

# Alfreton Park School

## Christmas Newsletter



Happiness and Wellbeing at Our Roots

### Headteacher

We are so proud of all of our pupils this term!

We have had 18 beautiful new starters who have settled into Alfreton Park life very well and we have welcomed lots of lovely new staff members as well.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year - if anybody needs anything over the break, Emma and I will be checking our Dojo messages at points over the holiday and my work phone will be switched on most of the time.

If you have any immediate safeguarding concerns or you have any urgent worries about a child, please use the Call Derbyshire service on 01629 533190.

Merry Christmas everyone and thank you for your continued support,

Josie

### Deputy Headteacher

It's been the most special term in our incredible school, with lots of new pupils joining our Alfreton Park family. After the pandemic & so long in our teeny old school, it has been magical to host events again. We've played, we've performed & of course, we've partied!

Our pupils continue to amaze us each day, supported by our fabulous staff – there have been endless proud moments this term & we're thrilled to see our pupils progressing well in all areas. Some of my favourite moments have been seeing the pupils develop their love of music with Ed & Ruth, pupils moving freely on the rebound therapy trampoline, pupils gaining confidence on their work experience placements & speaking confidently about them, & classes cooking dinner for everybody – what a fabulous achievement!

Our lovely TA, Alison Drake retires at Christmas, and it's fair to say she will leave a huge hole. I've had the pleasure of working closely with Alison throughout my time at Alfreton Park & I will miss her knowledge, experience & support immensely. There are very few people who understand our pupils & their individual needs quite like Alison. Luckily for us, she would like to return to support in our Horticulture area & with class trips, so we will still see her in school from time to time. We wish you a long & happy retirement, Alison.

On a personal note, I'm feeling very lucky that my daughter will soon be a big sister. I will be going on maternity leave at Easter; Charlotte will be Deputy Head in my absence & I'll hopefully be back just before Christmas, 2023.

We can't wait to see what next year brings – here's hoping that 2023 brings you all love, luck & happiness.

Wishing you a truly wonderful Christmas,

Emma 🌟 🎁 🎄 🍷

### Assistant Headteachers

Wow! What a fantastic start we have had to the new academic year in our new school. We welcomed many new starters across different classes and they have settled in so well, it's like they have been part of the school family for years! We have been maximising all our new facilities to their full potential, the rebound therapy room, forest school area and cookery room just to name a few, which has allowed pupils to learn new skills and offer staff delicious lunches each week!

We have enjoyed lots of activities and events this term including 'Hello Yellow' day, Children in Need, Halloween disco and the two incredible harvest festival performances we shared with many of you. Other

classes have visited Lea Green, the Level Centre and participated in official Orienteering in Alfreton Park with volunteers from the Amber Valley Orienteering Society.

We are anticipating other exciting events in the form of the Christmas Carol concert and Christmas performances, before returning in spring to complete our first whole year in the new school!

Have a happy and safe Christmas holiday,

Charlotte & Marie

## Acorn

Acorn have had an amazing start to the school year. Everyone has settled in beautifully to the new class and have loved exploring all the amazing rooms and facilities we have in school. The music room, art room, rebound trampoline and sensory room have been particular favourites. We love our weekly swim sessions and the children's confidence in the pool has developed so much. The children have all also begun to form amazing relationships with their peers and the adults in class.

Our topics this term have been 'All about Me' and 'Celebrate with Me'. We have got stuck into lots of amazing activities around these topics including: sensory stories, sensory trays, senseology, attention autism, cookery, maths, phonics and the resonance boards. Everyone has shown fantastic development in their daily living skills and settling into the school routine such as: taking their plates up for washing up, helping to cut up their own dinner and tidying up after lessons.

We have been on two fabulous trips this term. We enjoyed an adventure packed day at Lea Green and loved going to see the animals (and Santa!) at Matlock Farm Park. It has also been a magical Christmas with lots of special activities including: The Beauty and The Beast Pantomime, the school Christmas Fayre, Elf Day a visit from Santa and the carol concert.

Well done Acorns - have a super Christmas with your families! All the Acorn team are excited to see you in the new year and see what fun things the new year will bring. 😊

## Apple

What a fabulous first term in apple class. We have enjoyed settling into our new classroom setting and building relationships with peers and staff.

We have explored two topics; 'all about me' and 'light and dark'. In our first topic, 'all about me', we enjoyed getting to know each other, learning about our five senses and recognising that we are all different.

As part of our recent topic, we have been learning about light and dark; exploring different light up resources whilst in light and dark environments. We have especially enjoyed stories about the topic and exploring with the torches. In maths, we have been learning and exploring with 2D shapes.

As well as this, we have been developing our communication skills, following instructions and our engagement throughout other lessons such as music, attention autism, horticulture, swimming and cooking. We have started visiting the community which has been a great success. Pupils have shown their ability to listen, to walk safely and to sit nicely during our café visits.

