



Newsletter

Summer Term 2 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here we are at the end of a summer term which has actually felt like summer, thanks to the lovely weather we've had. It has been wonderful for the pupils to make the most of the sunshine with lots of outdoor activities. The Sports Days were a particular highlight and the perfect way to start the half term. Thank you to all who were able to join us, it was so encouraging to have your support. These days were closely followed by our Growing Up days which were also a big success; the pupils enjoyed the opportunity to engage in different lessons, mixing with other pupils and grown-ups as they learnt about PSHE topics important to them. There have been plenty of educational visits to various venues, including several days spent at Hesley Wood. As always, these visits provide opportunities for the pupils to engage with the community, explore different places and, at times, push themselves out of their comfort zones.

It has been a pleasure for me to read the pupils' evaluated targets this term- so many of which have been achieved. Jenny and I have carried out observations in every class over recent weeks and witnessed some fantastic teaching and learning. Huge thanks to our staff team who continue to work incredibly hard day in, day out. Likewise, thank you to all of you- we are so grateful for everything you contribute to the school. On behalf of everyone at Paces, we wish every family a lovely summer break. We look forward to seeing you ready for the autumn term.

Best wishes,

Lizzie Bell, Headteacher

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Finish for Summer Holidays!! Wednesday
23rd July 2025

Summer School (Registered Pupils Only)
Thursday 24th - Wednesday 30th July 2025

Pupils Return to School: Wednesday 3rd
September 2025

Teacher Training Day: Friday 24th October
2025

Finish for Half Term: 23rd October 2025

Back to School: 3rd November 2025

Durham Class:

This term, we enjoyed some lovely summery weather, which meant we could take lessons and activities outside whenever possible. The pupils were captivated by *The Snail and the Whale* by Julia Donaldson, using its themes of bravery and friendship to inspire rich, descriptive writing and imaginative setting work. In Maths, learning came to life through fun, hands-on activities exploring position, fractions, and telling the time.

Science was full of curiosity and discovery as we experimented with everyday materials to see which ones break down over time. Our virtual tour around the UK coastline in Geography sparked excitement, with children learning about cliffs, bays, water safety, and how seaside towns have changed through the years. One of the highlights was our Growing Up Day, where pupils engaged brilliantly, asking questions and showing real interest in the changes they're experiencing as they grow.



Warwick 2 Class:

Where has the time gone? This term has flown by! We must have been having too much fun making friends, singing rhymes, and exploring all things gardens through our topic '**Sunshine and Flowers**'.

Our literacy sessions have been nothing short of a magical sensory experience. Using the outdoors as a source of inspiration, we've gone on environmental sound walks, discovered what flowers need to grow, described what we enjoy doing outside, and shared our ideas for what we'd like in our school garden. This topic has given us the opportunity to express our thoughts and emotions using objects, symbols, and pictures. We are thrilled to share some of these masterpieces with you!

In mathematics, we've been counting seeds and flowers to reinforce our understanding of numbers. We even created our own ice cream shop to make and sell delicious treats! Our outdoor-themed counting games and activities have been a fun and engaging way for us to develop our skills in number, shape, space, and measure. We've loved visiting the library for story time, taking part in our class Sports Day, going to the shops, having a picnic in the park, and enjoying our educational visit to **Wentworth Garden Centre**—we especially loved seeing and feeding the animals!

After such an exciting and busy term, we're all ready for a well-earned summer break. All of us in **Warwick 2** hope you have a wonderful summer holiday!



Edinburgh Class:

Edinburgh Class have had a lovely half term, and we can't believe we've reached the summer holidays! Time has flown, and we have loved learning about the Olympics and Paralympics.

We learnt about physical and human features in Sheffield, thinking about which features would be useful for different Olympic and Paralympic events.

We created our own Olympic Opening Ceremony, lighting the flame with Olympic torches we had made, waving flags we designed and performing a short dance.

We have had fun making electric circuits. We were amazed when we were able to make a bulb light up using a battery and wires!

Finally, we had an amazing time at Hesley Wood, learning rifle shooting, archery and axe throwing. We also got to go in a harness for crate stacking and made s'mores on the campfire!

Have an amazing summer and see you all in September!



Hardwick Class:

Hardwick have had an incredible school year together. Let's take a moment to celebrate all the amazing adventures and learning experiences we have enjoyed over the past term.

