



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM 1 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term has absolutely flown by and I can hardly believe we are about to enter the final weeks of this academic year. It has been a lovely start to the summer term with some exciting developments across the school.

At the beginning of May we had a visit from our School Improvement Partner, Nick Whittaker, who spent time with Jenny and me discussing our curriculum and assessment. Eva introduced him to the tracking document she is currently trialling to better monitor the progress the pupils are making physically within the framework of Conductive Education. This is an exciting project that Eva is leading very successfully. Nick also observed lessons in Windsor, Chatsworth and Warwick and was very encouraged by the fun our pupils have as they learn. For the SLT these days are always full of challenge, ensuring we continue to drive improvement across our school.

For the first time, some of our post-16 pupils have started work experience placements at a local school and café. Hearing them enthusiastically talk about what they are learning and how much they are enjoying it has been wonderful. This is an area we are continuing to develop by creating internal and external options for all our older pupils.

Multicultural Week was again, an absolute highlight, not just of the term but the whole year. China, Italy, Ireland, Greece, Hawaii, USA, Switzerland, Tanzania and Australia were the countries and cultures chosen by the classes this year. Dancing, cooking, artwork, weather, music and clothing were just some of the cultural features explored through the week and then shared on the Friday as the pupils toured 'around the world'. Thank you to those of you who were able to come and celebrate with us on the Friday afternoon. Each classroom was fantastically decorated by the teams and pupils- the hard work was absolutely worth it!

Mental Health Awareness week was celebrated with our staff by providing relaxing yoga classes at the end of the school day. Ruth and Witney made a delicious cooked breakfast to kickstart a morning, and we had an early Friday finish!

After the half term holiday, amongst all the work and fun our exciting summer topics will bring, we will be getting ready Sports Days, Growing Up days and Careers week,. We are also very much looking forward to the much-anticipated opening of the new playground! The playground has been very carefully designed and we can't wait to see the pupils have the best time exploring all the new equipment and fun features.

Have a wonderful break!

Best wishes,

Lizzie

IMPORTANT DATES!

Back to School: Monday 1st June

Parents Evening: Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd June

Sports Day: Tuesday 9th June

Growing Up Days: Tuesday 23rd & Wednesday 24th June

Careers Week: W/C Monday 6th July

Music Festival: Thursday 16th July

Last Day of Term: Friday 17th July

Summer School: Tuesday 21st July - Friday 24th July

Back to School: Thursday 3rd September

BALMORAL CLASS:

This term, we have been very busy with lots of exciting learning!

In English, we have been developing our non-fiction writing by creating non-chronological reports about the layers of the Earth. The pupils showed amazing independence and used a fantastic formal tone. We also wrote shape poems about volcanic eruptions, using a wider range of adjectives, adverbs and verbs to make our writing more exciting.

In Maths, we have been learning to measure accurately using rulers and exploring the units cm, mm and m. The pupils have shown great independence when measuring objects carefully and recording their answers. This has also helped to develop their fine motor skills as they practised holding rulers correctly and drawing accurate lines.

In Science, we have been learning about different types of rocks and their properties. The pupils loved using magnifying glasses to explore the rocks more closely and enjoyed learning a song to help remember the rock names!

Geography has been a class favourite this term as we have learnt about tectonic plates, volcanoes and the Ring of Fire. The pupils have had some brilliant discussions and asked lots of thoughtful questions.

In Music, we have explored beat, rhythm, pitch, tempo and tone through our volcano topic, and it has been lovely to see the children laughing and enjoying learning together.

We have also enjoyed trips to Hesley Woods, where the pupils showed fantastic courage and independence whilst trying activities such as abseiling and rifle shooting. We are looking forward to more exciting trips next term!



WENTWORTH CLASS:

Wentworth loved learning about Italy, its history, culture and language, but most importantly the food! On our final day of multicultural week we invited classes to try our homemade lasagna and sweet salami, it was a great success and all the pupils loved it!

A generous donation of plants and vegetables were brought into school for work on our celebration garden. Together with Windsor we have made a fantastic start and can't wait to see the progress. We are also looking forward to making something delicious with our home grown crops. The celebration garden will also support us with our WJEC in plant care.



