



# Forest Way School Newsletter

July 2023

## A Word From Gail

Hi Everyone

Another year has nearly come to an end and school is busy with both transition and end of term activities.

We say goodbye to staff who are moving on to new ventures: Teachers Caroline Lupton, Mary Knifton, Gráinne McNally and Lucy Everitt-Stewart are moving on to new ventures. Ian Wood is retiring after 14 years in his Business Manager role and Cam Potier is moving to France. I'm sure you will join me in sending our heartfelt thanks and best wishes.

We welcome four new teachers: Matthew Anwyll, Luke Bancroft, Debbie Coldwell and Maddy Nicholls Sykes who bring a wealth of skills and experience. Rachael Mortimer will be stepping up into the Business Manager's role. We look forward to working with them all.

The new modular classes and garden area are coming along really well and we look forward to welcoming the Ashby Hastings classes on site in August.

Hope to see you on Thursday night for the family social.

*Gail*

## Rocktopus



Key Stage 1 and 2 had an exciting visit from 'Rocktopus' for a music workshop day! Groups enjoyed creating music videos, learning songs, dancing, watching performances and exploring instruments. The pupils all really enjoyed the experience, and it was a brilliant day!

A huge thank you to Phil Emberson who gave a very generous donation towards the cost of the day.

The Badgers in the Den loved singing and moving along to the music and we created a music video with Acorns 1 and 11 which we will be able to share with you at home! We hope you enjoy watching it!



# Acorns 1

In Acorns 1 the children have enjoyed going to Forest Schools with Nicole. They love being outside exploring, investigating and playing in the park.

We enjoyed celebrating King Charles III's Coronation. We had a week of activities, games, afternoon tea and a class Coronation party.

We had a great time listening to Rocktopus.

Some of the children composed their own music with Rocktopus, some listened to the music and some children enjoyed playing different instruments with the band.

A1 love music and relished this opportunity.



Nicole and Arlo looking for insects.



Ryan looking for a worm



Reuben ringing the bell.



A1 Coronation party.



Making Union Jack bunting.



Arlo and Warren dancing together.

# Acorns 2



In Acorns 2 we enjoyed exploring about the 'King's Coronation' by listening to stories, learning new Makaton signs, and creating crowns to wear for our Coronation tea party.

# Diary Dates

Thursday 6th July 6pm-7.30pm	End of year family celebration for the whole family
Tuesday 11th July 9.30am-12	Oaks Sports Day
Wednesday 12th July 3.20pm	School finishes for Summer
Tuesday 29th August	School opens for pupils
Wednesday 20th September 4-6pm	Parents Evening- Meet the Staff

### School Start & Finish Times

School opens for pupils at 8.50am and finishes at 3.20pm.

Please help us by picking up on time. Details of our clubs offer to follow.

### School Dinners

**The cost of a school dinner will be rising to £2.50 per meal in August.**

**Dinners are payable via ParentPay.**

# The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Celebration at Buckingham Palace



the time. I would like to pass on his advice for others thinking about or already completing their Award:

- Go for your passion and goals, whatever it is, you go for it!
- Respect the discipline or the sport, if it is a sport, and commit to it 100% without fear.
- Don't let the fear of failure and making mistakes hold you back. These are part of life.
- No one has ever achieved greatness without setbacks.
- Never lose that sense of awe and wonder where everything feels awesome and every day is like a special day.
- Keep the mindset that the next day will be better than the day before. This is an energising tool that will allow you to challenge yourself and overcome obstacles.
- Always go a little bit further out of your comfort zone and see what surprises it gives you.
- Love and feel the passion.

As you are aware most of our key experiences and sometime the stage 4 and post 16 students have started their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award this year. I was honoured to be invited to attend Buckingham Place on Monday 15th May to represent Forest Way School at a garden party to celebrating the achievements of the DofE Gold Award winners. I spent a wonderful morning in the gardens of the palace and was lucky enough to be greeted with a 'Hello' from The Duke of Edinburgh himself as he stopped to talk to the award winners stood with me. In his speech the Duke explained how the award gives young people the sense of having a goal, something to work towards and achieve over a period of time. It is more than just an award. It is an investment in yourself to achieve something brilliant!

Jermaine Jenas, a former Premier League and England footballer, presenter and pundit was a guest speaker who spoke on the centre stage at the event. The advice he gave was to continue to say yes to things as you never know where it will take you. Try to be your best self. It's ok to make mistakes. We learn from our mistakes and

There were several other guest speakers located around the gardens. My favourite was Ade Adepitan MBE, the paralympic medallist, presenter and journalist. He was incredibly inspirational. He talked about his life as a young Paralympic wheelchair basketball player and how he knew that the moment anyone saw him he would be judged so he had to work harder and put 100% effort in all of

We're all excited to see and share the wonderful experiences that our Bronze Award participants complete this year at Forest Way.

