

# Newton British Academy, Al Dafna

“An International Community of learners striving for  
Excellence and celebrating success”



## NEWSLETTER – Term 1- 2025

As we begin this new term, I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a very happy New Year. We hope that 2026 brings good health, happiness, and prosperity to all members of our school community. A new calendar year and a new term always bring a sense of fresh beginnings, and this year is particularly special as we embrace 2026 as our Year of Reading.

Reading sits at the heart of everything we do. Throughout Term 1, we were pleased to welcome parents to workshops led by Mrs. Tansley and Ms. Patel, with a strong focus on early reading. While reading is an essential skill, it is also a source of enjoyment, imagination, and lifelong learning. We sincerely hope that this year inspires our children to develop a genuine love of reading that will stay with them well beyond their time at school.

Term 1 was an extremely successful and action-packed start to the academic year. We opened our doors on 28 August and warmly welcomed many new families, including children joining us in Foundation 1 as well as across Early Years and Primary. We hope that all new families felt welcomed, quickly developed a sense of belonging, and enjoyed a positive first term with us. At our school, everyone belongs, and we remain committed to working in close partnership with parents and keeping you well informed every step of the way.

We are proud to celebrate a number of highlights from the term. One significant achievement was being awarded the DialogueWorks Silver Award for Philosophy for Children. This was also the focus of our October parent coffee morning, which was a great success. Parents had the opportunity to take part in shared philosophy sessions alongside their children, exploring big questions and engaging in thoughtful discussion together.

Across the school, children have enjoyed a wide range of initiatives, visits, and activities. Every child, from Foundation 1 through to Year 6, has taken part in at least one trip linked to their learning, providing valuable opportunities to extend and enrich classroom experiences.

This newsletter reflects what can be achieved when we work together with shared values and a shared philosophy. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated teachers, extended teaching team, support staff, administrative staff, and, of course, our parents, for your continued support of our wonderful children.

Throughout the term, our children have shown themselves to be artists, scientists, athletes, geographers, historians, mathematicians, authors, and poets. Inspired by our founders, including the late Dr. Jabr, we hope our children continue to be curious, think deeply, and grow into confident individuals who lead purposeful and successful lives.

As we look ahead to Term 2, there is much to look forward to. Parents' Evening takes place next week, followed by our upcoming Sports Days and the school fair on 30 January, which promises to be a fantastic community event. We will also soon welcome the holy month of Ramadan, with our children taking part in Garangao midway through the month, leading us to the end of term celebrations for Eid al-Fitr.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and cooperation. We wish you all a wonderful and rewarding term ahead.

Kind regards,  
Mr Spencer



## Welcoming New Families to NBA Al Dafna

On Thursday 28th August, Mr. Spencer and the team had the pleasure of welcoming new children and their families to our school. After welcoming new children and their parents to the Newton Family, leaders shared first week expectations and routines. The phase leaders then provided guided tours of the school and introduced all new children and their parents to their new teachers. It was a successful event which supported a smooth transition and the process of building belonging.



## The Best Part of Me in Year 6

Year 6 Red has been proudly celebrating what makes each of us special. From our different talents and personalities to our unique dreams and stories, we've taken time to reflect on all the wonderful things that make us US!



## Welcome to Our First Week in EYFS!

What a wonderful start we had to the school year! We are so proud of how quickly the children settled into their new classrooms. They started making new friends, exploring their learning environment, and growing in confidence each day. The children got to know their teachers, learning classroom routines, and exploring all the exciting areas of our setting – from the role play corner to construction, small world play, and our creative art spaces. They practised sharing, taking turns, and learning how to tidy up together at the end of activities.

Our School Rules: Ready, Respectful and Safe

Throughout the first term, we have been introducing the children to our expectations of being:

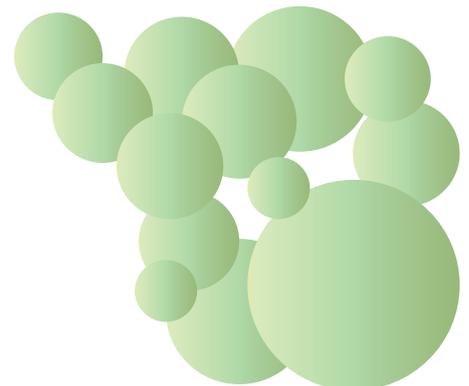
Ready – coming to school with a positive attitude, listening carefully, and joining in with activities.

Respectful – using kind words, taking turns, and looking after our classroom and resources.

Safe – moving around school carefully, using equipment safely, and making good choices in play.

We are already seeing the children putting these behaviours into practice and celebrating their successes together.

It has been such a joy to see their happy faces and eagerness to join in this week and we are very excited for the year ahead! Thank you for your continued support.



## Welcome to Our First Week in EYFS!

We had a fun and exciting start to the new school year in Key Stage 1! The children have returned full of energy and enthusiasm, and it's been wonderful to see so many happy faces back in the classrooms.

In Year 1, the children settled in beautifully as they begin their journey into KS1. The children explored their new learning environment through a variety of play-based activities. From imaginative role play and creative construction to sensory play and outdoor exploration, the children were busy building confidence, independence, and friendships. It was a lovely way to kick off the year, and we're so proud of how well they've adapted.

In Year 2, the children made a fantastic start. They spent time getting to know their new teachers, classroom routines, and expectations, while also recapping key concepts from last year to refresh their learning. Activities included collaborative games, creative writing, number challenges, and discussions about goals for the year ahead. The children are already showing great maturity and readiness for the new challenges of Year 2.

We're so proud of all our KS1 pupils for their positive attitude and enthusiasm. It's shaping up to be a brilliant year full of learning, laughter, and growth!



# FUN

## Making curriculum links in Year 6

Year 6 jumped straight into their exciting new writing unit, diving into a model text all about World War II. They were learning key actions to help them internalise the structure and language, making strong links with their Humanities lessons. It's was a fantastic start, with great enthusiasm and curiosity all round!



