

Forest Way School Newsletter

February 2023

A Word From Gail

I am very pleased to share our latest Newsletter. This term we have tried to give you a flavour of the different work we are doing to support communication skills.

We are half way through the year and it is a pleasure to see how well settled into their classes everyone is. This is the time we begin to think about the next academic year and the best way to group our pupils and young people. The pupils at Ashby Hastings will be moving over too, so we will keep you updated.

We are currently planning the extended Forest School area and Sensory Playground projects as part of the new modular build. We will share these with you in due course.

The Ashby Hastings pupils have already started their transition work and have been enjoying Forest Schools lessons in our woods.

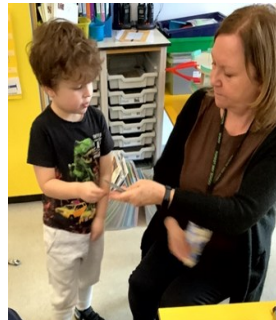
One of our other priorities for this year is pupil assessment. We would like to hear your views on this so please look out for the Parent Survey on Kinteract.

The next Friends of Forest Way meeting is on Friday 17th February at 2pm.

Gail

Acorns 1

In Acorns 1 we have been working on our communication and interaction skills. Dylan is learning to exchange his photograph for snack crisps but he has to travel to find the adult with the photograph. Elliott is choosing his snack too.



Reuben enjoys playing with bubbles. He saw the bubbles on the table recognised them as being bubbles and brought them to Mollie to blow. He will choose an object of reference - flashing star with the photograph to indicate that he wants to go to a certain room, in this instance, the Moonlight room.



In Acorns 1 we have enjoyed our swimming term. The children have had the opportunity to go swimming. Some have experienced it with children from The Den. They are building up their water confidence, making friends and having fun.



Menphys iPad Project



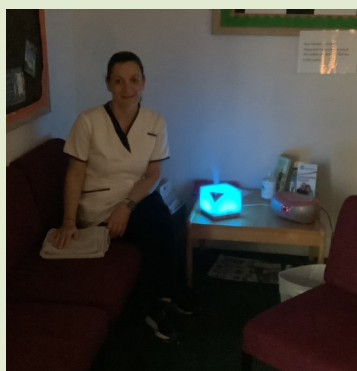
We need to say a huge thank you to The Randal Charitable Foundation and the Menphys charity for providing such a fantastic opportunity for our children with the iPad project. It has run for a year so far and has been a massive success because two of our students now have their own devices and more are on track to be getting a device of their own in the near future.



Aromatherapy

A lot of our students have been having sessions with Maria, our Aromatherapist. They enjoy the aromatherapy mist and the calm, dark room.

Each child gets to choose which treatment they would like by using pictures to choose from and a few of our students have found it so relaxing they have closed their eyes and nearly fallen asleep!



Acorns 2

Acorns 2 have been working so hard on their communication targets in school and at home. Well done Acorns 2! Jo



Music, Communication and Interaction

In Music, Communication and Interaction we have been learning about our emotions. We have listened to music with different emotions and responded to them with movement, mark making, facial expressions and by making our own sounds.

We have also really enjoyed making our own music using body percussion. We have explored the many different sounds our body makes and composed our own pieces of music as a group. This has meant that we have practiced our listening, turn-taking and expressing our opinions when deciding what sounds good together. These skills are important to make our compositions the best they can be.

Our sensory students have been enjoying Music, Communication and Interaction too. They have experienced opposites like high and low, up and down, loud and soft by listening to songs, using scarves and playing accessible instruments together. They have especially liked a song about a Jack in the box that makes them jump and laugh!



Bears at The Den



In The Den Bears class we have introduced a number of positive ways for the children to express, share and communicate, here are just a few which we have seen benefit the development of communication for the children whilst at school.

Daily Reflection At the end of each day, we have our daily reflection time, the children take turns choosing a question and answer based upon their time at school that day. It allows children the opportunity to share the highlights or any difficulties they have had that day, allowing time for discussion before they head home.

Golden Talkers At the end of the week, we have our 'Golden Talkers' time. A communication group set up and named by the class, they even created the rules which they remind one another of to support their listening and talking to one another. During this time we share 'something good' and 'something tricky' from the week for our certificate the children can take home. We then have a question of the week, this could be based on a particular topic or an area where the children can share their thoughts and ideas on something that occurred within the week. To end the session, it is 'Golden Share' where children share news or something they brought in from home with the rest of the group.



Self-Assessment After completing a piece of work, children can communicate how they felt about the activity by ticking the relevant face. This has provided a simple but effective way to share their feelings, allowing an opportunity for discussion between the child and teacher and to clarify any concerns or misunderstandings.



What is the most interesting thing you learned today?	What was your favourite part of school today?	What is something nice that someone did for you today?
What was the hardest thing you had to do today?	What are your goals for tomorrow?	Describe how your day went without using any words!



Badgers at The Den



Some of our pupils in the Badgers class, in The Den, enjoy aromatherapy sessions. We encourage pupils to make choices using symbols to guide the session. The pupils will choose whether they'd like their hands or feet massaging and then make choices about whether they would like 'more' massage or the massage to 'finish'.

Eye Gaze

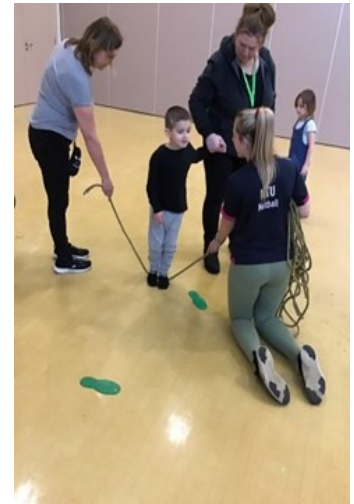


Annie has been using the eye gaze to aid communication for the last few years. Annie started playing cause and effect games to help make the connection between her eye movements and the device.

Once she realised that the game reacted with her gaze, she started selecting activities of her liking, and asking for more or finish. She has recently started using Symbol Talker A to communicate choices.

She is definitely enjoying our new eye-gaze device and so are our other children that are using it too!

Physical Education during the Spring Term



During the spring term some of our EYFS/KS1 students and engagement profile students have been participating in specialist PE lessons, based upon the national curriculum. These students have been focusing on dance and movement. The students have explored activities relating to clapping, jumping and stomping on the beat. The students have thrived in a PE specific environment and have all made outstanding progress.

During the spring term, students across the school have excelled at achieved during multiple sporting competitions. We had two KS2 boccia teams compete in the Leicestershire and Rutland boccia competitions, one team qualifying for the finals, where we won bronze.

The KS2 basketball team participated in a basketball tournament, where their achievements compared to last year have been phenomenal. They won half of their games against neighbouring primary schools and scored goals from the halfway line! The students chose to play a friendly game with another school at the end, socialising with other peers within the area. The KS3/4 football team, who continue to train weekly and participate in the SEND Midlands football league, recently played a friendly against Maplewell Hall School, losing narrowly 8-6. The students showed great teamwork and dedication throughout.



07 Sweet Cones



As part of our mini-enterprise lessons we have been making and selling Valentine's Sweet cones.

We all worked together as a team to make sure we chose the best tasting sweets for our cones. We did lots of research, looked at different designs and decided as a team which ones we were going to make. We took orders from staff and made 100 sweet cones. We sold them for £1.50 each.

O7 have been very busy fulfilling the orders and getting them delivered on time. We are already thinking about our next mini-enterprise adventure.

Important Dates

Friends of Forest Way Meeting	17th Feb 2023
February Half Term	20-24th Feb 2023
Easter Holiday	3rd-14th April 2023

Oaks 1

Oaks 1 would like to shout out one of the students in our class for beginning to make requests on their communication device. Tyler will now type words on his device to make requests for motivating items. He is improving his visual recall of words and has asked for slime, playdough and shapes. Amazing work Tyler!

Key Stage 3 are also looking forward to our visit to the farm at the end of this half term!

KS2 are Working on Engagement



The "Hedgehogs" KS2 ability group have been demonstrating great engagement in their learning, developing their communication and interaction skills.

They have been doing this through:

- Intensive interaction sessions
- Requesting colours during colour mixing in Maths
- Exploring self-care, learning how to care for our teeth in PSED
- Exploring solids and liquids using chocolate in science
- Exploring capacity—full and empty
- Exploring the cold in winter.

Post-16

Some students from Post-16 took their speaking and listening exam on the 17th January. This was the final part of the English Entry Level 1 tests. We are very proud of all of the students' efforts and have our fingers crossed for the results—but very proud either way!

In Oaks 10 and 11 we have been to the Warning Zone! This is an interactive and hands on trip in Leicester City Centre. Oaks 4 and 7 are visiting later in the school year. We experienced different scenarios so we can stay safe when out in the community. We used practical set ups to help us understand the dangers of a fire in the home, building sites, road safety, train lines, peer pressure and many more.

It was a great way to practically work through issues without getting into trouble! We learnt about e-safety in the afternoon and the dangers of communicating online alongside how to keep ourselves safe online generally. Really impressed with how the classes worked well and really got involved in all of the scenarios!





Forest Way Careers Champions



Become a Careers Champion and support our students' career 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.
- 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?

Work placements

- Can you offer work experience from a few hours to 5 day? (All students will be fully 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.

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