We had a great, adventurous time at Lea Green for our first-class trip, where we all enjoyed exploring a new environment. For our Christmas trip, we visited Matlock Farm Park, meeting the animals, exploring and taking part in the Christmas experience.



Have a lovely Christmas and we look forward to the new year in apple class.

Chanise, Bev, Louise, Amy, Jenny, Leah, Jenny & Emma

## **Willow**

What a fantastic year our little Willows have had so far. We are so proud of each and every one of our pupils and how much progress they have made over such a short period of time, everyone has settled so well into class and it is so nice to see all the smiles every morning. We have developed great relationships with staff and peers and it is beautiful to see the pupils interacting willingly.

We have been working so hard on our communication skills, using different communication aids which enable our pupils to express their wants, needs, emotions, likes and dislikes. This has also made a huge impact on our pupils' independence, making choices and expressing themselves.

We have loved spending time on our topic 'light and dark', exploring different light and dark objects, engaging in different sensory trays and focussing on finding and exploring different objects related to our topic. We have appreciated some super fun attention autism sessions. In maths we have explored 2D shapes and progressing to using shape sorters and in cookery we have been working on whisking different foods. We have loved our creative art sessions, working on our printing and sticking skills this term, as well as our one to one Thrive sessions, which are really important to us.

In swimming sessions this term, we have focussed on our floating skills, floating on our back with support to begin then becoming more and more independent each week. We have had lots of fun racing up and down the pool, exploring different floats and playing games.

Lea Green was an absolute blast again, and we are looking forward to our Christmas soft play trip. We have enjoyed going into the community and choosing our preferred snacks, working on our self-help skills and ordering our own food. We've also been walking through the woods and working on our road safety skills.

Thank you to all the parents for your continued support and communication. What a fantastic year so far, we can't wait to see you all continue to thrive and progress in school. Well done little Willows. Coming together is the beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success.

## **Ash**

What a wonderful time we have had in Ash class, everyone is now really settled, have developed some lovely friendships and are happy to learn.

In September, we started our Read, Write, Inc phonics which has excelled our reading, writing & understanding towards letters and words, everyone is doing so well with our daily practice. We also spent time working on our local geography skills, which included a visit to Watchorn Church. During science, we learnt about our body parts, linking to PE and developing our fundamental skills.

This term we have been learning about light & dark; exploring shadow puppets as well as reading books linked to the dark. This has allowed us to explore our feelings thinking about what we might be afraid of, as well as what makes us happy or sad. During numeracy we have explored a range of 2D shapes, creating our own pictures & exploring shapes within the environment.

We have enjoyed regular community visits, trips to the library, as well as a day at Lea Green and a Christmas trip to Chatsworth.

We have been working hard on our performances for the nativity & the carol concert. We hope you enjoy them.

We are extremely proud of each & every one of our pupils, you are all true superstars!

We would like to thank everyone for your continued support and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

From Ash Class

## Beech

Beech Class have had a fantastic term!

We loved our topic 'light and dark' and explored many activities relating to this, from shadows to festive lights and fireworks. We thoroughly enjoyed our swim sessions with Joe and gardening with Matt and Alison. We loved our trips and our time in the community, making friends along the way.

We have also focussed on independence, communication and friendships. Each and every one of the pupils has bloomed and found their way to communicate how they feel and found ways to make themselves feel better when they feel down.

We had so much fun with pool parties and learning through messy play that we had to create a picture wall so that we could remember all the fun things we've been getting up to! The Beech team are so proud of all of our pupils this term! Well done everyone! 😊

## Juniper

Juniper class have had a great start to the school year and have settled in with new peers and staff members perfectly. Juniper class love being creative and exploring through topics, art, music and forest school. Learning through interesting topics has allowed Juniper class to show us their understanding of the world around them – their knowledge and understanding has blown us all away!

Juniper pupils have worked so hard on their physical and move targets and had lots of fun whilst doing it, playing games, football and moving around school in their equipment. PE favourites have been table cricket and ball skills, they have worked as a team brilliantly and had such a lovely time. We have been swimming twice a week and working hard becoming more confident in the water.

Juniper class have spent lots of time working hard on their communication skills to be able to express themselves, make their wants and needs known and making choices. We are working on social skills by asking follow up questions and choosing how we want to spend our free time – pupils have particularly enjoyed rock club during golden time.

Well done Juniper class, you are all such amazing superstars and we can't wait to see how much progress you make over the school year!





## Larch

Larch class have had a wonderful Autumn term and we are very proud of the pupils' achievements. We have enjoyed learning a range of subjects and we have been working very hard. In Maths, as part of our geometry, we built 3D shapes using straws. In Science, we made paper lungs and inflated them. In History, we have explored the Viking era, in Art, we have been focussing on various printing techniques, and in Cookery, we have followed recipes whilst practicing our chopping skills. Swimming and Forest School have been a particular favourite, especially when a fire is made and the marshmallows are roasting!

