



Lancasterian



Inspiring each other and growing together to achieve our best

Inspire – Grow – Achieve

Spring Newsletter

Spring 2021

Hello and welcome

... to our termly newsletter. Don't forget to visit our school [website](#) or our [YouTube channel](#) where you will find some amazing videos that showcase our talented pupils and staff.



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is coming to the end of the Spring Term 2021 and I looked back at my letter for last year's Spring Term newsletter. We had just experienced our first half term of a lockdown and getting to grips with terms like 'Covid', 'pandemic' and 'you are on mute!'. I could never have imagined that 1 year on we would still be in the same position.

However, we have achieved so much in the last year and some of the changes have opened our eyes to new possibilities. I know that I have found virtual online parents' evenings to be much better for me as a parent and that some of you have also appreciated being able to meet with teachers online.

Our spring parents evening was very successful with lots of very positive conversations about how well the children had settled back in to school or were coping with the changes. There was also lots of learning that had happened and our pupils had made progress. I would like to express my own 'Thank you' to all the parents for their support during the most recent lockdown and all your hard work in helping the children to stay engaged with learning.

Despite our Covid restrictions, we have still had some of our usual whole school activities. We took part in the 'World Book Day' again. I really enjoyed seeing the pupils dressed up in their costumes and sharing their favourite books. I was so pleased to be able to go into classes and read to the children again, Cinderella had an extra addition of a PPE mask this year!

We also had some funny costumes for Comic Relief and classes had 'fun' with each other which is much needed at this time.

This year we also had our Easter Bonnet and Egg decorating competitions. We were not able to last year so was lovely to all be in school and to be able to do this again.

I am very conscious of keeping everyone safe in school so our risk assessment is staying the same for after Easter. Classes will be staying in their bubbles and still not mixing, the staff will still be wearing masks in communal areas and classrooms if it doesn't impact on communication with pupils. We are still testing twice a week and there is still lots of handwashing. Over the following term we will be reviewing the changes and risk factors and hopefully we can start to reintroduce more face to face events however only when it is safe. I will also be asking yourselves, pupils and staff to think about changes and new ways of working you have liked over the past year and feel we should keep.

Finally thank you again for all the support you have given the school over the past year and difficult times we have all been having.

Kind regards

Alison Randall

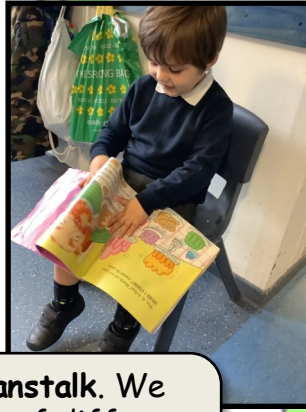
Head teacher



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Lavender class



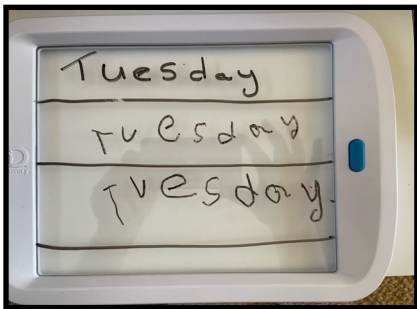
We have been reading **Jack and the Beanstalk**. We decorated our own beanstalks using lots of different materials. We explored sensory art leaf painting and also planted beans.



This term we have started **Dough Disco** where we do different actions such as rolling, patting and squeezing in time to music using play dough. This has helped us to strengthen our fine motor skills.



We have been reading **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**. We enjoyed role play and drama; choosing which characters we want to be and exploring the porridge oats in our different sized bowls.



The children at home during lockdown have been working hard too.

Blossom class

This term our topic has been 'As time goes by'. Through this we have been looking at two stories, *The Three Little Pigs* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.



In cooking we have been making pig and bear like snacks. We have been working on our cutting and spreading skills and following a schedule to help us create them.

We have explored a range of materials that link to both stories through sensory stories and sensory play. We have been using comment boards to build up our vocabulary.



We have been practicing our mark making skills by using pens and also making marks in different sensory materials.



We have also been practicing our turn taking skills and have become very good at this. We have been sharing our toys and taking turns in games.

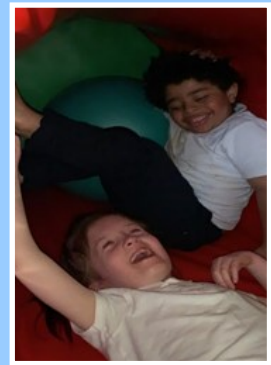
Bluebell class

Bluebells have been amazing this term coping with all the changes lockdown brought. We are now enjoying being back together and learning lots.

