Paces School for Conductive Education.

Autumn Term 2 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have enjoyed a very busy half term with everyone engaging well with their topics enjoying lots of exciting learning opportunities. Particular highlights of the term for me were the Christmas Carol Service and participating in all the lovely annual reviews, listening to the teachers talk about all your fantastic children and their achievements. Huge thanks to all the staff for continuing to go above and beyond in their support of our pupils, and thank you to all our parents/carers who are such a great support for us at Paces.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas holiday with your families, and I look forward to welcoming pupils back into school on Monday 8th January 2024.

Best wishes

Ruth

Christmas fun:

This week we enjoyed lots of Christmas fun with a visit from Santa, a yummy Christmas lunch and a fabulous Christmas party day.

Warwick Class:

We have been very busy bees in Warwick class this term. We have carried on enjoying and learning all about 'Me and my community'.

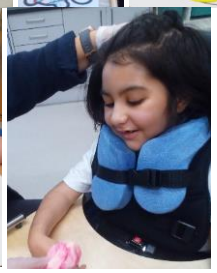
We started this half term focusing on our families and who is important to us, sharing photographs and identifying family members in photos. We loved turning our dads into superheroes linking to our class story 'Superhero Dad!'. We looked at our homes and identified we all live in different sized houses. We had so much fun junk modelling our homes.

We have continued exploring friendships and thinking about what makes a good friend. Together in class we have made a friendship tree to remind us we are all part of the Warwick class and it's important to accept people for who they are and always be kind and respectful to others.

We have learnt that many people help us in the community such as, police officers, bus drivers and paramedics. We got to experience each person in our role play corner each week and match the vehicles to the right person.

We have had lots of fun celebrating Halloween, Bonfire night, Remembrance Day, Children in Need and Diwali which brightened the classroom with our beautiful lanterns.

As the nights get darker and the weather colder, we know it's getting closer to Christmas. We have decorated the Christmas tree and wrote our wish list to Santa. We even got to see Santa and his elves in their work shop at Gulliver's Valley.



Windsor Class:

Windsor Class enjoyed an incredible journey as we followed the autobiography of Olaudah Equiano as part of our MAAFA topic. Students have learned so much about the slave trade and the abolition movement, leading to some thoughtful responses and good detective work, making inferences from details in the text and historical sources. They have also learned about the Windrush generation and explored Caribbean poetry, and written some autobiographical recounts about our Christmas trip.

The class also developed their enterprise skills in November by planning and holding a fundraising event for Children in Need – raising over £245. They made lots of cakes and designed posters and signs for the stalls. The event also led to some real-life application of our number work in mathematics.

Students have worked very hard in Science on the WJEC electricity unit. They have learned to identify different electrical components and recognise their symbols in a circuit diagram. They have tested conductivity of materials to help in creating their own switches, tested the voltage of different cells including fruit and vegetables, and made both series and parallel circuits to see which would make the best Christmas lights. They have made working circuits with motors or buzzers and finally a light-up Christmas card.

Table Tennis:

This term some of our pupils have had the opportunity to develop their table tennis skills with some specialist coaches. Sessions are available at Kelham Island for anyone to attend.

The CP Sessions are free, usually 2nd Monday of every month, (depending on term holidays etc), equipment is provided.

Next session is:

15th January 4:30 - 5:30

Kelham Island Table Tennis Club (next to Kelham Island Museum)

Families and siblings are welcome to join in

Contact:

Simon Athey 07774122844

@kelhamislandtt

Christmas Celebrations:

We enjoyed having our family members in school to share in our Christmas festivities. Classes have worked hard to prepare something to present to their friends and family, with some classes writing their own scripts and creating their own props. We also really enjoyed having our family members in school to help us with our arts and craft activities.

Children in Need:

Once again, we celebrated Children in Need day in style with pupils and staff dressing up in either their spotty gear, pyjamas or Pudsey outfits. Pupils in the Windsor class organised some fantastic activities for the whole school to participate in and everyone had a great time playing games and eating cake! Special thanks to Oscar's Nan for baking the most fantastic Pudsey cake.

