Paces School for Conductive Education. Spring Term 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

It seems strange to think that this time last year we had just got the keys to our new school. So much has happened over the past year it's been quite incredible. I was extremely proud to welcome the CE community into our new school last weekend and we had such positive feedback, with many people saying what a fantastic building we have and how lucky we are to be here.

It's been another extremely busy half term with everyone working really hard. We look forward to the summer term where we will hopefully be able to enjoy some better weather and explore our outdoor space a little more.

I hope you all enjoy the Easter holidays.

Easter fun!

We have enjoyed plenty of Easter fun this week with an Easter egg hunt and lots of egg-cellent and egg-citing activities. We even had a visit from the Easter bunny themselves.

PCA Conference:

We were extremely proud to host the Annual PCA Conference on Saturday 25th March. 120 professionals from around the country, all involved in the world of Conductive Education, came to Paces School for a fantastic day of professional development. We had presentations and keynote speeches in a variety of different areas. Highlights of the day were presentations from our very own Eva Sebeszta who reflected on her own personal journey within the CE world and her experiences of training in Hungary and then working in the UK. We also had a presentation from Petar Tica who spoke about his story of becoming a qualified MD conductor. We were very proud of them both. Huge thanks to Lizzie Bell who was the driving force behind the whole event.

New staff and pupils:

This half term we have welcomed Hayley who is helping us at lunchtime in the Hardwick class and Jenny who is helping out at lunchtime in the Warwick class.

After the Easter holidays we welcome Toni who will be working in the Warwick class and Carl who is increasing his hours and working full time in the Windsor class.

We also look forward to Amy and Oscar who will join the Windsor class. Amy and Oscar have both spent a few days with us and have made a super start to their Paces journey.

Durham Class:

This half term in Durham Class, our topic has been based around tunnels. In History, we learnt about The Great Escape. We then pretended to be newsreaders on Newsround and made a news report about the facts we learnt, which was lots of fun! We have also built tunnels out of different materials, deciding which made the best tunnel!

We started reading a book called The Tunnel, which wasn't our favourite, so we decided to write our own, more exciting, tunnel stories! We started by choosing a tunnel for our setting; some of us chose dark, scary tunnels, some of us chose beautiful, flowery tunnels and some of us chose creepy tunnels full of sharks! We've loved listening to the stories our friends have written.

We have continued practising our number skills, alongside learning about shapes. We've been learning about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, used mirrors to think about symmetry, made patterns out of 2D and 3D shapes, and thought about different ways to sort shapes into groups.

Have a lovely Easter and see you next term!

Warwick 1 Class:

Warwick 1 have packed in the exciting activities this half term, having lots of fun playing and learning together. On the first week back after the break, we enjoyed an action-packed trip to Cannon Hall Farm with our friends in Warwick 2 and it was great to have so many family members join us as well. We have continued our Dangerous Dinosaurs topic, learning about the different food dinosaurs ate, as well as other interesting facts from our non-fiction books.

In ICT, we made our own film based on the story 'If I had a dinosaur'- we put together a story board and practised our scenes lots of times, having many giggles in the process. Phonics and maths continue to be a key focus and the children are making encouraging progress. In maths we have been learning about number bonds to 5, alongside exploring measures in lots of practical ways. We have ended the half-term starting a mini topic called Puddles and Rainbows, exploring the weather! Easter has been the theme for the last week- listening to the Easter story, enjoying different crafts and going on egg hunts!

School Council:

In school council, we have been discussing what house we are all going to be in.

Each house has been given a colour: Hillsborough is blue, Western is red, Millhouses is yellow and Endcliffe is green.

We have been looking at the music festival. It will be in July and we hope there will be a band.

We have also been discussing doing a sign and sing video with the whole school, so we have to decide which song we want!

We have been discussing what new toys are feasible to buy for outside in our park.

By Owen and Isabella.

World Book Day:

World Book Day is one of our favourites! Everyone really embraces dressing up as their favourite character and we made even more interesting this year by turning it into a competition. We also organised for some of the older pupils to share some of their love of literacy with the younger pupils. The Wentworth class performed a dramatised version of Little Red Riding Hood to the Warwick classes, and the Windsor class created their very own story with props and sound effects which they shared with the Durham class. Our older pupils also judged the fancy dress costume. Overall, a fantastic day celebrating the world of literacy.

Balmoral Class:

We have had a fabulous term in Balmoral filled with hard work, achievements, and of course lots of fun along the way! We have been exploring the 'Sow, Grow and Farm' topic which has focussed on farming in the UK and around the rest of the world. Pupils have gained an appreciation of where their food comes from as well as exploring the storybook, 'The Secret Garden' and thoroughly enjoy the many practical aspects of this topic!

As well as enjoying the delights of 'The Secret Garden', the pupils have been working on their ability to comprehend and create their own non-fiction writing. We have focussed on the benefits of allotments as well as the wildlife they attract!

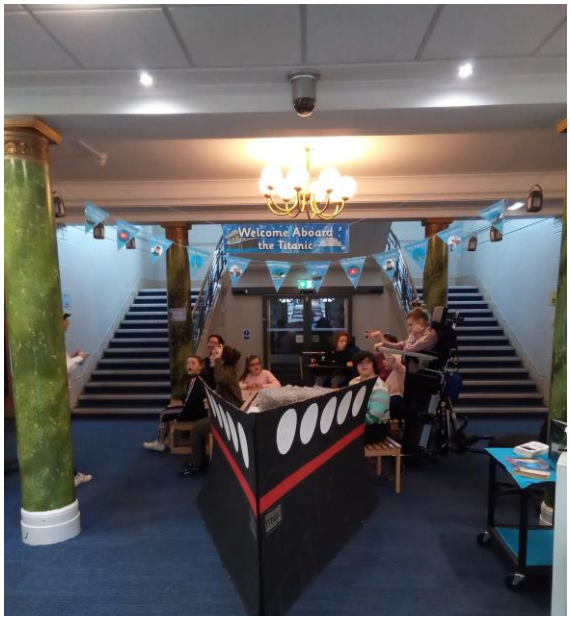
In maths, we have built upon our knowledge of place value from last term and focused on using these new skills to improve our knowledge and understanding of addition and subtraction!

Geography has been especially explorative this half term. We have discovered coffee from all over the world and sampled it too! We then finished discovering how chocolate is made, and created our very own hot chocolate!

In ICT, we have continued to develop our programming skills by using the programme Scratch and Scratch Jr. We have created our very own storyboards as well as practised debugging a series of programmes.

Wentworth Class:

This term the students have learnt about the Titanic during History lessons. It was such an exciting topic. They created a wonderful version of the ship itself, pictured below, to transport the class back in time to experience a voyage on the Titanic. We also visited the Maritime Museum in Liverpool, where we had an amazing workshop. The class have been focusing on Mental Health & Wellbeing and organised a relaxing and pampering afternoon during the last week of the term. The students also evaluated their goals and targets they created earlier this year. In RE, we have been learning about the Easter story, exploring the characters and having lots of debate on what could have been the motives behind their actions.



Windsor Class: Windsor Class have had a fabulous half term. Students have been making excellent progress in their number work in mathematics and have been working incredibly hard on their physical targets in the task series. We have enjoyed having some extra guests in the classroom to help us with our 'Introduction to Animal Care' WJEC unit for Science. After our visit from the mobile zoo earlier in the term, we had a pet hamster come to stay for a few weeks and we were very pleased to see all ten eggs from the Living Eggs project hatch out to become very cute fluffy chicks. Students worked hard to help give the hamster's cage its weekly clean and summed up all their hamster knowledge by writing an information sheet on how to care for a hamster.

