

# The Opossum Federation Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Today we end another year of learning at the Opossum Federation. The children have made great learning progress and have achieved outcomes in statutory assessments, at all key stages, which reflect the enormous effort made by children and staff, supported by their parents/carers. We are very proud to report that pupil outcomes at both schools compare very favourably with those achieved by children all across the country and in many cases are well above these averages.

Our Federation, or family of schools, has further developed this year. The partnership with Oakhill Primary School has now formalised, as the governing boards of Oakhill and Opossum voted this week for Oakhill to join the Opossum Federation. This is an exciting development for our school communities and one, which will further enrich the opportunities for pupils and staff in the coming year. We look forward to sharing our skills and experience across the schools by working collaboratively together.

Today we farewell a number of pupils and staff. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Year 6 pupils for their effort in learning and contribution to their school community. We are very proud to farewell you in the knowledge that you leave well and truly prepared for the next step in your learning journey. To the staff who leave us today, we thank you sincerely for all that you have given to the pupils and the schools within our federation. Some staff are beginning retirement after very long periods of service to the schools; we wish you every happiness and success in your next endeavour.

On behalf of the staff and governors, we would like to wish you all a safe, relaxing and happy holiday.

Prue Barnes-Kemp  
**Senior Executive Headteacher**

Lisa McIntyre  
**Executive Head of Federation**



# Summer 2 Trips and Events

## Sports events

**3 tees Cricket** - Year 1 and 2 took part in the 3 Tees Cricket tournament. It was thoroughly enjoyable and Newport received the Silver Medal.

**Tour de Waltham Forest** – It was the first time that Newport and Dawlish children took part in the Waltham forest Mountain bike race.

**Leyton Orient Football Cup** – Newport Girls were the winning team and boys were the runner up team .

**Go Run for Fun 2018 Olympic Park** – children met Amy Winkler, Olympic Bronze Medal GB Gymnast and popstar Max.

**Hockey Futures-** Thorpe Hall was selected to host the launch of a new charity called Hockey Futures, in connection with England Hockey. The children who took part were very fortunate to work with Olympic champion, Helen Richardson-Walsh MBE and European Medallist, Emily Defroand to develop their hockey skills. Everyone was suprised when the team were joined by Harry Potter star, Emma Watson who joined in the games and shared her love of hockey with the children. What an exciting day!

**Opossum Cup:** On Tuesday 10 July, the inaugural Opossum Cup football tournament took place at Newport School. Enthusiastic teams represented Oakhill, Thorpe Hall, Newport and Dawlish and a great afternoon of football was had by all. This year the cup was won by the Newport team –congratulations.

## Summer Fete and Eid Celebration

For the first time, this year Thorpe Hall held a celebration event for Eid. Children and families enjoyed a lovely afternoon celebrating with food, music and mendhi. Sadly the Summer fete was not able to go ahead as planned however the Thorpe Hall community came together on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July for a fun afternoon of games, bouncy castles and face painting all to the tune of the steel pan player. The raffle was particularly popular as the first prize was a football shirt signed by Harry Kane.

This year's joint Newport and Dawlish federation summer fete was a great success, we managed to raise £1828.71. What a fantastic effort! The children and school community enjoyed games, face painting, raffles, cake stalls, BBQ, arts and crafts, bouncy castle and a fashion show. The children wore their best party clothes ready for the fete fashion show! We will be consulting with the Federation Pupil Parliament to decide how to spend the money raised.

## Message from Pupil Parliament

This year in Pupil Parliament we have developed many skills such as confidence, sharing our ideas and representing our classmates. We have done this by regularly taking in everybody's opinions and sharing them with senior leaders. Being members of the Pupil Parliament is also excellent preparation for secondary school because it helps with communication, leadership and sharing ideas. We are looking forward to seeing who the next Pupil Parliament will be!

We enjoyed meeting and working with the Pupil Parliament reps from across the federation this year and look forward to doing more projects together next year.

## Prefect Outing and Interviews

We have had another academic year with hard working and exemplary Year 6 Prefects. As this year's Prefects move on to secondary school a new batch from Year 5 have applied and been interviewed for the upcoming year. After a difficult selection process we are proud to announce the 2018-2019 team

Dawlish: Elvis, Laiba, Hamna, Hanif, Jude, Teo

Newport: Maha, Sam, Adem, Isabella, Guila, Cassia, Alfie, Apphire, Connie, Sirine

Thorpe Hall: Tilly, Layla, Leshon, Nivesh, Roxy, Stephanie, Yusra, Saira, Angleina, Marwa



## **Dawlish and Newport Educational Visits Year 2 Chalkwell**

The Year 2 children, as part of the Year 2 History topic, took a trip to Chalkwell (near Southend). The children had an opportunity to experience how Victorians spent their beach holidays in the past and compare features of cities and the coastal areas. The children also enjoyed the beach building sandcastles and spending time with their friends.

## **Year 4 Spitalfields City Farm trip**

As part of their Science topic of Food Chains, Year 4 went on a walking trip to Spitalfields City Farm. As part of the day, they had the opportunity to look at farm animals, learn about food chains, and explore animal habitats. This was a great opportunity for the children to look at animals in their habitats in closer detail.

## **Year 3 Trip to Sidmouth and Olympic Park**

As a link to our topic of healthy living, Year 3 visited Sidmouth Park and the Olympic Park. Their goal was to compare the features and then think about improvements they could suggest to support a healthier lifestyle. All classes had a wonderful day and brought their ideas back to school. The children have been very creative with these ideas - including a pond and making it safe for younger children by including safety guard around it; making space for a healthy food tuck shop, toilets and water fountains to be installed. They have tried to include areas to calm their minds as well as exercise their bodies!

## **Sleepover, Edinburgh and Gilwell Park Residentials**

Year 4, 5 and 6 children in Newport and Dawlish took part in residentials this summer term. These residentials encourage team work, the development of life skills and independence. Year 4 children had a 1 night sleepover at Newport School where they played group games, prepared breakfast and had a camping style sleepover in the school halls. Year 5 children spent 2 days at Gilwell Park in Epping Forest where they took part in Archery, 3G Swing, Grass Sledging and the Zip Wire activities. The Year 6 children went further afield to the capital city of Scotland, Edinburgh. The children were able to spend 3 days learning about Scottish history; they visited museums and even Edinburgh Castle. Did you know that Queen Elizabeth II decided to take a trip to Edinburgh in the same week as our Year 6? Great minds think alike!

Year 6 Newport Pupil comment: 'Edinburgh was the best experience ever . I thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the sights, my favourite was Mary Queens' Close. I learnt all about the history of the city. It was my favourite memory by far.'

Year 5 Newport Pupil comment: 'Gilwell Park was awesome. I had the time of my life. We did lots of activities; my favourite was the zipwire. We sang songs around the campfire which was also fun.'

## **French Day & French Competition**

We celebrated French Day at the end of this term. In class the children were taught about the French language and culture and were tested on this during a special French assembly. Later on that day children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 across Dawlish and Newport competed in the Interschool Competition. Dawlish Year 3 and 4 won the cup this year. Well done!

## **Year 6 Money Sense Workshops**

Over the past few weeks, the Year 6s have been developing their money sense skills working alongside volunteers from NatWest Bank. Their task was to plan and organize a fully costed and reasonably priced birthday party. "I've learnt that money doesn't grow on trees, and we have to spend our money really wisely," said one Year 6 boy after the workshop.



## Eco Warriors

Eco Warriors had a successful term and Newport School has been awarded with a Bronze certificate for working towards a sustainable lifestyle in school. The team have worked hard this year, creating an action plan to help our school and students become more eco-friendly. We look forward to continuing our hard work and achieving Silver status next year!

Dawlish Year 6 pupil Ishita has won a prize for her entry in the poetry competition during Walk to School Week.

### Save the environment by Ishita

The environment is a wonderful thing,  
You should recycle not throw in the bin.  
We need to keep this place clean,  
It is definitely not by what I have seen,  
Another problem is pollution,  
We should find a good solution,  
To stop destroying the sea and the air,  
The ozone layer is starting to tear.  
Save the environment and the world,  
Listen to what you have been told.

## Thorpe Hall Educational Visits

**Wetlands Visit** The reception pupils enjoyed a lovely visit to the Walthamstow Wetlands. All the children had a wonderful time exploring the area.

**Lambourne End** Children in year 5 packed their bags and set off for the countryside. Everyone spent the day doing various activities and some children chose to prolong the adventure and spend the night there as well. Children took part in various activities including archery, raft building, a Melvin Walk, pond dipping and going to a farm finishing the evening at the campfire roasting marshmallows.

**Suntrap** – Year 2 were lucky to visit Suntrap in glorious weather. The children went pond dipping in the Suntrap garden, they collected small animals (and made sure to return them back to their habitat) and they saw many different creatures like butterflies, grasshoppers and crickets.

Year 6 also had a day out at Suntrap with different activities like shelter building, fire building and roasting bread on the fire.

**Tate Modern Trip** – Year 6 children had an interesting visit to the Tate Modern. A year 6 pupil describes: We started by looking at the sculptures, which some of us were confused by. We trailed behind are group leader, up the escalator to the huge rooms that were covered in famous art work, by Picasso, Dali and more. We also saw strange yet interesting objects, like the radio tower and the lobster telephone. Some rooms were filled with only one piece of art, like the room of humans crossed with animals.

**Year 6 York** – Year 6 had a wonderful 3 days exploring the historic city of York. They visited sights such as the Castle Museum, Clifford's Tower, York Minster and completed a treasure hunt in the city. The visit was a great opportunity to get to know the history and geography of another city in the UK as well as to spend some time with friends before moving to secondary school.

**We extend grateful thanks to all the staff across the federation who generously volunteered their time to make all the residential possible.**



## Welcome and Farewell

As the year ends, we say a fond farewell to our Year 6 pupils as they end their time at primary school and prepare to begin the next stage of their education. Without exception, our Year 6 pupils have worked so very hard throughout their time at school to be the very best learners they can be. We are very proud of how mature and well prepared they are and we know that they will make an outstanding contribution to our community and society. This is a very exciting time in their young lives and we wish them all the very best as they move to secondary school.