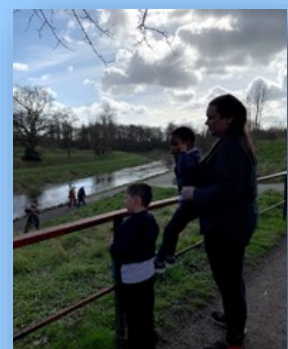
We have been following the semi-formal curriculum and working on the topic 'As time goes by'. We have been reading and enjoying the 'Three Little Pigs' and beginning to follow a visual schedule to break down tasks. We recently made pig snacks to link to our book we are reading.



We have been developing our social skills, playing together and learning to take turns. We are taking advantage of the weather to have fun outside when we can. We've had lots of fun in soft play and class too!

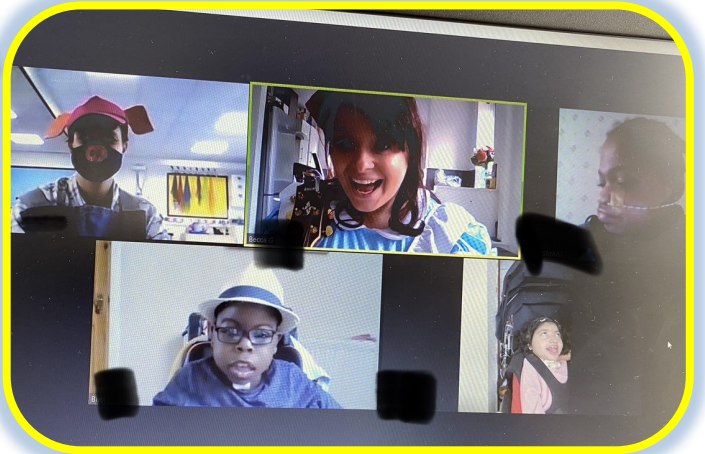


We have now started to go out further afield and have been riding on the bus to different parks. We recently enjoyed Longford Park and had lots of fun together. We have also been walking down to the local river to explore how the season has been changing from winter to spring.



Sunflower class

Sunflower class have been focusing on the theme 'As Time Goes By' in our home learning and in-school activities.



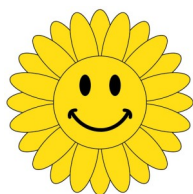
We have enjoyed being able to see each other and to share live activities twice a week.



We used wool and felt to explore texture and pattern, using multi-sensory exploration.



We've explored festivals that happen during the Spring, including Holi, St Patrick's day, and Songkran.

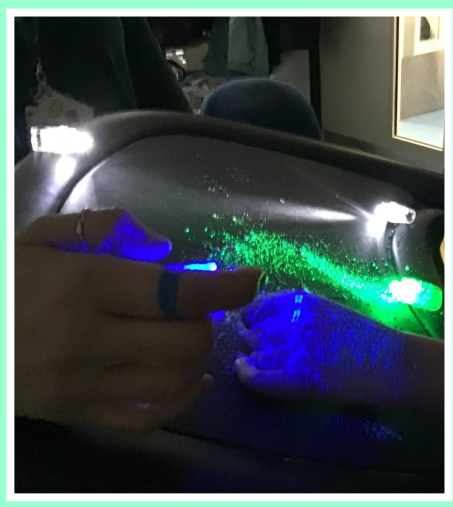


Rose class

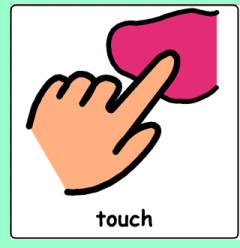
Rose Class have been exploring the theme of "As time goes by" and how things change through the time.



We have worked on **The Ugly Duckling** sensory story and some story and dance massages that have helped us to relax and have fun while we learnt.



We have also been exploring a wide range of items that have changed their shapes when we touched them or when time went by.



Jasmine class

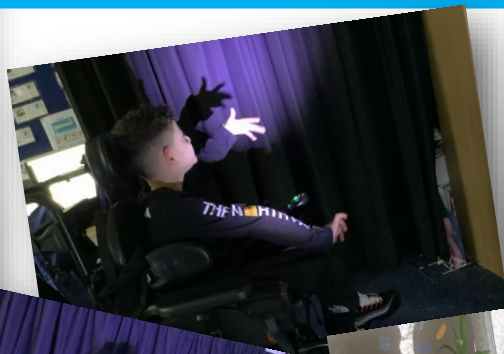
This term has been a funny term in Jasmine Class. We have been working both at home and at school, and wherever we have been we have made sure that we also have had fun. Here are some of the amazing things we have done.



We have been exploring the world and climates. We built our own Stonehenge out of things we had. We recorded weather forecasts. We explored around the UK and looked at the crown jewels. We even made our own crowns!



In science we have been exploring habitats and weather. We created habitats for our favourite animals. We explored how we can make shadows by blocking out some light and had fun making shadow figures. We had fun with many other experiments which we have done both at home and in school.



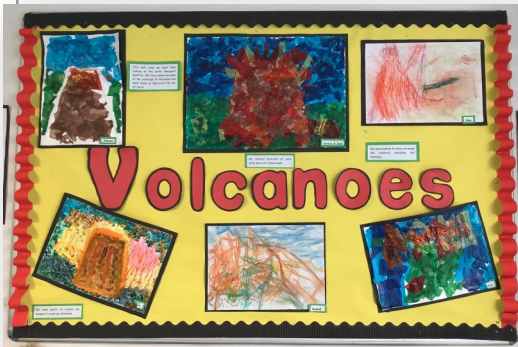
We have had lots of fun talking to our friends both on the phones and on zoom but it good to finally have everyone back in the classroom and play together again.

Acorns class

This term we have enjoyed taking our learning outside of the classroom to engage in our outdoor environment. We have been preparing our growing area, planting our seeds and even making a scarecrow to scare the birds away!



We have also been learning about our world, the people in it and events in history in a creative and engaging way. Our Humanities themes of **Volcanoes** and **The Romans** has led to a variety of visual, tactile and creative activities which has embedded understanding more meaningfully.

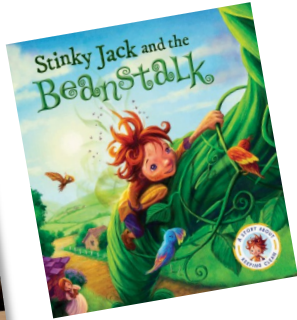


We studied the artist *Margaret Godfrey* and used her volcano art work to stimulate our own ideas.

We learned about Roman mosaics and created our own tiles.

Pine class

Our story this term was 'Stinky Jack and the Beanstalk' by Steve Smallman, which is an alternative version of the classic fairy tale. The children have enjoyed engaging in the sensory story and exploring props, including helping Stinky Jack to have a bath! We have also been working hard on our book skills, and sorting and identifying 'big' and 'small' items in maths.



We have been learning about living things through planting beanstalks. We have also enjoyed painting and printing beanstalks and exploring and creating other items from the story.



In cooking we have been making Easter treats, developing some great independence skills!

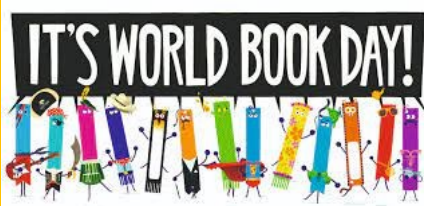


Elm class

Our topic this term has been 'As Time Goes By'. Elm class have used visual timetables and schedules to understand and support the passing of time during activities. They have also looked at longer periods of time passing. They planted grass heads and watched how the grass grew over the following weeks.



Elm class enjoyed celebrating **Shrove Tuesday**- they helped make the pancake batter and then watched as Emma cooked the pancakes. They each tried a small amount before using their communication books to ask for preferred toppings on shop bought pancakes. They practised their mixing and spreading skills.



For **World Book Day** Elm class enjoyed a sensory story based on 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' before following a visual schedule to make sensory, edible mud- yummy! Everyone got involved!



Birch class

Hello from Birch class!

We have welcomed back all our pupils this term that were previously isolating during lockdown. We have really enjoyed being back as a full class, the pupils have settled in after the lockdown and have made a good start on their new topics.

For Mother's Day we made cards and planted small planters in jars which we decorated ourselves.



We had great fun joining in with lots of Easter activities. We made Easter baskets, hats, decorated eggs and chocolate nests - yum!



sensory activities

In our Enrichment sessions we have really enjoyed taking part in lots of sensory activities.



Maple class

In English we learnt about Myths and Legends focusing on the 'Labours of Hercules', where we used our imagination to create our own mythical setting and creature before writing our own labour. Then moving onto writing recounts in the form of diary entries.

In maths, we have been learning how to tell the time and enjoyed learning transactions of money through role play. Before moving onto place value, multiplication and division.

Whilst having a smaller class during lockdown we embarked on a class project to create a puppet show which you can find on [YouTube](#). The class worked hard to write a storyline, design and create the set and film the production. We also explored our local community during a weekly walk. During Friday enrichment we designed and created carnival games and hosted our own carnival at the end of the half term.

During this term we have enjoyed taking part in World Book Day and supported Comic Relief. These have provided some great excuses to have some fun as a class as we learn!



Beech class

This term in Beech Class we have been working at home and at school! We had lots of fun exploring 'Kitchen Science'.

Experiments that we could do at school and at home!



Walking Water



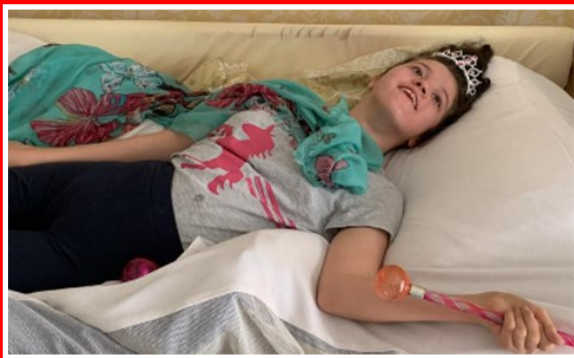
Rainbow Liquids



Vinegar Volcanoes

Willow class

This term our Topic has been "As time goes by". We have been sharing our activities at home and at school.



In Music we have been enjoying listening to and exploring how music has changed through the decades.

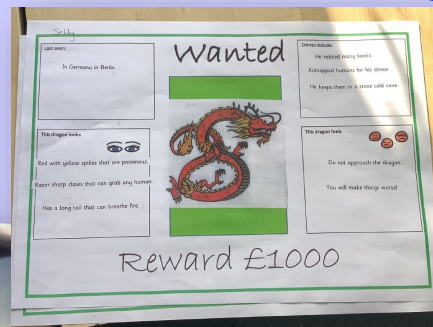
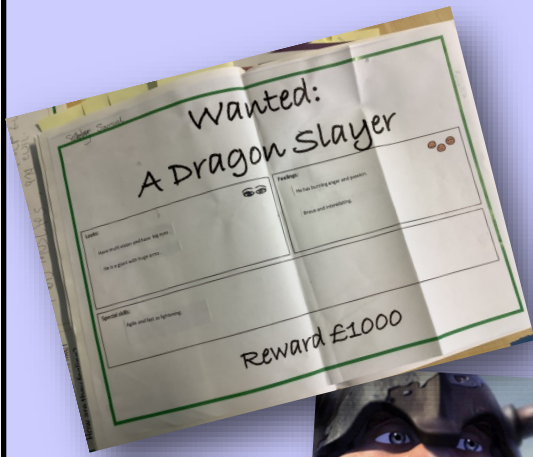
We have also been exploring significant events and trends from over the decades like the Queen's coronation 1953, the Space Race and the bright colours of the 80's.

We have also been exploring how things change over time through tactile exploration with textures that change!



We have been exploring rhythm and pattern by using musical instruments, African drumming and printing with shapes and colours.

Oak class



Myths and Legends

This spring term Oak class have started a new English topic focusing on myths and legends. We have been using the text *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* as a base to start creating our own ideas and eventually write our own stories. We have been learning how to improve noun phrases and our writing by using adjectives, similes and metaphors. Green group have been learning about a different book called 'Dragon Slayer', a story about a lone dragon slayer killing a dragon and then having to look after her three baby dragons.

Science Enrichment

This term has been the start of many new beginnings for Oak class with schools re opening again we have welcomed most of our students back. On Fridays we have started our enrichment sessions learning about science and carrying out experiments within the classroom. So far, we have made parachutes, slime, hovercrafts and tested acids and alkalis. When we made parachutes, we were trying to make them air resistant enough to stop an egg from cracking. We made two designs each but unfortunately none of them were able to stop the egg from breaking. We had a lot of fun and yokes making the parachutes and it was an egg-cellant start to our science enrichment projects!





Skills for Life

Everything Starts With You



We have been working hard this year to introduce the **Skills for Life** into our enrichment programme across school. We have been learning about the 5 core skills that will support the **Skills for Life** mission **‘to ensure that children and young people have the right skills to be able to grow up happy, healthy, safe and successful.’** We would like your feedback on any enrichment activities that you would like to see us develop in school and whether you have any questions about what we have been doing so far, so please keep your eye out for our survey! There is a link below for further details on **Skills for Life** and a parent leaflet is attached:

<https://hsm.manchester.gov.uk/kb5/manchester/directory/advice.page?id=oOOmtgR948Y>

David Critchlow

Deputy Headteacher



Easter Eggstravaganza!



It has been an **egg**citing time in school this week. Despite classes having to stay in their class bubbles, we managed to still enjoy some of the traditional Easter activities that would usually take place in school.



Easter bonnet parade



Easter egg hunt



Parachute egg drop!



Decorated egg competition



Sensory activities



Chocolate crispie cakes



Egg drop challenge

