Paces School for Conductive Education.

Autumn Term 1 2023

School Comms:

Please could parents/carers download the school comms app. We are unable to start using it effectively due to the large number of parents who haven't managed to do this. We will be calling parents individually after the holidays to provide any help that might be required.

Wentworth Class:

We have made a great start to the new academic year. In English we have been working on the WJEC unit of work, 'Exploring Poetry'. We have also started to read the story, 'Journey to Freedom' linked to our history topic 'Maafa'. We have then explored Africa discovering in which countries the slave trade originated. Pupils then created a PowerPoint presentation researching information relating to their chosen country. In Art we have captured our thoughts relating to slavery through a variety of different mediums. Our canvases will be on display in school and we were really proud of our work. In ICT we have developed our debugging skills using SCRATCH and in PE we have started to develop our physical skills to enable us to play curling.

New pupils:

This half term we have welcomed Jesse into our Wentworth Class. Jesse has brought with him an infectious positivity that is a welcome addition to our school.

We have also welcomed Salah into the Warwick class, who along with Cora, Logan and Mominah have settled in really well over the past half term.

Coffee Morning:

Just a reminder that on Tuesday 31st October 9.00am-11.00am we are holding a coffee morning designed to give parents the opportunity to meet the new Therapy team and Senior Leadership team. Please come and enjoy a coffee and a cake with us.

Harvest Festival:

This week we celebrated our Harvest Festival. The Wentworth class organised a super assembly with the support of guest speaker Maureen Greaves from High Green Food Bank and Community Bank.

Thank you for all those who sent in food and toiletries.
As always, the pupils were extremely engaged throughout the assembly and it was lovely to see some of the decorations the pupils had made to accompany our harvest songs.

Children in Need Day:

On Friday 17th November we will celebrate Children in Need Day. Pupils will be invited to wear fancy dress/Children in Need items of clothing. A donation of £1 is requested to go to Children in Need. The theme this year is Be Spotacular and pupils will participate in Pudsey themed activities and have the opportunity to Be Spotacular.

Chatsworth Class:

We have had a very busy first half term in Chatsworth Class! The pupils have settled in to their new class brilliantly well and are having lots of fun learning more about each other. Our 'Africa' topic has been really interesting and has provided us with a number of exciting multisensory experiences. We have practised mark-making in a range of materials, have explored African landscapes like the desert, the rainforest and rivers, and have learnt about various produce that comes from Africa. We have enjoyed the books 'The Animal Boogie' and 'Mama Panya's Pancakes', reading about different animals and African culture. A particular highlight has been our weekly AAC session in which we have been working really hard on using our individual communication methods, showing everyone how clearly we can express ourselves! We have also enjoyed celebrating and participating in whole-school events including World Mental Health Day and The Harvest Festival, where we had opportunities to spend time with peers from different classes. All of the pupils have worked incredibly hard on their individual targets and I am sure will continue to do so after their well-deserved half term break!

Warwick Class:

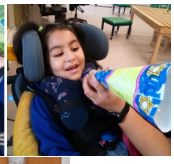
In Warwick, we have been busy making new friends, welcoming Logan, Cora and Salah to our class. They are settling in well and enjoying everyday life in Warwick which includes having fun and getting VERY messy.

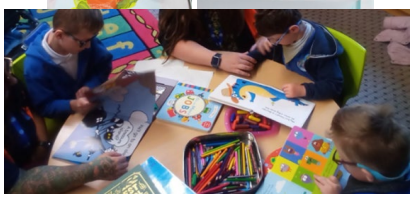
We have loved our sensory story 'The Rainbow Fish'. The book has taught us the importance of sharing and the happiness that sharing can bring. This story links perfectly with our topic 'Me and My Community'.

We know it's important to explore our school and the local community. We have enjoyed meeting other pupils in different classes and other adults that help us, such as Ruth, the headteacher and the therapy team. We even joined our local library for story time with other children in the area, it was lots of fun and we were given stickers for our beautiful singing.

We have had lots of fun celebrating the harvest festival- learning about how crops are gathered from the fields and how people can reflect and show gratitude for the food that they have. We went on a big walk to our local farm shop to buy some beautiful fruits and vegetables to explore in the classroom. We then wrote a letter to say thank you for the food they've grown and sold to us.

We have done so much already this term from celebrating Yom Kippur, baking, learning about ourselves and our families.





Safeguarding update:

This half term we have bought in the support of Learn Sheffield to help us with an audit of our safeguarding practices. They reviewed our governance, our safeguarding records, curriculum, training and our safer recruitment processes. They spoke to staff, pupils and school leaders. The following quotes have been taken from the report.

'The pupils were polite and articulate and their dialogue memorable. When asked to describe the school in a word, responses included 'amazing', 'family', 'brilliant' and 'kind'. Leaders have worked hard on creating a strong culture of safeguarding in the school. Children feel safe and enjoy coming to school'.

'The safeguarding team are experienced and committed to the very best for the children in their care. They understand the context and background of their pupils. They have worked hard on ensuring policies and procedures are in place'.

Balmoral Class:

Our topic this half term has been Frozen Kingdom. In our science lessons the pupils have looked at the properties of ice and how they can make it melt quicker or slower in their science experiments! The pupils have also looked at the natural world in more icy regions and researched how the animals and plants can survive, creating short pieces of writing reflecting what they have learned about each animal – the clear favourites being polar bears and penguins.

In Computing the pupils have been developing their programming and coding skills to make an animated, dynamic and explosive knock-knock joke using Scratch. The results have been very creative with the use of movement, sound and looping code to create jokes which can be shown over and over. It has been wonderful to see how many skills the pupils have picked up through computing and coding.

In Maths and Literacy, the pupils have been very quick to pick up where they left off before the summer holidays: problem solving, working in groups and challenging themselves to do their best.

All of us in the Balmoral Team are so incredibly proud of how hard the pupils have worked in their different task series. Each pupil has been challenged in a different way this half term and it is great to see the learning being brought back into the classroom: whether it be transferring skills, self-help skills or even skills to have an exciting football game at playtime, everyone has worked extremely hard.

Windsor Class:

Windsor Class have been doing brilliantly this term with our challenging topic: Maafa. We have followed the rollercoaster journey of Olaudah Equiano in our English text and we have learned about the transatlantic slave trade. Students have enjoyed an Art and Design project to produce a model Djembe drum- with fabulous results.

A real highlight of our topic work was our drumming workshop, during which we sang some traditional African songs, played a range of djembe drums and other percussion instruments, and had lots of fun!

Students have been learning about Electricity in Science and have taken on the role of Safety Inspectors – looking for potential electrical hazards around the classroom. They have worked hard on learning the names of electrical components and what they do, whilst getting involved in building working circuits themselves.

In PSHE and Life Skills, students have been learning about British values, which has helped us in our thinking about slavery. They have also done some sessions of cooking - making an Autumnal vegetable soup this week. Earlier in the term, the class also made a delicious chocolate cake to celebrate our oldest class member's very special birthday.

Durham Class:

Durham Class have had a lovely time this half term. We have made new friends with the children who have moved into our class and love playing imaginative games at break times.

This half term we have enjoyed learning about our ears and listening to different sounds. We had lots of fun making telephones out of cups and string!

We have done lots of work on rhyming in English and have looked at different nursery rhymes. Some of us completed the words of rhymes we already know well, whilst others wrote our own poems by choosing different rhyming words to finish a sentence.

In Maths, we have been learning lots about number, looking at number bonds, addition and recognising numerals to 5, 10, 20 and beyond!

We had a lovely time on our trip to Eureka on Thursday.

Future dates for your diary:

Pupils return to school	30th Oct 2023
Children in Need Day	17th Nov 2023
Christmas Jumper Day	7th Dec 2023
Last day of term	21st Dec 2023
Staff training day	22nd Dec 2023
Pupils return to school	8th Jan 2024

Hardwick:

We have had a brilliant start to the new school year in Hardwick. Our new topic, Bright Lights Big City has been lots of fun so far!

We have loved visiting the local area- exploring beyond the classroom on autumn walks to see what is around us: shops, memorial gardens, rivers and woodland. It's been lovely to feel the sunshine and wind on our faces

We then decided to go a little further and have been investigating transport to London. The famous landmarks there are so big! We loved Big Ben so much we even made a large-scale Big Ben for our classroom. We also explored the history of Queen Elizabeth and even planned a royal tea party for us all 😊

We are looking forward to many fun and exciting days up to Christmas, including our very own sponsored walk.

World Mental Health Day:

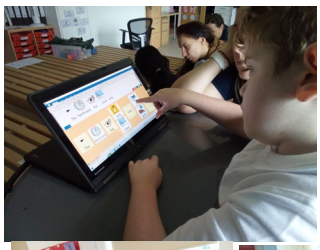
On Tuesday 10th October we celebrated World Mental Health Day. Pupils all spent the afternoon in their house teams engaging in activities designed to support positive mental well being. Activities included music, art, massage and games.

Edinburgh Class:

What a brilliant half term this has been. Edinburgh class have built great relationships and got to know each other, whilst having a lot of fun. We are loving the topic of Frozen Kingdom. We have learnt where to locate the polar regions on maps and globes, explored the physical features, climate, animals and tourism. Exploring ice and snow was the most fun, it was so cold and messy.

We have read the book 'The Call of the Wild', it was tense and exciting. We have created a story map exploring the characters, setting and the plot. Our favourite character was Buck, a huge dog who was brave and intelligent and was used to pull a dog sled in the North Land.

We have had fun creating shelters and dens, learning the best materials to use. When our shelters were up and sturdy, we shared stories together and kept warm from the English weather outside, pleased we weren't in the Arctic or Antarctica though.

In Art and Computing we have explored photography; we have learnt to take photos using a range of camera angles. The children have all been amazing using technology, we have used cameras and tablets taking photos of polar animals and each other.

All the children are working hard and we look forward to learning more around the topic of Frozen Kingdom next term, have a great half term break!