

# 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](#) , [Instagram](#) , [Facebook](#) and [X](#). where you will find up to date information, photos and videos.

## Autumn Newsletter

Message from  
the Headteacher

December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

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.

We have of course also had our Ofsted Inspection. This went really well and the inspectors saw what we see every day; the commitment to our pupils, their learning and their wellbeing. I am looking forward to sharing the report when I receive the final copy in January.

I hope you are all signed up to DOJO and enjoying the communications from the class teams. It is lovely to share photographs of the activities your child has been doing in class. I am sure that we help you feel more connected with your child's education.

If you want to see what other classes are doing and what potential your child will do as they move through school please check out our social media posts on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [X](#). I also share a [newsletter](#) on a Friday which shares a snippet of these activities as well.

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 £1200 which will go towards the development of our playgrounds and outside areas.

Our Christmas concerts this year were wonderful. I always knew we had some talented pupils in our school but I was blown away by their performances and their confidence this year. As a school that values every child's individuality and helps them to develop, having 3 concerts ensures everyone has the opportunity to shine (*UNCRC Article 29: Education should develop my personality and talents*). There were definitely some stand out performances in each of the concerts and I hope you enjoyed watching them as much as we enjoyed making them.

We will be saying goodbye to 2 people at Christmas, Elle Whitby from Willows class and Josie Calderwood from Maple Class. We wish them all the best for their future and hope they share the wonderful skills they have learnt at Lancasterian. We are welcoming 2 new teachers in January, Lorna Walker and Shannon Moloney.

The new year will as always bring more quality learning for all of our pupils. We will look forward to sharing these with you through DOJO, 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*

Headteacher



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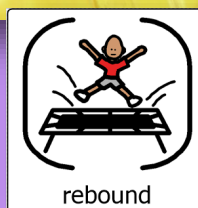
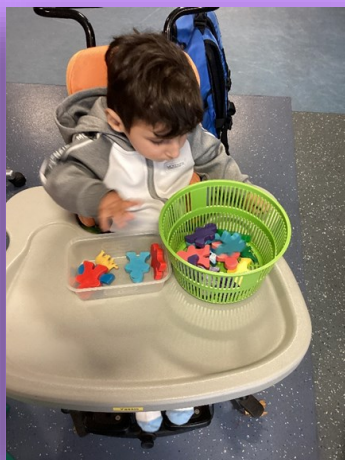
Email: [admin@lancasterian.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:admin@lancasterian.manchester.sch.uk) Website: [www.lancasterian.manchester.sch.uk](http://www.lancasterian.manchester.sch.uk)

Edited by J Greenwood

This term Lavender class have been exploring our topic of change.

We have explored this by looking at how we can move our body and exploring our immediate environment.

# Lavender class



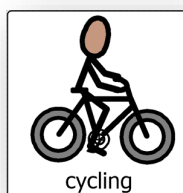
We have explored how our bodies change through movement.

We have done this through our writing, changing amounts in maths and our physical skills such as rolling a ball in our Manchester City sessions and bouncing in rebound sessions.



# Daffodil class

This term we have been learning all about Autumn and we have read the story '*It was a cold dark night!*' The children have explored lots of sensory items linked to the story. We have been on autumnal walks in the local community and created lovely autumn artwork to display in class.



For enrichment we have been cycling at Wythenshawe Wheelers and we have had Rebound Therapy with Jump Space



Bluebells have been reading the class book 'Some Things Change' and noticing changes in colour, size and shape through their science work, using a range of toys, lights and food.

# Bluebell class

We have worked on our independence skills to make toast, crumpets, pancakes, bagels and waffles. We worked hard to open containers and spread getting noticeably better each week and used these skills when we cooked food for our MFL day.



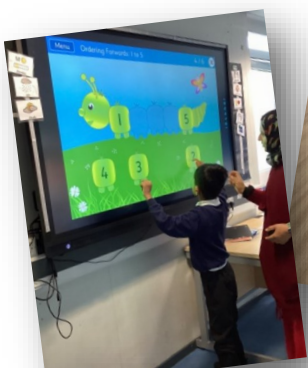
Our Art work this term has been focused around primary colours, exploring and mixing them. Our play area is full of our artwork, pieces with single colour, with 3 primary colours and some with patterns based on the Ndebele women's decorated houses. We also used primary colours to mix our own orange for a pumpkin and green for a Christmas Tree.