We've been busy exploring the magic of water as part of our topic "Splash". From splashing in water trays to exploring how it moves, floats, and flows. Our seaside adventures took this even further, as the children loved feeling the sand between their toes, paddling in the water, and discovering shells and sea creatures along the shore. It's been a sensory delight for the children.

Our trips to Hesley Wood were unforgettable! The children absolutely loved their experiences and activities, they tried canoeing, axe throwing (under close supervision!), and gathered around the campfire for stories, songs, hot dogs and s'mores... yummy. We even had a go at outdoor cooking, which was fun, we ate lots of pizza and jacket potatoes... delicious! They also enjoyed nature trails, spotting butterflies, dragonflies and crows.

We celebrated the end of our summer term with our very own music festival! The children listened to live bands, moved to the rhythm, and had the chance to play their own instruments — from drums and tambourines to bells.

There were ice creams for everyone, and the atmosphere was full of colour, laughter, and music.

We wish you all a happy, restful summer and look forward to hearing about your adventures when we see each other again in September!



Warwick 1 Class:

This term we have continued with our topic 'Sunshine and Sunflowers'. The class have really enjoyed looking after and growing several class plants including cress, cucumbers, tomatoes and flowers. They have continued to see who is going to grow the tallest sunflower!

The class have enjoyed the sensory stories 'The Little Seed', 'Jump and Shout' and 'Sun' - exploring lots of seeds, plants, and natural objects, making their own picnic items. In Maths we have enjoyed exploring worms in mud, as well as roleplaying florists and an ice cream shop. We had lots of fun exploring big and small whilst in the paddling pool cooling off and splashing about!

Our class continued to learn about the butterfly lifecycle, our class caterpillars changed into a butterfly and flew out into the world. We were very lucky to have a fantastic trip to the butterfly house where we got to explore and see lots of different butterflies and insects, along with meerkats, tortoises, owls, caiman, lemurs as well as lots of farm animals.

We have learned about staying safe in the sun, practising putting on our sunscreen and sunhat each time we go exploring outside. With visits to the park, duck pond and walks in the local environment. We have been searching for and observing minibeasts in their habitat, even making them their very own a bug hotel to visit.

It is safe to say that our sports day was a huge success, enjoyed by all that came and participated!

To finish our year full of fun we celebrated with a Music Festival, a day full of crafts, activities and our very own concert by a local band.

We hope you all have a fantastic Summer, and we look forward to seeing you in September!



Chatsworth Class:

Chatsworth have had a fantastic time in Summer 2! Our Castles, Knights and Fairytales topic has continued to provide us with lots of interesting learning opportunities. We've experienced some more sensory stories such as 'Prince and Knight' and 'The Three Billy Goats and the Troll' and have used these to develop our early writing skills by choosing objects or symbols to retell key events from the story. We managed to do this even when our teacher tried to trick us by making it more complex! A highlight has been our Computing sessions, where we have learnt about technology used to create photo and film. Our favourite part was investigating the instant digital camera and creating a collage using our own photos. In Maths, we have particularly enjoyed exploring patterns and have worked hard to respond to patterns around us, including in different environments, such as outdoors. As always, we have been developing our individual communication methods in AAC and Music and Touch Communication sessions through switches, symbols and vocalisations.

Thank you for all your support this year and have a lovely Summer!



Balmoral Class:

We've loved every moment, especially exploring this term's topic *Spirit*, which really captured the children's imagination. From day one, Balmoral have tackled every challenge with enthusiasm, from writing persuasive speeches about the Olympics to hands-on measuring fun in the kitchen!

In music and drama, we recreated Olympic ceremonies, chose inspiring songs, creating amazing art and celebrated British pride. Science has also been a hit, designing and test out electrical circuits. Leading us then to create fantastic moving pictures using motors.

Our outdoor adventures were unforgettable, canoeing, archery, crate stacking, swimming, and more. A special highlight was the children using their knowledge to design and teach their own accessible sport to others in Paces.

It's been just as amazing to see their friendships and teamwork grow. Spending time together has helped them build confidence, support each other, and form strong bonds. Watching their relationships develop has been truly heartwarming.

Thank you for all your support. Have a wonderful, well-deserved summer break!



