

LET RIGHT BE DONE



New Mills School Newsletter

April 2020

Contents

Page 1	Contents and D&T
Page 1	Heads' Welcome
Page 2	Reading To Your Child
Page 3	Reading To Your Child
Page 4	Year 8 Art News
Page 5	Art News Continued
Page 6	Craft Club
Page 7	Maths
Page 7	Library News
Page 8	Poetry Competitions
Page 8	500 Words
Page 9	Science Club
Page 9	Year 5 Day Science
Page 10	Music Department News

Heads' Welcome

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter; this is the pre-lockdown edition.

The rapid pace of change and the emergency planning that occurred in mid-March, took our attention away from the positive activity that had occurred in school in February and March. Sadly, coronavirus meant that trips had to be cancelled and that milestones and landmarks, which we would normally celebrate, were missed.

So we want to change that!

This newsletter will catch you up on our good news stories from early spring. Our next

newsletter will celebrate all that has been achieved since the announcement that schools will close to most pupils for the foreseeable future. We will have much to share with you in that edition and we hope it will make you feel as proud of our school community as we do.

Meanwhile, congratulations are due to Mr Bellas, who has left the maths faculty at New Mills School because of relocation. He successfully secured the very first job he applied for and resigned from the school at Easter. However, we are delighted to announce that we were able to appoint his replacement just before the school closed its doors on 20th of March. Many of Year 7 will remember being taught by 6 different teachers on Wednesday the 18th of March, and after the students had put the candidates through their paces, we offered the post to Mr Oldham who was thrilled to accept. I'm sure he looks forward to meeting you all in September (touching wood and crossing our fingers that we are all back to 'normal' by then).

Another member of staff also left the school. Mrs Monaghan has been a Teaching Assistant with New Mills Special Educational Needs Department for many years and she retired just before Easter. Whilst we didn't have a chance to wish her well in person, we know all the students and colleagues who worked with her over the years would want to send good wishes. We are of course very pleased to welcome the new addition to the Teaching Assistant team; Ms Dani Brookes has joined

the crew and is already up and running supporting students as they learn at home.

We also were denied the opportunity to celebrate the Derbyshire County Council long service awards that are given out to colleagues who have been contributing to the public good in the county through their work for many years. Two staff received these awards – both for 25 years service. Mrs McGloin, our Executive Headteacher has achieved this as a teacher and school leader at Glossopdale and New Mills Schools. Mrs Marsh has been a member of the school support services team for a long time, contributing to many departments and in many roles. She supports the school as a cleaner, as part of the catering staff and as an exam invigilator. Congratulations and Thanks to them both.

We hope students, parents and staff enjoy reading through this issue and it brings up fond memories of school before lockdown. Our next spring/summer edition will be fronted with a cover designed at home by a student. Mrs Gutteridge will be launching a competition for cover designs in the near future so watch this space and start thinking about images that would be effective for that issue.

As ever we sign off with good wishes to all our students and their families.

Ms Barker and Mrs Jesson





Reading to your child

Consider taking this unusual opportunity as a family to select a book and read it together. Exploring the ideas, morals and experiences of the book, bringing to life important ideas about diversity, ambition and dilemma to discuss in your pyjamas or whilst making a meal together.

NMS Guidance

Reading with your child

As you will be aware from our February Newsletter and discussions with your child/children at home, in January we introduced a programme of whole class reading which is shared in our Friday Literacy Tutor time.

Our Year 7 have been reading Dickens short stories, the Year 8's are reading 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' by Mark Haddon. Year 9 are currently reading 'To Kill a Mocking Bird' by Harper Lee and Year 10 are reading the nail-biting 'Touching the Void' by Joe Simpson.



The idea is to ensure that our pupils are encountering excellent fiction and literature in settings beyond the stretching literature curriculum we set at the school. Staff were consulted on texts they felt would offer students a wider perspective and important insights.

These texts are read aloud to students to deliver a shared experience which we hope allows them to explore the ideas, morals and experiences of the book together and a familiarity with texts that are seen as important and influential within British Culture. These books bring to life important ideas about diversity, ambition and dilemma and are a starting point that we feel will be of great value to the pupils we teach.

Whilst the school is shut and you are at home with your child/children this would be an excellent project to begin. You do not have to complete the book being read at school. It is more important that you or your child take the time to select a book together

We hope you enjoy this time together.



10 key reasons to keep reading aloud to your child



Building vocabulary: Children who are read to encounter more words -- and learn how to recognize and pronounce them -- than they would by just being spoken to. Studies show that having a large vocabulary can help children feel confident and perform better in school and a broad range of situations.

Improving comprehension: When children are engaged and invested in the story, they understand it more thoroughly. You can check in as you go to see whether your child understands what's going on and ask what they think will happen next, what they think of the characters, and their motivation.

Building positive experiences: Positive experiences and memories of hearing stories from a loved one can inspire a lifelong love of reading.

Providing positive modelling: Children learn through observation and modelling. Reading aloud lets them hear what language sounds like. You can also model how to analyse a story as you read and how to work out the meaning of a word.

Improving listening skills: Reading aloud develops appreciation and use of a rich and diverse language.

A way to discover the classics: Children may be put off by the challenging language of Shakespeare or the old-fashioned settings of Jane Austen in school, but in a cosy setting at home, you can help the text come alive as you take on different characters' voices and fill in historical context.

Helping with discussing difficult issues: Children may tune out if you lecture them about what to do and what not to do. If you read a story that shows characters grappling with serious conflicts and the consequences of their actions -- or facing bullying, racism, religious or ethnic bias, or gender discrimination, it is a way into talking about complex and current matters.

A way to introduce different genres: Reading aloud lets parents introduce children to different types of books and stories, helping kids learn which kinds they'd like to choose for themselves. Reading a variety of material boosts all kinds of learning e.g. poetry, manga, and autobiographies.

A portal into your kids' interests: Reading books on subjects or in genres kids love (sci-fi, fantasy, mysteries, thrillers, graphic novels, Norse mythology, Minecraft, whatever!) gives you something to share and discuss, whilst also putting you on a level playing field, rather than you always being the teacher who knows more than they do.

Sparking curiosity and a thirst for learning: Nonfiction books make great read-alouds, too. For older kids and teens, try books or articles by journalists covering current or recent events and world issues. There are also a lot of popular histories that are so engaging they read like nail-biting fiction.

Art News → Year 8



Over the last few weeks before the school closure, Year 8 were busy in their Art lessons making clay butterflies! The entire year group were given the task to create an installation entitled “The Aurelian” (an entomologist who is obsessed with butterflies and moths) from hundreds of ceramic butterflies. Half of those made would be decorated with ink and wax crayon, the other half decorated with iron oxide. The photos shown here are of those finished iron oxide butterflies, made by 8JGo and 8TWn. The rest will be completed when school reopens, and all the finished ceramic butterflies will be displayed as a group within the school gardens.

Art News - Year 8 Continued

For homework over the half-term holiday, Miss Ashton set her Year 8 groups the challenge of each creating a 3D ladybird. She was very impressed with the final pieces, and the subsequent display – titled “A Loveliness of Ladybirds” – went down brilliantly with the Year 5s who visited NMS on their visit day! Well done 8DLy, 8RBr and 8MBe.



Art News → Craft Club



After the February half-term holiday, Miss Ashton started her Wednesday lunch-time Craft Club. Full of Year 7, 8 and 11 pupils, their first task was to create a group installation of ceramic flowers for Miss Ashton's tree mural (situated in Art Room 2), to celebrate the start of Spring.

The Craft Club group made a wonderful start, making over 30 flowers and decorating them with a mix of yellow iron oxide and glazes. Unfortunately, due to NMS closing the clay flowers were not finished, so we look forward to giving them a final firing and displaying them when we are all back in school.