Balmoral Class:

The Balmoral Class have enjoyed a fun-filled and action-packed half-term. The children have been finishing off their topic: Frozen Kingdom. This has involved reading through the book, "The Last Bear", linking in the story as much as we can to all areas of learning. In science we have looked at the food chains of the animals which live in the frozen areas and built a food-web. In English we have written poetry and paragraphs about the characters, the story and the environment and in art have created beautiful pieces of work linked to the Northern Lights.

The children continue to be challenged in all ways, showing their mental and physical strength and resilience by developing their standing, walking and transferring skills. They have also been keenly working on Scratch coding where they have created and edited several games – altering the code to make the games easier or harder.

Edinburgh Class:

We have really enjoyed this term learning about Frozen Kingdom, we have explored food chains, Ernest Shackleton and the Northern Lights. The Edinburgh class have really enjoyed learning about the Northern Lights and what causes them, completing some amazing independent art work with paints, chalks and using stencils. We had begun learning about soundtracks in relation to the Northern Lights and have listened and played a range of instruments to represent the movement and colours of the lights. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring all the instruments, especially the louder ones. In PE children have explored orienteering, we have developed our map reading skills and learnt to read symbols to go on our own treasure hunts around school.

We had a visit from Nick Credible which the Edinburgh Class and Balmoral class really enjoyed, the children got to explore a wide range of clothing, tools and artefacts when going on a polar expedition. Nick was really fun and we were all amazed by his experience traveling to the Arctic and Antarctica, looking at his photos and listening to the stories he told us.

Chatsworth Class:

We have had a brilliant half term in Chatsworth and have all been working incredibly hard. We have now settled well into our daily routine and enjoy listening out for the cue music for transition points of the day like lunchtime and home time. Through the continuation of our 'Africa' topic, we have been exploring the story 'Handa's Surprise' which has provided us with lots of sensory fun. We have used fruit for mark-making, have learnt about geographical landscapes like The Savanna, and have engaged with exciting sensory stories. We also enjoyed a fabulous visit to Yorkshire Wildlife Park to meet some of the animals that we encounter in the text – our favourites were the tall giraffes and the mischievous meerkats! Additionally, we have really enjoyed our Phonics sessions this half term, exploring initial sounds through activities and resources such as body percussion and musical instruments. We have been engaging really well in the daily Task Series, all of us working hard on our individual targets whether that be following an instruction, grasping and releasing, or supported standing or walking.

The Chatsworth Team are very proud of everything our pupils have achieved this half term and wish everyone a lovely break. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

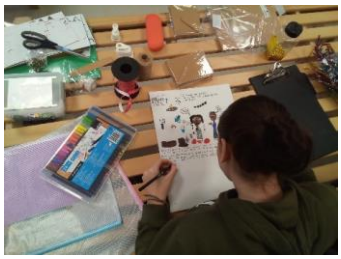
Durham Class:

Durham Class have had a lovely half term learning about the Grand Old Duke of York. We had a fantastic time acting out the nursery rhyme and discovered he was really a Prince called Frederick. We even wrote newspaper reports about him!
We have all been practising our number skills, and we have also been looking at 2D and 3D shapes, talking about their properties and thinking about different ways they can be sorted. We have investigated how water can make music.
We have also had lots of fun on our trips – we placed poppies at the war memorial, went bowling and to the theatre, and enjoyed lots of yummy food!
Have an amazing Christmas and New Year and we can't wait to see you all in 2024!

Wentworth Class:

This term the Wentworth class have continued to develop our understanding of 'Enslavement'. We have read the story of Oladah Aquiano and his journey from slavery to his eventual freedom. The students were enthralled by his story and enjoyed the daily reading sessions. The students created some brilliant artwork and poetry inspired by his story.

In RE we have been learning about the Christian faith, mainly signs and symbols and what they represent. We were warmly welcomed by the staff at Sheffield Cathedral who invited us to a private carol concert and a tour and exploration of some of the things we have been learning about.
The students have also organised a fundraising event and after much deliberation they decided upon cancer research as their chosen charity. They have organised a raffle, tombola, and a cake sale. They hope to raise more than £100!



