into school to help them make some tasty Winter recipes.

The day was led by Jenny, Anna and Sophie from Food Adventures. The session also involved some parent helpers who volunteered to help with the day.

One of the recipes which they made was winter squash soup with cheesy croutons.

It was such fun to make and very tasty! The children all got to taste the things which they had made and they took home the recipes so that they could make the soup and croutons at home.

They had a super day and learnt such a lot.

Brilliant Broxfield

On Tuesday 13th October, Years 3 and 4 went to Broxfield farm in Northumberland.

They were finding out about animals in science, so it was really useful for them to see some farm animals and find out about their features. They now know that cows are vertebrates, which means that they have a backbone.

They went into the woods near the farm and saw some invertebrates, creatures like earwigs and woodlice. They now know these creatures have no backbone.

They were also lucky enough to be given a ride on the tractor trailer, which they loved. It was very bouncy and they ended up in the middle of a field with cows and a bull.

Mr Thompson, who works for The Northumberland Trust made them feel very welcome and they had their lunch in his lovely garden.

Residential Reminder

A meeting was held earlier this term for Year 5 and 6 pupils and their parents about this year's residential. Unlike previous years, this year the school is taking the children to the Lake District on their three day outward bound experience.

It promises to be an exciting, adrenaline filled time away for all involved. For further information, please contact Mrs McWeeny or Mrs Warwick.

Super Snow White

On Tuesday 8th December, Mr Brown organised for a pantomime to come into school.

The pantomime was Snow White and it was cleverly done with only two actors, who took it in turns to play a variety of characters.

Mrs Warwick, Year 5 teacher, was also given a part in the pantomime—that of Snow White herself!

The pantomime was really funny and got everyone into the spirit of Christmas. Oh no it didn't...oh yes it did!

Nursery &

Reception Nativity

On Tuesday 8th December, Early Years performed their traditional Christmas Nativity.

It was well attended by parents and told the story of the birth of Jesus, through readings, singing and dance.

We hope that they helped people remember the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

Magical Mini Vinnies

Our Mini Vinnies are a group of children in KS2 who follow the work of St Vincent De Paul. He spent his life helping others.

On Wednesday 9th December the Mini Vinnies had a fantastic celebration in St Lawrence's School Hall.

They invited their grandparents and elderly neighbours to a special Christmas party. The party was a chance for them to spend time with others in a loving and happy environment.

They spent lots of time setting up the hall and making it nice for their special visitors. Some of the old people were in their nineties and lots of them had been here last year at our party. They all

The guests were made to feel extremely welcome and were given cups of tea, mince pies and plenty of chocolate!

St Lawrence's Choir, led by Miss O'Hare sang lots of carols and the Mini Vinnies also organised a free raffle. There were lots of lucky winners!

"...the Mini Vinnies planned a hugely successful and well attended Christmas coffee morning for parishioners, grandparents and elderly friends. Well done Mini Vinnies!" Mrs Hagon, Year 2 Teacher and Mini Vinnies Leader.

enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to next year already.

The elderly guests said, "We love being in St Lawrence's Primary School and listening to the beautiful singing."

Well done Mini Vinnies—what a lovely thing to do and you have helped people to prepare for Christmas.

TERMLY EVENTS

Super Stone Age

On Tuesday 22nd of September, Year 3 took part in a fantastic workshop to introduce their Stone Age topic.

They already knew a bit about Stonehenge but their visitors taught them lots of new facts and piece of information. They handled real stone age objects and even a replica skull!

They found out about the different times during the Stone Age: Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic. They learned that it was called the Stone Age because people made tools out of stone. It lasted until tools started to be made out of metal.

The class created some art work and carried out an investigation about Stone Age maths. They also wrote a lullaby for a woolly mammoth!

They loved finding out about history and the Stone Age is now one of their favourite times.

Cool KS2 Cinema Trip

On Monday 21st December, all the children in KS2 went to the Empire Cinema in Newcastle's Gate Complex to see the film, **The Good Dinosaur**.

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 all took the metro from St Lawrence's into town with their teachers and then watched the film.

The day was so exciting and the film was great. We would definitely recommend it as a Christmas treat if you haven't seen it.

Reception's Seven Stories Workshop

On Monday 23rd November, Gary from Seven Stories came into St Lawrence's to visit Reception Class. He came to tell stories about friendship, which was linked to the RE work that the class were doing.

He read the story of Mr Big by Anthony Browne and he brought jazz music to show the children the type music that Mr Big played.

The children looked at the contrast between the sad music when Mr Big had no friends and the happy music he played when he had friends.

Year 5's European Day

On Monday 19th October, Year 5 held a European Day, linked to their Geography and Design Technology topics.

The children were split in to two groups and one half of the class cooked different foods from Europe such as rye bread from the Czech Republic and gazpacho (a cold soup) from Spain. The other group conducted research on the different countries on the laptops and also did some art work, replicating and painting flags from all the European countries to make bunting.