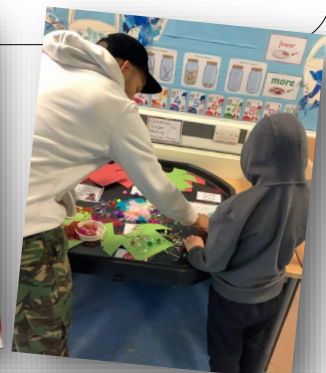
# Blossom class

This term Blossoms have been focusing on the topic of 'Change'. Through this topic, we have learned what it means to adapt to the Blossoms group and to work together.

In English, we have been exploring stories such as, 'The Cautious Caterpillar' and 'Don't Hog The Hedge'. We have enjoyed accessing these stories and engaged with puppets and fine motor skill activities.



In our Maths work we have been working at our own levels involving counting, sorting, looking at size and exploring shapes.



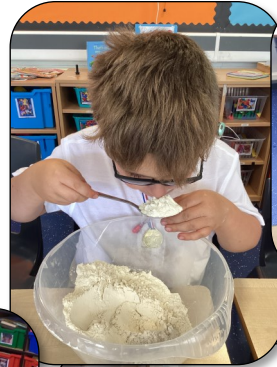
We have also been developing life skills by going on community walks, visiting the school café, going out to the sensory garden and attending regular sessions to the library.



We have enjoyed 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.

This term Jasmine class have been exploring changes in materials. During this time, we have used our Science, Art and Enrichment sessions to explore a range of different materials.

# Jasmine class



We have focused on using our senses: looking, listening, touching, smelling and tasting (where appropriate) to make observations about many different materials and their changing states.

# Acorn class

Acorns class have been exploring magnets this half term; we explored what objects are attracted to or repelled by them. We have used this knowledge to make magnet maze sensory bottles. The pupils had to use a magnet to get metal objects out of the bottle. We also tried to make a compass using a paper clip and a bottle cap.



# Welcome to Sunflowers!



**Seasonal changes-**  
Brr, we need our blankets on in the park!

Sunflowers have been exploring the theme 'changes'.

Changes are happening all around us!



**Environmental changes-** Two hot chocolates please!



**Change in textures and materials**



**Religious celebrations-**  
Creating Rangoli patterns



**Cultural experiences-**  
Listening to the crackling fire on Guy Fawkes night.



**The Hungry Caterpillar changed into a beautiful butterfly!**

**Changes as our bodies move**



Magnolia have been enjoying the theme of **Changes** by looking at the seasons. We explored the changing colour of the leaves and listened to the sounds they make. We looked at Autumnal colours by mixing paint and making leaf prints with our feet.

## Magnolia Class

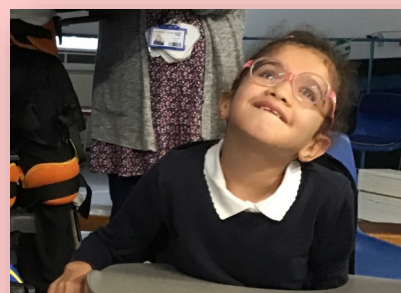


We enjoyed stories like "We're Going on a Leaf Hunt" and listening to different sounds on that journey, like snapping twigs in the forest, crunching leaves, or swooshing waterfalls.



Magnolia enjoyed dancing together in their PE this term and learning about movement in different directions.

We explored different sounds things can make by putting different things in tins and shaking them.



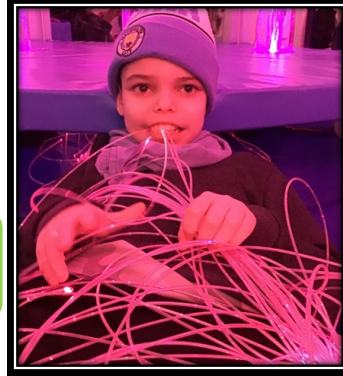
Rowan have had a fabulous term full of adventures and discoveries. We went on a visit to Manchester City Stadium and the Children's Adventure Farm (CAFT) where students enjoyed some Christmas celebrations.

# Rowan Class



We have expressed ourselves through our creative activities where the students have been able to learn about different celebrations and cultures.

Students have explored 'changes' through different activities such as stories, sensory and my cognition.



We are working to enhance our understanding of daily routine by using a huge variety of cues such as now + next, key words and sensory cues. We have also increased our knowledge of basic BSL.

