



Paces School for Conductive Education.

Spring Term 1 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't quite believe that half term is here already! It's been lovely to 'get back to basics' a bit with a half term focused on high quality curriculum and learning. We have had several visits from professionals from other schools and Local Authorities all of whom were very impressed with the school. They couldn't believe how engaged the pupils were in their learning. A report written by one of our governors (who is also an Ofsted inspector) in her follow up report, *'The quality of teaching and learning was exceptional. All learners wanted to participate in lessons, and there were no excuses as to why children at PACES couldn't learn'*. I have been extremely proud of both the pupils and the staff during these visits, although what our visitors saw is quite simply a typical day at Paces with pupils excelling in everything they do.

Have a lovely half term holiday.

Ruth

Parent Coffee Morning:

We are pleased to share with you the date of our next Parent Coffee Morning which will have a focus on Conductive Education and how we use this approach to support the physical development of pupils throughout the school.

Eva, our Lead Conductor, will be available, along with other conductors from around school, to answer your questions.

Our coffee morning will take place on Wednesday 13th March at 9.00-11.00am.



Children's Mental Health Week:

The theme of Children's Mental Health Week this year is 'Pupil Voice'. At Paces School pupils and staff work hard to make sure everyone has a voice and that everyone is listened to. Petar has worked with the pupils this week to capture all the different ways we support pupils with their communication in a video which we look forward to sharing with you.

Each class has participated in activities designed to promote and support positive mental health. Some of these activities have included making stress balls, listening to relaxing music, well-being walks in the fresh air and painting pebbles that we have hidden for our friends to find.



Friday Clubs:

We are pleased to share with you that after half term all pupils will have the opportunity to join a club every other Friday afternoon.

The clubs on offer are Dance, Drama, Choir, French and Cooking. Pupils have been given the choice to join a club for the half term with the promise of new clubs after Easter following consultation with the School Council. This will give pupils the opportunity to mix with other pupils and try new activities.

There may even be a performance or two from the choice, dance and drama clubs. And I'm hoping there might be some edible treats on offer from the cooking club.



Chatsworth Class:

We have had a great half term here in Chatsworth and have really loved exploring our new topic, 'Water Adventures'. We are focussing on this through a series of mini units – so far, we have looked at 'Under the Sea' and 'Mermaids', alongside the study of our core text, 'Once Upon a Raindrop'. We have experienced fascinating sensory stories, have used different materials like puffy paint and watercolours for mark-making, and have even learnt about the origins of mermaid mythology! Music and Touch Communication continues to excite the Chatsworth pupils; these sessions involve using different pieces of music and stimuli to encourage early communication skills. Our current session is all about diving into the ocean – we love meeting mermaids, sea creatures and pirates! In addition, we have been working really hard in AAC lessons to develop our communication skills through accessible methods such as symbols and switches.



Balmoral Class:

The first half of the spring term has been a rousing success for the Wentworth class. Short but sweet, all the pupils have made strides towards achieving their goals by the end of the term.

In English, we have begun to explore the texts of Shakespeare. More specifically, Romeo and Juliet. We have started creating diary entries from the point of view of our favourite characters!

In ICT we have been learning how to use PowerPoint to create engaging branching stories, with a focus on making them user-friendly and aimed at a variety of audiences.

In Art, we have created mood boards depicting Shakespeare's Masquerade Ball. The aim is to create elegant masks each dedicated to one of Shakespeare's famous plays.

Finally, all pupils have made terrific progress during their CE programmes specifically with standing and weight-bearing tasks.



Windsor Class:

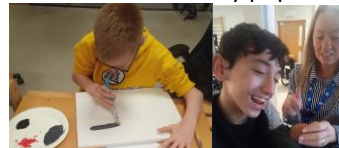
The class really enjoyed reading a short novel, *Hurly Burly Macbeth Mayhem*, which was inspired by Shakespeare's play. As well as being lots of fun, it brought up some really interesting themes from the play around guilt, ambition, friendship and what happens when we do something we regret. We have now started studying Shakespeare's *Macbeth* itself. We have explored the opening scenes, thinking about the impact of the witches and the atmospheric details on the audience.



Students have worked really hard on their WJEC 'Working with Angles and Position' mathematics unit. They have showed their understanding of angles, position and direction words through practical activities, as well as ICT and paper-based tasks.



In Art, everyone has been developing their fine motor skills whilst experimenting with a range of different painting techniques – focussing especially on watercolour. The work inspired by Jackson Pollock was very popular.



Warwick Class:

We in Warwick class have jumped straight back into working hard this half term. With our new topic 'Once upon a time'.

We have gone *bear* mad with our class focus story 'Goldilocks and the three bears' which has linked to everything we have done across each day at school. We have loved re-creating the story within our weekly sensory story with a focus on what happened next?

Within our learning and play, we have looked at describing words to explain how each character would be feeling. We did an investigation to work out who's been eating the porridge? We went on an adventure to collect items to create our own woodland scene. We helped the three bears by making 'WANTED!' posters to find Goldilocks! We also, helped Goldilocks by making 'Sorry' cards for her to give the bears as we learnt it's important to say 'sorry' when you have upset someone.