EDINBURGH CLASS:

Edinburgh Class have had a lovely half term. We are currently learning about volcanoes. We have watched videos of different volcanoes erupting and thought about words to describe how they look and sound. We have learnt about similes and written similes about volcanoes – “as hot as fire!” We have used our descriptions and similes to write a shape poem about a volcano.

We've used newspaper and bottles to make papier-mâché volcanoes, and we are looking forward to watching them erupt using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar, and coke and mentos! It's going to get very messy and very fun!

In Science, we have explored sand, thinking about how it feels dry and wet, and making sandcastles. We have looked at sand through magnifying glasses and tried to make sand ourselves by shaking and banging rocks together!

We have also had a couple of walks in the spring sunshine to Café Hug, where we were able to use our AAC devices to order for ourselves. We are loving becoming more independent!



DURHAM CLASS:

This half-term, we have been busy exploring, experimenting, creating, and learning together through a range of exciting activities!

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed building their very own volcanoes. They carefully designed and constructed them before experimenting to see how volcanic eruptions work. There was lots of excitement as we observed the reactions and discussed what happens during an eruption. This hands-on activity encouraged curiosity, prediction skills, and scientific thinking.

Our volcano theme also inspired some wonderful creative art. The pupils used a variety of materials, colours, and techniques to create imaginative volcanic landscapes and eruption artwork. It was fantastic to see their creativity and individuality shine through in every piece.

In maths, we have been getting creative with statistics and data handling. The pupils collected information, created simple charts, and practised interpreting the data. They especially enjoyed using real-life examples and working collaboratively to solve problems and compare results.

It has been a fantastic half-term full of curiosity, creativity, teamwork, and learning. We are very proud of all the children and their enthusiasm throughout these activities.

Thank you for your continued support!



CHATSWORTH CLASS:

Chatsworth have been busy exploring all things growing and gardening as part of our plants topic! We have enjoyed sharing the stories *The Little Seed* and *Luna Loves Gardening*, alongside lots of exciting sensory experiences. We handled soil, herbs and even pretend creepy crawlies that might be hiding deep underground!

In maths, we have been learning through fun number songs inspired by our topic, including favourites such as *5 Little Flowers*. We have also used concrete objects to explore simple patterns, with some pupils working incredibly hard to identify and select the next item in a sequence.

In science, we have been investigating the different parts of a plant like the roots, stem, leaves and flowers. This also links to our PSHE/RSE learning which has focused on growing and changing. We discovered how people grow just like plants do, and enjoyed looking closely at ourselves in mirrors, and thought about how both plants and people need water, food and care to grow strong and healthy. We have embraced the somewhat warmer weather by spending as much time outdoors as possible, enjoying hands-on exploration of plants and the natural world around us.

Our new Music and Touch Communication sessions have provided us with lots of opportunities for self-expression. This half term, we travelled down a 'secret garden path' and loved being immersed in this exciting sensory journey. Perhaps the biggest highlight was our whole-school Multicultural Week. We learned all about Tanzanian culture before embarking on a very special 'trip around the world', where we visited China, Hawaii and Italy!



HARDWICK CLASS:

Summer is here, and with it comes sunshine, blooming flowers, buzzing bumblebees, fluttering butterflies. Over the coming weeks, we have explored the wonders of nature through hands-on sensory experiences, outdoor discovery, and creative play.

The children have had many opportunities to explore and learn through play both indoors and outside.

In science we have been planting seeds and watering flowers, exploring soil, petals, leaves, and herbs. The children continue to explore water play and mud kitchen fun, while going on nature hunts and bug spotting.

In art we will do flower printing and summer crafts to create bright coloured collages, this will link to maths where we will explore colours and shapes.

We will have continued with our Little Wandle phonics programme. The children love listening to sounds and rhyme time.

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to the next season full of sunshine, discovery, laughter, and learning!



WARWICK CLASS:

This term our topic has been 'Ready, Steady, Grow'. The class have been busy planting seeds and growing cress, strawberries, herbs and flowers, watering them each day and observing them grow!

Our class have enjoyed the sensory songs 'Going to the Shop', and 'What's Underground'. As well as having lots of fun with the sensory stories 'The Enormous Turnip' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We used real life props and objects to join in with the song or story. Using their teamwork we pulled the turnip out of the ground & climbed up the beanstalk with a switch to add sound effects "help" and "fee-fi-fo-fum".