## Times Tables Rock Stars

UKS2 hit the ground running with Times Tables Rock Stars, which was introduced in the first week. The children are loving the competitive edge and fun format and it's fantastic to see their confidence with multiplication growing. Not only does it support rapid recall of times tables, but it also builds accuracy and fluency in a way that's both engaging and rewarding.

Rank	Name	Rockname	Initial Studio Speed	Current Studio Speed	Rock Status	Lifetime Earnings	Maths Band	Pastoral Band	Year Group
1	Rhik Maheshwari	Buster Spatula	-	-	New Artist	11,115	Y6B	-	Year 6
2	Aliyan Baber	Prince Marvin	-	-	New Artist	7,056	Y6B	-	Year 6
3	Cheryl Adzkiya	Grace Tyner	-	-	New Artist	6,944	Y6B	-	Year 6
4	Gabriel Mala	Art Clayton	-	-	New Artist	4,798	Y5R	-	Year 5
5	Dimitrios Koumparos	Willow Steel	-	-	New Artist	4,468	Y6Y	-	Year 6



## Year 6 Prefects

Our new Year 6 prefects proudly received their badges and are already stepping up to their roles with enthusiasm. They've been busy helping around the school, making sure that everyone is ready, safe, and respectful. It's been wonderful to see them wearing their badges with pride and setting a fantastic example for the rest of the school!



## Developing Character in Year 5

In Year 5 character education, children explored the value of friendship through a hands-on activity using string to represent the connections they share with others. As each child passed the string to a friend, a web was created, symbolizing how everyone is linked by kindness, trust and shared experiences. This visual and interactive approach helped children understand that their actions affect others, reinforcing the importance of empathy, respect, and cooperation in building strong, supportive friendships.



## GL Assessments under way!

Children sat their GL baseline assessments in both our computer suite and science room at the the start of the term.



## Meet The Teachers 2025

On Sunday 7th all teachers welcomed parents into their classes for the final 30 minutes of the school day in order to talk through a presentation to further reinforce our routines and expectations for the year ahead. This event was hugely successful, enabling us to further strengthen the working partnership between home and school, with many parents in attendance.



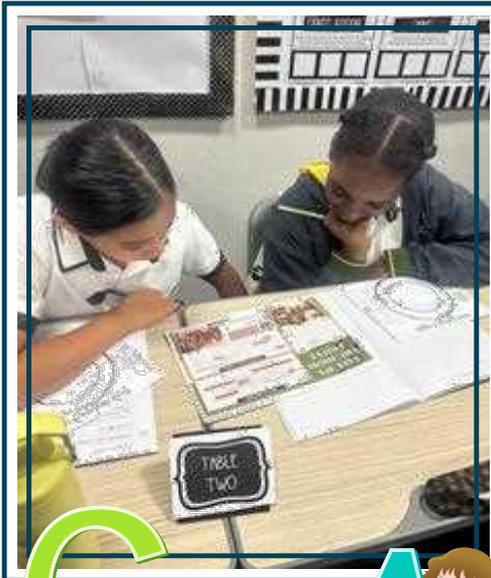
## **PE in Foundation 1 Red**

Foundation 1 Red enjoying their very first PE lesson with the amazing Ms. B and Ms. Melani! The children were full of energy as they ran, stretched, jumped, and played lots of fun games. They are already building confidence, teamwork, and big smiles every step of the way.



## **Year 6 - Book Tasting**

In our Year 6 book tasting of non-chronological reports, pupils explored a variety of texts to identify and discuss the techniques authors use to engage and inform readers. They noticed how authors use clear organisational features like headings, subheadings, bullet points and fact boxes to structure information effectively. Pupils also observed the use of formal tone, technical vocabulary and present tense to maintain an informative style. Engaging openings, rhetorical questions and interesting facts were common techniques used to hook the reader. Many authors also included labelled diagrams and images to support understanding. These observations helped pupils recognise how purposeful author choices shape the reader's experience and enhance clarity.



## **Year 6 - World War 2 enquiry**

Year 6 pupils responding to a request from the BBC Children's History section to help improve their popular online feature about Eric the Evacuee. They began with a role-play activity, stepping into the shoes of different child evacuees to explore the wide range of experiences during World War II. This helped them understand that while many children had positive and even exciting times away from home, others faced loneliness, fear, or unkind treatment. Pupils investigated why these differences existed, considering factors such as location, host families, and social class. They also examined different types of historical evidence- like government photos and wartime propaganda- and discussed why these often presented a one-sided, overly positive view of evacuation. Using their insights, they have begun creating a more balanced script with suggested images to help update the website and provide a fuller, more accurate picture of what evacuation was really like for children at the time.



## **Character Education Home Learning Project**

Home Learning Project focusing on celebrating the virtue of Friendliness, encouraging students to reflect on and appreciate the special friendships in their lives. The project invited students to choose one friend to highlight, whether it's a best friend in Qatar, a friend from their home country, or a new school friend. Students created a project that included a drawing or picture of their friend, a list of qualities that make the friend special, fun memories shared together, and an explanation of why the friendship is important. To personalise their projects, students were encouraged to decorate with colours, drawings, and stickers, and optionally, write a heartfelt thank-you note to express gratitude. See below some of our wonderful pieces of work!



## **Talk for Writing in Year 1**

In Term 1, Year 1 have begun their Talk for Writing journey with non-fiction reports! The children were busy exploring a range of fascinating animals and decoding fun facts about them. From discovering how elephants keep cool, to learning why penguins huddle together, the class have been curious investigators, asking questions and sharing their own knowledge.

As writers, they are also getting to grips with the key features of a report: using headings and subheadings, writing in clear sentences, adding fun fact boxes, and even including labelled diagrams. The children have enjoyed spotting these features in example texts and are beginning to use them in their own work.

