

Lancasterian

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](#), [Twitter](#) and our [Facebook](#) page where you will find up to date information, photos and some amazing videos.

Autumn Newsletter

December 2023

Message from the
Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has definitely felt wintery this term, we even had a little bit of snow and of course the wonders of burst pipes!

This year has got off to a great start, everyone is so positive in school and all the pupils have been really engaged with their learning. I hope you enjoy looking through this newsletter to see what your child has been learning about and all the wonderful work the other classes have been involved in.

It has been great to see our parents group take off and be so well attended. I really enjoyed last weeks 'Question and Answer' session and am looking forward to the next one in the spring term. If you haven't been able to attend one of the parents' groups, you are always welcome. There are events planned for each week in the spring term and the information can be found on our [parent group page](#) on the school website. Please do have a look at our website if you haven't already. It has had a revamp and looks amazing. We are pleased that the website can now be translated into several different languages so hopefully a lot more parents can access the information.

December has been an amazing month with lots of Christmas activities and trips out. Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas fair, I think Santa's Grotto was even better this year. It obviously helped that the real Santa came to visit! The fair has raised over £1500 which will go towards the development of our playgrounds and outside areas.

Our Christmas concerts this year were wonderful, we tried a new organisation this year with 2 high school concerts and 1 for the primary department. This allowed all the classes to have an individual performance time so that all our pupils were included equally and were able to show off their skills and talents. There were some outstanding performances in each of the concerts and I hope you enjoyed watching them as much as we enjoyed making them.

Families of pupils who have attended Lancasterian for a few years will remember David Critchlow our Deputy Head teacher. It is with regret that he has made the decision to not return to school. He has been a big part of Lancasterian School for over 10 years and I know we will all miss him. However, this is best for him, and I'm sure he will always come back to visit.

The new year will as always bring more quality learning for all our pupils. We will look forward to sharing these with you through our parent learning celebration events, parents' evenings and on our social media pages.

I am looking forward to seeing how our staff, pupils and you can work to Inspire, Grow and Achieve together. Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.

Alison Randall

Alison Randall

Headteacher



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Edited by J Greenwood

Hello from Lavender class!

This term our focus has been '**Belonging**', this has included making new friendships, exploring our school and looking at our strengths. We have been focusing our learning around recognising our own talents and getting to know what we enjoy with the use of our book '**A Superhero Like You**' by Dr. Ranj Singh. We enjoyed a lot of messy play, art, singing and signing sessions as well as interacting with different texts in our reading groups.



We enjoyed attending weekly sessions at school with a Manchester City coach, where we have been focusing on improving our gross motor skills and working together as a team.



We have loved our weekly rebound therapy sessions!



Daffodils class

This term the children have been focusing on the topic of '**Belonging**'. Through this topic, we have learned about what it means to 'belong' to the Daffodils group and to work together. The class have been learning to attend to **Attention Autism** session as part of a whole group where they are supported to take turns with and alongside their peers.



In cookery we have been making biscuits each week.

We have also loved **splashing** in the hydro pool.

We have had access to **Rebound Therapy** this half term.



In Bluebells we have been working on the theme '**Belonging**', listening to songs about belonging, playing games as a class and reading two class books, 'Where Bear?' and 'Lost and Found'.

Bluebell class

We explored natural resources like leaves, twigs, fruit and pumpkins and through eco-council planted some bulbs that will hopefully grow into beautiful daffodils in the Spring.



Our Art this term has been about exploring the marks we can make firstly with our hands and feet and recently using other objects to make prints.



In our Maths work we have been working at our own levels involving counting, collecting and sorting as well beginning to look at size and exploring 2d shapes.



Blossom class

This term Blossom's theme has been '**Belonging**'. We have used different stories to think about people belonging together and how we belong in this world. We made lots of links to the My World Curriculum and experimented with making our own rockets and planets.

This half term we have made lots of links to light and shadow and have had fun making our own simple circuits, using torches and working out how to create shadows. This has been a really enjoyable part of our week.



