



Newsletter

Spring Term 2 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

This will be my last newsletter as Headteacher of Paces School, and I want to take this opportunity to say what a privilege and honour it has been for the past six and a half year. However, I'm not going anywhere, and I look forward to working with you all in my new role as Director of Services.

Below is a poem I shared with the staff that reflects how I feel about my time as Headteacher of our amazing school.

With all my best wishes – Ruth

I open the doors as the morning begins,
With a thousand small triumphs tucked under my skin.
This school is a haven, a place built with care,
Where every child matters and all voices share.

No two days are ever quite perfectly planned,
But magic unfolds when we just understand.
A smile, a small word, a glance full of pride—
Each moment of progress a wave we can ride.

Some write their own stories without any sound,
Some move through the world with both feet off the ground.
Each journey is different, no one-size-all rule,
But each step is precious in our special school.

There's laughter and music, and yes, there are tears,
But we build something special that lasts through the years.
We challenge the limits, we rewrite the test,
And celebrate learning in ways that fit best.

I lead with my heart—it's the only true way,
In this school full of stars lighting up every day.
It's not always easy, it's never quite still,
But it's powered by purpose, by love, and sheer will.

So when people ask me, "Is your job ever tough?"
I just smile and say, "Yes—but it's more than enough."

UPCOMING EVENTS!

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

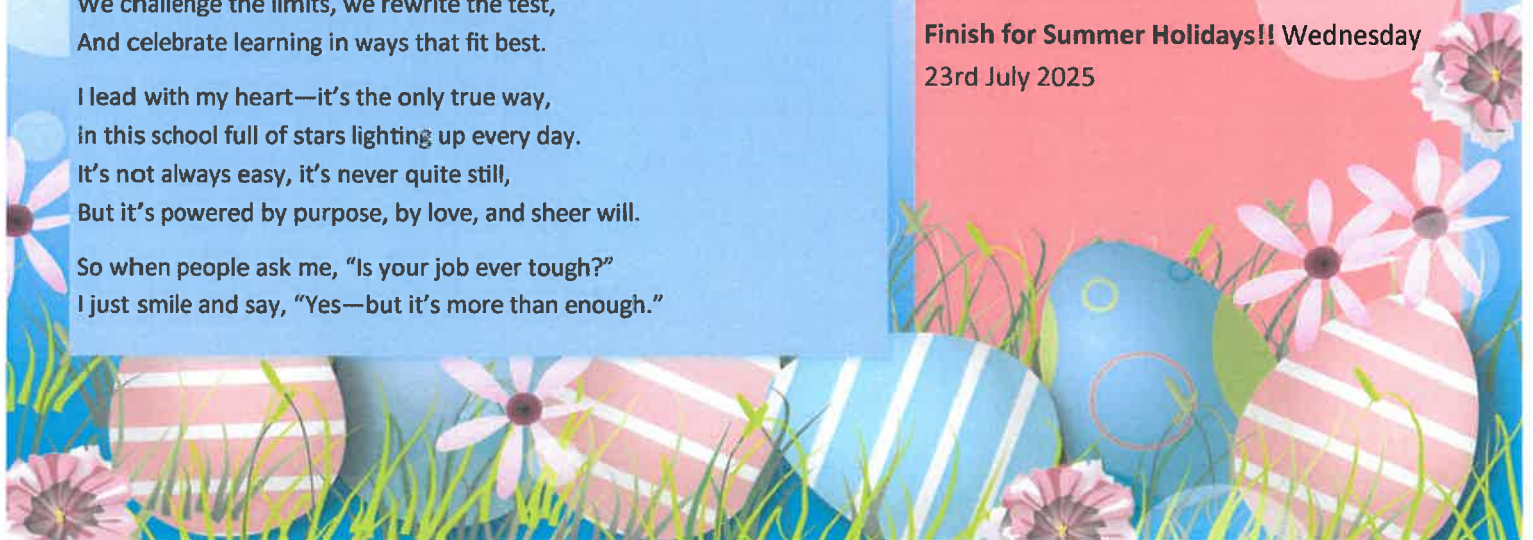
Staff Training Day: Monday 2nd June 2025

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



Hardwick Class:

This term's topic, "Do Cows Drink Milk?" has been lots of fun with plenty of sensory play and creativity. The clear favourite bits have been the lovely trips to local farms, nature walks, listening to the sounds of spring wildlife: feeding goats and lambs and even one llama that was a little angry! In the classroom, the pupils have explored different kinds of farm animal toys, using switches to make the noises of the animals with lots of enthusiasm! We also have had different vehicles including the much-loved remote-control tractor which has been whizzing around the classroom at playtime.