We are so impressed with the enthusiasm Year 1 has shown so far. Their confidence as writers is growing each day, and we can't wait to see the fantastic reports they produce at the end of this unit!



## **EYFS - Foundation 2 Blue**

Foundation 2 Blue had a wonderful opportunity to begin using iPads in the classroom! The children were fully engaged and enthusiastic as they explored this exciting new learning tool, which was introduced as part of their specialist Computing lesson. Through an age-appropriate program, they have started developing key digital skills, including early coding concepts such as sequencing and problem-solving. It was incredible to see their curiosity and confidence grow as they navigated simple commands and saw their actions come to life on the screen. A big thank you to Miss Bernadette for her fantastic role-modelling and support throughout the session. We're so proud of how quickly the children are embracing technology as a tool for learning and can't wait to see how their skills continue to develop in the weeks ahead!



## Upper Key Stage 2

A huge congratulations to all of our amazing mathematicians! Well done to the Year 6 winners of the Inter Newton Maths Competition, and to our Year 5 runners-up for their outstanding achievements. Year 6 was the only team to get zero mistakes! Your hard work and dedication have truly paid off. A special shout-out to Ms. Naas for her incredible support and guidance throughout this journey. We're so proud of you all! Keep up the excellent work and we can't wait to see what you'll achieve next.



## Creativity and Team Work

Year 6 hard at work using their box-up plans to innovate their own non-chronological reports. After carrying out in-depth research and careful planning, final stages included- editing, reflecting, and bringing their work to life through beautifully crafted double-page spreads! From World War II and the Champions League to the Olympics, pupils have stepped away from the model text and dived into topics they're truly passionate about. It's wonderful to see them take ownership of their writing and collaborate so thoughtfully — especially when using thesauruses to refine and enhance their vocabulary choices.

A brilliant blend of creativity, research, and teamwork – well done, Year 6!



*idea*

## Scientific Inquiry in Year 5

Year 5, experimenting with making parachutes to learn about air resistance. We used different materials and sizes for our parachutes and dropped them from the same height to see how they fell. We discovered that larger parachutes with more surface area fell more slowly because the air pushed against them more, creating greater air resistance. It was a fun way to see how forces work in real life!



Newton Dafna Academy received a nomination for fourth-grade student Mohammed Rawashdeh to be a member of Al Arabiya 2 Channel, after several competitions and challenges. Student Mohammed won and excelled in his ability to speak Modern Standard Arabic and his mastery of its grammar and vocabulary.



## EYFS News Update:

Our teachers and Teaching Assistants have been working extremely hard to design an engaging and thoughtful enhanced provision plan for our young learners. This plan creates exciting opportunities to explore, investigate, and learn in ways that spark curiosity and build independence.

Through enhanced provision, children are encouraged to make choices, follow their interests, and develop key skills across different areas of learning. Teachers have carefully planned activities and resources that support creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration, while also extending learning from the classroom.

We are proud of the dedication our staff have shown in creating a rich, stimulating environment, and we look forward to seeing how our pupils flourish through this approach.



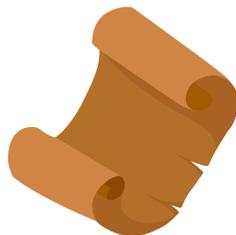
## **Year 6:**

To kick off an exciting new writing unit in Year 6, students were immersed in a top-secret spy-themed hook that introduced their brand new model text – a persuasive piece all about a state-of-the-art spy gadget. The classroom transformed into a spy headquarters, complete with thrilling spy music to set the scene. Pupils cracked coded spy names, unleashing their inner agents, before diving into the design phase of their very own innovative gadgets. From jet-powered backpacks to invisibility cloaks, the creative sparks were flying! This hook not only fired up their imaginations but also laid the groundwork for persuasive writing with a real purpose. After some truly inventive “cold task” pitches – including a swimming pool at Al Dafna and even a school dog – we can’t wait to see what the children will create. With their persuasive powers sharpened, we were hopeful that by the end of the unit, Mr Spencer won’t be able to say no!



## **Year 6 - World War 2 Dress up day**

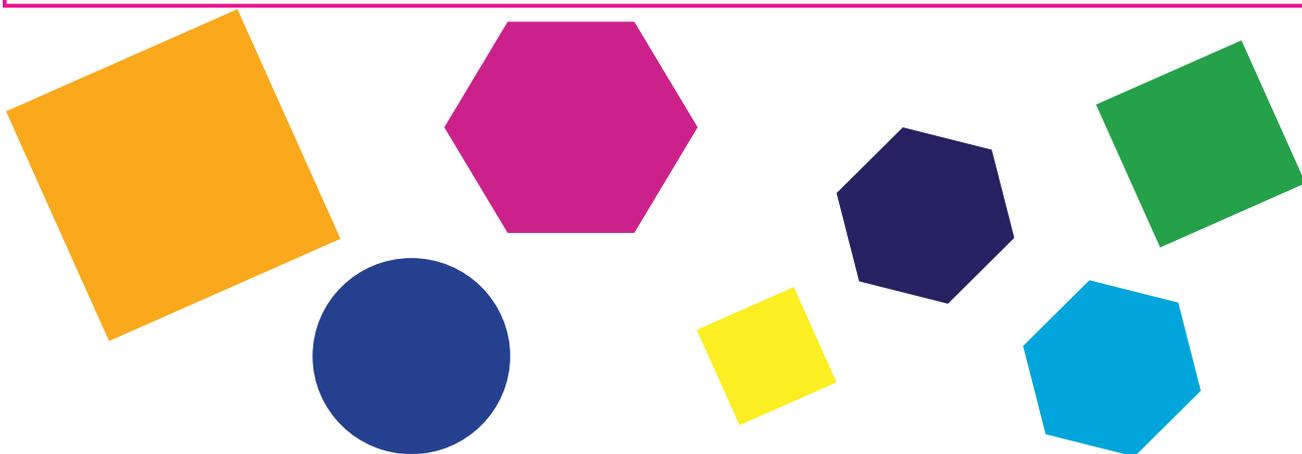
Year 6 had a fantastic time during our World War II dress-up day. The children looked brilliant in their costumes and really immersed themselves in the role of a child evacuee. They painted with coffee to give their work an authentic, aged look and wrote diary entries to capture the emotions and experiences of the time. Through these activities, they not only learnt so much about history but also developed empathy and kindness as they imagined what life was like for children living through evacuation.