We have continued to explore the local community with our weekly trips to the café in the hospital. We are using increasing levels of language to ask for what we want or to use our communication books in an appropriate way.

We are continuing to learn what it means to play and share. One of our favourite activities at the moment is a marble run and so we spend lots of time building, taking turns sending the marbles down and working out new routes.





Jasmine Class have been exploring the culture of Mexico, linking to our story, 'Coco'. We have loved exploring the plot and characters. Additionally, we have developed our chopping skills by making delicious Mexican dishes such as salsa and guacamole with tortilla chips, and have become inspired by the art work of Frida Kahlo.

Jasmine class



We have also had a broad range of Physical Education opportunities across this half term, which we have loved being involved with. We have swum in the hydrotherapy pool every week, and developed our range of movements in Dance and Gymnastics. We have worked weekly with Manchester Football Academy to hone our football skills. We have also received two specialist table cricket sessions from Lancashire Cricket Club!



Acorns have enjoyed getting out and about to learn more about Manchester. We have visited 3 beautiful old libraries and have thought about how they have changed throughout their history.

We found out that

Acorns class



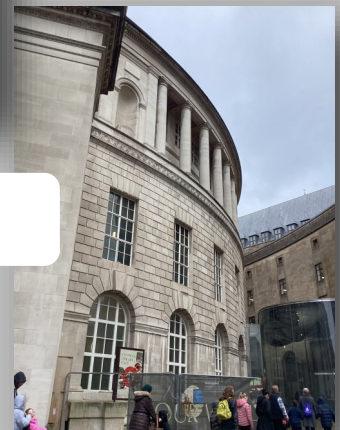
The **John Rylands Library** was built in 1980. It is the oldest library we visited.



The **Central Library** was built in 1930, making it the youngest library we visited.

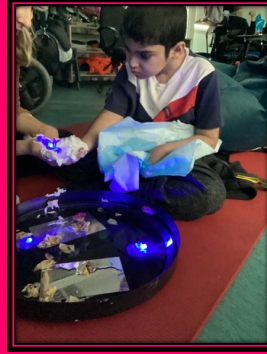


The **Didsbury library** was opened in 1915 with a golden key! This library is closest to our school.

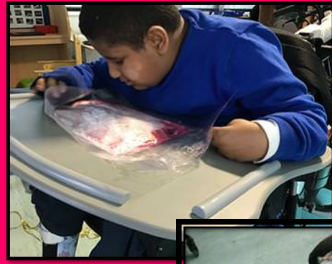


Hello from Rose class

This term we have been working on the theme 'belonging'. We have used individual songs and painted our own photograph to build up understanding of ourselves.



We have also worked on belonging to the community. In our creativity lessons, we painted some bees while we listened to the most famous songs brewed in Manchester. We also belong to Rose class and Lancasterian school, so, we have engaged in different activities such as, 'Rose class Dance massage', 'Rose spa activities' and 'Rose class musical story massage'.



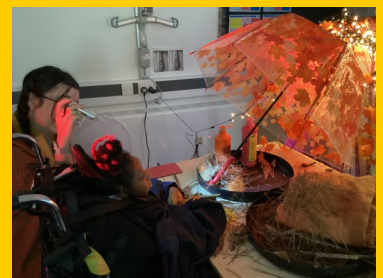
The two stories, 'Elmer's friends' and 'Lost and Found' have helped us to learn about friendship, and building relationships between our friends, classmates and familiar adults.



Sunflowers have been exploring the theme Belonging this half term - belonging to our class, our family, our environment and our world.

Sunflowers class

We have explored the season of Autumn, using technology and movement to make things happen.



We have focused on moving our bodies and being close to each other.



We explored our local environment to collect resources to stimulate our senses and decorate.



We've celebrated different festivals and celebrations that happen across the world during the Autumn.



Elm class

Elm class have enjoyed a trip to Boomerang soft play Centre in Bury, as part of their Christmas trip. The pupils were exceptional whilst out in the community. They thoroughly enjoyed a visit to McDonald's to celebrate their excellent engagement and participation in lessons and activities this term.



This term, Pine class have been looking at their topic about **'Belonging'**. We have been enjoying our creative expression sessions linked to the story 'The Rainbow Fish'. The children have individually made their own collages of fishes, using different sensory textures they have explored each week such as, wool, tissue paper, glitter, feathers and paint!

Pine class

We have also been exploring shapes in Our Reasoning sessions. The children have all been focusing on 2D shapes, some focusing on circles and squares whilst others identify more shapes such as triangles, rectangles, pentagons, hexagons, heptagons and octagons. The children are making great progress with this and some are now investigating some 3D shapes!



During the first half term, we were lucky enough to have our rebound sessions. The children thoroughly enjoyed these weekly sessions and showed fantastic patience whilst waiting for their turn and amazing bouncing skills on the trampoline!



Finally, we ended our term by visiting The Play Factor Manchester! It was a very busy day and the children loved exploring the soft play Centre, going down the big red slide and bouncing on mini trampolines. I think the staff also had an amazing time!

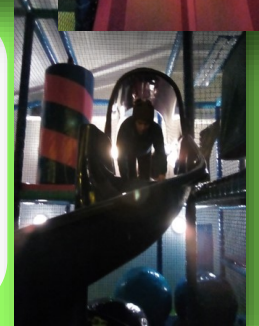
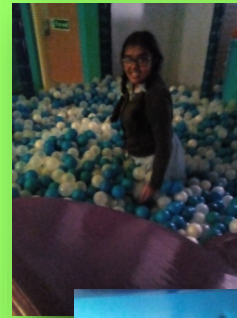
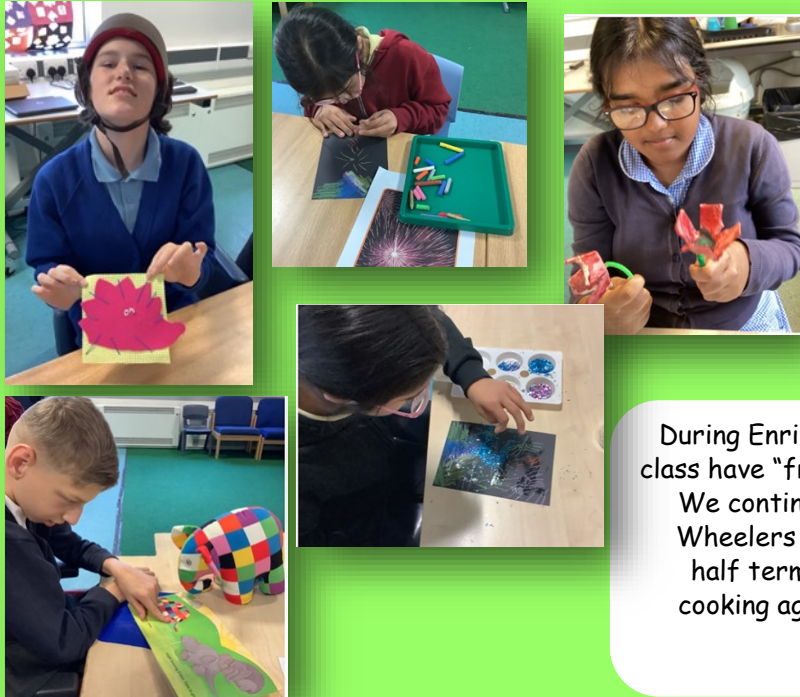


Hello from Birch! We are fast approaching Christmas, and cannot wait to share our celebrations with everyone.

The pupils have been working really hard this term and learnt topics such as addition and multiplication in My Reasoning and instruction writing in My Communication. The pupils have enjoyed lots of art work linked to celebration days, including Bonfire Night, Remembrance Sunday, and Halloween.

Birch class

The pupils have been on their Christmas class trip to Boomerang. They had a great time and what a way to end our first term together.



During Enrichment this half term, Birch class have "free choice" on our timetable. We continued cycling at Wythenshawe Wheelers for the first 3 weeks of the half term and have now started doing cooking again, focusing on Christmassy treats. Merry Christmas!