Parents were also invited to attend throughout the day.

At the end of the day, all the food the children made was shared out in a class meal, with the children trying different food from all over Europe. It was a fantastic day where lots was learned.

Cracking Christmas Dinner

On Tuesday 15th December, St Lawrence's Primary School celebrated Christmas with a special Christmas Dinner.

All the children were served their food by the staff and they enjoyed a delicious traditional Christmas roast.

The dinner could not have taken place without the help of the lunchtime assistants and the kitchen staff so....thank you to you all and Merry Christmas!

Brilliant Beamish

On Monday 12th October, Year 6 visited Beamish Open Air Museum, an experience designed to support their history topic—a local study of a theme in British History.

The children learned about the wartime home front and what it may have been like to be evacuated into the countryside. Among many other activities, they cooked carrot biscuits, blackened windows, wrote post cards to their families and rode in a tram. They had a super day and really felt as they had been evacuated.

Thrilling Theatre Royal Trip

On Friday 13th November, Year 1 went on a trip to the Theatre Royal in Newcastle to see a production of the **Elves and the Shoemaker**. This was part of their literacy work.

The production was absolutely fantastic and allowed the children to experience the story in another way, bringing it to life through dance.

Miss Storey, Year 1 Teacher, explained, "The children were in awe watching the show from start to finish. It was lovely to see all of the children experience ballet dancing."

After the trip to the Theatre Royal, the children were lucky enough to also visit Fenwick's Window to see this year's Christmas tale. We won't spoil it for you by saying what it is though, just in case you want to go....!

Hoops for Health

On Tuesday 13th October, Newcastle Eagles visited St Lawrence's to work with them on a special 'Hoops for Health' programme as part of Year 5's science work.

The afternoon session was made up of four areas of keeping healthy: exercise, diet, the heart and no smoking.

The children learned lots about the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle and how life choices can impact dramatically on your health and well being.

Thank you to Newcastle Eagles for a great afternoon.

Perfect Prayer Garden

Following on from our last edition, Year 5 have continued their work with Sue, from Byker Gardens to plan, design and create a beautiful prayer garden on the school premises.

The children have worked together to create a garden based on the Parable of the Sower and the garden has areas that reflect each part of the parable.

The garden will be a tranquil space for children to sit and reflect and have the opportunity to pray in a different kind of way.

Exhilarating Egyptians!

On Monday 9th November, Year 5 visited the Oriental Museum as part of their history topic this term, The Ancient Egyptians. The aim of the day was to learn more about Ancient Egyptian life. The children were shown ancient Egyptian artefacts and allowed to handle them. Some of these artefacts were over 4,000 years old! Year 5 were also given the opportunity to learn about the different Ancient Egyptian Gods and Goddesses, the different types of food

“...it was an amazing opportunity for the children to see first hand artefacts of Ancient Egyptian times and bring the curriculum to life..”
Mrs Warwick.

and drink the people of Egypt had, the type of writing (hieroglyphics) used and also the clothes worn. They were also able to look at a real life mummy and study x-rays to learn more about it.

At the end of the day, the children all took part in a weighing of the heart ceremony, where Pharaoh Owen had his actions

in life judged to see if he would pass successfully into the underworld.

Cock-a-Doodle Christmas!

On Friday 11th December, Year 1 and 2 performed their Christmas Play, “Cock-a-Doodle Christmas!”

They had lots of farmyard animals including pigs, sheep, cows, and cockerels, as well as all of the traditional characters for a nativity.

The children thoroughly enjoyed performing this play as the songs were fun and energetic, as well as extremely catchy!

On Wednesday 16th December, the children gave a spectacular performance of ‘Cock-a-Doodle Christmas’ at Ouseburn Farm amongst the animals themselves.

It was a truly magical performance for everyone. Well done Year 1 and 2 for producing a great show.

Amazing Alnwick Gardens

On Friday 25th September, Year 1 went on a Fairy tale Trail and Den Building trip to Alnwick Gardens as part of their Literacy work on Fairy tales.

Miss Storey, Year 1 Class Teacher told us, “Alnwick Gardens was a very special trip as it was the first trip this year for the Year 1 children. It was a beautiful day to see the gardens and build dens in the woods. In the afternoon, the children wore fairy tale costumes as we followed a train through the gardens.”

The children had an amazing day and they still talk about the trip.

Brilliant Beanley

On Friday 9th October, Year 2 visited Beanley Farm in Powburn, Northumberland which is owned by Lord Carr Ellison.

They watched a bean crop being harvested and looked at the other crops grown at the farm.

They were lucky enough to all sit in the combined harvester; it was enormous!

It was a fantastic day where so much was learned.