We also farewell a number of staff who are leaving us today. We offer thanks to the staff who have worked so hard to provide our children with positive and enriching learning experiences. We wish: Veronicalee Adams, Michele Brown, Hannah Cooper, Annique Daniel, Emily Grava, Eleanor Hanson, Jasmine Ji, Jack Sainsbury, Mohima Sultana from Newport; Serdar Dograr, Erica Feldman, Sangita Naik and Hollie Roberts, and from Thorpe Hall all the very best in the next phase of their career or on their adventures abroad. We also send our best wishes to Imola Batki-Racz and Anne Norton as they begin maternity leave.

In September, we will welcome new members to our federation staff team. We hope that Liam Ball, Taiwo Bamiro, Fiona Donnelly, Anji Giri, Elinor Green, Hannah Kelso-Mason, Eva Kiss, John McGahern, Megan Reeve, Brid Ryder, Keisha Shaw, Lauren Smyth, Cherice Thompson and Emma Wood, and will soon feel at home in our family of schools.

### Retirement

This week we also farewell a number of long serving staff members who begin their retirement. Erica Boon has supported learning at Thorpe Hall for 31 years, Jill Dansie has taught for 29 years and Pete Spenceley has cared for the school premises for 12 years.

At Newport, after 17 years, Sheila Moloney retires from her post as HLTA.

Each of these staff members has supported the learning of hundreds of children and contributed to the smooth running of the school for a very long time. We are sure that you will join us in wishing them a very happy retirement following these years of dedicated commitment to and support of the children and families of their school community.

## Congratulations

### New Awards

**Gold Schools Award:** Congratulations, Newport has been awarded a Gold Schools Award mark, for their commitment and excellence in the school games. Thank you to Mr. Nelson, Mr. Clarke and the Sports Leaders.

**Bronze Eco Schools Award:** Congratulations, Newport has been awarded a Bronze Eco Schools Award, for their commitment in becoming a more eco friendly school. Thank you to Ms. Sinnamon and the Eco Team.

## Awards

Newport Year 4 Bleu and Dawlish Year 2 Earth class won the best attendance award! To celebrate they enjoyed a relaxing afternoon with ice-cream in Sidmouth Park.

Today in the Year 6 leavers assembly we said a very emotional farewell to our Year 6 children and wished them good luck in their next journey at secondary school. In the assembly we also awarded those children who have shown model Opossum qualities this year. Please see below our leavers award winners:

 Ethan from Dawlish was awarded the Otunla Family certificate for most outstanding pupil

 Katherine from Newport was awarded the Highest Attainer certificate for being the highest academic achiever at the end of Key Stage 2

 Nojus from Newport was awarded the Progress certificate for making the most academic progress between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

 Ayesha from Newport was awarded the certificate for Whole School Contribution

### Thorpe Hall Attitude Awards

Congratulations to: Duru, Rayan, Sadie, Riley, Huzayfa, Zinnya, Lily, Ethan, Lina, Kayden, Hamnah, Freddie, Paul, Aafia, Sana, Oscar, Naveen, Karinaa, Oliwia, Anabelle, Abigail, Layla, Saira, Roxanna, Khadijah, Maja, Andzelika, Lola, Erin, Fatimah, Reece, Delnia, Simeone, Daria, Tyler, Manha

## Looking for More Information?

The school websites offer a wealth of information; you will find important dates, news updates, Home Learning projects, and links to other helpful websites. We encourage parents to regularly check the school websites for information, in particular 'Important dates' and 'Home Learning Projects'. All the information you need to know from your child's year group can be found on the websites.

## Summer Holiday Activities

Looking for events over the Summer holiday? Please follow this link to the Waltham Forest council events page <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/events>

## Term Dates 2018-19

Autumn Term		
3 <sup>rd</sup> September – 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Autumn term 1	
<b>28<sup>th</sup> September 2018</b>	<b>INSET Day</b>	<b>School closed</b>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> October – 26<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Half term break</b>	<b>School closed</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> October – 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Autumn term 2 Early closure on the last day of term- Newport & Dawlish <b>(1:30pm)</b>	
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018</b>	<b>INSET</b>	<b>School closed</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>Nursery Closed</b>	<b>Nursery Closed</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Christmas break</b>	<b>School closed</b>

Spring Term		
7 <sup>th</sup> January – 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Spring term 1	
<b>25<sup>th</sup> January 2019</b>	<b>INSET</b>	<b>School closed</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> February- 22<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Half term break</b>	<b>School closed</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> February – 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring 2 Early closure on the last day of term- Newport & Dawlish <b>(1:30pm)</b>	
8 <sup>th</sup> April – 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	<b>Easter break</b>	<b>School closed</b>

Summer Term		
23 <sup>rd</sup> April- 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Summer term 1	
<b>6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>	<b>School closed</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Half term break</b>	<b>School closed</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> June- 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer term 2 Early closure on the last day of term- Newport & Dawlish <b>(1:30pm)</b>	
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	<b>INSET</b>	<b>School closed</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	<b>INSET</b>	<b>School closed</b>