Miss Ashton will resume her Craft Club when school reopens. If you would like to register your interest, please contact her via the school email: jashton@newmillsschool.co.uk



Maths Update

During this term students have been studying making comparisons using ratio and proportion, percentage increases/decreases, the geometry of transformations and presenting data. Next term students can look forward to studying calculations with fractions & decimals, making estimations, generating & rules for sequences and units of measurement including lengths, areas & volumes.

Big congratulations to the Y9, Y10 & Y11 students who gained such good results in the United Kingdom Maths Trust (UKMT) Intermediate Challenge this term and thank you to Mr Aspden and Mrs Hesford who help organise them - we'll be able to give you your certificates of awards and participation at a later date but nevertheless - well done!

Three students, two from Y11 & one from Y10 did so well that they progressed to a further round,

intriguingly called the 'Pink Kangaroo'. This took place the day before we shut down on 19th March. We haven't had the results back yet but if they do well enough they'll qualify for a process that may ultimately see them selected to represent the UK in the International Maths Olympiad. Once again - very well done to these students.

As ever, if you have any questions or need any advice, please contact me by email:

dbarber@newmillsschool.co.uk

Thank you all for your enthusiasm and making the Maths Faculty a wonderful and vibrant place to be.

Mr Barber

Faculty Team Leader - Mathematics

Library News



World Book Day

For our World Book Day Competition this year, staff were asked the title of their favourite books. Posters were then made containing clues, students had to match the clues with the book titles. The competition proved popular and we had many entries.

The winners were 11BBO who received a well-deserved Chocolate Hamper.



Poetry Competitions



The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2020 is now open for entries and this year will be judged by the amazing Maura Dooley and Keith Jarrett.

The competition is open to anyone aged 11-17. The deadline to enter your poem/s is midnight 31 July 2020. Entries must be written in English, but you can include phrases in your mother tongue or another language. If you would like to enter an entry in British Sign Language or Braille then please contact fyp@poetrysociety.org.uk.

It is completely FREE to enter and you can enter as many poems as you wish.

All entrants will receive a certificate for participating in this prestigious competition.

For any queries on how to enter this year's competition please contact fyp@poetrysociety.org.uk or call 020 7420 9880.

500 Words



BBC 500 Words

As we are sure you've heard, the BBC are running their fantastic 500 words competition again this year. As usual, our Year 7 and 8 students have been busy crafting some amazing entries. We have entered over 50 stories this year! The quality of the writing that our students have produced and the creativity that they have shown has been tremendous. Well done to everyone who submitted an entry. Fingers crossed that the judges are as impressed as we are!



2020

Science Club

Year 5 Day Science Activities



This half term the students in the Year 7 Science Club worked on a project over a number of weeks to each construct a mechanical hand. Using a cardboard template they taped on short pieces of straw to represent the bones of the hand. Lengths of string were attached to the finger tips and threaded through the straws to mimic the tendons and muscles linking the bones in the human hand. Pulling the strings made the fingers curl and the models were tested to see if they could pick up objects such as paper cups and ping pong balls.

The students discussed the limitations of their models and ways they could improve them by studying pictures of the anatomy of the hand. We also talked about the use of robots in industry and how advances in technology were leading to ever more sophisticated prosthetic limbs.



It feels like a long time since we've been able to get stuck in to practical work in the science labs, but luckily the recent upheaval did not affect our Year 5 day experiments on the 10th March.

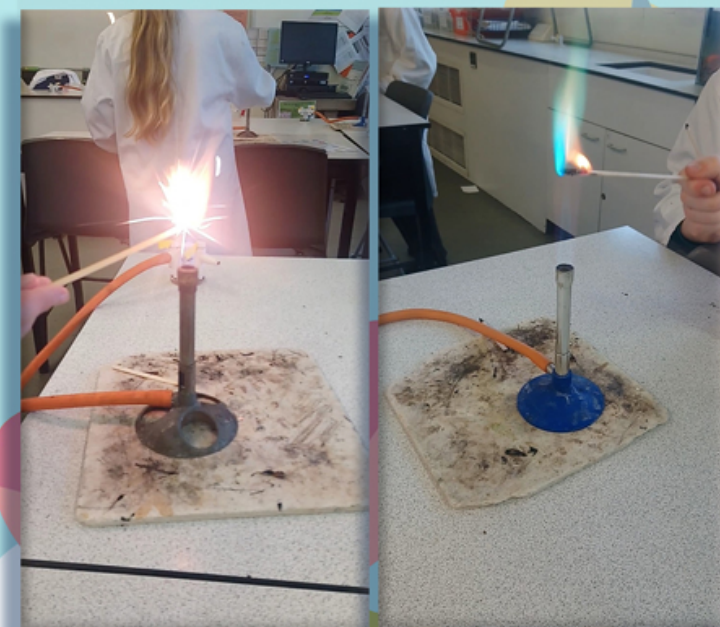
After learning about the health and safety of working in the lab with the bunsen burners and chemicals, the Year 5s enjoyed some dazzling chemistry activities; flame testing and making their own sparklers.

Flame testing can be used to identify the metal ion present in a compound, as different metals produce different colours of flame. A small amount of the powder is collected on a damp splint and heated in the bunsen flame.



The students tried out a selection of different chemicals and observed the colours produced in the flame. They then chose their favourite and, combined it with iron filings, or magnesium powder (or both!) on a splint in the bunsen flame to produce sparks in addition to colour.

This fun practical gave the students the chance to experience science in the lab, and hopefully ignited their interest in the subject!



Music Department News → Spring Recital



Before the pandemic of separation got its grubby little microbes on us, the Music department had been in the throngs of a creative explosion of rehearsals leading up to our GCSE showcase of performance work from Year 10 and 11.

It's one of my favourite times of the year; when there's a frenzy of ensembles, competing for space to rehearse and final touches made to interpretations of the music to be performed. This year was no exception, despite the gathering clouds of Coronavirus, albeit with a bit more hand washing than we've seen before. It was a proper serenade welcoming the joys of Spring.

Our String ensemble opened the recital with an atmospheric rendition of a Czech song, involving some tricky metre changes and complex swapping between pizzicato and arco for dramatic effect. Each GCSE student was then able to offer a solo or ensemble performance which was recorded for diagnostic purposes, allowing us to capture their sound and give them detailed feedback on final tweaks to be made before the real performance exams, which fortunately happened the week before lockdown.....pheW!

Showing our strength as a department, there were some incredibly moving vocal performances from Yasmin and Eva (Year 11) who have been in every concert for the last 5 years! What a mark they made on the musical life of our school; from being center stage in school productions to band nights, church concerts, assemblies, and even operas at Buxton.

For some, having 2 commitments on the same evening would have been a step too far, but Tamia (Year 10) didn't let that stop her from singing a belting performance of 'Human', dressed in her Cadet uniform ready for her next event. By contrast we heard Sophie's (Year 10) mellow clarinet playing in a performance of the first movement of Tartini's beautiful 'Concertino'. Taking our energy levels up a notch, George (Year 10) gave a hypnotic rendition of Nuvole Bianche by Ludovico Einaudi, closely followed by an epic drum performance from Lennon (Year 10) of the classic 90's grunge anthem 'Teen Spirit' by Nirvana. As if she had some kind of foresight of our next chapter, Alice (Year 10) gave a sonorous cello rendition of what has now become our

hymn to the NHS 'Somewhere over the rainbow'. Her counterpart in Year 11, Imogen bravely chose to play an unaccompanied 'Gigue' from Bach's famous cello suite which had all the hallmarks of Baroque sound. The evening was brought to a close with a rousing full on Rockschool Drum showpiece 'Slam Dunk Funk' played skilfully by Ben in Year 11.

A lot of hard work and practice went into the performances we heard that evening, but what a joy they were and how proud it makes me to hear how far our students have come. A memory to be treasured in the times we are in.

Get your instruments out, stay home and keep the music alive!

Miss Plant