We have explored lots of fruits, vegetables, seeds and mud. Creating vegetable print art, seed mosaics and shakers. We have baked Irish soda bread whilst celebrating all things Irish and loved our trip around the world!

Our class have visited the local supermarket, farm shop, and Wentworth Garden Centre to help them learn all about the journey food takes from the farm to the shop.



APPLEBY CLASS:

The pupils in Appleby Class have thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck into our new topic, 'Ready, Steady, Grow!' As our parents know, we love getting a little messy in Appleby, so this topic has been perfect for us!

We loved becoming mini farmers and exploring how things grow by planting runner beans linked to our story 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We are hoping they grow big enough for us to find the gold in the castle! We even made "wanted" posters using pictures of our friends and staff members, alongside symbol cards explaining why they were wanted.

We have explored and learnt all about farm animals, farm machinery, and visits to the local farm shop to buy vegetables for our yummy soup. All this exploration of food made us very hungry, so we created posters to tell our friends about our favourite foods and are now busy planning a picnic for next half term.

We also became investigators by carrying out a balloon experiment and watching it grow like 'The Gigantic Turnip', linked to our other class story. We definitely went a little turnip mad!

Things got a little creepy in the classroom as it transformed into the Australian Outback for Multicultural Week. We built dens, piled sticks together to make a pretend campfire, searched for creepy crawlies in slime, and some of us even tried eating mealworms! Thankfully, the other side of the classroom was transformed into Bondi Beach, where we could relax in the sand, cook on our pretend BBQ, and even try bodyboarding.

We hope you all have a lovely, restful half-term break and enjoy the sunshine.

We can't wait to continue our fun topic after the holidays and go on our educational visit to Cannon Hall Farm, as well as enjoy lots of other exciting activities we have planned.

With lots of smiles, The Appleby Class Team



WINDSOR CLASS:

This term in English, pupils in Windsor class have been exploring narratives through the much-loved story 'Room on the Broom'. The pupils have been developing their understanding of key story elements, including characters, settings and plot, through a range of engaging and multi-sensory activities. Pupils particularly enjoyed dressing up as characters, making their own witch hats, and acting out the story using props to bring the events to life.

Alongside this, they have begun to share their own opinions by creating simple book reviews and discussing their favourite parts of the story. It has been great to see their enthusiasm for storytelling!

In Maths, the pupils have been working on place value, partitioning numbers into tens and ones, some even working up to thousands! They have done this in lots of creative ways such as counting pupil's faces in blocks of 10, counting physical blocks and using 5 and 10 frames to group together what they have been counting.

In Life Skills, Windsor pupils have continued to focus on health, nutrition and working together through a range of practical hands-on activities linked to the WJEC unit-Food & Health. The pupils' have developed their independence by preparing healthy foods such as fruit kebabs and Chinese dishes for Multicultural Week, following simple recipes and using a variety of cooking skills. They have also worked collaboratively in pairs and small groups, building teamwork and communication skills. Together they made a 'Sugar Shocker' display, where pupils investigated how much sugar is in different drinks, helping them understand the importance of moderation.

The pupils have also been helping in the new developing sensory garden! They have been digging out holes for their plants and the pupils' favourite part – using the hose to water the plants!! They had a lovely time getting the beds ready for growing and checking in on their progress.



DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

The summer term is always a favourite for me and this one has been no different so far. It's been full of great activities where the pupils are able to showcase their talents outside of the usual curriculum-based lessons. This half-term multicultural week has been an absolute highlight with staff and pupils really embracing the exploration of their country before travelling round the world to learn about other cultures. It was also lovely to see lots of parents and family members join us on the Friday afternoon and participate in the activities.

We also recently held our charity-wide AGM, which provided an important opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the past year and look ahead to future developments. It was encouraging to hear about the continued growth and impact of our services across the charity and to celebrate the dedication of our staff, families, trustees, volunteers, and supporters who make this work possible. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the event.

In the wider charity community, it has been great to participate in fundraising events – my favourite of which was the Play on the Pitch event at Oakwell stadium. Seeing one of our pupils celebrated and the wider work of Paces was such a privilege especially as my own two sons represented the Paces team.

As always, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our families for their ongoing support and partnership. Your encouragement and involvement continue to make a significant difference to our school community.

I hope you have a great half term holiday, and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back into school on Monday 1st June.

Best wishes

Ruth

MULTICULTURAL WEEK:



