



# Lancasterian School

Inspiring each other and growing together to achieve our best

Inspire – Grow – Achieve

Hello and welcome .....

... to our termly newsletter. Don't forget to visit our school [website](#) , [YouTube channel](#) , [x](#) and [Facebook](#) where you will find up to date information, photos and

Message from the  
Headteacher

## Spring Newsletter



March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of a term is a great time to look back on all the successes we have had and to look forward to what we have still to come.

Spring is upon us, with the lighter evening and the splashes of colours in the flower beds. We can look forward to the warmer weather and being able to get out and about more, which I know lots of our pupils really enjoy. The parent group have a few events planned with Simply Cycling for the Easter holidays to help everyone enjoy the outside spaces in Manchester.

We have had lots of fun whole school events this term such as 'World Book Day', Comic Relief, Safer Internet Day and lots of sports events. I am sure this newsletter will give you more information about all of these.

Our parents evening this term was again really well attended. We will continue to offer both in person appointments and telephone appointments however it was lovely to see more parents coming in to school. We will be looking at how we can further support these events next year.

We have also had lots of learning celebration events for parents, giving everyone opportunities to visit their child's class and join in activities. Everyone really enjoys these; seeing how their child is learning in school, meeting their teachers and meeting the other parents. If you haven't managed to attend one don't worry, there will be more coming up.

We have reopened our in school café; 'Totally Tasty Treats' on a Friday morning. This is run by our pupils and gives them an opportunity to explore the world of work. The pupils can either support in the baking of the amazing cakes, make the sandwiches or drinks at the café or be part of the front of house waiting on group. We will be inviting parents to attend this café in the summer term which will help our pupils widen their skills. It would also be lovely to see you so please look out for the letter.

The end of the spring term always brings our Egg competitions and Easter events. All the classes have been decorating eggs as well as taking part in lots of Easter or Egg activities. The egg decorating competition entries were amazing, as were the bonnets our primary pupils brought in from home!

Finally, I also want to welcome our new deputy headteacher to Lancasterian. Sarah Marshall has been working 2 days a week this term and will be starting with us full time after Easter. She has a wealth of experience in supporting pupils with learning and personal development and I know she will be a wonderful asset to the school.

On another note Emma Morris, assistant headteacher and Elm class teacher is finishing today for her maternity leave. We wish her all the very best for the birth of her new baby and are looking forward to meeting the new addition to the Lancasterian family.

Kind regards

*Alison Randall*

Headteacher

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Edited by J Greenwood

This term our topic has been 'As time goes by'. We have been looking closely at the traditional fairy tale, **The Three Little Pigs**. We have been exploring our communication further this term by looking closely at lists and instructions with the use of visual symbol timelines. We have also enjoyed a lot of mark making, which allows us the opportunity to express ourselves and share our ideas with our peers.

# Lavender class



We have been exploring the concept of 'finding the same', matching, opening and closing containers, filling containers and adding 'one more'.

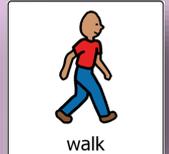


We have been exploring symbols on a timeline during our cooking lessons where we have made a variety of cakes, as well as pizza wraps with different toppings - which is our class favourite!

# Daffodil class



This term we have been lucky to go to Longford Park Cycle Track as part of the Enrichment Sessions. The children have really enjoyed having the space to run, explore and of course try out a range of different bikes.



Each week we have also been going out for a walk in the local community. The children have been learning to walk as part a group, hold hands with an adult, cross the road safely and we have even been to the shop! It's been a lovely experience for all the children.



Bluebells have had a lovely time this Spring Term working through the theme 'As Time Goes By...'

# Bluebell class



We have read the traditional story 'Three Billy Goats Gruff' and a modern story with a repeated phrase 'Stuck!' - exploring and asking for the resources from the story, drawing pictures from the story with support, matching photos to object to drawings and some of us have been matching words.

In Reasoning we have learnt skills such as filling containers, counting, matching and maths words like **off** and **on**, **more** and **less**, **one**, **two**, **lots** etc. using a range of toys and maths equipment.



We have worked with [Venture Arts](#) to explore and develop our skills with clay and are working towards making and decorating a tile each.

# Blossom class

This term our topic has been "As time goes by". We have enjoyed reading stories about dragons and knights, each one with a twist in the tale. We have used our stories to help us develop our vocabulary and to ask and answer questions. Some of us have begun to use small computers to practice typing our names. This is an excellent life skill for us to develop.



We have enjoyed our *My World* lessons which focus on science. We have been looking at things which fly and linked this to animals who fly. We have enjoyed seeing all the unusual animals who fly as well as experimenting with flying toys.

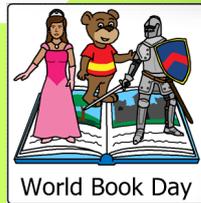


We continue to think about different festivals which happen throughout the year. We have celebrated the Lunar New Year and Valentine's day this term. We have also enjoyed listening to and making music. We have a good sense of rhythm and enjoy making our own music. We continue to learn how our bodies move and enjoy using the different equipment in the hall to see what we can achieve.



# Rose class

This half term Rose Class has been working on **changes** and **time** as part of our theme 'As time goes by'. We enjoyed exploring different art techniques from the past, from prehistoric to contemporary. The students have been able to explore different textures, items and objects.



World Book Day

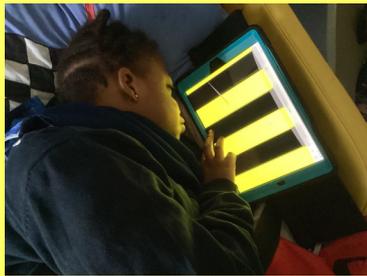
For **World Book Day** we explored books through our sensory story.



Sunflowers Class have been exploring the theme 'As Time Goes By' through a range of activities using vintage toys and new technology.

# Sunflower class

We used World Book Day to focus on our story, 'Cocoon' throughout the day.



We have practiced meaningful movement and making things happen with our bodies.



We have used craft materials from the past, using Positive Looking strategies to make it meaningful.



We have worked alongside each other to get messy and have fun!

Jasmine class have been reading *'The Three Little Pigs'* this term during Literacy. We have explored the characters and key events in the story, and have begun to develop drama skills! We have been studying play scripts and each taken on a role - a scared little pig, or a big, bad wolf - and acted out lines with expression and dramatisation! We went on a class trip to Sale Waterside Arts Centre to watch a performance of *'The Three Little Pigs'*. It was great to get inspiration!

# Jasmine class



We have linked Design and Technology sessions to our *'Three Little Pigs'* story, creating our very own moving picture fairy tales. We explored levers, sliders and wheels to examine how characters can move and stories can be brought to life. We then chose a scene from *'The Three Little Pigs'* that we would like to recreate, and selected either a lever, slider or wheel to develop the moving mechanism.

Great work, Jasmine!

Acorns class have a very busy half term!

We have really enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day and engaging with World Book Day activities.

# Acorn class

We have also loved our weekly tennis sessions with Andy from **We Do Tennis**. The sessions are all inclusive and get all the class moving first thing on a Wednesday morning!



# Elm class

This Spring term Elm class have been exploring writing on horizontal surfaces using various writing utensils. They have also been experimenting with sound in our music sessions.



Pupils have been attending Lancasterian schools coffee shop during the spring term. Pupils have been practicing using their waiting skills and communication skills during these sessions.



During this last term, Pine class have been enjoying their creative expression sessions, exploring different instruments and the sounds they create. We found that some of us liked loud sounds and some liked quiet sounds and would choose instruments that would make these sounds.

# Pine class



We have also been working hard on both our communication and reasoning skills. Some children have been looking at the concept of more and less and using this vocabulary outside the classroom to help us understand these key words in different contexts.

Some children have been developing their mark making skills using different sensory stimuli and objects. We started off using non-conventional objects such as balls, cars and straws to make marks in sensory stimuli such as foam, glitter and paint. We then moved on to using more conventional objects such as whiteboard pens and paintbrushes using the same stimuli.



# Hello from Birch class

Pupils have been working very hard in their 'My Reasoning'; covering work about capacity, more and less, and working with numbers to 100.



In their 'My Communication' pupils have enjoyed listening to the 'Tortoise and the Hare' and 'The Princess and the Frog' stories, as well as continuing to develop their own reading skills.



In **Enrichment** we did sensory exploration activities such as making our own lava lamp bottles, making our own slime, playdoh and sensory bags. We have also been very busy doing Eco / gardening activities. We planted some bulbs for Mother's Day and have planted some vegetable seeds to create a vegetable patch in school.



# Maple class



This term Maple class has been a hive of activity!

We have been learning about the history of our own city of Manchester. We had a trip to the science and industry museum where we learnt about Industrialization and what jobs children would have done in the past without being able to go to school.