## EYFS News - F2 Yellow

Our children loved getting stuck into their activities and working together with lots of smiles along the way. In Math's, we've been focusing on comparing mass and size, introducing key vocabulary such as heavier, lighter, bigger and smaller. In literacy, we have begun our exciting new Talk4Write story all about Fireman Sam! The children have enjoyed getting to know the characters and joining in with the actions as we bring the story to life. We are all so proud of our dedicated little learners.

A handful of our F2 girls took part in our ballet ECA club. This is such a wonderful opportunity for the girls and they are all such beautiful ballerina's!



## Scientific Enquiry within Year 4

Our States of Matter topic, Year 4 had a super fun (and a bit messy) Science challenge at home - making Oobleck!

Oobleck is a strange, gooey mixture made from cornflour and water. It's not quite a solid and not quite a liquid; we call it a non-Newtonian fluid! When you squeeze or tap it, it feels hard like a solid, but when you let it rest, it drips and oozes like a liquid. Our scientists explored how Oobleck behaves and discovered that it changes depending on how much force you use. Everyone loved squishing, poking and experimenting - all while learning that some materials don't fit neatly into 'solid', 'liquid', or 'gas'.



## ECA Arts & Crafts

During the first two weeks of Art & Craft club, children explored the vibrant world of the renowned artist Vincent van Gogh. Inspired by his iconic Sunflowers, they practiced sketching while learning about shapes, composition, and expressive techniques. Using oil pastels and paints, the young artists brought their creations to life with bold colors and textures. They experimented with a variety of materials, embracing creativity and personal interpretation. The sessions were filled with curiosity, joy, and artistic discovery—setting a brilliant tone for the weeks ahead!



## EYFS - Growing, Learning, and Smiling in F1 Yellow!

F1 Yellow had a fantastic time exploring and learning in our outdoor provision! The children especially enjoyed playing with the fish, which has been a great way to develop their fine motor skills through scooping, pouring, and sorting. They have shown lots of creativity and problem-solving by making their own triangles using rubber bands, experimenting with shapes and stretching their imaginations. It has been a joyful and engaging experience for everyone involved!

Thank you to the parents in F1 Yellow who have all been amazingly supportive over the first 6 weeks. We are very grateful for all your help and patience while the children have been settling into this next chapter of their lives!



## Friendly Football Encounter

Fantastic day out for Year 6 getting prepared for the Inter - Newton School league as we travelled to NBS Muraikh for a friendly. The boys performed fantastic and came away with a much deserved win with some amazing goals and teamwork on display. The boys were absolutely buzzing with their performance and are a credit to themselves. This is a great reminder that working as a team and showing resilience is part of who we are at Newton Al Dafna.

Amazing performance and a special mention to Adi who got Man Of The Match with his cat like reflexes.



## World Mental Health Day 2025

Year 6 celebrated World Mental Health Day by taking time to slow down, reflect and practise meditation. The children learned how calming their minds and focusing on their breathing can help them feel more relaxed and ready to learn. Taking a few quiet moments to notice their thoughts and feelings helped them understand how to manage emotions and find balance in their busy school days. Meditation is a simple but powerful way for children to build focus, resilience and a sense of wellbeing.



## World Mental Health Day – Bilateral Drawing Activity

As part of our World Mental Health Day activities, we took time to focus on our wellbeing through a creative exercise called bilateral drawing.

“Bilateral” means “two sides,” and this activity involves using both hands at the same time to draw. By doing this, we engaged both sides of our brain — the logical and the creative — helping us to feel calm, balanced, and focused.

It didn't matter what our drawings looked like; the aim was to relax, move our hands freely, and enjoy the process. The children really embraced it, creating swirls, patterns, and shapes while finding moments of calm and mindfulness.

It was a simple but powerful reminder that looking after our mental health can be fun, creative, and something we can do anytime we need to feel centred.



## Year 5 school trip, out of this world!

Year 5 had an exciting trip to the Planetarium in Katara to launch their new Science topic on Space. The children were amazed as they journeyed through the solar system, learning about planets, stars and galaxies. They were fascinated by the immersive dome experience and loved discovering how astronauts live and work in space. The visit sparked their curiosity and inspired lots of brilliant questions that will guide their learning.



## World Mental Health Awareness in EYFS

Our F1 children took part in a special celebration for World Mental Health Awareness Day. Dressed in green to show kindness, support, and care for one another, the children engaged in a range of activities designed to promote friendship, mindfulness, and emotional wellbeing. They enjoyed dancing to get their bodies moving, creating a class banner about what makes them happy, and taking part in calm, reflective moments such as breathing games, quiet colouring, gentle music, and circle time discussions. It was a truly heartwarming day that reminded us all of the importance of looking after our minds as well as our bodies.



## World Mental Health Awareness in EYFS

In F2, the children marked Mental Health Awareness Day with a wonderful variety of thoughtful and calming activities. Everyone came to school dressed in green, a colour symbolising harmony, renewal, growth, balance, and hope, representing positivity and fresh starts. Across the classes, children participated in relaxing yoga sessions, bubble breathing exercises, and mindfulness meditation, as well as sharing the story “The Colour Monster” to explore and understand different emotions. Circle time provided opportunities for meaningful discussions about what makes us happy and how we can help others feel good too. In F2 Red, the children also enjoyed sharing fresh green apples, linking healthy eating with feeling good both inside and out. It was a truly uplifting day focused on wellbeing, kindness, and self-care throughout F2.