The Royal Foundation Christmas Carol Service:

We were very privileged to host a Christmas Carol Concert on behalf of Her Royal Highness Princess Kathryn and The Royal Foundation. It was lovely to welcome lots of family and friends to the service as well as the Lord Lieutenant and the Lord Mayor. Those pupils that performed at the service were lucky enough to spend time with Reverend Abi from Sheffield Cathedral to practice the carols and a couple of special songs for the service. We particularly enjoyed the very interesting version of the Christmas story told by Abi with lots of audience participation. A special well done to Isabella S who read her poem so beautifully and to Aoife and Eleanor for their beautiful prayers and duet.

Hardwick Class:

We have had such a jam-packed fun filled half term in Hardwick.

Following our learning about famous London landmarks, we then explored Queen Elizabeth. We had our Royal tea party together in a local café in the community which was so much fun!

We then decided to explore further away from home and we went to Italy! We explored the famous landmarks there, the food and music. We then brought Italy to us and we had our very own Italian day. We made fresh pizzas which were very messy but so yummy!

One of the highlights of our half term was our sponsored walk. We had a day brilliant and the support and sponsorships we received were absolutely mind blowing and extremely appreciated by us all.

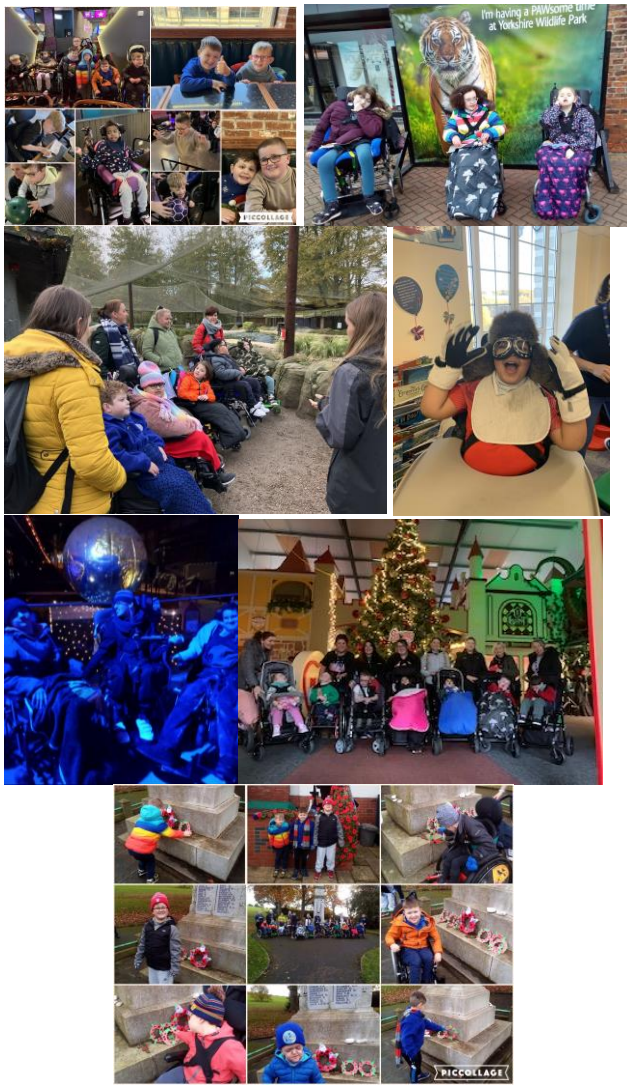
Future dates for your diary:

Pupils return to school	8th January 2024
Finish for half term	9th February 2024
Staff training day	19th Feb 2024
Pupils return to school	20th Feb 2024
Break up for Easter	28th March 2024

Educational Visits:

We continue to provide pupils at Paces with a wide variety of opportunities outside of the classroom designed to enhance their personal development. This half term has been no different with the Balmoral and Edinburgh class having a visit from an Antartic Explorer, pupils in Wentworth, Balmoral and Windsor having opportunities to develop their physical skills with a game of table tennis. In addition to this, classes have visited the following destinations; Lotherton Hall, Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Sheffield Cathedral, Ice Sheffield, The Crucible Theatre, Gulliver's Valley and Magna to name a few.

Many of these visits have a link to the class topic or specific areas of the curriculum, whilst others have a larger focus on developing social skills, and where appropriate, relate to preparation for adulthood.



On behalf of all the staff and pupils of Paces School I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.