Outreach Class:

It's been a wonderfully eventful year in Outreach, filled with learning, creativity, and growth. We've explored a wide range of exciting topics last term, including *Under the Sea*, *Seaside* and *Summer*. Each topic gave the children a chance to discover new ideas, engage in hands-on activities, and develop key skills in a fun and supportive environment.

We're incredibly proud of how hard the children have worked and how much they've grown in confidence and independence. It's been a joy to watch their progress and enthusiasm throughout the year.

One of the highlights was our end-of-year trip to Cannon Hall Farm – a fantastic day out for both children and families. It was lovely to see everyone socialising, making memories, and enjoying the day together.

Thank you to all the families for your continued support. We're looking forward to another exciting year ahead!



Wentworth Class:

As we reach the end of a busy and exciting term, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the many achievements and experiences your children have been part of over the past few months.

With the help of a professional chef, pupils planned, prepared, and served a delicious Greek-themed meal for the Senior Leadership Team. This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase their culinary skills and teamwork, and they truly rose to the occasion!

We ended the term on a high with a celebration BBQ at Hesley Wood Outdoor Activity Centre. The sun shone as pupils enjoyed games, great food, and a chance to reflect on their achievements this year in a relaxed and fun environment.

A special congratulations to three pupils who successfully completed their Sports Leaders Award! Their dedication and leadership throughout the year have been outstanding, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements.

Pupils have also been busy in the classroom, conducting a fascinating scientific investigation into the effects of isolation. They planned and conducted experiments, collected data, and presented their findings with maturity and insight.

This term, pupils have worked hard to complete several WJEC Entry Level units, including:

- Working Towards Goals
- Energy in the Home and Workplace,
- Climate Change
- Communicating Experiences

These units have helped pupils build practical skills, explore important topics, and express their thoughts creatively and confidently.

We are incredibly proud of all our pupils for their hard work, enthusiasm, and personal growth this term. Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you all a safe and restful summer break.



Windsor Class:

The Windsor Class have been working very hard this term on our exciting topic: the Tudors. We have all enjoyed the class novel, set in a Tudor kitchen. There were funny moments in the story, but it was all based on some true historical facts. We also had a sensory experience of what it might have been like to sleep in a stable like a Tudor servant, and learned some surprising things about how the Tudor's washed their dishes and tablecloths! We visited spectacular Hardwick Hall. Wow! After learning about Tudor food, clothes and leisure activities in Humanities, the class took part in their own jousting tournament!

For our science topic, we have learned about healthy food and how our body uses it. We have also chosen recipes to suit different dietary requirements. We made a wide range of smoothies, most of which tasted wonderful! The students have shown amazing independence and worked hard on directing the adults around them when they needed some help. As well as getting involved in the actual cooking, the students have also helped plan what ingredients were needed, read the recipes, and buy and unpack the shopping. They made the dessert for our fabulous pop-up restaurant during Careers Week. Our guests were very impressed.

In mathematics we have focussed on time, with all students building their confidence through the term. Students have worked incredibly hard on achieving their own individual targets, as well as their group targets. They are all making fabulous progress in phonics and their physical targets. It has been brilliant to see students' pride in their achievements and how they have tried to apply their learning at home too. We are so proud of all our Windsor students: you are awesome! Have an amazing Summer! We will look forward to hearing all about your summer adventures in September.



Little Wandle:

This term, it has been a real pleasure to spend time in all of the classrooms, getting to know the fantastic children and staff at Paces.

It is wonderful to see how engaged all pupils are in their learning and the progress they are making across the curriculum.

I have been reviewing how reading is taught throughout the school, with a particular focus on how it is adapted to meet the needs of our pupils. Our aim is to ensure that reading remains as accessible as possible, reflects the latest research in literacy education, and aligns with updated Government guidance.

The Little Wandle phonics scheme we use to support reading has recently introduced updates to its SEND programme. We will be working to implement these changes in the coming academic year.

If you have any questions about Little Wandle or how reading is taught at Paces, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Additionally, information on resources and support for parents can be found at: <https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



Pupil Update:

This term we have welcomed new pupils to our Warwick class- Myla and Ada! Our Early Years continues to grow, resulting in a new Paces group starting in September- the Appleby class!

