Paces School for Conductive Education.

Summer Term 1 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term seems to have flown by and I can't quite believe it's already the holiday. The summer term is always a lovely vibrant time in school with classes going out for trips and visits and fun activities being planned, and this summer is no exception. However, staff in school continue to work hard with key areas of school development. Particular areas of focus at the moment are early reading, phonics, preparation for adulthood, PE and PSHE. Details of some of these developments are included in the newsletter and we hope your children are enjoying their lessons and you can see the progress they are making.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support for our school and your child. Hope you have a lovely holiday.

Best wishes
Ruth

Parent Governor:

We welcome our new Parent Governor Sally Street on to our Governing Board. Sally has been an active parent at Paces School since her son Lennie started in 2013 and will bring with her valuable experience to help and support the strategic development of the school.

Danceathon:

Today pupils across the school have participated in our 24 - hour danceathon. We hope very much that you will encourage family and friends to support us in our efforts as the dancing continues well into the night and into tomorrow morning, when some pupils and their families will return to school to celebrate the finale. Any pupils are welcome into school on Saturday from 9.00am-12.00pm. Use the QR code to find the link to the Just Giving page.

Educational Visits:

The summer term is always a great opportunity for class groups to go out and about. This half term groups have visited The Royal Armouries in Leeds, Magna, Eureka, Yorkshire Sculpture Park as well as more local venues including Ecclesfield Park, and our adult services provision.

Attendance:

Please can I remind you if your child is not in school you must contact the school office either through the School Gateway/Schoolcomms app or by telephone before 9.00am. There is usually a member of staff in school from 7.30am each day.

If your child has a medical appointment, please remember to share evidence of that appointment with us.

Please try and avoid booking holidays during term time.

Hardwick Class:

As we approach the end of this half term, we would like to share some of the exciting activities and learning experiences we have enjoyed.

In our maths lessons, we have been exploring shadows. We have experimented creating different shapes and sizes using our bodies and various objects.

In science, we watched the transformation of caterpillars into butterflies. We observed the life cycle up close, from caterpillar to chrysalis and finally to butterfly. This has sparked our curiosity about nature and the world around us which we will continue to explore during our summer walks.

We have been very busy creating a large-scale ice cream van as part of our arts project. We worked together to design and construct a colourful and imaginative ice cream van.

We are ending this half term with a Summer Carnival Day! This special day will feature fun games, music, and delicious treats. It's a wonderful opportunity for the children to enjoy themselves and create memories with their friends in Hardwick.

Warwick Class:

The Warwick class have been working very hard this half term. exploring our new topic 'How Many Pebbles?'.

We enjoyed our class focus poems 'Sand' and 'The Holiday Train'. We used objects and symbols to create our own sand poem. We planned our perfect sandwiches, went shopping for the ingredients and used our fine motor skills to make our perfect sandwiches. The best part was having a picnic in the sunshine, eating sandwiches and reading seaside themed stories!

As the weather has become nicer and summer approaches, we have loved making the most of opportunities for outside learning. We went on walks to spot signs of spring and summer, fed the ducks at the pond, played on the park and even went on a shape hunt. We planted sunflower seeds and are now having a Warwick class race to see whose will grow the tallest!

We enjoyed our educational visit to Magna. Our favourite parts were exploring water and making music with wind. We have also had weekly sessions with Rosie from the Sheffield music hub, which we've loved! She brings along lots of different musical instruments we can play with and she uses all our voices to make a song that sounds like we're at the seaside!

WOW! We have done so much this half term and we can't wait to continue our topic next half term.

Durham Class:

Durham Class have had a very exciting first half term learning about Pirates!

We have been learning about life on a Pirate Ship and the Pirate Code. We even walked the plank ourselves, which was lots of fun! We used computers to turn ourselves into Pirates and also made Pirate fact files. In English, we have been reading a book about Captain Cook, who journeyed to the other side of the world. We have also enjoyed learning sea shanties and performing them with actions and instruments.

