

Newsletter Friday 1st March 2024

www.wfs.worcs.sch.uk

office@wfs.worcs.sch.uk

Information for Parents

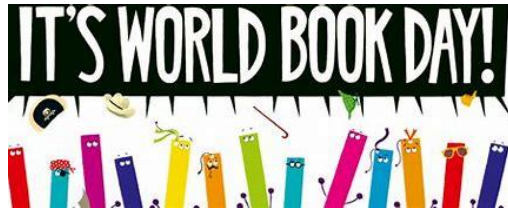


Monday morning at 8.30am we received a phone call from Ofsted to say they would be with us at 10.30am to carry out the annual residential 3 day Ofsted inspection of Russell House.

Two inspectors came for three very busy days and although I cannot officially tell you the judgements, we need to wait for the report, I can say I am absolutely delighted and so very proud of the staff and children.

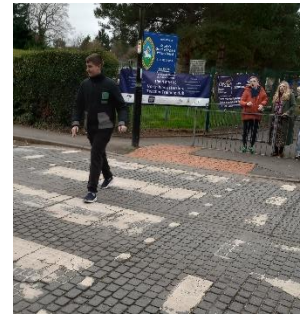
At Easter Hayley Trenfield will be leaving us to go and take up a very exciting role working for Dudley CC and their SEND department. Hayley has given so much to the school, and we thank her for all her hard work and wish her the best of luck. We are delighted that Lou Fulcher-Insull, an incredibly experienced and long standing member of staff at WFS will be the new teacher to replace Hayley and is already in class getting to know the pupils.

Next week I am really looking forward to World Book Day and all the lovely activities that Mrs Philips has planned and the week after Red Nose Day!



10H News

10H had a lovely afternoon practising their road safety skills outside school on Tuesday. Involving walking in a safe manner along the pavement being considerate of other pedestrians being aware of our surroundings. We walked to the nearest zebra crossing by school and took turns to safely cross the road using our senses of looking and listening. 10H practicing their independence skills out in the community. Well done 10H

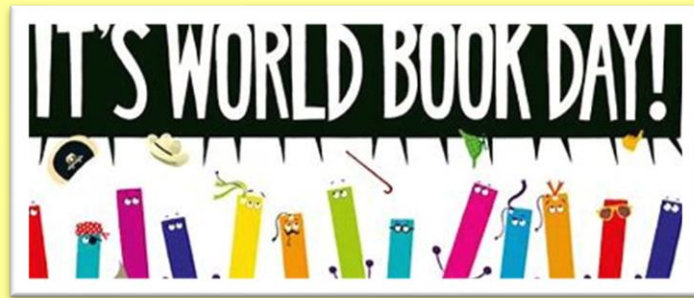


SPRUCE Class



Spruce class have been getting really stuck into this half terms topic, On the Farm. We have been learning about the differences between living things and non-living things, and really enjoyed observing the frog spawn that will one day grow into tadpoles and then frogs. We have been finding facts about different animals using information texts and using them to play the What Am I game. Finally, we have been learning about the different types of animals, mammals, reptiles, invertebrates, birds, fish and amphibians. We will soon be animal experts.





On **Thursday 7th March**, it is World Book Day, and we are really looking forward to it! We are encouraging all pupils and staff to dress up as their favourite book character or bring in their favourite book. (We recognise and understand that some pupils prefer to wear their school uniform or their usual school clothes on this day and that is fine.) On the day, the pupils will take part in some book focused activities and have lots of book-based fun!

POPLAR Class

In forest school, we have been using a saw to cut some wood. The children enjoyed having a go themselves ready for us to make our own plant box.

In cooking we have been working on our independence skills and have been making our own toast and choosing our favourite toppings of either butter or jam.



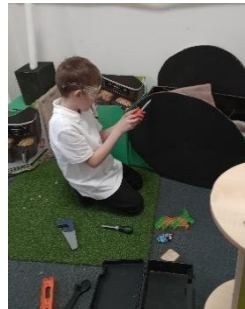
6th Form Newsletter

Please follow this link and enjoy our 6th Form Newsletter

[Friday 1st March 2024 \(cloud.microsoft\)](https://cloud.microsoft.com)

CHESTNUT Class

This term our topic in Chestnut class is on the farm, the children have started to explore this topic through a range of different types of play and crafts.