## Life and legacy of Dr. Jabr

Year 6 took time to remember and celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Jabr, the beloved founder of our school. Through thoughtful art and heartfelt poetry, students expressed their gratitude for the incredible impact he made in shaping our community. Dr. Jabr believed that a school should be more than just a place for academic achievement, it should nurture character, values and thoughtful dialogue. He introduced Character Education and Philosophy for Children (P4C), helping to lay the foundation for the kind, curious and reflective environment we enjoy today. We are deeply thankful for his vision and continue to be inspired by the path he set for us.



## Year 6 Visit with NBA Barwa

Our Year 6 students enjoyed an engaging secondary transition meeting with NBA Barwa. They warmly welcomed Miss Kim and Miss Shakira, along with the Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and a Year 9 Student Council representative, who shared insights into life at their wonderful school. Year 6 were especially excited to hear about the wide range of ECAs, fascinating science lessons that include dissections and were eagerly looking forward to attending the school's Open Day in November.



## Year 6 Scientists

Year 6 rounded off their Electricity unit with an exciting scientific enquiry into how the number of cells in a circuit affects the volume of a buzzer. After making thoughtful predictions, the children worked systematically to build circuits, test their ideas, and record their findings. Many pupils discovered unexpected results, including anomalies, which led to brilliant scientific discussions about reliability, errors in testing, and the importance of repeating results. To conclude, the children evaluated their investigations and suggested excellent recommendations for further experiments, such as:

- Testing whether the length or thickness of the wire changes the volume of the buzzer
- Investigating if different types of buzzers or bulbs respond differently to the same number of cells
- Exploring how adding a switch or resistor might control the loudness of the sound.

A fantastic end to a unit where children not only “did” science, but thought like real scientists!



## EYFS - A Fantastic Start After Half Term!

We had an exciting first week back after half term! The children in both F1 and F2 were full of curiosity and energy as they explored our new water trays outside. They engaged in hands-on learning, exploring different modes of transport and practicing representing numbers in creative ways.

In Foundation 2, we began our new story, The Little Red Hen. The children eagerly used their prediction skills to guess who might have left a mess in our classroom and were thrilled when they got to make their own bread, bringing the story to life. At home, they continued the learning by drawing pictures of who they thought had left the mess, showing their imagination and engagement with the story.

It's been wonderful to see the children so involved and enthusiastic, and we're looking forward to more exciting learning experiences in the coming weeks!



## P4C Coffee Morning Success!

What a wonderful morning we shared as our school community came together to celebrate achieving the Philosophy for Children (P4C) Silver Award Accreditation on 21st October.

Parents were invited to join us for our P4C Coffee Morning, where they learned more about how P4C helps children think deeply, share ideas with confidence, and listen to others with kindness and respect.

Afterwards, our families were welcomed into classrooms to take part in live P4C sessions with the children – exploring big questions, thinking together, and seeing the joy of inquiry in action.

Together, we are continuing Dr. Jabr's dream of growing thoughtful, creative, and caring thinkers across the Newton Group. We had 186 parents in attendance which is a wonderful reflection of the strength of the partnership that we share.



## **Bring the Classroom Outside Day**

Our Year 6 students had a fantastic time taking their Maths learning outdoors for Bring the Classroom Outside Day! The children took part in an energetic Times Table Relay, combining movement and maths as they jumped, dribbled balls and raced to answer multiplication questions. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm and teamwork as they practised their times tables in such a fun and active way - proving that learning can happen anywhere.



## **Outside Day**

Our Year 6 children exploring the powerful book *The Lost Words* by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris - a stunning collection of poems and illustrations written in response to the removal of around fifty nature-words from the children's dictionary in 2007. Words like acorn, bluebell, ivy and willow were dropped, replaced by technological terms such as blog, broadband and voice-mail. *The Lost Words* seeks to "spell" the natural world back into language - each poem conjures a plant, animal or landscape, celebrating the beauty and wonder of what might otherwise slip from our vocabulary!

In our Talk for Writing lessons, the children were responding to this idea by becoming nature-observers themselves: they have spent time outdoors at MIA park, noticing leaves, insects, birds and trees, then bringing those observations into acrostic poems. These poems celebrated aspects of the natural world - inspired by *The Lost Words* - and remind us that the names we give to things help us to notice, connect with and care for them. The aim is for the children to realise that poetry is not just about rhyme, but about paying attention, naming and honouring what's around them!



## **We are Proud**

We are incredibly proud of our brilliant students Haya, Yuzhang, Fatimah, and Morris from Years 5 and 6, who represented NBA Al Dafna in the Inter-Newton Gifted & Talented Quiz held at NIS West Bay. The competition featured challenging rounds in Maths, English, and General Knowledge, and our talented team showcased exceptional teamwork, knowledge, and confidence throughout the event. Congratulations to our champions for achieving 1st place in both Year 5 and Year 6 categories!

A huge well done to our students for their outstanding achievement and for making NBA Al Dafna proud!



## We are Proud

We are also so proud of our amazing Year 5 students — Fatemeh, Irfan, and Yasmina — who represented NBA Al Dafna in the Inter-Newton French Competition held on Wednesday 11th of November at NIA Smash! The students were teamed up with participants from other Newton schools and took part in exciting challenges, including French spelling, general knowledge, café role plays, and many more engaging activities. They did a fantastic job, showing great teamwork and enthusiasm.



## The Young Muezzin Competition

We are proud to announce that some of our talented students took part in the external competition “The Young Muezzin”. This wonderful event aims to encourage students to perfect the beautiful call to prayer (Adhan) and appreciate its spiritual and cultural significance. We are truly proud of our participants for representing our school with dedication and passion.



## Happy Sock Day!

What a cheerful day we've had! Our little learners came to school wearing their brightest, funniest, and most mismatched socks, spotty, stripy, sparkly, and silly! Sock Day helped us celebrate kindness, friendship, and how our differences make us special. We sang songs, listened to stories, and joined in fun activities that reminded us how to be good friends and show kind hearts every day. A big thank you to our lovely parents for all your support and enthusiasm, you helped make Sock Day extra special!

Different Socks, Same Kind Hearts!



## Anti-Bullying Week 2025 – “Power for Good”

Newton Al Dafna came together to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week with the theme “Power for Good.” Throughout the week, pupils reflected on how small acts of kindness can make a big difference and how we all have the power to stand up for others. We began with Odd Socks Day, celebrating individuality and reminding everyone that being different is something to be proud of.

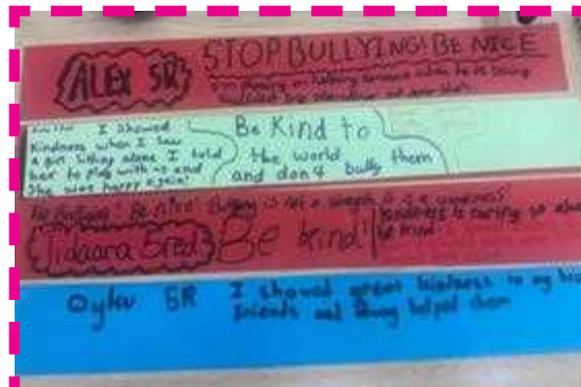


Each class contributed to our whole-school Chain of Kindness, writing down kind things they have done or plan to do. When joined together, the chain became a powerful display of unity that now stretches through the school.

Pupils also created our Hands Up Against Bullying boards — bright, colourful handprints showing that we stand together to make our school a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

The week ended with Friendship Day, a celebration of empathy, respect and inclusion.

It was a week filled with positivity, teamwork and reflection — a true reminder that together we all have the Power for Good.



## Year 5

Mr Gibbs wanted a calm, relaxing space where pupils could unwind and enjoy their books and now 5 Blue has its very own cosy reading area! The children are loving the comfy corner, and it's quickly becoming a favourite spot for quiet reading and reflection.



### Year 6 visit NBA Barwa

Our Year 6 students had a fantastic time during the NBA Barwa Transition Day, fully immersing themselves in a range of exciting secondary-style lessons. They absolutely loved taking part in hands-on science experiments, thought-provoking P4C discussions, engaging English and geography activities, and challenging maths tasks. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to get a real taste of what secondary school learning feels like. A huge thank you to NBA Barwa for hosting such an inspiring and memorable day for children.



### Year 6 visit Museum of Islamic Art

Year 6 visited the Museum of Islamic Art, where the children showed great curiosity and enthusiasm as they explored the exhibits. They were eager to learn about the artwork and history on display, making it a truly enriching experience for all.



### Talk for writing

Our students were fully engaged with their model text - The Final Year, retelling the model text through actions and even playing word charades to explore key vocabulary. They enjoyed sharing what they like, dislike, wonder about and made lots of connections. These reflections help them think about their thinking, building confidence and deepening their understanding as readers and writers!



## **School Song**

Marcus in 6 Yellow did an outstanding job leading our school song in Thursday's assembly. Well done, Marcus, for stepping out of your comfort zone - you were brilliant! We are all so proud of you.



## **Phonics Workshops for Parents**

We hosted 2 successful parent workshops on the theme of phonics and early reading led by Mrs. Tansley, our reading leader. Parents were really engaged as Mrs. Tansley explained what phonics is and how it is structured and taught here in school. During the workshops, Ms. Patel, our EYFS Coordinator, demonstrated exactly how phonics is taught, with parents really enjoying their participation.



## **Creative**

Year 6 have been getting creative in Design and Technology as they work on building their very own steady-hand games - all made from recycled materials! In Week 1, pupils carefully planned their projects and this week they have been collaborating to construct the base of their designs. Next week, they will move on to creating the electrical circuits and shaping the metal wire to match their chosen patterns. They'll also be designing a handle and applying their science learning to ensure that if the handle touches the metal, the buzzer will sound! The children have truly been buzzing with excitement throughout the project.



## Readers

Year 6 have been reading as readers and writers, taking their book-tasting lesson outside to explore a range of acrostic poems. They spent time identifying the techniques used by different poets and magpied their favourite ideas to inspire their own writing. It was a fantastic opportunity to enjoy poetry in the fresh air while deepening their understanding of how writers create impact.



## Year 6 Trip to NIA Barwa

Year 6 went to NIA Barwa for their secondary taster day, where they enjoyed the chance to be more independent and take part in a variety of different lessons. One of the highlights was Science, where they took part in exciting experiments involving mixing alkaline solutions. They also enjoyed their English session, learning about poems and exploring creative language. In ICT, they had the opportunity to explore AI and thoroughly enjoyed it. Overall, the day gave them a great insight into secondary school life and left them feeling excited for the future!!



## Solidari-tree

Our children have wrote heart warming messages with the children of Palestine. Every child in the school was given a leaf to add to our tree, creating a powerful symbol of unity and compassion. Together, these leaves form our Solidari-Tree, remind us of the strength of solidarity and the hope carried in every child's voice.



## International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

The Arabic department celebrated the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People by organising a variety of educational, cultural, and recreational activities aimed at strengthening students' understanding of the Palestinian cause, promoting human solidarity, and highlighting the rights of the Palestinian people to freedom and a dignified life. It was an enriching and impactful event at our school. The activities helped reinforce cultural identity, build awareness, and encourage students to engage positively with humanitarian causes. Through learning, creativity, and collective action, our students expressed meaningful solidarity with the children and people of Palestine.



## Year 5 and 6 Trip to U17 World Cup Final

Our Year 5 and Year 6 students enjoyed an unforgettable school trip to the U17 World Cup Final at Khalifa Stadium, where Portugal faced Austria.

The children had a fantastic time soaking up the atmosphere and cheering on the teams - memories were truly made!