# Sycamore class

We have enjoyed a range of other sporting activities throughout the term. This has included weekly sessions with Manchester City coaches where we have really improved on working together as a team. We have also benefitted of time with Sale Sharks Wheel Chair Rugby coaches. We have learnt how to manoeuvre a wheelchair and throw and catch a rugby ball.

Sycamore have had a fabulous start to the year and have taken part in a wide range in activities. We have all enjoyed attending swimming each Friday and have grown in confidence in the water, improved our independence skills especially with dressing and some of us have gained certificates with our swimming.



We have gained confidence in the kitchen and are understanding a range of terms which help us including *chop, cut, stir, mix* as well as remembering that we need to wash our hands before we start and that we have to wash up when we have finished.

In addition to all these practical activities we have also worked really hard on our reading, writing and maths skills.

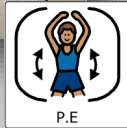
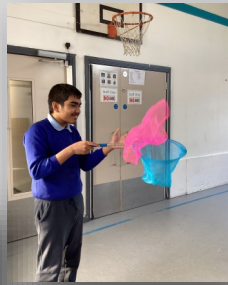
**Well done Sycamore!**



# Energetic Elm

We have had lots of opportunities to explore moving our bodies in different ways through a variety of sports and activities.

**Games** - We have worked with **Amy from Manchester City**, developing our turn taking skills, throwing, catching and aiming at a target.



**Swimming** - Some of us have attended swimming sessions at Hough End Leisure Centre. We have enjoyed having fun in the water and we are getting more confident putting our faces in the water.



**Tennis** - This half term we have attended tennis coaching sessions with **Andy from We Do Tennis**. We have been practicing throwing and catching with a variety of objects including scarfs, balls and hoops.



**Rebound** - We have loved our Friday rebound sessions with **Lynsey from Jump Space**. We have practiced jumping on our bottoms and feet. We have enjoyed it so much that we had our class trip to the Jump Space venue in Stockport!

Pine class have been following simple recipes during cooking sessions. We have made fruit salad, pizza and milkshakes.

## Pine class



As part of community access, students have been working on their transitioning skills. They have enjoyed visiting the local park with staff and class peers.

During art we celebrated different festivals. We created some beautiful autumn art, rice Rangoli patterns and some lovely poppy art for remembrance day.



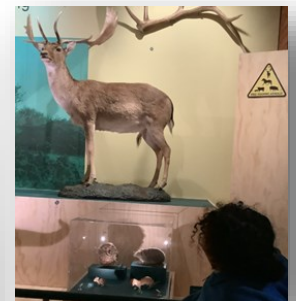
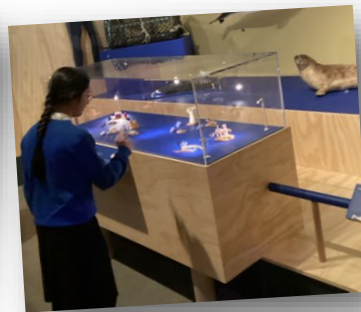
During maths students have loved exploring number songs from numbers 1-10 and making choices. In English, the class have been exploring the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. Students have enjoyed accessing this as a sensory story. All students have really enjoyed engaging with the props and objects!

# Hello from Birch class

Our focus in Birch class this term has been around friendships and play, linked to our Rights Respecting School Article, 31. We have enjoyed playing alongside our friends, learning about sharing and taking turns.



In Birch Class we have been on two fantastic trips, one to Manchester Museum as part of our science topic and the other to Boomerang for our Christmas trip. Much fun was had by all!



# Willow class

This term Willow Class have experienced lots of **CHANGES!** We have had the opportunity to enjoy more outdoor and socialisation opportunities, as we now eat in the dinner hall and have a shared outdoor playtime with our friends. We have

also been on two class trips to explore our local community - Bridgewater Hall for an SEN music concert, and Children's Adventure Farm Trust for our Christmas Trip.



In class, we have been working really hard to develop our fine and gross motor skills, and tolerance to tactile stimuli, through bi-weekly MOVE and My Body carousels. The students enjoy the PMLD swing, rebound trampoline, round and peanut balls to bounce and rock on, and being supported into their standing frames/ lying on their backs/ over a wedge to stretch whilst getting their fingers moving in different textures. We can't wait to continue our hard work in the New Year! **Merry Christmas from Willow Class!**





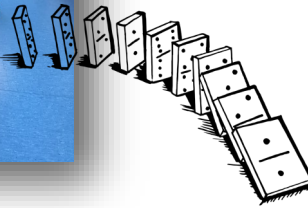
# Cedar class

Cedar have had a really busy term.