Windsor Class:

Windsor class have been captivated by our science topic on the human body. So far, we have explored the muscular, skeletal, circulatory and respiratory systems. Students have really enjoyed taking measurements of heart rate, respiration, blood pressure, and peak flow and comparing these with expected healthy levels. We have had lots of fun with rather messy practical tasks like when we made models of the heart and blocked and clear arteries - seeing how blood flows.

We have all been hooked by our exciting class novel, *A Dangerous Game,* which inspired some really impressive tense writing. Students have also been practising phonics and blending to improve their independent reading.

Students continue to make fantastic progress with their communication and important life skills. They have enjoyed applying their maths work on money and focus on health in science by planning, shopping for, and preparing a delicious cottage pie. Well done, Windsor!

Future dates for your diary:

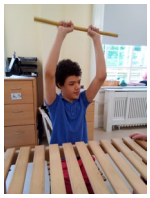
Staff training day:	3rd June 2024
Start of term:	4th June 2024
Growing up days:	10th/11th June 2024
Careers week:	w/c 24th June 2024
Parents Evenings:	2/3rd July 2024
Sports Day:	10th July 2024
Sports Day:	11th July 2024
Music Festival	22nd July 2024
Last day of term:	23rd July 2024
Summer School:	24-26th July 2024

Balmoral Class:

We have had an amazing half term exploring the topic: Peasants, Princes and Pestilence.

In History, we have looked at the topic of The Plague and how it affected the people at the time. This inspired our pupils to write pieces based on their own characters living during the plague – some have managed to cure the plague and save their towns, others met a less fortunate fate. The pupils have also written creative pieces of work from the point of view of a rat during the time of the plague, thinking about how they can empathise with a rat and describe the world from a drastically different viewpoint.

In Science, the pupils have investigated germs and bacteria, discussing how germs can spread and how to prevent that. As a class, we have had an infectious disease spread! We used UV Glow cream to simulate what would happen if someone spread their germs across a school day, looking at which places would be most susceptible to germs. We then took this a step further, swabbing areas of the school to grow our own bacteria cultures, unfortunately for the teachers, it seems that their desks were the least clean areas!



Wentworth Class:

As we wrap up another half term in Wentworth, we are excited to share our students' achievements. It's been a busy and productive time filled with learning, growth, and fun. Here are the highlights:

Our students participated in a Sports Leadership course, enhancing their teamwork and leadership skills through various activities. Their enthusiasm and confidence were inspiring, and the course significantly boosted their communication and social skills.

In Maths, our focus was on mastering multiplication. Using interactive games, visual aids, and hands-on activities, our students have made impressive progress. They now have a strong understanding of multiplication concepts and can apply these skills to solve practical problems.

In Geography, we explored Fair Trade, teaching students about fair wages and ethical trading practices. Through discussions and role-playing activities, they gained insight into global issues and developed a sense of empathy and global citizenship. Their creative posters promoting Fair Trade were outstanding.

In English, students delved into creating narratives, exploring character development, plot structure, and setting. They wrote their own stories and enjoyed sharing them with the class. It was wonderful to see their confidence and storytelling skills flourish.

Multicultural Week:

Once again, we had a fantastic week exploring different countries and learning about their cultures. We explored Egypt, Greece, Hungary, Pakistan, Brazil, Mexico, China and USA, delivering into the music, food, traditional dress, geographical features and much more. On Friday we went on a wonderful trip around the world visiting all the different countries before welcoming our parents into school to share in the celebrations.

School Council:

In student council, we have been focussing on our Music Festival, which will take place on 22nd July. We all voted for our festival theme… The winner was Beach! We're looking forward to planning the final details after the holidays.

Sports Day:

Sports Day will be held over two days. On Wednesday 10th July Hardwick, Durham, Edinburgh and Warwick will have the opportunity to participate in events, scoring points for the country they explored during multicultural week.

On Thursday 11th July Balmoral, Wentworth, Windsor and Chatsworth will participate in the same events also representing their countries.

Parents are invited to attend school between 10am and 12pm on the day their child is participating. We will tally the total scores and announce the winning team on the afternoon of the 11th July. Light refreshments will be available for parents. More information will be shared nearer the time.

Chatsworth:

We have had a fabulous half term and are really enjoying our new topic, 'The Body and Food'. We have used our senses to explore lots of different foods and have been thinking about where our food comes from. For example, we have enjoyed investigating herbs outdoors and have had a few trips to the supermarket to choose our own seeds to plant in class. It has been very exciting to check on our plants each day and observe as they grow taller! Our science work also links to our Maths sessions, in which we have been learning about money, as we practised the process of exchanging one item for another at the supermarket. We have certainly been taking advantage of the sunny spells by getting out and about in the community!

In PSHE, we have explored the concept of growing up by comparing ourselves as babies to us now – it was lovely to see everyone's baby photos and to reflect on how much we have changed over the years. We then enjoyed looking after some baby dolls, helping them with skills such as washing and dressing. Our DT sessions have been great fun, as we have been preparing simple snacks with support, whilst also ensuring we are safe and clean in the kitchen. The Chatsworth fruit salad was delicious! Finally, we had a fantastic day on our visit to Eureka, where we learnt lots about our bodies.

Parent Meetings:

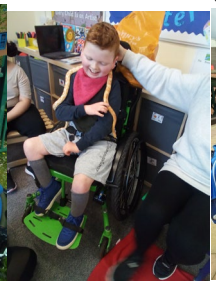
Parent meetings will take place on Tuesday 2nd July from 3.15pm-4.30pm and Wednesday 3rd July from 3.15pm till 5.30pm. These meetings will be a chance to reflect on your child's achievements over the past academic year and to look at plans for the next academic year. A letter will be sent out after the holiday with details of how to request a slot with your child's teacher.

Edinburgh:

This term, the children delved into a rich and diverse curriculum centred around the theme of rivers. In English, they honed their skills in writing newspapers, drawing inspiration from our trip on the 5 Weirs Canal Walk. We have explored the story of "The Wind in the Willows," and a poem by Valerie Bloom called "The River" where we focused on using vivid adjectives to bring the story's riverside adventures to life.

Maths lessons on capacity were particularly engaging, as the children experimented with containers and water, which also enhanced their baking activities for Multicultural Week. Science classes were thrilling with lessons on categorising animals, highlighted by an exciting visit from a traveling zoo that brought various creatures to the school including snakes, millipedes, rabbits and ferrets.

In Art, the exploration of primary and secondary colours was complemented by creative projects using water-based methods like spray painting and watercolours, allowing the children to express their creativity in connection with the river theme. In geography we have explored the features of a river and land use, we used our imagination to create our own model of a river and all the things we would like to see around it. It has been an wonderful topic to explore and the Edinburgh Class have been amazing and resilient throughout. Well Done!



Educational Visits continued:

Sports Leaders:

This year we have developed a partnership with Arches School Sports Partnership. Lauren and Steven have worked with Ben, our PE coordinator, to look at our PE curriculum offer, ensuring it is of high quality and meeting the needs of our pupils.

As part of this partnership, Lauren and Steven have worked with some of the pupils in Wentworth and Windsor Class supporting them to gain their Sport Leaders Award. We can't wait to see their new found skills put into practice during sports day!

Phonics Update: This term we have begun trialling our brand-new phonics scheme- Little Wandle! We chose this scheme, after much deliberation, as we feel it best suits the needs of our pupils. Following a successful visit from the Sheffield English Hub we have received some funding for new books which we are busy spending. All very exciting! At the moment we are in the process of training all our staff, assessing pupils and piloting elements of the programme with different classes. The scheme will then be used across the school from the autumn term. We will be in touch soon with details about information and training events for you as parents and carers so that you are fully up to date on how we are teaching phonics and early reading, as well as giving you new ideas about supporting your child's learning at home. Any questions in the meantime, please contact Lizzie Bell.

Preparation for Adulthood & Careers Update:

We continue to focus on our provision for supporting pupils with Preparation for Adulthood. Plans for our first ever Careers week are well underway with older pupils visiting Careers Fayres, having visits from a variety of different college provisions as well as having the opportunity to talk to inspirational people who have successful careers and life with a disability. They will also have the opportunity to participate in some work-related activities.