We had a trip to listen to 'Music Live' at the Bridgewater hall and the class really enjoyed listening to different styles of music and joining in with singing.



In maths we have been practising our multiplication and division skills as well as addition and subtraction, using different methods to find answers. We have learnt about length and units of measurement with lots of practical activities.

In English we had a fantastic time reading about and writing our own Greek Myths. We have also been learning about recounts with connections to our history unit this term which is the life of Roman Soldiers!



# Sycamore class

We have enjoyed taking part in a wide variety of activities to help us with our physical development. We have continued our weekly swimming sessions which remain popular. Also our weekly PE session with Manchester City, learning new skills and teamwork! We have had access to coaching for tennis with the LTA, football with the Manchester FA, Wheelchair Rugby with Sale Sharks and Rebound Therapy.



In the Spring term our class theme has been 'As time goes by'. We have been focusing on pupils discovering a sense of personal history and functional time. We have been using stories that have roots in history and have developed as time has passed. This has included **The Three Little Pigs, Little Red Hen, Jack and the Beanstalk** and **The Hare and the Tortoise**. We have been using art, music, movement and reading to help us learn through these stories, focusing on time as we go.

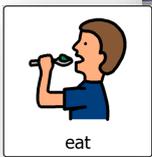


We have been using lots of different resources and games to help us understand number in concrete, pictorial and abstract ways. In space, shape and measures we have been exploring length and weight. Functional time is always a focus within our daily and weekly routines.

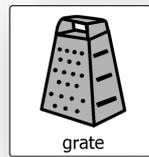


This half term Rowan class have been working on their life skills and learning how to follow a sequence to make their own snacks.

# Rowan class



We have made pancakes for pancake day. The pupils were able to listen to simple instructions and whisk the flour, milk and eggs to make a mixture.



During our happy café sessions, we have made different types of snacks. We have made our own toast and added our favourite toppings like jam, marmalade, or butter. We then moved on to making cheese quesadillas!

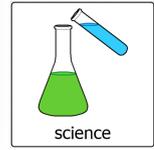


We have also made cheese toasties. The pupils used symbols and pictures to know what ingredients they needed to get.

We used a now and next board to let the pupils know what actions they need to do, such as grating the cheese, adding butter to their bread and then adding the cheese to it.

# Cedar class

First we had to take potato peelings and break them down into a slurry.



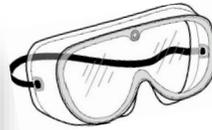
Then we used tights to filter the mixture and left it for 72 hours in a warm place.



Next, to make the plastic we had to take the potato starch and mix it with glycerine and vinegar.



The final stage was heating it to form an irreversible reaction and turn the mixture into a plastic.

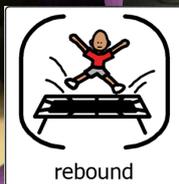


The finished product - plastic, now we just need to think about what we are going to do with this!

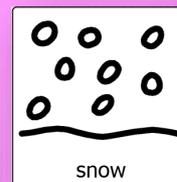


# Willow class

This half term Willow class have been accessing rebound therapy. We have been using the parachute and the pom poms on the trampoline too!



We also had fun with the snow earlier this term. We brought some into class to explore, it was very cold!



# Beech class

This term Beech Class have been enjoying the magic of storytelling. Our learners have delved into rich narratives, exploring themes of bravery, kindness, and resilience. Our students are not only honing their literacy skills but also learning empathy and understanding. With each tale read, our learners are not just readers but also cultivating a love for literature and a curiosity for the world around them.



We have been setting up our very own in school café, where students don aprons and gain experience of hands-on work. **Totally Tasty Treats Café** represents an invaluable opportunity for our

Pupils have been working on the art of recognising and adding up coins. Through hands-on activities and engaging games, our students are immersing themselves in the tactile experience of handling coins, distinguishing between various coins, and understanding their values. Students are discovering the real-world significance of money as they count, sort, and tally coins, they are developing essential skills in numeracy, problem-solving, and critical thinking.

learners to cultivate a diverse array of essential life skills. Students are taking orders, answering queries, and learning to convey professionalism in their service, laying the groundwork for effective communication in the future employment. In the school café, students are learning skills such as communication, employability, social interaction, and listening skills that will empower them and give them skills in all aspects of their futures.



# Oak class

In Oak class we have been focusing on Team work. We have worked together on lots of different projects this term.