We have visited Sharston Recycling, to look at how everything is recycled, and were overpowered by the noise and smell.



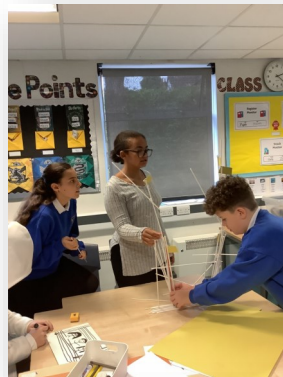
We have been building class relationships and developing our teamwork through PE and science- we made domino trains along lots of long spaces in school.



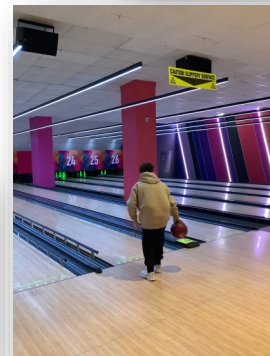
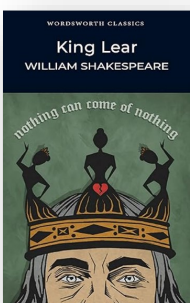
We have been finessing our knife skills in various cooking activities both for Enrichment- where we made food we could eat, and in science, where we sliced food to grow mould and look at it under the microscope.

# Maple class

Maple Class have had a very successful Autumn Term. They have been focusing on team work and building their skills together. They have done science experiments together, created things together and played team games in PE. It's been great to see them discuss and problem solve.



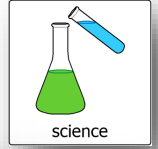
The pupils enjoyed reading and writing about King Lear by William Shakespeare.



The highlight of the term was definitely their trip to bowling at Parrs Wood. They loved bowling and eating!!

# Beech class Wow Moment: Inflating Balloons with Science!

We explored a fascinating experiment using vinegar and bicarbonate of soda to inflate balloons. This exciting activity was part of our science learning, and everyone got involved in their own way!



**Step 1:** We poured vinegar into bottles—watching it carefully bubble as we worked.

**Step 2:** We added bicarbonate of soda to balloons, feeling its grainy texture.

**Step 3:** The magic happened! When we attached the balloons to the bottles and watched the reaction, gas filled the balloons, making them expand like magic!



The room was filled with awe and laughter as we saw science in action. This experiment was not just fun—it was a *WOW*

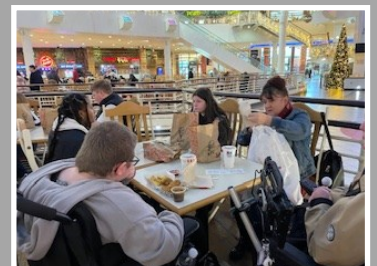


# Oak class

Oak Class have had a very successful Autumn Term. We have been focusing on team work and building our skills together.



Working with other people to make pumpkins and pizza dough; developing fitness with team games; learning a new instrument and exploring construction skills. We don't always agree but are learning to compromise and collaborate!



The highlight of the term was definitely our trip to the Trafford Centre. We loved shopping (and eating) with our friends!



The Eco Committees are up and running again. Yet again we have two committees, one with mainly young people who are based in the semi formal area of school and the other one for young people based in the formal area of school.



From last years planting we harvested some potatoes and one of the classes used these to cook with. We look forward to seeing what a small garden will produce next year. We look forward to moving forward with our Eco Projects and keeping you updated to what we all achieve.

We have set out our action plan to consider how to move our school further towards being a green school. Our planters which we were able to buy from our grant were delivered and have been filled and are ready for planting in the spring. We were gifted 2 Honey Berry bushes at the end of the summer and these have been planted and so fingers crossed we will get some fruit next summer.

## 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.

We try to provide the opportunity to as many pupils as possible to have a say in matters affecting them. With this in mind, we have 2 new steering groups set up to help support and guide the school towards our gold accreditation in July. One group consists of pupils from our semi formal classes and the other group has pupils representing our formal learners.



### World Children's Day

This year was the 35th anniversary of World Children's Day which is celebrated every year on 20th November. Pupils from all classes took part in activities that were appropriate to them. Some classes had a student 'take over' day, some classes designed some posters representing their favourite child's right and some classes participated in sensory or creative activities.

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

**Article 3** (Best interests of the child) Adults must do what's best for me.

**Article 42** Everyone must know about children's right

