



Newsletter

Spring Term 1 2026

Dear Families,

2026 has started strong for the pupils at Paces and the year is full of promise! Classes have got stuck into their new topics and there is plenty of evidence of learning through fun in every room you go in. A particular highlight within the school environment is the development of the library areas and the completion of the reading corners in each classroom. These are inviting and beautiful spaces, carefully designed to encourage a love of stories and reading for all our pupils. Huge thanks to our Deputy Head, Jenny Davies, and the staff reading champions for working with the pupils to help us develop this important area of the curriculum.

Ben Hebblethwaite has led a moving and handling focus across the school this half term with the aim of ensuring our practice in this area is the best it can. Ben and I will be working with all the staff on our inset training day to refresh our training and think collaboratively about how our CE ethos is delivered hand-in-hand with good moving and handling.

Since Christmas, I have had the pleasure of taking a variety of visitors and fundraisers around school and, without fail, each guest is overwhelmed by the warm welcome they receive and the wonderful learning they witness. Just recently, members of the Sheffield Sharks basketball team visited some of our pupils and it was amazing to see them greeted by enthusiastic children, ready to ask their questions using their voices and AAC devices with clarity and confidence. It was an inspirational visit for the pupils and players alike.

We are all looking forward to a variety of exciting activities in the next half-term including World Book Day and CE Awareness Week...and hopefully a little less rain!

Have a lovely week off and we will see you all back on Tuesday 24th February.

Warmest wishes,

Lizzie Bell

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Half Term: Friday 13th February 2026

Back to School: Tuesday 24th February 2026

Parents Evening: Tuesday 24th &
Wednesday 25th February 2026

School Coffee Morning: Wednesday 25th
February 2026

World Book Day: Thursday 5th March 2026

CE Awareness Week: W/C 9th March 2026

Last Day of Term: Friday 27th March 2026

Balmoral Class:

We've had a fantastic half term in Balmoral Class and have really enjoyed our *Sow, Grow and Farm* topic. In English, we have been writing non-chronological reports about allotments, exploring time connectives and key features before creating our own pieces of writing. The children have worked hard to improve their spelling and grammar, using a range of technology to support their independence. We also explored diary writing from a farmer's perspective, thinking carefully about daily life across the seasons and adding personality through thoughts, feelings and speech.

In Maths, we have been developing our multiplication skills, building confidence and accuracy through a range of engaging activities. In Geography, we explored maps in more detail, learning how to use grid references and a compass to support our directional knowledge. The children particularly enjoyed using compasses practically to identify North and other points of direction, as well as using grid references in fun, interactive ways to locate themselves and familiar characters. In Science, we learned about food webs, including producers, consumers and apex predators, and explored the life cycles of animals and plants. Learning about sketching techniques has fascinated us all, practicing these skills drawing still life pictures around the topic related fruits and vegetables and gardening equipment. PE has been a firm favourite this half term, especially table tennis, where pupils enjoyed the competitive element while learning to serve, rally and control the ball. We are really looking forward to next term as we explore farming around the world.



Durham Class:

The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring many different aspects of this topic throughout this half term. They have had fun defending castles during P.E. classes, acting out the exciting story of the Great Escape, and using their creativity to invent their own stories about a magical tunnel. They have built their own towers, castles, and bridges in various forms, and they even created a puppet show based on the story of Rapunzel. They enjoyed the speech programme prior to our music lessons, and all applied themselves diligently during the series of tasks!



Warwick Class:

This term our topic has been 'Dangerous Dinosaurs'. The class have had so much fun using our time machine to go back in time to hunt for and explore everything dinosaur related. They had to go through tall wavy grass, muddy swamps, climb volcanoes and into dark caves on their quest to find a dinosaur!

Our class have enjoyed the sensory story 'Stickman', and 'Dear Dinosaur'. They have befriended a dinosaur by writing and sending letters, birthday cards and postcards to a T-Rex. The children were thrilled when they received their very own letters from T-Rex. They have explored multi-sensory materials and used props along with our story to help T-Rex brush his big sharp teeth, give him a lovely soapy bath, and enjoy celebrating his birthday with cake and presents. They have used a sound button to 'roar' like a dinosaur, with their very own dinosaur names.

Our class have enjoyed taking it in turns to be our postmaster selling stamps and envelopes or being the customer that is sending letters or parcels using coins to pay for their items.

We have explored fossils, dinosaur eggs, and dinosaurs using brushes, rakes and spades to excavate our historical dinosaurs from sand, mud and ice.

Our class have enjoyed getting messy whilst crafting using a variety of different textures and tools, using their clever communication skills to choose the materials and colours they want to use.

As always, our class have enjoyed going to the library for their Story Time session, hopefully with warmer weather on the way we can enjoy getting out and about more in Spring 2 term!



Appleby Class:

What a *roar-some* first half term of 2026 we have had in Appleby Class!

We have dived head-first into our topic 'Dangerous Dinosaurs!' and had *so much fun* learning, exploring and playing.

We even welcomed a class pet dinosaur, inspired by our story '*If I Had a Dinosaur*'. The children loved feeding him and brushing his big, sharp, pointy teeth (very carefully, of course!).

Our classroom was transformed into a giant dinosaur den, where we crawled through a tunnel to enter and enjoyed sharing the story '*Cave Baby*'. We also became busy writers, creating and posting letters to a T-Rex after reading our sensory story '*Dear Dinosaur*'.

In maths, we explored 2D shapes by designing our very own shape dinosaurs. We stomped, marched and moved like dinosaurs during our task series, and made lots of loud roars and dinosaur sounds while exploring sound of intention with our special visitor, Rosie.