PARENT POP IN



HAZEL Class

Hazel class have been developing their role play skills linked to our topic the food we like. We have fed the tiger that came to tea and begun to use simple adjectives to describe food. We have also explored full and not full using water and sand.



JUNIPER Class

Juniper class always work hard and really enjoy PE lessons. This half term we are developing our balance skills as well as focusing on problem solving and working as a team.

Pupils have really enjoyed planning routes across the pretend river using stepping stones. The problem is the better they are at it, the more stepping stones the staff take away!

They also worked really well as a team to make a portable bridge across the river when all of the stepping stones were removed. Well done Juniper, fantastic team work as always!



SYCAMORE Class



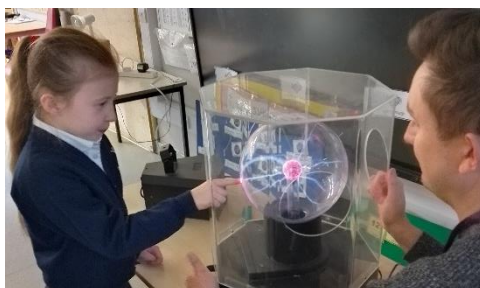
This week in Sycamore class we have enjoyed playing connect four posting the giant counters in.
We have also enjoyed singing animal songs and finding and naming them while exploring textures.



PEAR Class



This week Pear class have been looking at different sources of light in World About Us. They have had lots of fun experimenting with different types of light and working out what materials are transparent, translucent, and opaque.





Communication Team News



Advice to Promote Early Language Development

Learning New Words

Provide opportunities for your child to use new words in real life situations .

- During an activity label items so your child can connect the word to its meaning.
- You can offer choices by holding the items in front of your child for them to see.
- Add an extra word to what your child says,
E.g. If your child says, 'Car' you say, 'Red car'
You can use visuals to support with this.
- Please check out [Widgit Symbol Resources | Ready-Made Teaching Materials](#)
- You find lots of visual resources here to support language and learning e.g., story pack and books, early years and home.



Kind regards,
The Communication Team



BIRCH Class

This week, Birch class has been reading a new book. Farmer Duck has quickly become a class favourite! We especially enjoy pretending to be characters from the book! We have also been learning how to sing along to our favourite nursery rhymes and becoming familiar with numbers 1 through to 5! We have worked really hard this week, well done Birch class!



ASH Class



This week in cooking Ash class have been making cheese on toast. They enjoyed grating cheese and using the toaster with adult support. The children enjoyed eating the toast the best!



10P News



10P visit Nova College

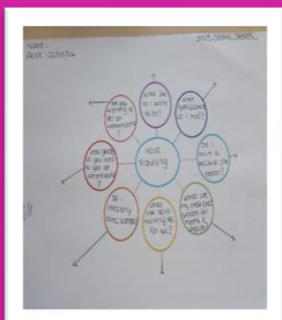
A visit to Nova college was enjoyed by all of 10P.

Jess was very welcoming and talked about what Nova can offer for students wishing to learn there. The students were told they would still do English and Maths to GCSE level, employability, and enrichment classes. They will also work with a teacher to find work experience suitable for the job they would like to do in the future.

All students were very keen when Jess mentioned the different benefits Nova offer. Travel expenses and lunch money.

Everyone completed a mind map, that helped them think about their future goals.

Great work 10P



LEMON Class



We had a fantastic morning exploring our top playgroup equipment. The children enjoyed making new sounds on the outdoor music instruments, riding on the scooters and practicing their climbing skills on the climbing frame.

As Wednesday are our very energetic physical days, we have been outside in our Orchard Garden area. Using our outdoor ALD'S, the children have been making comments on what they can see and exploring new bugs spotted around the area.



OLIVE Class

Olive class have had a great forest school session this week using a wooden mallet safely to hammer their wooden nails into the ground. Some of the class have also made their own fort which they were very proud of! Well done Olive Class!



WALNUT Class

Walnut class have had a good week.

In "The world about us" the children have talked about what plants need to grow, they then made a model using a plant pot, symbols, and straws to show this.

In literacy this half term our story book is called "Foggy Foggy Forest" the children have enjoyed using silhouette puppets to act out a story.

In play the children have been working hard trying hard to work as a team.

In phonics they have continued to work on their letter formation and practicing their CVC words.



ORANGE Class

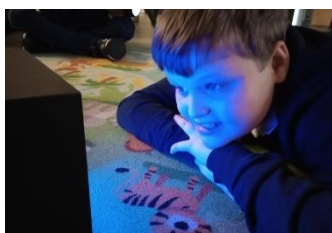
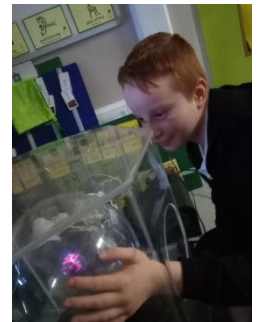


This term our topic in orange class is "How does your garden grow". This week we have used ALDs to support the children in painting sunflowers. We have made sunflowers using yellow play dough and we have also done lots of gluing and sticking making even more sunflowers. Katie has also been able to bring in some frog spawn which carried on from the life cycle of the frogs last week which the children really enjoyed looking at.



OAK Class

In the world about us this week we have been looking at items that give us light. We have been experimenting with different light sources.



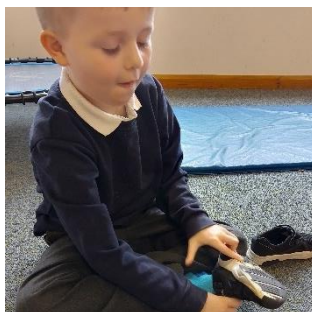
LARCH Class

In our Creative lessons this half term we are exploring printing. So far the children have had lots of fun exploring printmaking using hand prints, printing with car wheels and even stamping around in Wellie boots!



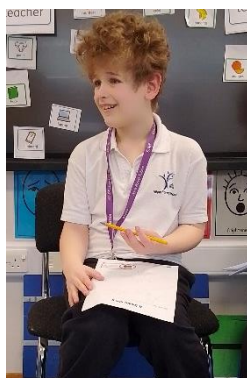
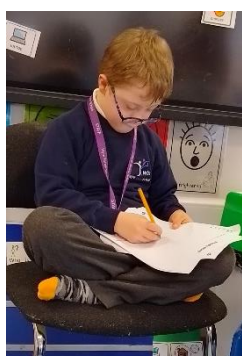
YEW Class

The children in Yew class have been working so hard on developing their independence this year, and this term they have been looking at dressing themselves. They have practiced putting on their shoes, socks, taking off their coats and hanging them up. They had a lot of fun dressing up in costumes too.



CHERRY Class

This week Cherry class have been exploring people that help us. We have enjoyed learning lots about who these people are. Focusing specifically on builders and teachers. We have explored what tools builders need to build and what teachers need to help teach. A lot of the children felt that cake was a necessity for the role! Cherry Class particularly enjoyed role playing teachers, taking registers, ordering lunches, and singing songs such as Hello!



Russell House News

This week has been very busy for us here at Russell House, we have been swimming, youth club, visited the park, sycamore centre and cricket.

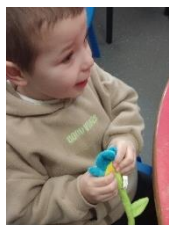
We would like to thank our students and parents for their support during our Ofsted visit. We look forward to sharing the report with you.



APPLE Class

Apple class have been so busy this week and done some amazing work! We have looked at independence skills and focused on brushing teeth. Our children have explored the toothbrush, tasting the toothpaste and used them to brush a laminated picture of teeth. We would talk about cleaning teeth to keep them clean and sang toothbrushing songs.

Our story this week has been 'The Tiny Seed', we have painted flowers using corks and paint. Sequencing growing a seed, had sensory chocolate moon sand and pipe cleaner flowers, and used props to go alongside our story. A favourite was the fan to represent the wind and rain.



MARCH 2024

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|--|---|
| 7 | World Book Day |
| 8 | Friends of WFS – Mother's Day / Carers Gift Shop Reception Parents Support Group – OT Specialist Session with Sophie Keyte 1.30-2.30pm |
| 15 | Comic Relief |
| W/C 18th | |
| 19 | Pathway 1 – Easter Celebration with Parents – 1.30pm |
| 20 | Pathway 2 – Easter Picnic – 1.30pm |
| 21 | EYFS – Easter Egg Hunt – Parents invited, in The Orchard outdoor area 1.30 – 2.30pm |
| 21 | World Down Syndrome Day |
| 21 | Pathway 4 – Topic based Parent Event |
| 22 | World Autism Day |
| 25 th March – 5th April Easter Holidays | |

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