University Challenge

Earlier this term, Year Six took part in an ‘ASC’ event at Northumbria University (Apprentice Students on Campus).

The purpose of the visit was to show them that if they worked hard they could go to university to study in the future.

This was an opportunity for the class to spend a day on the university campus with real students. They were able to ask them questions about their courses and what they thought of university life. It all sounded very exciting!

They took part in team building activities in which they had to solve a crime together. Then they had to undertake a challenge to build a bridge together. Later in the day, they took part in some exciting and very lively sports activities in the university’s huge sports hall.

Year 6 were lucky enough to be given a tour of the campus and that gave them a real taste of what it is like to be a student.

The day was fantastic and really showed the class how going to university could be a real option for many of them.

Charismatic Choir Carol Singing

On Wednesday 16th December, the school choir made up of children from Year 5 and 6 and led by Miss O’Hare sang at Byker Library in the morning and Byker Hall Residential Home in the afternoon.

On Friday 18th December, the choir also sang at Little Sisters of the Poor in Elswick.

The events were held to spread cheer and Christmas spirit to our community. The children involved were keen to talk to the residents of the homes, who were very welcoming and enjoyed listening to the children singing.

Year 1 discover the Discovery Museum

On Thursday 22nd October, Year 1 visited the Discovery Museum as part of their history topic.

They were learning about old and new toys and the changes in toys throughout history.

Miss Storey, Year 1 Class teacher, explained, “We had a great day handling lots of old and new toys.”

Perfect Portraits

On Friday 25th September, Year 2 visited the Laing Art Gallery as part of their work on portraits.

They took part in a workshop in the portrait gallery. They also enjoyed an art activity where they worked together to create a fairy tale portrait.

Then on Monday October 5th, they took part in a follow up workshop in school led by the Laing Art Gallery staff, which was linked to their visit. They looked at the works of the artist Picasso and produced some of their very own Picasso Portraits.

Mighty Maximus

On Tuesday 6th October, Year 4 had a visit from Maximus – a Roman General as part of their History topic.

He made sure that the class knew exactly how hard it was to be a Roman soldier by telling them all about his life.

Year 4 also built a Merel board and played this Roman game with partners. Merel is a bit like noughts and crosses on a round board.

Finally they made Roman necklaces with symmetrical patterns.

Fantastic Farm Trip

On Wednesday 4th November, Reception class visited Ouseburn Farm. They were looking at the animals and discovering mini-beasts.

The children helped moved animals, like the sheep and the goats, from the stables into the fields. They were also given the opportunity to feed the goats and cows.

“...the children held the rabbits and guinea pigs—an interesting experience when they are nibbling your fingers!” Mrs McWeeny

Year 4’s Roman Remains

On Friday 18th September, Year 4 visited Segedunum as part of their history topic: The Romans.

The day involved training like Roman soldiers, handling Roman objects and looking at the remains of the Roman fort there. The children also dressed up as Ancient Britons and were able to paint their arms with Celtic designs, making bracelets and learning about the gods that the Ancient Romans worshipped.

It was a fantastic day, where the children uncovered so many amazing facts and interesting things about the Romans.

Marvellous Magistrates

Over two afternoons this term, Year 6 worked with two magistrates, who work in North Tyneside, to think about actions having consequences.

The magistrates set up mock trials, giving all of Year 6 specific roles. Some of these roles were judge, jury members, journalists, witnesses etc.

Janet Redpath, one of the magistrates, told us, “The children all participated brilliantly, especially during the trial. I do believe that there are some budding solicitors in the mix.”

Mrs McWeeny, Reception class teacher, told us, “The children really enjoyed the day—even feeding the cow which was extremely slobbery!”

The children also had to stamp on the wooden sleepers around the raised beds pretending to be the rain to try and find worms.

The children had a fantastic time and learned lots on their visit.

Infant Visit to Northern Stage

On Tuesday 24th November, Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed a visit to Northern Stage to see their Christmas production: Up and out Christmas Sprout.

It was a fantastic show, enjoyed by children and adults alike, which got them all in the mood for Christmas.

Delicious Dining

On Monday 19th October, Year 2 visited the Toby Carvery at Kingston Park as part of their work on healthy eating.

They looked at all of the vegetables used at the carvery and took part in lots of fun vegetable games and quizzes. They even got an opportunity to make some of the foods and enjoyed making mashed potato. They then went into the restaurant and chose their vegetables and meat and enjoyed a meal together.

Super School Nurse Visits

This term we have been working with our school nurse, Rebecca Ormston, to provide lots of sessions in school about how we can look after ourselves.

Classes through out school have already had visits with topics ranging from basic hand washing to healthy eating, from looking after our teeth to how our bodies change as we grow older.

These sessions have been fantastic and vital in making sure that we know how to look after ourselves properly.

Things to look forward to in our next edition...

- Latest news
- More exciting trips
- Our attendance winners