A huge thank you to Mr. Spencer for organising this wonderful experience, and to all the staff who helped make it possible: Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Charles, Ms. Khan, Mr. James, Mr. Adam, Mr. Gill, Ms. Heidi, Mrs. Snowden, as well as Gift from Security and Gerard, our Resources Manager.



## **NBA Al Dafna enjoys Ms Naas's French Day**

French Day was a fantastic success, thanks to the wonderful organisation of Ms Naas! Here's some students enjoying a fun-filled day that included a "Qui veut gagner des millions ?" quiz written entirely in French, a variety of engaging French-themed activities, a French picnic, and even an Eiffel Tower competition. During assembly, we celebrated our competition winners, who proudly received their certificates and French-themed goodies. The children loved immersing themselves in all things French and celebrating the beautiful language they are so lucky to learn.



## **Lights, camera, action!**

Year 6 investigated how light travels in straight lines and how this helps us understand the formation of shadows. They also learned to identify and classify materials as transparent, translucent, or opaque, carrying out hands-on experiments to observe how different materials affect the amount of light that passes through them.

Through practical activities - such as creating and measuring shadows and testing light sources - Year 6 developed a deeper understanding of how we see objects and why shadows change in size and shape.



## Year 4: Trip to the National Museum of Qatar

Year 4 had a fantastic day at the National Museum of Qatar, where they deepened their understanding of the country's rich history and exciting future. The children were fascinated to learn how the pearl trade once supported entire communities, seeing real examples of tools, boats and stories from divers who relied on the sea for their livelihood. They also explored traditional clothing displays, gaining insight into how people dressed in the past and how garments reflected everyday life in Qatar's earlier years. As they moved through the galleries, the pupils compared different modes of transport across time, from older desert and sea routes to the modern systems used today. This helped them see how Qatar has developed rapidly while still preserving its heritage. The visit also highlighted Qatar's forward-thinking approach, with the 2030 Vision exhibition showing how the country is planning for a sustainable and innovative future.

A truly special moment came when the children had the unexpected opportunity to meet Ghamin Al Muftah. His presence inspired them and added a memorable highlight to an already brilliant



## Year 1: Trip to Curiosity

The children enjoyed a fun and engaging trip to Curiosity. Throughout the visit, they had wonderful opportunities to develop and strengthen their communication and social skills through a variety of exciting role-play experiences. They explored immersive sensory rooms that encouraged curiosity, creativity, and confidence as they interacted with different lights, sounds, and textures.

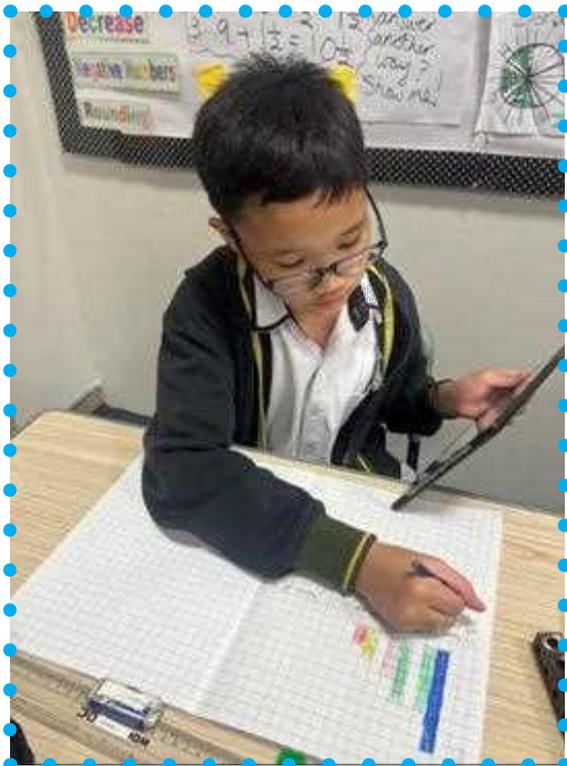
The climbing areas offered the perfect space for the children to move their bodies, practise gross motor skills, and challenge themselves physically in a safe and supportive environment. One of the highlights of the trip was the science station, where the children used problem-solving skills and teamwork to create their very own slime—an activity that sparked joy and fascination.

Overall, it was a fantastic and memorable trip that supported learning across many areas of development. The children returned to school full of enthusiasm, eager to share their experiences.



## Activities

Year 6 diving deeper into ratio through a highly practical, hands-on lesson using Cuisenaire rods. They explored how different combinations of rods can represent equivalent ratios, building strong visual and conceptual understanding. The class also embraced an NRICH interactive Cuisenaire challenge, testing whether mathematical statements were true or false and justifying their reasoning. The children loved choosing their own level of challenge, collaborating, and explaining how the rods helped them 'see' the multiplicative relationships. Their confidence and curiosity in ratio are growing brilliantly.



Year 5 Blue have been fully immersed in the imitation stage this week as they learn the actions to their model text, *The Highway Rat*. Through lively rehearsals, expressive gestures and collaborative choral retelling, the children are beginning to internalise the rhythm, structure and rich language of the poem. Their enthusiasm has brought the text to life - helping them build a deep understanding of vocabulary, imagery and performance skills that will support them as they move into the innovation stage.



Here's Year 5 Red diving into poetry by comparing poetic devices across different poems! The children explored features such as similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia and personification, discussing how each device creates mood, imagery and impact. They worked collaboratively, shared thoughtful ideas and deepened their understanding of how poets craft meaning. A fantastic session full of rich language and enthusiastic engagement!



## **Design and Technology**

Year 6 proudly completed their Design and Technology project, creating their very own steady-hand games using electrical circuits with buzzers. If the handle touches the wire, the buzzer sounds - much to everyone's excitement! The pupils worked incredibly hard throughout the process, from planning and designing to assembling and refining their final products. Not only did they develop their technical skills, but they also had a great deal of fun bringing their ideas to life.



Mr. Leon visited Year 5 Blue to showcase the games, and Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed testing them out and seeing if they could keep a steady hand!



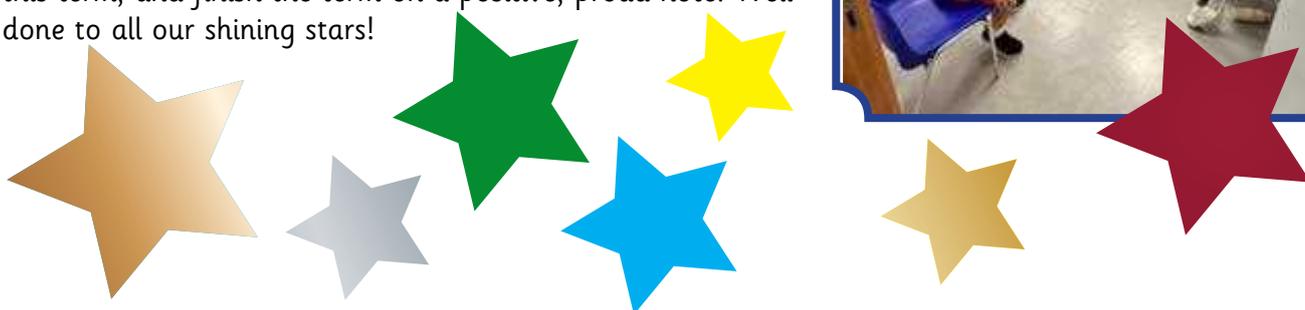
### **Character Education**

Year 6 exploring the virtue of patience through a fun but challenging task: learning how to tie a shoelace in just five seconds! Although the skill proved trickier than expected, the pupils showed real perseverance, calm focus, and an excellent understanding that mastery takes time. Building on this, Year 6 visited Year 1 to teach the younger children how to tie their laces, using wonderful virtue language and character coaching throughout. It was heart-warming to see their nurturing side shine, with countless small success stories and proud moments for both year groups.



### **Star of the week tea party!**

Children celebrated our final Stars of the Week Tea Party for Term 1 with our Head of Primary, Ms Mohmed. Our pupils always look forward to this special treat - a chance to enjoy a drink, a treat and a chat while celebrating their hard work and successes. It was a lovely moment to recognise their achievements, reflect on their efforts this term, and finish the term on a positive, proud note. Well done to all our shining stars!



## Reading Buddies

Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils enjoyed a wonderful reading opportunity in the school library, where they were able to share a book and connect over stories they love. This time together helped promote reading for pleasure and encouraged lots of rich book talk - from discussing favourite characters to recommending new titles to each other. The children really enjoyed the experience and left feeling inspired to keep exploring new books!



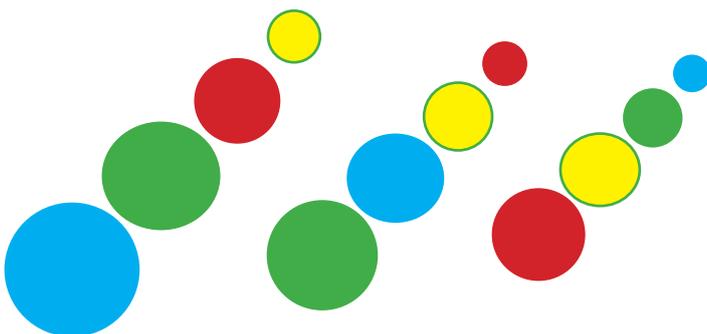
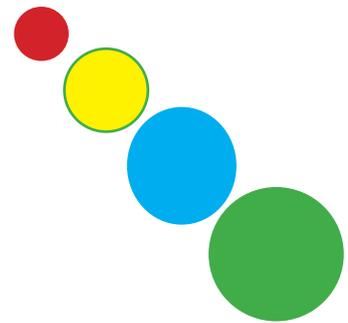
## EYFS

F1 students had an incredible day exploring OliOli® in Katara, Qatar's interactive museum designed to spark curiosity and creativity! The trip was a perfect blend of fun, learning, and teamwork, giving students a chance to apply classroom concepts in a hands-on environment. From engineering mini race cars to experimenting with motion and speed, the children dove into STEM-inspired activities that connected beautifully with our F1 theme. They also enjoyed exploring different galleries that encouraged problem-solving, innovation, and imagination—all while having a fantastic time with their classmates. It was so lovely to take the children out of school for some hands-on learning and the trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all!



## Oli Oli

F2 had an exciting and adventure-filled visit to OliOli, the interactive children's museum! The children explored the Water Gallery, splashing and experimenting as they discovered how water moves. Some were even inside a bubble! In the Kinetic Gallery, they learned about air through hands-on play, including experiencing different wind speeds and observing how objects move through the air. A highlight of the day was the magical Future Park, where students coloured their own under-the-sea creatures and were thrilled to watch them come to life, swimming across the digital walls. The fun continued in the Creative Lab, where teamwork and imagination soared as the class worked together to build the tallest block structure they could. It was a day full of curiosity, creativity, and joyful learning!



## Year 5 & 6 Swimming Gala

A massive well done to all our Year 5 and 6 boys and girls who took part in the Inter Newton Swimming Gala! Every student showed fantastic resilience, courage, fairness, and respect throughout the event, representing our school with pride alongside the other Newton schools.

A special congratulations to Chantelle in 6 Blue who placed 3rd and Nathania in 6 Red who placed 1st in their events. An absolutely amazing achievement!

Most importantly every student showed fantastic character by giving their best effort, supporting each other, and truly enjoying the experience. We are incredibly proud of you!



## Nurse Talk

Our thanks to Ms. Dina, our wonderful school nurse, who recently provided support in teaching our children about Personal Hygiene and Staying Healthy to our Year 1 children. The children loved having Ms. Dina in the room and they especially love the story, 'Jeremy's Cake' reinforcing the importance of being aware of food allergies.