Sarah.



# Introducing The Nest and Garden Re-Design



We are very excited to show you the first photos of our new modular classroom and the redesigned garden area. The pupils and staff have voted and chosen 'The Nest' as the name for the new classrooms. We will be moving all of the furniture and resources into The Nest over the summer ready for our opening at the beginning of the Autumn Term.

The garden area is taking shape beautifully with the welcome addition of the canopy classroom. The first phase of the garden will be completed over the summer. This includes a sunken trampoline that is wheelchair friendly. You can also see the banking area has been cleared ready for the new Forest Schools area. We hope that the grass grows quickly!

## Work Experience Oaks 11

As a class Oaks 11 have been taking part in work experience every Tuesday afternoon. We have been doing this at the Wellie-Deli Farm in Newbold Coleorton.

We have been working with a man called Keith Staines who has given the class multiple jobs to do around the farm including tidying the woodland area and collecting wood and putting it into piles to hopefully make bug hotels to go around the farm.

As a class we have enjoyed doing this as we have found it very relaxing and the class can see different parts of nature. We look forward to returning to do more tasks and learn more about the environment.



## Enjoying the Rain



Oaks 5 and 6 sensory group have been enjoying looking at the weather on an iPad and then going out and experiencing it for themselves. It was a very rainy day!



# Fundraising Static Bike Ride For Forest Way School!

everyone  
ACTIVE



On 13th June, Oaks 10 and 11 did a sponsored bike ride at Whitwick and Coalville gym. They were also joined by pupils from the Acorns Multi-Sports Club after school. They were fundraising for monies towards the redesign of our woodland area. While they were biking they also sold cake and ran a tombola in the gym foyer.

They raised a total of £978 which is a huge achievement!

A huge well done to all involved.

## Oaks 11 STEM Competition



As a class we agreed that we would use plywood as we believed it was the strongest material to use that still fitted the guidelines.

After we constructed the bridge we conducted various tests to see how much weight our bridge would hold. The outcome of this was that the bridge could hold at least 37 kg. Finally, we made a portfolio which included images of our bridge, various bridge designs and a write up about our bridge.

Our bridge was successful and won the competition and was judged by employees of Triumph motorcycles and Rolls Royce.

Oaks 11 entered a STEM competition at Coalville CAN. The competition was to build a bridge that would withstand some weights and we only had one week to complete the task. We were given a brief to follow and we saw other bridges that were built by other schools. This allowed us to gain an insight into what was required.

This meant that as a class we won £100, we have decided that the money will be spent on a class meal somewhere.

# Leicestershire Inclusive Choirs

**FREE Inclusive choirs for  
children & young people**



**Members can sing, vocalise or use  
technology & traditional instruments.**

**ALL are welcome**



Visit [www.bit.ly/LM-Inc-Ch](http://www.bit.ly/LM-Inc-Ch)  
to find out more & join



# Forest Way Career Champions



**Become a Careers Champion and support our student`s careers aspirations.**

**We are looking to make long term sustainable links with anyone in the world of work. You maybe be an employer, self employed, a business, a volunteer or a charitable organisation.**

## **Engaging with employers**

- We are looking for ,online or face to face discussions with our students about career pathways in your business sector area.
- Help with CV and letter writing.
- Provide a video about your company or information about your role in your company.
- Support with STEM activities in the school

## **Work placements**

- Can you offer work experience from a few hours to 5 day? ( All students will be full risk assessed and supported by a trained staff member)
- We have already completed successful work placements in garages, care homes, hotels, pubs and local cafes.
- If you want to find more we would love to hear from you

- Is your business willing to talk to our students about the qualities needed in the world of work?
- Can you offer a tour of your business so that students know what the world of work looks like?
- Can you support with practical tasks so that students can experience work based tasks in school?

## **Engagements with further education and Universities.**

- Can you talk to our students about what colleges and universities are?
- Can you offer enrichment opportunities?
- Provide tours of your college or University?

## **What`s in it for you?**

- We will publicise your company`s support for Forest Way via our website and social media.
- Status of being a Careers Champion and will be added to our school website.
- We can support your company with Makaton sign language as part of a staff CPD programme.
- Networking opportunities through celebration evenings.
- Invites to to promote your business at Transition events.
- You will be supporting our students and their families and making a difference.

email [tlees@forestway.leics.sch.uk](mailto:tlees@forestway.leics.sch.uk)

Web link