We made bird feeders to hang outside our classroom window. It's tricky to use the tools on your own so we had to help each other.

We split into 2 teams for our Duke of Edinburgh Award sessions. The first team were working together to fix and refurbish our playground furniture. It was great fun jet washing the bench!



The second team worked together to organise fund raising events for Red Nose Day. They made and sold red noses, helped with a wheelchair rugby tournament and organised and hosted a fabulous 'Lancs has got Talent' show for the whole school. Everyone had a great time and they raised £170!!



It is really great to see how the ideas of the Eco Committee are spreading throughout the school. Lots of children are now getting the opportunity to go outside and use our outside spaces to garden and grow things. We purchased some fantastic wheelchair planters from Emerge who use recycled wood to create these amazing products. It is great to see that they are being used and have some spring onions growing in them. We look forward to tasting them.



We have also been supported by B&Q in Stockport who have very generously given us a selection of plants and seeds to get us started.

Our living wall is now nearly fully planted up in the Peace Garden and has been connected to the watering system so hopefully the plants will survive should it stop raining. Children were able to pot a range of plants and add them to the wall. We have also made some bird feeders to see our feather friends through the winter.

**THE BIG  
PLASTIC  
COUNT**  
**11-17 MARCH**  
**IT'S  
BACK!**



Some classes also took part in the Great Plastic Count. It is quite shocking how much plastic we use each week. It has been good to see that it is now becoming part of the school learning environment to think about our environment and how we can make it more sustainable for the future.

# RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

## CREATING SAFE AND INSPIRING PLACES TO LEARN

We are continuing our rights respecting work across school, working towards achieving Gold status.

To achieve Gold we are ...

- Teaching the whole school **about** rights so that the whole school knows about children's rights, and this knowledge is used to improve child wellbeing and the school as a whole.
- Teaching **through** rights, ensuring that the planning and structures that underpin school life are rights respecting.
- Teaching and learning **for** rights, looking out to the wider community and beyond, becoming active global citizens.



For **Safer Internet Day**, classes across the school looked at Inspiring Change and Making a difference. Pupils looked at how technology has changed over time. Here are some examples from our semi formal and formal classes.

**Article 17:** (access to information from the media) **I have the right to get information in lots of ways, so long as it is safe.**



Last term we held a RRS mascot competition. The winning design was created by Alexia in Acorns class, well done!

This year's theme for **Holocaust Memorial Day** was Freedom. Cedar class have been looking at the graphic novel *Maus*, and what life was like in the Ghetto.

**Article 2** (non-discrimination) **All children have these rights.**

**Article 6** (life, survival and development) **I should be supported to live and grow.**

**Article 19** (protection from violence, abuse and neglect) **I have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated.**



During **Children's Mental Health week**, Acorns thought about ways to relax. They tried a 10 minute relaxation session where they got out the bean bags, shut the blinds, turned off the lights and put on some relaxing music. Our rules were: 1. You have to lie down and try to be still 2. You have to stay quiet and try to close your eyes.

The session were a success with both pupils and staff feeling calmer and relaxed. Acorns now enjoy these sessions weekly!

**Article 24** (Health, water, food, environment) **I have the right to good quality health care**

If you would like to find out more about the award, please visit the UNICEF website

[www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools](http://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools)

# WORLD OF WORK

This term we have reintroduced our work experience placements for year 11 pupils, which came to a standstill during Covid. We are fortunate to have developed contacts with some local businesses who are supporting our pupils to gain valuable experience in the world of work.



This term we have had students on work experience placements at Manchester Museum, Simply Cycling and working alongside our school site manager. Next term we have placements arranged at Tesco, Home Café, Manchester City, Mind charity shop and People First.



**Can you help?** We are looking for new placements to meet the skills and interests of our varied population. This would involve supporting our pupils with a 1 week placement to shadow, observe and work alongside people as they go about their daily routines in the work place. All of our students are supported 1:1 with a member of Lancasterian staff.

If you feel you may know of an employer who would be able to support us with this. Please get in touch with Jackie Greenwood at school.



School reopens to pupils on Monday 15th April  
 Bank holiday - school closed Monday 6th May  
 School closed for half term - Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May  
 Sports week - 3rd - 7th June  
 Sports Day - Tuesday 4th June  
 Celebration assembly - Tuesday 16th July  
 Year 6 Prom Wednesday - 7th July  
 Year 11 Graduation - Thursday 18th July  
 School closes for summer holidays - Friday 19th July

