



Hello Spring

Dear Parents/Carers

I can't quite believe we have reached half term already. It has been a busy few weeks with lots of exciting activities and hard work.

Highlights of the half term have included Children's Mental Health Week with each class participating in activities designed to 'Know yourself, Grow Yourself'. The week ended with a fun whole school quiz which the children and young people all really enjoyed.

It has also been great to see the continued progress made by many pupils in phonics and reading. Lizzie has completed the most recent Little Wandle assessments across the school and has been really encouraged by what the pupils have demonstrated. This is having a positive impact on pupils' reading in all areas of the curriculum.

Thank you to parents and carers for their understanding at the beginning of the half term with the snowy weather. It was very much appreciated, and we hope very much that we will welcome some warmer weather after the holidays and can start getting outside a bit more to explore our outdoor areas.

I hope you have a lovely half term, and we look forward to welcoming all pupils into school on **Tuesday 25th February** due to staff training on the Monday.

Best wishes

Ruth

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Staff Training Day: Monday
24th February 2025

Parents' Evening: 25th - 26th February
2025

World Book Day: Thursday 6th March 2025

CE Awareness Week: W/C 10th March 2025

Finish for Easter: Friday 28th March 2025

Pupils return to school: Monday 14th April
2025

Good Friday: Friday 18th April 2025 School
Closed

Easter Monday: Monday 21st April 2025
School Closed

Multi cultural week: W\C Monday 28th
April

May Day: Monday 5th May 2025 School
Closed

Finish for Half Term: Friday 23rd May 2025

Staff Training Day: Monday 2nd June 2025

Pupils return to school: Tuesday 3rd May
2025

Parents' Evening: 3rd - 4th June 2025

Growing Up Days: 16-17th June 2025

Finish for Summer Holidays!! Wednesday
23rd July 2025

Durham Class:

Exciting Learning Adventures This Term!

This term has been filled with exciting learning experiences across various subjects! In English, the children had great fun exploring *The Enormous Turnip* focusing on sequencing events and re-enacting the story to emphasise the value of teamwork.

They also dived into the fascinating world of plants, learning about both typical and carnivorous species like Venus flytraps and pitcher plants, and showcased their knowledge by writing non-chronological reports. Our geography lessons took us deep into the rainforest, where we explored its different layers, while in science, the children investigated plant growth and even conducted a hands-on experiment to observe capillary action in action! In RSE, we've been learning about respectful relationships, and in PSHE, our focus has been on making positive choices and maintaining a growth mindset. It's been a fantastic term full of discovery and progress, and we are incredibly proud of the children's enthusiasm and hard work!



Hardwick Class:

We've had a fantastic half-term filled with fun sensory learning.

We've been learning all about farm animals and exploring the sounds they make.

Music with Rosie is back! The children have loved exploring different instruments with Rosie. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and creativity shine through their love of music!

We put on our aprons and got busy in the kitchen, making some delicious buns! The children enjoyed mixing ingredients, watching them bake, and of course tasting their yummy creations.

Our PE sessions have been extra exciting with bowling! The children had so much fun developing their coordination, aiming skills, and celebrating their strikes and spares! The children have been on the move, taking part in walking challenges that promote physical activity. They've loved exploring different routes and celebrating their achievements along the way.

We can't wait for another exciting half-term ahead!



Chatsworth Class:



We have had a fabulous start to 2025 here in Chatsworth. Our new topic, 'Our World', is very interesting and provides us with lots of opportunities to develop our curiosity about the world around us. We have enjoyed exploring our new topic text, 'Where the Forest Meets the Sea', as a sensory story and for many of us, our favourite part was the water play! In Maths, we have been working on our early awareness of numbers and have experienced different number songs and rhymes, trying hard to join in with the counting. We have also been focusing on aspects of measure such as big and small and have been busy searching for objects of different sizes in the tuff tray. Our Art sessions have offered us some great moments to practise our mark making skills whilst learning all about traditional Aboriginal artwork, and we have even had a go at trying out some of these techniques ourselves, such as dot painting. As always, we are continuing to make good progress in using our individual communication methods through familiar sessions such as AAC and Music and Touch Communication.

Balmoral Class:

We are having a fantastic term in Balmoral Class, and we are excited to share what we have been learning! Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed our topic on mountains. We have explored mountains from around the world and developed our map-reading skills, including using an index and grid references. Using our creativity we have designed and created our own mountain landscapes. Balmoral have practiced a range of skills, including sketching, working with clay, painting, and photography.

