

# Newsletter Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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## Information for Parents



I am writing this week's newsletter with very mixed emotions. Firstly, I am very sad to inform you that Debbie Hawkesworth who originally worked at Stourminster & Comberton Road and then came here to Wyre Forest, lost her long and determined battle against cancer last week. My own memories of Debbie are of someone who was such good fun, who loved a joke, wore fab clothes, and could talk - always the last to finish on parents evening - but above everything put children first in all she did. She was a fabulous teacher and had such an impact on the lives of so many children and families.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Stephen, her husband, children, and grandchildren.

Secondly, a massive thank you for the generosity shown by the WFS Family following the tragic news that their home had caught on fire and all belongings lost. You immediately responded with donations of clothes and money. THANK YOU on behalf of the family - yet again the people involved with this school prove what a special place WFS is.

And finally, I want to finish on some quite amazing news. Russell House, our residential provision was inspected by Ofsted 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February and I am delighted to say they judged us as **OUTSTANDING** in all areas. I am immensely proud of all the staff involved with the provision and of course the amazing pupils. We have sent a copy of the report with this newsletter. Please take time to read it, because in 16 years as a Headteacher I have never read such a report. Well done Team WFS from a very proud and emotional Mrs G!!!



Ofsted  
raising standards  
improving lives

## Wyre Forest School

Wyre Forest School, Habberley Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 6FA  
Residential provision inspected under the social care common inspection framework

**Information about this residential special school**

The school is a local authority service and is directly responsible to a governing body. Wyre Forest School is a special school which caters for children and young people with a broad range of needs, including physical, social, emotional and learning difficulties. There are 328 children on roll at the school. The school moved to a new purpose-built site in April 2015. This site includes a residential aspect of the school called Russell House. It operates from Monday to Friday and can accommodate up to 16 children and young people. There were 15 children and young people receiving a service at the time of the inspection.

**Inspection dates: 14 to 16 February 2023**

<b>Overall experiences and progress of children and young people</b> , taking into account	<b>outstanding</b>
How well children and young people are helped and protected	outstanding
The effectiveness of leaders and managers	outstanding

The residential special school provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the school contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people.

**Date of previous inspection:** 11 October 2021

**Overall judgement at last inspection:** good

## CHESTNUT Class



Chestnut class is looking forward to the warmer weather so we can start accessing our outdoor area more. This week we had short sessions outside exploring the water trays, using the balance circle, physio balls and the edible tough spot. The children really enjoyed themselves and if we could please ask parents to send in spare clothes with their child daily, so we have spare set if we do have water play on that day.



## POPLAR Class

We started the week in Poplar class with an activity that the children really enjoyed. We joined Rowan class and Sam Harper, the teacher responsible for outdoor learning, to plant some new trees on the side of the bike track. The children used tools to dig a hole for their sapling, adding compost to fill in the hole and protecting the tree with plastic tubing. Super work Poplar class!

We also learnt about how to keep ourselves healthy through exercise, healthy diet and doing things we enjoy, in preparation for leading assembly in pathway 3 next week.



The Friends of Wyre Forest School will be hosting our AGM on Tuesday 25th April at 9:30am at Russell House. Everyone is welcome! If you'd like to hear more about what we have planned, please come along, and join us for tea/coffee and cake. We're always keen to meet new members and really value your feedback about past and future events.

For more information, please contact us via [friendsofwyreforestschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwyreforestschool@gmail.com)

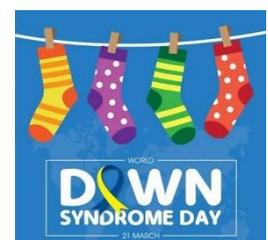
## SYCAMORE Class

'On Monday morning it was Sycamore's Class Assembly. The whole class sat patiently at the front of the hall, waiting for the classes to enter and take a seat. Our assembly was about World Down Syndrome Day.

Firstly, we all shared a feature about how we all look different and how we like different things. We listened to a book called The abilities in me: Down Syndrome. Finally, we shared and celebrated the different abilities we have in Sycamore. It was a wonderful Assembly to raise awareness of Down Syndrome.'



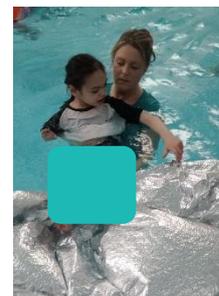
## World Down Syndrome Day



## CEDAR Class



Over the last few weeks, Cedar class have enjoyed their sensory swim in the hydro pool. They have been turning their heads to find out what's causing the noise of some bubbles blown out of a long tube. Some students had a go at copying the adult and tried to blow their own bubbles. Students have particularly enjoyed exploring and moving on top of a foil blanket, they all liked the crackling noise it made on the water surface and the contrast of quiet under the water.



## Autism Acceptance Week

**Colourful dress up day – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

As a school we are doing a spectrum colour challenge – you are welcome to dress up as bright and colourfully as you can.