We have had a fun filled farm day where the whole classroom was transformed into a farm complete with hay and our staff dressed up as farmers!

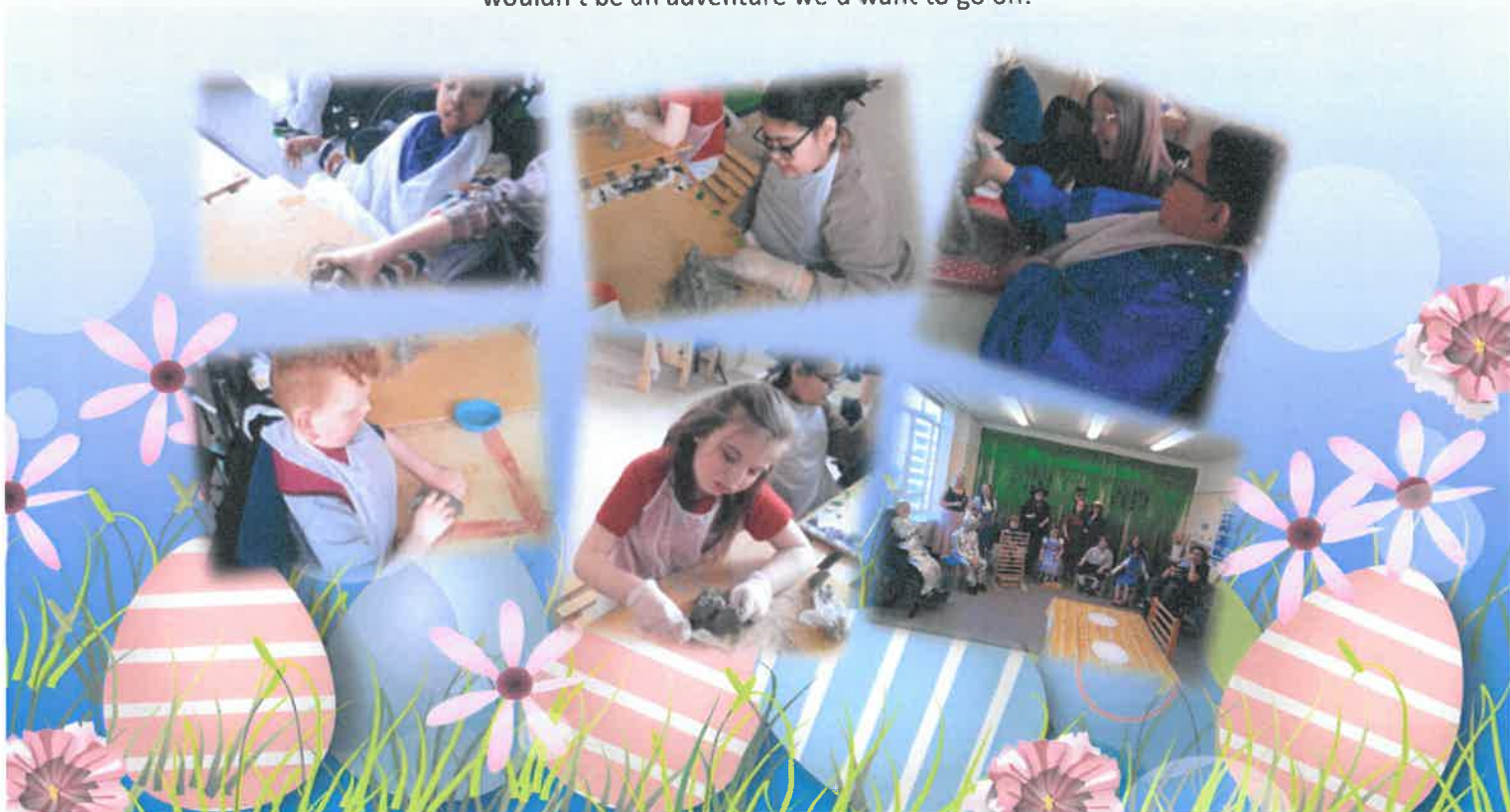
We have also had lots of theme days this half term such as Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day and Pancake Day where we made lots of yummy pancakes in the life skills kitchen, and of course ate them after!



Edinburgh Class:

Edinburgh had a lovely half term, celebrating World Book Day, and everyone came dressed as a character from The Wizard of Oz! We have learnt all about mountains and had lots of fun making mountain models out of clay.

