



## A SNOWY, ACTION PACKED, SPRING TERM

Hello I'm Megan and I am the editor for the newsletter. We have been very busy this term with activities such as Science week, Mother's day, R.E. week and Comic Relief.

I, along with some of the other students who will be leaving Newfield this year, have been to visit St Mary's College for a tour. We were introduced to some students and had tea and cake. We were told what goes on at the college and what choices our students would have if they went there - it looked good. In February we combined Valentine's Day

## EXCITING CURRICULUM WEEKS

with a whole school lunch, a disco and bad hair day.

For us leavers, lots of activities have been continuing throughout term including work experience to Asda, Longshaw Nursery, Tesco, the Range, Halfords and Pets at Home. Older pupils have also been out to Stanley Grange and Futures, while younger ones have been out on school links or community visits - we all get out a lot!

Everyone has also been taking part in Science and R.E. Weeks.

## CHARITY EVENTS

In Science week students have been recycling old furniture, learning about animals and having visits from Pets at Home and Yoyo the guide dog.

Also students have been looking at the youth elections and casting our vote to see who would become our new youth representative for Blackburn with Darwen. And we've also been visited by a prospective MP twice!

After such a busy term we are all ready for a rest - hope you have a good holiday!



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

# HELLO!

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## Hi Everyone!

Once again we have had a very full term of activities and many thanks for all your support. Amongst the many highlights of the term I suppose the main focus was the Local Authority's decision to build a new facility for pupils with Autism, which in turn will add much needed space in the main school for all our children. We have been trying to squeeze so much into this building over the years that the extension will mean everyone will benefit from the development adding space for storage and resources to meet our children's needs. I am delighted that the Borough are investing so much in securing the future in these difficult financial times. I look forward to keeping you all informed in the coming months as things develop.

Enjoy your Easter break & see you in the Summer Term!

*Geoff Fitzpatrick*

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## WELCOME TO OUR NEWCOMERS

We have had a few new children join us during the Spring term, as well as several members of staff. They are settling in well, making new friends and having lots of fun - here are our new pupils and staff!



Adam



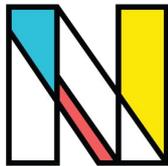
Pranay



Rajab



Imaan



Unays



Abdur-Rahman



Ali



Rabia



Georgie, Gemma, Yasmin, Sam, Angela, Lisa, Jennifer, Umayma, Adeela, Susan, Melony, Sapphire, Christine, Tasneem, Carol, Naasirah, Hilary, Ray, Callum, Alpesh

## Thanks, goodbye and good luck... to pupils and staff leaving us.

A few pupils have left us this term for lives in new places - we wish Reece, Connell and Wendy & their families the very best of luck.

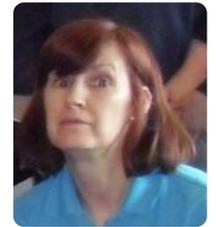
In addition, three long serving members of staff are retiring this term - Thanks and best wishes to Christine Finch, who has worked as a TA for 14 years. Thanks also to Hilary Fenton, who has worked at Newfield and Dame Evelyn Fox schools for 16 years as our Senior Finance Advisor - where she has always managed to find the money for all the lovely things we do with the children! And finally, Cate Tindall, who has been our Early Years teacher and Coordinator for 36 years at Newfield and before that Blackamoor School. Cate has worked tirelessly for generations of children and supported parents throughout her time with us. She is simply wonderful! We will all miss them enormously, as will the children and parents. We wish all three ladies a long and very happy, very well earned retirement! We hope they all come back to visit us occasionally.



Cate



Hilary



Christine



Ammara with her Monet inspired cushion

The Arts Award is a nationally accredited course for work relating to the arts. This covers areas such as art and craft, music, drama, ICT, research and communication. Pupils in the secondary phase are working towards gaining a Bronze certificate award at the moment gaining lots of new skills. We became an Arts Award Centre in January 2015 which offers our pupils the opportunity to participate in a variety of different types of art activities. It provides young people with opportunities to develop themselves creatively, learn new skills, communicate effectively, and hold exhibitions and performances. The Arts award will become available to primary and post 16 students from September 2015.