## ROWAN Class



Rowan Class enjoyed joining in the Plantathon this week. Armed with gardening gloves and trowels everyone helped to plant trees around the cycle track playground. Everyone worked together, listening to instructions, and watching how to plant trees before getting to work.

Over the next few weeks, we will work together to water and care for the trees as we watch them grow.



## HOLLY Class

Holly class have been exploring with magnets in science lessons this half term - this week they've made their own magnetic fishing games and tested which paper clip material worked as a magnetic force.





What a fantastic day we had last week celebrating and helping raise money and awareness for Comic Relief. It was lovely to see so many pupils and staff alike dressed up in something red and fabulous.

There were so many wonderful activities going on like the assault course, which was enjoyed by lots of the classes, 13K spread joy by writing postcards to students and staff. Pine added red noses to black and white photos of themselves, they looked really effective. Fir class enjoyed using the outdoor apparatus.

I want to say a massive thank you for all the hard work and donations. We are still in the process of calculating our final total so watch this space!





## ASH Class

Ash Class have been working really hard this week in all of their lessons.

In Literacy the children have been working on constructing sentences using colourful semantics. The children had great fun making silly sentences and sharing them with their friends.



They have been working hard in maths continuing to work on addition and subtraction.



This week in our outdoor learning we had a great time planting some new trees in our bike track area.



## FIR Class

This week Fir class have been working on our physical skills developing our climbing and balancing skills in PE. Moving around the pool and using a net to catch ducks in swimming.



## YEW Class



In Yew class, we enjoyed sensory circuits and Yoga.



We enjoyed visiting the school library to look at books and listen to stories, and we have also been recognising the names of friends and writing our names.



## CHERRY Class



This week in Cherry Class we have begun our focus on data collection in Maths where we asked our friends what their favourite food was, to create a picture block graph!

We have been creating sentences using colourful semantics in Literacy and created emotion paper plate puppets in mental health and well-being. Cherry Class enjoyed planting trees in outdoor learning!



## ACORNS Reception



Last Friday, Acorns went red colour crazy to raise money for Comic Relief. Carter and Oscar loved using the red themed Tuff Tray to scoop up the red rice into red cups and the children used their knowledge of colours to find red objects around the classroom. Then, on Tuesday, we celebrated Down Syndrome Awareness Day by rocking our odd socks! There were some fabulous combinations of socks seen by the children as well as the staff.



This week, the children have been reading Goldilocks & The Three Bears as our focus story and it has been very popular. The children loved using LOUD voices for Daddy Bear, regular voices for Mummy Bear and quiet voices for Baby Bear to role play as the Three Bears. We also made and tasted Banana Bear Toast using ALDs to ask for ingredients and equipment. Well done for another great week Reception Class.



Rosie's class have been loving their learning all about the 'Wheels on the bus' this week, mark making to actions of the song using paint and pens. We have made a great registration bus, and the pupils have been super stars at putting their faces on the bus each day. They really enjoyed making chapattis on our introduction to learning about Ramadan. And on Tuesday we had great fun matching up odd socks and painting our feet different colours, in our learning about Down Syndrome Awareness Day.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Newsletter

Please follow this link and enjoy our 6<sup>th</sup> Form Newsletter

[22nd March Newsletter \(office.com\)](#)

### PINE Class



We have really used our imagination for the story 'The Princess and the Pea'. Pine class loved the sensory tuff spot that was filled with peas, and we used sponges for the mattresses. We did a big focus on the colour green, building with green Duplo/bricks and used green playdough to make and count peas for our pods.



### OAK & PINE Class

Oak and Pine class have been busy making den building during forest school. The children have been carrying the sticks safely to help Sam put a den together.



Edenred free school meal vouchers for the Easter holidays will be emailed to parents of eligible children on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

**B B C**

**NEWS**

Please click on the link below, to read about public emergency alerts being sent to all UK smartphones.

[Public emergency alerts to be sent to all UK smartphones - BBC News](#)



Please click on the link to access Spring 2023 Raring2go magazine

<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/kidderminsterandstourbridge/spring2023/>

## Russell House

This week we have made cookies at youth club and enjoyed playing pool. Some of the group went swimming and the other had a lovely walk exploring the Gruffalo trail at the Wyre Forest. This term's theme night was pizza making 🍕 our students made a healthy pizza using a tortilla wrap as the base and had a choice of toppings.



MARCH 2023	
24	Early Years Family Support Group 1.30pm at Russell House for Parents of children in ACORNS Nursery & Reception
28	Pathway 1 Easter Egg Hunt & Picnic 1.30pm-parents/carers invited
29	Early Years Easter Themed Stay & Play 1.30pm-2.30pm – parents/carers are welcome
30	Pathway 2 Easter Egg Hunt & Picnic 1.30pm-parents/carers invited
31	Last day of term – children finish at 3pm

Please note: all the above dates / times are subject to change.

**Please can we remind all Parents & Carers to keep the school office updated with any change of details, i.e, telephone numbers, addresses, list of contacts. Thank you**