Working together as a group has also been a theme in our Art lessons. Students used planning and communication skills to share ideas, allocate roles, negotiate, ask for help and make decisions whilst working on creating a life size model dragon. Students chose parts of the dragon to work on and used ideas from their literacy work when they planned their own dragon characters. We are still busy cutting, sticking and painting this awesome creation and are looking forward to sharing the results with you on the website. Students have also had the chance to work together in the Life Skills kitchen making some delicious treats; it has been wonderful to see the students developing their independence with our amazing new facilities.

Hardwick Class: The children in Hardwick Class have had a wonderful half term extending their learning on Marvellous Machines and focusing on rockets and space travel!

Each day in our task series, the children have been going on an adventure into space where they have met all sorts of interesting and unusual sounding aliens. They have stamped on small aliens and reached up to scare away the biggest aliens on the planet – all the while reaching buttons and steering their ship.

They have also been working on making magnificent model rockets in art sessions – they have thoroughly enjoyed junk modelling to make the shapes of rockets. They have also explored papier mâché, scrunching up and ripping newspaper to dip it into pools of PVA glue. This was also linked to our science lessons where the children learned about rockets, how they sound and their function.

The children went on an immensely fun trip to Eureka, where they spent the day exploring the museum. They learned about how sounds travel, how robots work, their bodies and best of all it was a lovely day out together.

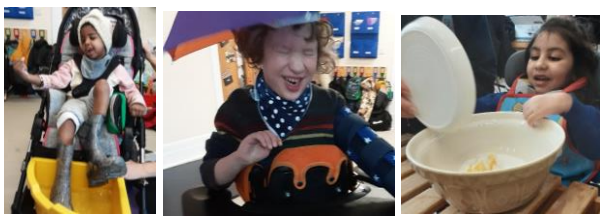
Warwick 2 Class: This term we have finished our awesome topic 'Dangerous Dinosaurs'. We have become archaeologists, comparing the differences between dinosaurs and other animals, creating our own dinosaurs and working together to make a fact book all about dinosaurs. We have had a roarsome time!

We have spent lots of time in the life-skills kitchen exploring Chinese food for Chinese new year, pancakes on Pancake day and treats for our mums on Mother's Day.

We have started a lovely new topic, 'Puddles and Rainbows,' which is teaching us all about the changes in weather, exploring colours and signs of spring. We have loved putting on our wellies and splashing in puddles and smelling the beautiful spring flowers. Our focus class sensory story The Colour Monster' is teaching us how our emotions can link to a colour.

As always, we have been very busy creating beautiful art to share with our families at home.

Enjoy Easter and if you find the Easter Bunny don't forgot to get a photo!



Educational Visits:
This half term we have had a number of educational visits that have support our topic-based learning. The Warwick class teams have been to Cannon Hall Farm, the Hardwick class have been to Eureka, Wentworth class have been to the Maritime Museum in Liverpool and the Durham class have been to Magna. Visits for the remaining class groups are planned for the summer term.

Future dates for your diary:

End of Spring Term	Fri 31st March
Pupils return	Mon 19th April
May bank holiday	Mon 1st May
Extra bank holiday	Mon 8th May
Finish for half term	Fri 26th May
Pupils/staff return to school	Mon 5th June
Multicultural Arts week	19th-23rd June
Sports Day	TBC
End of summer term	Fri 24th July
Staff training days	4/5th Sept
Pupils return	Wed 6th Sept

The provisional dates for summer school this year are Mon 24th- Fri 28th July. The running of this is dependent both on funding and staffing. A letter will be sent out during the summer term with more information.

Conductive Education Awareness Week:
This year we fully embraced CE Awareness week, spending time in our classes learning a little bit more about CE and why it is important to us. We ended the week with celebration assemblies sharing our thoughts and ideas about what CE means to us and how it helps. The Durham class created an amazing video outlining what CE means to each of them individually and we shared this on our social media platforms.