In literacy, we have worked on shape poems, focusing on metaphors, similes, personification, and expanding our vocabulary. The poems look fantastic and are on display within our classroom. We then moved on to writing clear explanations about the stages of the water cycle. We learnt technical vocabulary through fun songs, which has helped everyone explain and describe key terms with confidence.

PE has been a favourite this term as we have been learning about climbing. The children have practiced climbing over obstacles, tying knots, and belaying. They have worked together and developed their skills of working as a team.

A huge thank you to all parents for supporting the children with their homework it has made a huge difference within class.



Wentworth Class:

As we reach the end of another busy half term, we would like to share some of the fantastic work our class has been doing. Our topic for this half term has been climate change, and the pupils have explored this theme across all subjects, demonstrating creativity, critical thinking, and enthusiasm.

In English, we have completed our WJEC unit in 'Creating Narratives'. Pupils have written their own stories inspired by the theme of climate change, exploring different ways to raise awareness through storytelling. They have developed their writing skills, focusing on structure, description and character development.

In Maths, we have worked on the WJEC 'Data Handling' unit. Pupils have collected and recorded data about different types of weather around the world, using graphs and charts to present their findings. They have also practiced interpreting numerical information, improving their analytical skills.

Our focus in Science and Humanities has been 'Human Impact on the World' as part of the WJEC curriculum. Pupils have explored how human activities affect the environment, discussing topics such as deforestation, pollution, and global warming. We have also looked at positive actions we can take to help protect our planet.

In ICT, students have been working on an exciting project—creating a short stop-motion film with a storyline based on climate change. They have learned how to plan, storyboard, and animate their ideas using digital tools, showcasing their creativity and technical skills.

Art lessons have been filled with creativity as students produced a variety of pieces illustrating the impact of climate change. Using different materials and techniques, they have expressed their thoughts and emotions about the environment and the importance of sustainability.

We are incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication our students have shown this half term. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another exciting term ahead!



Windsor Class:

In Windsor class, students have been engaging brilliantly with our challenging climate change topic which has been brought to life through a range of hands-on science experiments and our very dramatic novel, *Drowning In My Bedroom*, which demonstrates the impact of flooding in the Philippines, which has been influenced by climate change .

After looking at the causes and effects of climate change, we have begun to think about how we can help reduce greenhouses gases. To this end, we tried cooking a meat cottage pie as well as two meat-free alternatives and asked different people for feedback to see if we might be able to substitute meat sometimes in our diet. The students showed lots of independence and produced some very tasty dishes! Overcoming obstacles to be more independent has been a key theme this term, linking both to our class novel and our ongoing Conductive Education work. The students continue to work with determination and make fantastic progress.

Our Maths and Art lessons have focussed on shape, with students exploring both 2D and 3D shapes and applying this in their artwork – making some brilliant collages as well as a collaboratively-produced massive robot! In computing the students have really enjoyed making stop motion animations .

The students continue to make wonderful progress in their phonics and number work, as well as their physical skills and independence; they should feel very proud of their great start to 2025!





Updates:

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to Jess Thompson and her partner Richard on the birth of their daughter Evelyn Joy on Friday 10th January. We can't wait to meet Evelyn and wish them all the happiness in the world.



A fond farewell

Last Friday we said a fond farewell to Kate Shepherd, our admin assistant. Kate has been at Paces for the past 6 years and has been a huge help in the office. We will miss her dearly and wish her all the best in her new HR role at the charity Roundabout.



A warm welcome

We welcome the following staff after the half term holidays; Abbie Ramsay as a Lunchtime Support Worker in Chatsworth, Rebecca Downtown who will be working in Wentworth as a Conductor Assistant and Amber Brown who will join the Warwick team as a Conductor Assistant. Any changes to your child's team will be shared with you following the holiday.

We also look forward to welcoming Ada and George into our Warwick Class. We are excited to work with them and their families.



Children's Mental Health Week:

The week of February 3rd – 8th was Children's Mental Health Week with the theme of, "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself"

We have had a delightful week where our pupils have been completing challenges within their classrooms to make them more aware of how they can boost their Mental Health. They have joined in such activities as a Read-a-thon, joining together for a half an hour of meditation and even some classes swapped roles with their Conductors and lead their own task series for their staff! The pupils also did some wonderful activities during the week such as developing mindfulness, exploring their emotions and developing their peers' self-esteem by telling them what they like most about them. By participating in these activities, they gained valuable tools to manage stress, boost self-esteem, and develop emotional resilience, making them more aware of their mental well-being.

The week ended with a whole school pupil quiz! The classes were put into their house groups which gave them the opportunity to work with peers they might not see every day and join in with a music quiz and other exciting rounds, resulting in each group receiving prizes for their efforts!