Sycamore class

Our focus in Communication has been learning to make choices to help us become more independent. Learners have been encouraged and supported to make choices, using a range of communication tools, about what they want, what they need and how they feel. We also have been focusing on understanding different types of questions and when we need to answer.

In the Autumn term our class theme has been "Belonging". We have been exploring who we are, what we look like, where we are from and what makes us different. We have been using art, music, movement and reading to help us learn and express ourselves and who we are.



Our focus in Reasoning and Cognition has been "Number". We have been using lots of different resources and games to help us understand number in concrete, pictorial and abstract ways. We have focused on the functional use to number and how we can use it in our day.

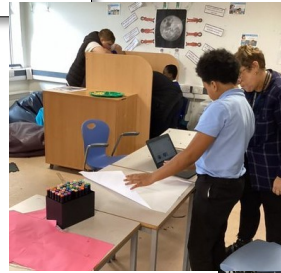
We have enjoyed continuing our swimming programme this term. All the children are becoming more confident in the water and accessing the big pool. We have also been taking part in PE with Manchester City, learning new skills and teamwork! We have had access to coaching for tennis with the LTA, football with the Manchester FA, and table cricket with Lancashire CC.



Happy Christmas from Sycamore class!!

This term in Cedar Class our focus alongside work has been learning how to work together in a team to achieve results. In DT we were challenged to design, test and build kites - scan the QR code for our results.

Cedar class



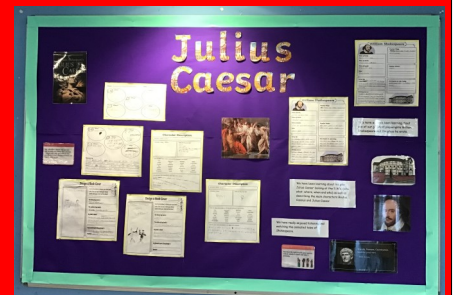
In science we have started the CREST award scheme and have been working in groups to design some sustainable, machine learning tech for the future. In Enrichment we have been making things to sell for the school fair and in PE we have been learning how to play dodgeball, where we have to work in teams, discuss tactics and strategy to win the game for our team. Dodgeball is our favourite, even Mrs Randall came and joined us for one session.



Hello from Maple class

The pupils have been working really hard this term and learnt topics such as place value and learning to tell the time.

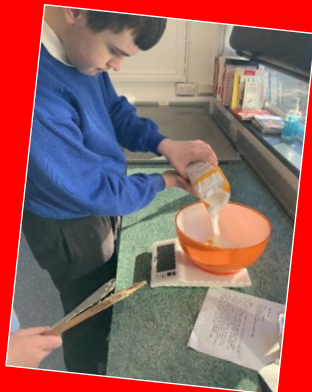
In English we have been learning and writing about the Play Julius Caesar by Shakespeare.



The pupils have enjoyed learning about World War 2 with a fantastic trip to the Imperial War Museum at Salford Quays.



The pupils have been on their Christmas class trip to InflataNation. They had a great time!



During Enrichment this half term, the pupils have been cooking and learning about recycling and how to save our planet.



Willow class

To continue with the theme of Belonging, this autumn term we have made Diwali pictures and Divas whilst learning about our world.



The Hive is a huge part of our community learning experience. We enjoy spending time with our community and chatting to our friends within a relaxing social setting.



We enjoy Music and Dance. We can express ourselves as individuals and together.



We are currently learning about Christmas traditions.



Every Friday we have sensory lights and movement.



This term Rowan class were able to go to **The Children's Adventure Farm** for their Christmas trip. Some of our parents were able to join us in this trip. The children were able to walk through different sensory trails with a wide range of Christmas decorations.

Rowan class



The children were able to watch a magic show while enjoying a warm cup of hot chocolate. They then were taken to a bonfire to toast marshmallows while singing Christmas songs.



The children were then able to have some time visiting some of the animals on the farm and were able to pet some of the goats and rabbits.