We have also been counting and matching bears, sorting bowls into size order looking at small, medium and big. We have explored full and empty as well as hot and cold by making our own porridge (it was very yummy!). We then looked at old and new by sorting clothes out. We even made scented cakes (playdough) to give to the bears!

We have had lots of fun celebrating number day, Children's mental health week and pancake day!

WOW! We have done so much this half term and we can't wait to continue our topic 'Once upon a time', with our focus on 'Cinderella' next half term.



Edinburgh Class:

This term, we learned lots about how our tummies work! We made fact files showing what we know about how our bodies digest food.

To bring our learning to life, we made our own flip books. We then had the opportunity to showcase our creativity by planning and designing persuasive posters about healthy snacks.

Our English adventures included the delightful story, "The Story of the Little Mole who knew it was none of his business," where the children engaged in role-play session.

In our maths lessons we have made great strides. From recognizing numbers consistently up to 10 to counting on from any number forwards and backwards up to 20, the progress has been commendable. Concepts like one more, one less, and comparisons through matching, fewer, more, and the same, have been explored, laying a solid foundation for future mathematical endeavours.

Hands-on experiments have been a highlight in our science lessons exploring our digestive system. Our budding scientists are not only familiar with the concept but have also delved into the senses, particularly taste, and its connection to digestion. The children have been actively engaged in sorting healthy and less healthy foods, making the learning experience both educational and enjoyable.

The world of music has added a delightful note to our curriculum. From funny songs to exploring high and low pitches, we've connected music with storytelling. The children have even learned songs dedicated to the digestive system, complete with different moves for each body part, making the learning experience both educational and entertaining.



Future dates:

Staff training day:	Mon 19 th Feb
Pupils return to school:	Tues 20 th Feb
World Book Day:	Thurs 7 th March
Comic Relief Day:	Fri 15 th March
Break up for Easter:	Thurs 28 th March
Start of Summer Term:	Mon 15 th April
May Day holiday:	Mon 6 th May
Break up for half term:	Fri 24 th May
Staff training day:	Mon 3 rd June
Pupils return to school:	Tues 4 th June
Last day of summer term:	Tues 23 rd July

Safeguarding:

Just a reminder about who is responsible for safeguarding in school.



Ruth Liu-Designated Safeguarding Lead/Online Safety Lead.



Eva Sebeszta



Sam Rowland



Kim Donovan

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

Hardwick Class:

We've come to the end of another exciting half term. This term has been filled with laughter, learning, and, of course, lots of intriguing sounds! We've enjoyed exploring and diving into the world of loud and quiet sounds, from the gentle rustling of leaves on a nature sound walks to the booming beats of our musical instruments with special thanks to Rosie, from the Sheffield Music Hub, for leading our music time and filling our Monday afternoons with rhythm and joy.



In Maths we have continued focusing and exploring shapes with circles, and triangles taking centre stage. The children have also been busy fostering a love of numbers 1-5. In English we have been a magical journey through "The Loud and Quiet Book," captivating our young minds with tales that are not just heard but felt. Engaging with sensory objects has added an extra layer of engagement to our story adventures.



In Science we have been exploring plants. We have been hands-on in exploring the fascinating world of plants, looking and feeling different parts of plants and listening to songs on how a plant grows. In PSHE, we have developed our trusting friendships in class, sharing toys, and listening to each other in our circle time.

Our digital art adventures have involved pressing buttons on our laptops to create a variety of effects. We've also been photographers, capturing the fun-filled days and assembling our memories into beautiful picture mosaics.

We rounded off the half term with an exciting trip to the cinema, where we experienced the magic of larger-than-life sounds! The cinema experience was the perfect end to our exploration of our sound topic.

Durham Class:

Durham Class have had a lovely half term starting our Muck, Mess and Mixtures topic. We have had a lot of fun mixing different materials together and getting extremely messy! We have eaten lots of interesting foods from different countries and used adjectives to describe their taste.

We have been reading George's Marvellous Medicine and even made our own disgusting medicine including ingredients like soil, paint, washing up liquid and salt... We definitely didn't want to take our medicine once it was finished!

We have all been practising our number skills, and we have been learning how to order different objects from shortest to tallest and longest to shortest, and have started measuring objects using cubes and rulers!

We also had lots of fun on our trip to Magna – seeing a fire tornado, using massive diggers and playing in the water!



Wentworth Class:

We are very pleased to be welcoming Faith to Balmoral Class! Faith has come in for several visits to settle in and will be joining us full time next half-term!

The pupils have been learning all about the human body this half term. This includes learning about our teeth, how to take care of them and how to make healthy choices when eating. The pupils have shown what they know when they made their own fruit smoothies and created art using fruit and vegetables inspired by Giuseppe Arcimboldo. They have also taken part in a practical science experiment for the digestive system where they, much to their dismay, chopped up some cake each to take it on the journey of digestion by mixing it with water, putting it in a Ziploc bag, mixing their concoction with washing up liquid and finally pushing it through a pair of tights for the intestines!

The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed reading the story of George's Marvellous Medicine and combining this with the History of Medicine in the world – learning about herbal medicines and even smelling or tasting some older remedies. In Literacy the pupils have been creating pieces of persuasive writing by looking at their favourite adverts and understanding the techniques used to persuade people to buy products, working towards writing their own.