We visited Magna and had fun in the water section, relating this to our water cycle work from last term! We wrote our own stories about meeting a yeti in the mountains... We planned it, thinking about the adjectives we wanted to use and the details we wanted to include, then used clicker to aid our writing. We all decided that it wouldn't be an adventure we'd want to go on!



Durham Class:



This term has been full of creativity and discovery! In English, the children explored *Jack and the Beanstalk* and used their imaginations to invent and write about their own fantasy plants. In Science, they learned about plant parts, planted seeds on the windowsill, and used their senses to investigate nature. In Maths, we explored measurement through fun, hands-on activities involving length, capacity, and mass. Our rainforest-themed artwork transformed the classroom, and in PSHE, we focused on learning about money and making smart choices.

We also celebrated World Book Day in style with fantastic costumes, and a highlight of the term was our exciting trip to the Tropical Butterfly House, where the children saw rainforest plants and animals up close, bringing their learning to life!





Warwick Class:

The pupils in Warwick class have had a lovely time learning about all sorts of animals this term. Walking past the classroom door, you would have been met with sounds of lions roaring, snakes hissing, parrots squawking, lizards clicking, butterflies fluttering and a whole range of other animal noises. Dear Zoo, Jump or Jiggle, Animal Bop, Monkey and Me, and Handa's Hen have all been stories the pupils have used their senses to engage with, choosing their own animals to make alternative class stories. Animal Bop was particularly fun during CE Awareness Week as the children were supported to move their bodies like the dancing animals – clicking their heels like penguins, lifting their knees like ostriches and wriggling their bottoms like swans.

As well as looking at symbols, pictures and films of animals, the class have had a wonderful time meeting actual live animals! Each child demonstrated interest and kindness when meeting Kim's pet tortoise called Herman. They also met an armadillo, a snake, a lizard, a cockroach and several other unusual animals when the Zoo Lab came to visit.

The Animal Safari theme has lent itself well to sorting, matching and counting activities. When reading Handa's Hen, the children had lots of fun going to different parts of the school to find the animals missing from the story.

They were able to develop their skills by checking they had found the correct number of animals with the corresponding numeral. Different toy animals were actively explored, encouraging the children's understanding of the concept of size.

Communication skills have been developed this term with many of the children focusing on their use of symbols and switches to express their desire for 'more' or to 'stop'. The pupils love their AAC sessions with Petar and then enjoy using their growing skills throughout the day- each child displaying an increasing desire to initiate and maintain interaction.



Chatsworth Class:

In Spring 2, we have continued to immerse ourselves in our fabulous topic, 'Our World'. We have enjoyed experiencing a range of texts including an interactive sensory story called 'The Fairies of Windy Wood', which is all about the natural world. We also used this text to work on our early writing skills. In Science, we have had opportunities to explore the outdoors, looking for signs of growth in our environment. We have learnt lots about plants and have practised planting and looking after our own seeds in the classroom and around the school grounds. In Geography, we have been exploring different environments and habitats around the world and have had great multisensory experiences of places such as the rainforest, the desert, and mountain ranges.

Our Phonics lessons have included some exciting 'Rhyme Time' sessions where we have worked hard to develop our understanding of initial sounds and have had lots of fun trying to mimic sound patterns. Finally, we finished the term off with a brilliant visit to The Tropical Butterfly House, where we encountered lots of animals and insects from all around the world!



Balmoral Class:

What a fantastic term it has been in Balmoral Class! We've been exploring a variety of exciting topics. In English, the children learned about the water cycle, created leaflets about the Adi people of the Himalayas, and enjoyed reading a thrilling text about a Yeti sighting. They developed their questioning skills through role play and hot seating, pretending they saw a real-life Yeti. We have enjoyed a wide range of reading this term, sharing a wide range of texts including stories, non-fiction texts and reading our newspapers. In Maths, we've focused on money—identifying coins and notes, practicing giving change, and exploring fractions. We put this into practice taking a trip to our local supermarket, providing them with a budget ensuring they had enough money and how much things cost.

We also carried out a fair test in Science to measure precipitation. The children experimented with different variables, such as water temperature, sunlight, and the amount of water collected, to see how these factors affected rainfall. It was a great hands-on learning experience, and the results were fascinating! In Art, the children explored weaving, making their own looms to create bookmarks and even pastry treats! Our trip to Magna and Hesley Woods was a highlight, with activities like crate stacking, rifle shooting, orienteering, and cooking our own lunches of jacket potatoes and campfire stew.