We then finished our trip by spending some time on their playground going on their wheelchair swing and one of our pupils was brave enough to go on their zipline! We had an amazing time and can't wait to go back.



This term we have been working on life skills and have been practicing cooking and home management.

We have been learning to make a range of dishes including cakes, sandwiches and smoothies. We chose the recipes, made the shopping lists and cooked the food as a class. We also ate it as a class! Our favourite thing to make was cheese salad sandwiches!



Beech class



We have been visiting the community more and practicing our shopping skills. We have visited the local supermarket to buy ingredients for cooking and have been practicing using the self-service checkouts. We have also been on a 'big shop' to Tesco and visited B & Q to buy equipment for our gardening project.

We have been working on our creativity and have been exploring the use of colours to make attractive pictures and decorate other items. We decorated aprons to wear when we open our café next term and used different techniques to make patterns.



We have been working with Tennis professionals to develop our sports skills and learn to play new games. It has been a lot of fun learning to play tennis and practice the different types of games. We had to work as a team and use our communication skills to play and succeed.

Oak class

Oak Class this year are focusing on teamwork. We have 3 teams, Team

Fierce, Team Energy and Team Celebration. Each team worked together to design a shield, choose the name and create a slogan. We are rewarded throughout the week for our effort and achievements and at the end of each term, the winning team can choose a class reward trip. Team Fierce won this term and have chosen to go to the Cinema.



This term we have been taking on new challenges in order to improve our independence and team work skills and gather evidence for our Duke of Edinburgh Award. We chose to focus on Cooking Skills and Sports Skills.

We have been cooking a range of dishes, including pesto pasta, Millie's cookies, toasties and hot drinks. We chose the recipes, made shopping lists, then cooked the food together. You wouldn't believe it, but a cheese and chocolate toastie is really nice!



We have been working with Tennis professionals and the Lancashire Cricket Club to develop our sports skills and learn to play new games. It has been a lot of fun learning to play tennis and table cricket. We had to observe each other and listen to know when to support our classmates.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Christmas came into full swing with our Christmas Fair on Tuesday 5th December. We were pleased to see lots of visitors, including family members and people from the local community, enjoying all the wonderful stalls and activities. We even had a visit from the big man himself!



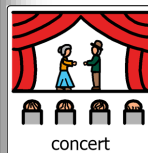
CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCES

There have been lots of fun activities taking place in school including, Christmassy crafts, Christmas trips, Christmas dinner and parties.



On the 13th and 14th December we held our Primary and High School Christmas Concerts. The pupils and staff had worked very hard to put on a performance that showcased all our pupils wonderful talents and interests - whether that be singing, dancing, shaking a bell, dressing a Christmas tree or jumping out of a box!

Well done to everybody!



We achieved our Silver award last term and now we are busy working towards gold and becoming a fully fledged rights respecting school.

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

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/the-rrsa/what-is-a-rights-respecting-school/>

Mascot competition

We are currently running a competition for pupils to design a new rights respecting schools mascot. The steering group will be judging the entries and we will share the winning design in the new year.



World Children's Day

WCD is an opportunity for all schools around the world to unite with UNICEF and showcase their work to champion children's rights. Some pupils celebrated World Children's Day by having a student take-over! Students were allowed to create blue-themed art using any materials they wanted.

Representatives from across most of the classes worked together to create a blue mural. This is a permanent display on the wall near the hydro pool. Look out for it next time you are in Lancasterian.

We also had a collaborative poster which visited all classes. Pupils were free to add a contribution in the form of symbols, mark making or drawing/writing about children's rights.



Meet the steering group ...

The steering group is a group of young people and adults from across the school community who lead the schools' Rights Respecting work. We currently have 4 primary pupils and 7 high school pupils who meet once a month to plan activities and raise awareness.



Ange

Dan

Dante

Victoria

Jonas

Kai



Zack

Kaylum

Luke

Anna

Younis



Can you help?

We are looking for a parent volunteer to join our steering group. We are a lovely friendly bunch who meet once a month in the family room. Please contact school if you are interested or would like any further information.