We've also had lots of celebrations! We celebrated Clara's 5th birthday with a yummy edible sensory party, designed and made our own pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, and enjoyed learning about and exploring Chinese New Year.

We hope you all have a lovely, restful break filled with yummy pancakes – we're *great* at flipping them! We can't wait to see what the next half term brings with our new topic 'Puddles & Rainbows' get your wellies ready, we might be making a splash!



Chatsworth Class:

Chatsworth have had a great start to the New Year as we have been introduced to our new topic – The Weather. This half term, we've concentrated on the seasons of Autumn and Winter, exploring things like rain, wind, leaves, ice and snow. We have enjoyed a range of sensory stories such as *When It Rains, Don't Play with the Hedgehogs* and *The Day I Met the Yeti* – all of which enabled us to experience many different types of weather in fun, immersive ways! We have continued to work hard in maths sessions, particularly on our understanding of number by engaging in counting routines, as well as looking at concepts such as 'full' and 'empty' and 'big' and 'small', using topic-related resources like ice cubes and water. In science, we have enjoyed conducting our own experiments, for example using handheld fans to see how external forces can make leaves move across a surface. We have also started our new Music and Touch Communication session, which takes us on a multisensory journey through all the different kinds of weather with objects and music that are carefully paired. Finally, we've had tonnes of fun in our art lessons where we've been busy practicing our mark-making using natural resources, including leaves, ice and flour!



Hardwick Class:

We have had a very busy and fun half term! The children have enjoyed lots of hands-on, sensory play and learning together. One of our favourite activities was making a big robot. The children explored different textures and materials as they stuck, painted, and built together.

We have also been exploring machines through play. The children enjoyed exploring how they work and making lots of exciting noises as they played. Messy play has been a big hit this half term. The children had lots of sensory mark-making fun using cars and paint, rolling and driving the cars through the paint to make tracks and patterns. This gave them a chance to explore colours and textures.

We also had a very exciting trip to Eureka! The children enjoyed touching, exploring, and playing with the interactive areas. They showed great curiosity and confidence as they explored new things.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you all have a lovely half term break, and we look forward to more messy, sensory fun next half term!



Edinburgh Class:

Edinburgh Class have had a lovely half term learning about our Towers, Tunnels and Turrets topic. We are reading the story of Rapunzel and have retold the story using puppets, thinking about what the different characters might say.

We are learning about newspapers and have started to plan a newspaper article about the Rapunzel story, which we are looking forward to finishing!

We had fun learning about famous tunnels and towers in Geography. We made tunnels using different materials, looked at the channel tunnel which travels from England to France under the sea, and tried to create the tallest towers using different types of brick.

We had a lovely treat at the end of term when the Sheffield Sharks Basketball players came to visit – they were very tall, answered lots of interesting questions and took pictures with us all!



Wentworth Class:

This half term has been full of progress, determination and exciting learning opportunities. In Maths, we explored 2D and 3D shapes, identifying their properties and spotting them in real-life contexts.

In English, we began reading *The BFG* by Roald Dahl, developing our understanding of audio and visual texts as part of our WJEC work.

In Science and Humanities, we investigated tectonic events and their impact on the planet, exploring volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. We have also begun developing our culinary skills in the Life Skills kitchen, building independence and confidence, while in PSHE we focused on personal care routines including skin and hair care.

For the first time since her operation, Shakela walked up the stairs independently showing outstanding determination, resilience and focus. Throughout the walk, Shakela showed true determination and refused to give up. Her positive attitude and commitment to pushing herself were inspiring to both staff and peers. **Well done Shakela!**

We are so proud of the effort and determination you continue to show every day. We are excited to support you as you develop your life skills, grow in independence, and continue working towards your WJEC qualifications. Keep believing in yourselves — you are making fantastic progress, and we can't wait to see what you achieve next!



Windsor Class:

The Windsor Class have had a fantastic half term! This half term we have really enjoyed bringing The BFG to life in our classroom and using this wonderful story to support learning wherever we can. Pupils have loved spending time in our BFG themed reading area, exploring the BFG's dream cupboard (created using our ladder wall bars), and acting out parts of the story during the task series. The pupils have also created their own dream jars with their favourite things in their jars ranging from flowers and monster trucks to even rainy weather!

In maths, the focus has been on identifying different shapes and understanding their different properties; everyone has worked incredibly hard to apply this to 2D and 3D shapes. In science, the pupils have made some spectacular working volcanoes from clay with 'lava' overflowing from them with a chemical reaction! Windsor Class have particularly enjoyed the topic of the Earth and volcanoes, creating a cross-section of the Earth from dough, identifying each section of the Earth and being able to recall this week on week!

The class continue to work hard in their Conductive Programmes, translating these skills to enable them to experience a story or join in a science lesson whilst free-sitting on their own stool.



Director of Services:

Short but sweet– the definition of this half term. It has been, as usual, packed with lots of hardworking pupils and staff and the continued progress and success of everyone fill the building on a daily basis.

Next half term we will be launching our new Paces Values:

People Centred, Accountability, Compassionate, Excellent and Success.

All staff at Paces will be asked to commit to working within these values, enabling us to work in collaboration and provide the best support, education and care we possibly can for all our pupils. We hope this renewed focus on what we do and why we do it will inspire the staff to continue to give of their best to support the children and young people at Paces.

Today we had a visit from Steve Kay, The Director of Belonging from Sheffield City Council. Steve has oversight of all the schools in Sheffield with a particular focus on the Early Years and Post 16 provisions. He was extremely impressed with what he saw and commented on what bright, enthusiastic and determined pupils we have in school. As usual I was very proud to take a tour of the school with him and speak to some of the pupils about their time at Paces.

Have a lovely half term and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back into school on Tuesday 24th February.

Best wishes

Ruth