Other memorable moments included Conductive Education Week, World Book Day, our RE days exploring the Torah, and the mystery reader visits. It's been a term filled with learning, fun, and teamwork!



Wentworth Class:

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of term, I want to celebrate the fantastic progress the pupils have made. Our focus has been climate change, sparking curiosity across all subjects.

In English, pupils have explored non-fiction texts and narratives, developing their skills in identifying key details, making comparisons, and describing characters. Maths has focused on data handling and fractions, with pupils collecting, recording, and interpreting numerical data.

In Science and Geography, we investigated the causes and effects of climate change, including extreme weather and pollution. ICT has supported learning through digital storytelling, while PSHE focused on making positive choices for well-being and sustainability. In PE, pupils have engaged in adapted sports, linking to our WJEC 'Healthy Living' unit, and in Art, they created fantastic pieces inspired by climate change.

We've also enjoyed trips to Barnsley college and the Science Museum in Bradford, which provided valuable real-world learning experiences.

Looking ahead, next term's topic will be Tudors, with more exciting learning opportunities. Thank you for your continued support—it's wonderful to see the pupils' confidence and enthusiasm grow.

Best Wishes,
The Wentworth Team.





Windsor Class:

The students of Windsor class have worked really hard through the second half of the Spring Term on becoming more independent, setting themselves challenges and finding problems to solve – inspired by the characters in our class novel. The students have impressed us all with the ambitious lunches they have cooked, including, most recently, a scrumptious shortcrust pastry pie, with vegetables and potato, an alternative option of fish, and a choice of jam tart or lemon cake for dessert. Wow! As well as choosing the menu, unpacking the shopping and helping to prepare the lunch, the students were also responsible for the cleaning and washing up afterwards.

Some tricky mathematics on 2D and 3D shapes has been successfully tackled, as well as some serious science related to our topic on Climate Change for our WJEC qualifications. Look at the biogas we created from rotting bananas!

Students continue to impress us all with their hard work and determination. There has been excellent progress made with sitting and walking, as well as phonics and communication. It is brilliant to see students' developing their conversation skills, asking and answering questions with peers, and having fun and supporting each other in their free time.

We are very excited about the term ahead, with story writing, our trip to Barnsley College, and preparations for the multicultural week in the first few weeks.



Updates:

A Fond Farewell

We bid a fond farewell to Chloe who has been part of the Chatsworth team. Chloe has made the move to Smithy Wood to join our adult services team.

WE
MISS
YOU

A Warm Welcome

We welcome Charlotte Hughes who is joining the Warwick Class as an unqualified teacher and will start her teacher training. Charlotte will be working alongside Abbey.

We look forward to welcoming Myla as a new pupil who will join the Warwick class.



Danceathon!

Back by popular demand! Following the success of our 24- hour danceathon last year to raise money for school, we will be repeating this fun packed event. Last year we raised almost £5,000 which was a fantastic effort.

On **Friday 23rd May at 10.30am** the challenge will start, and it will end on **Saturday 24th May at 10.30am**.

We will be looking for interested parents and family members to join us on Saturday morning to dance us over the finish line.

All pupils and their class groups will be participating during the school day on Friday. Last year was lots of fun and the pupils really enjoyed creating dance routines and dancing on our glittering dance floor. Additional information will be sent out over the next few days.



New Sensory Room:

We are very pleased to be able to announce that during the February half term we had our new sensory room fitted. The space is full of amazing and exciting equipment that lots of the children have already had the opportunity to explore. There are bubble tubes, fibre optics, UV equipment, and lots more to engage the pupils' senses. We look forward to hosting an open event to thank the people who have contributed to the purchase of all this equipment.



Conductive Education Awareness Week:

This half term we have celebrated CE awareness week with pupils reflecting on what they have been proud of and what CE means to them. The Hardwick Class made a gratitude wall exploring how they think CE has helped them in so many ways. The children were so proud of their artwork and what it represents.



The Windsor Class put their conductive skills to practical use, engaging in a range of skills supporting the development of their life skills. They also did a great job of cooking lunch for lots of the staff in school.

We ended the week with 10 members of our team visiting the National Institute for Conductive Education in Birmingham for the annual PCA Conference where our very own Lizzie Bell presented a lecture on the impact of social media on our children and young people.



World Book Day:



Once again World Book Day did not disappoint this year! Whole class teams embraced dressing up as characters from books with a special mention to the Edinburgh Class who recreated the Yellow Brick Road in their classroom and had a day exploring the Wizard of Oz.

Pupils enjoyed lots of Literacy based activities throughout the day.



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