At the other end of the school however, we will be saying a sad goodbye to Eleanor and Charlotte. Eleanor started Paces when she was just 3 and has grown and developed phenomenally over the years. Charlotte joined us for her secondary education and has been a wonderful member of our school. We will miss them both dearly but know they have bright futures ahead of them and we look forward to them coming back to tell us all about the next chapter of their lives.

We are also saying goodbye to Abdul- a delightful pupil in the Hardwick class. Abdul has not been at Paces for very long but has made a huge impression on us all with his sparkling personality. He is moving away with his family and we wish him the very best.



Staff Update:

We have welcomed Bella who has joined our staff team at Paces. Bella is undergoing her conductor training with Birmingham and is working at the school and adult services whilst completing her practice placements.

Huge congratulations to Kathy Fagg who has just graduated with a multidisciplinary conductor qualification. Kathy has been extremely busy and has also completed her training to be a careers advisor. This will enable her to further support our older pupils as they prepare for adulthood.

Rochelle Pearce is one assessment away from completing her teacher training and has worked incredibly hard to get this far.

The conductor assistant course is successfully continuing with the staff making excellent progress towards this Level 3 qualification.

We are enormously grateful to these individuals who take on demanding workloads to gain these skills which are invaluable in our effort to provide the best holistic education for our pupils.



Growing Up Days:

We had 2 days in June dedicated to the PSHE and RSE topics of Growing Up. These days were planned by the relevant subject coordinators and each group was carefully considered in terms of what topics were the most important for them to learn about.

Amongst other things, friendship gifts were made, body parts labelled, hygiene resources explored, online safety investigated...and there was a lot of meaningful discussion. We are hoping to have more PSHE themed days in the next academic year.



Sports Day:

We had a fantastic two-day Inclusive Sports Day this term, with all pupils taking part in a wide range of accessible and adapted activities. From wheelchair slaloms and balloon tap challenges to parachute games and musical movement, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Pupils showed brilliant teamwork, determination, and enthusiasm throughout, and it was a joy to see so many smiles.

A special highlight was the parents' egg and spoon race, which brought lots of laughter and friendly competition—thank you to all the families who got involved! And a big thank you to all the staff and volunteers who made the event run so smoothly.



Careers Week:

Our second careers week, at the start of July, was another great success. We greeted guests from Rotherham Opportunities College and Sheffield City Council's Youth Service, and had virtual tours of Portland College and Henshaws College. A highlight of the week was setting up our pop-up Greek restaurant to serve six VIP guests. Wentworth worked hard with Chef Ryan on Wednesday to cook up a feast that smelled amazing! The Windsor class served their own lemon sponge, and practised their hospitality and communication skills by taking each guest's dessert order. Customer feedback was fantastic! It was also wonderful to hear from some former students who now attend our Paces Adult Service about their experiences since leaving school. Hopefully, this exciting week has given our oldest students some food for thought about their futures. If you would like to have a chat about careers guidance and how we help students prepare for the future, do please email me at

Kathy.fagg@paces-school.org.uk.



WJEC Pathways:

Students in Wentworth and Windsor classes have worked incredibly hard on the WJEC Pathway qualifications this year. They have been very determined, and persevered with some very challenging topics, like Climate Change.

Overall, the students entered over seventy units of work and passed them all! There was a big cheer on results day. All the students should feel very proud of their achievements and it has been fantastic to see how motivated some students have been - seeking out more units to complete.

Huge congratulations to Charlotte and Eleanor who have both achieved an Entry Level 2 certificate or award in Maths, English and Science.



Director of Services:

As we come to the end of another busy and inspiring term, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible efforts of our pupils, families, and dedicated staff. This term has been filled with moments of progress, resilience, creativity, and joy — all of which reflect the very heart of our Paces family. A particular highlight for me was a visit to Hesley Wood with the Balmoral class where I watched pupils face their fears in the crate staking challenge, as well as facing my own fears!

Across the school, we've seen pupils achieving personal milestones, developing their independence, and embracing challenges with determination and enthusiasm. None of this would be possible without the unwavering commitment and compassion of our staff, who bring energy, care, and professionalism to every school day.

A heartfelt thank you to our families for your ongoing support and partnership. Your involvement plays a vital role in the success of our young people.

I wish you all a restful, safe, and sunny break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on the 3rd of September refreshed and ready for the new term ahead.

Best wishes

Ruth Liu- Director of Services