More information is available on their website - [www.artsaward.org.uk](http://www.artsaward.org.uk)



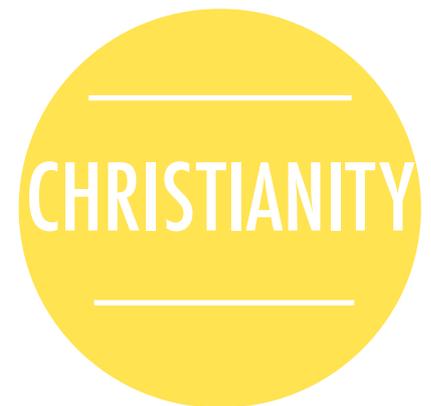
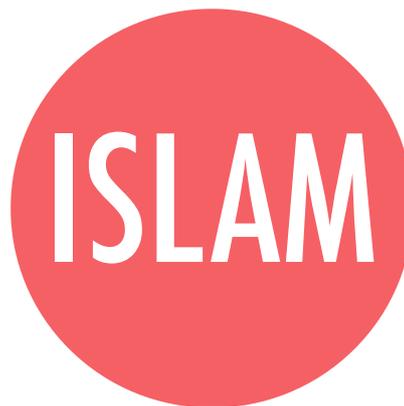
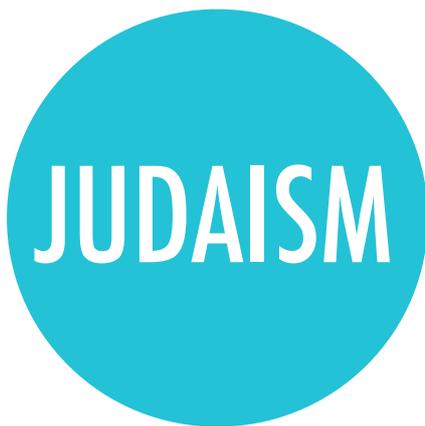
On the 27th January 2015 we joined in with Holocaust Memorial Day which this special year marked 70 years since the liberation of Auschwitz. On a very cold, snowy day, the children worked with Sean, Site Supervisor, to dig the frozen earth and plant a tree in the sensory garden to commemorate the special day and in remembrance of Anne Frank, who died in the concentration camps during the Second World War, when she was only 15. Children all over the world have been planting trees in Anne's memory this year and learning about the Holocaust and the treatment of Jews before and during the war years.

Our tree is a symbol of those who suffered, and will keep their memory alive for years to come.





# RE WEEK



For our 3rd annual RE week the theme was God the Protector. We looked at how this is demonstrated in three religions. In Purim Jews celebrate the way that God protected them, not with great miracles, but through a sequence of seemingly small events that provided them with their salvation. Classes were encouraged to make their own groggers and masks as part of the tradition of costume parades and masquerades.



For Islam, pupils looked at examples such as the Journey to Madinah and we thought about the 99 names of Allah and in particular Allah the Protector.

For Christianity we looked at the story of Easter helped by Hilary Wilby and Helen Sage from Blackburn cathedral.

It was a fantastic week, with lots of learning and fun, where we made good use of our Studio and Hall with the Pods for sensory activities – look on the website for more details.





# SCIENCE WEEK



**PRIMARY**  
AMAZING ANIMALS -  
COOPERS CRITTERS, ROLE  
PLAY VETS, PETS AT HOME  
GUESTS, A GUIDE DOG

**SECONDARY**  
PHYSICAL PROCESSES -  
ARCHERY, FLOATING &  
SINKING, MAGNETS

**POST 16**  
SCIENCE IN THE WORLD  
OF WORK -  
UP-CYCLING, HEALTH &  
WELLBEING, ZUMBA,  
PAMPERING

British Science Week is a ten day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths, which features fascinating, entertaining and engaging events across the UK for people of all ages. Science coordinators Katrina and

Cate have organised for Newfield School to team up with the British Science Association to host a Science Week event in our own creative and unique way. Each age phase has had a different topic area to explore. We have had lots of activities

and guest visitors in school helping us to explore the different themes. Thank you to all our visitors and volunteers who helped to make this a fantastic event! Have a look at the displays in school or the website for more info.



## VALENTINE'S BAD HAIR DISCO



On Friday 13th February, just before the half term break, Bad Hair Day was a nationwide fundraising activity for Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity. Rachael Clements a hairdresser from Hair Studio 336 in Bolton came into school to do some demonstrations and wow us with her super skilful updoos! We had a sensory pod where pupils could explore all things hair, from rollers to waxing. In the photo booth we had a lot of fun trying on different wigs and accessories. All this was combined with the valentine's lunch and disco so that everyone could show off their fantastic styles and fabulous party outfits - and of course feel the love! Altogether we raised £90 for the charity.

## BAMBOOZLE

Following the success of Bamboozle's performance of 'Light as a Feather' to our PMLD pupils last year, this year's 'Moon Song' at the end of February was a wonderful performance! The performers worked with all the pupils within the ARC, who can be quite difficult to engage and have their preferred motivating resource. However, the Bamboozle performers took this fully in their stride! After first asking our supporting staff to allow the pupils to engage/not engage independently, they began the performance and slowly but surely every single pupil in each of the four groups was stimulated to react to the music, songs, movements and resources in their own particular way. Our staff were impressed with the focussed and incredibly patient support of the performers, which encouraged all of our pupils to interact and thoroughly enjoy the experience.



**RED NOSE DAY**  
15 March 2013

## RED NOSE DAY

On Friday 13th March children at Newfield helped to raise money for Red Nose Day. The theme for the day was to come dressed in your favourite colour, whether it was red, green, purple or blue and HAVE FUN!! To celebrate this event further, we had a fun-filled morning of exciting activities, such as: dressing up as our favourite nose, making our own red noses, 'reaching for red' arm exercises and exploration activities and many more! Then all the children came together for the afternoon and celebrated in traditional Newfield style with a whole school Red Nose disco. We raised a grand total of £351 - fabulous!

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
5 MARCH 2015

A BIG, HAPPY, BOOKY  
CELEBRATION OF READING

# WORLD **BOOK** DAY fest



This year for World Book Day our theme was 'A Book I Love'. Pupils and staff dressed up as their favourite book character and even Minnie Mouse made an appearance! In classes teachers shared their favourite stories with pupils and we focused on enjoyment of reading for everyone. We also had some very special visitors into some classrooms – our Deputy heads Jenny and Jackie visited Class 1 and Sec 4, school staff Mathilde and Lynx visited Class 2 and R5, Governors Louise Sumner and Joan Bamber visited Class 4 and TG1 and the Conservative candidate for Blackburn, Bob Eastwood, visited Sec 3. We have some fabulous stories made fun and exciting by our visitors including 'Frankenstein' and 'Room on the Broom'.

On the Friday some of our parents and carers also joined Hayley Miller for an interactive storytelling session. They enjoyed the 'Bear Hunt' experience, especially getting wet in the 'river'.



## M&M PRODUCTIONS - 'A TWIST IN TIME'

One of our favourite travelling theatres – M&M Productions – came into school in March to perform 'A Twist in Time', which was a fun filled version of 'Tom's Midnight Garden'. Everyone in school enjoyed the performance, and there was lots of audience participation during the songs! The performance was paid for by Happy Days Children's Charity, who fund lots of theatrical performances for our pupils. Some pupils also enjoyed a workshop after the performance looking at lighting, sounds & special effects.



# PROMOTING COMMUNICATION

Continuing our work to help all of children to communicate, this term we have been visited once again by our friends at the Ace Centre. Together we have been looking at different ways to provide our pupils with a 'voice'. The Ace Centre have also provided some Communication Training to staff which was very thought provoking and inspiring!

We have also had the opportunity to use an Eye-Gaze system which we have had on loan. Eye-gaze is a system which enables students to control a computer screen using their eyes and lots of our pupils have enjoyed the independence of making things happen, especially when playing our games such as 'water cannon' and 'custard pie throwing'.



## EARLY YEARS OPEN DAY

At Newfield we have been looking at how we can support our colleagues in mainstream nursery settings. This term we were proud to host our Early Years Open Day. Nursery staff from throughout Blackburn with Darwen came to find out about the work we do at Newfield and how we support our youngest pupils. They were very impressed with our facilities as we gave them a short tour including our sensory studio and hydrotherapy pool. After a short presentation about the school our visitors had an opportunity to sign up for some training sessions. We will be looking at providing training and workshops looking at communication, disability awareness, sensory stories and play over the Summer term.

## PARENT CARER WORKSHOPS

ISSUE: 22

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Hello parents and carers. We just want to remind you that school offers a wide range of workshops to support parents and carers of all children - not just Newfield pupils. Each term flyers are sent out, and there is a section on the website with details of what is happening and when. The workshops range from communication, to continence, and we are always happy to put on new sessions if you have a suggestion for one - so please have a look and get in touch.

We also want to remind you about the weekly parent carer group from 9.30am - after Easter we are changing to Fridays - so if you can, please come along and meet Jenny, Sharon and other parents for a chat.

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### Easter Holiday

School closes:  
Friday 27th March 2015  
School re-opens:  
Tuesday 14th April 2015

### Bank Holiday

School closed:  
Monday 4th May 2015

### Summer Half Term Holiday

School closes:  
Friday 22nd May 2015  
School re-opens:  
Monday 1st June 2015

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