Larch have been on a few exciting school trips this term. We visited Lea Green, where we challenged ourselves by having a go on the climbing wall. As part of our history topic, we visited the Derby Museum, where we explored the archaeology gallery looking at artefacts from prehistory. We visited Santa at the Snowdome and even had a snowball fight! We ended our term with a lovely pub lunch which was enjoyed by all.

## Sycamore

Sycamore continue to amaze us! This half term we have explored 'Light and dark'; we loved exploring the lights of the sensory room and our glow toys, making shadow puppets and we particularly enjoyed our shadow theatre.

We explored the art of Vincent Bal, 'Shadowology', and experimented using torches and candles to make shadows to draw. In Maths, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes, we have had loads of fun building towers with 3D shapes and had lots of fun at the Level centre, exploring the ARPS exhibit using 3D shapes to change the artwork.

We have had a great time doing the World Cup dough disco and pen disco, to get our hands ready for practising the correct formation of our letters. Sycamore love stories and each Monday we start with a story and finish every day with a book or vooks and now, in December, our storybook Advent calendar. In music, we have explored dynamics on the resonance boards and thought about how music makes us feel, we love 'Popcorn' as it makes us feel silly!

In our culture week, we looked at lots of different aspects of Scottish culture and were fabulous at designing a tartan kilt, making shortbread and learning about St. Andrew. We were so proud of our class assembly, all about the story of St. Andrew, and how brave everyone was talking in front of our friends.

Before lunch every day we practise our singing and signing to help our communication and we are developing some amazing talents. We have enjoyed our topic songs especially Moon River and the signed story Goodnight Moon.

Everyone enjoyed the panto, 'Beauty and the Beast' in school. We had the most incredible day for our Christmas trip to see The Snowman; all the pupils were so well behaved and it was lovely to see their excited faces watching the orchestra and film, and of course it wouldn't be a Sycamore trip without some lovely festive food. We would like to thank Alison for working with us this year and for all her help, we will really miss her but wish her all the best for the future.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year. 🎄🎅

## Holly

Holly class have had a fantastic start to the new school year. This first term has been full of excitement and learning in our new class.



We have been working on patterns in numeracy and art. We've enjoyed poetry and plays in literacy, where we enjoyed a range of sensory poems. In music, we've learned about classical music and instruments, we've also been listening to orchestras through time. We've been focussing on mental wellbeing and relationships in RSHE. We have got very messy in the lovely sensory trays and mud kitchens over the term.



Our enterprise has been a huge success this term, gaining so many new skills in cookery where we were making soup to sell for staff. We are so excited for our next adventure!

We have enjoyed a day at Lea Green where we went in the caves, soft play and did some orienteering, all the children were so engaged and had the best day! We have also enjoyed a trip to Watchorn church this term linking into our music and RE curriculum, The campanologist played the bells for our arrival, followed by the organ being played by organist, we then had a chance to play the organ and listen to the sound from the pipes. We were able to look around and ask many questions.



Everyone is working so hard - we hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and new year!

## Blossom

We've had a fabulous first term focussing on our topics, 'All about me' and 'Celebrate with me'. We've had a trip to Lea green and McArthur Glen with the hope of having more trips next term! We've had amazing sensory art sessions with Treg, the pupils had so much fun hence the messy clothes coming home -sorry. We've loved having Open the Book in school! the children have been immersed into sensory Bible stories, bringing great engagement and enjoyment. The pupils have worked super hard on their MOVE, Positive Looking and ILP targets over the last term. As I'm sure you will all agree you need the Christmas break to get your rest in ready for the new term in January. Enjoy the festive break and time with your lovely families.

Merry Christmas and have a happy healthy new year.

From all in Blossom Class



## Hazel

I cannot believe how quickly this term has flown by as we have been so busy learning and having lot of fun! Over the term, swimming has continued to be a favourite activity, along with visits to the local community. We'd like to say a special thank you to Bill, our fabulous School Governor, who supports us every week! 😊

At the start of every school year, working with different staff and peers can be difficult for many pupils, so we started the year off by getting to know each other. I am very proud to say that Hazel class have taken all of the changes in their stride! We used the story of "Crabby", about a very grumpy crab, to talk about feelings and enjoyed working together to make props.



We also used our creative skills in many other ways: in cookery we focussed on make snacks more independently, and this was reinforced back in the classroom; in art we explored sculpture using clay and in music we learnt about how music and sounds can be made by many different objects. During numeracy we started to look at counting, and during literacy we enjoyed different stories and early phonics skills.

Towards the end of the half term, we really enjoyed the Harvest celebrations and also had a fabulous time at Lea Green. Everyone bravely tried different experiences and we are looking forward to returning in the summer term!

During this half-term, we have been exploring the change in seasons and have been lucky to have had weekly Forest School sessions. A big thank you to Lesley and the Forest School team for making this happen!

We have been exploring tempo, pitch and timbre in music, and have been practising for our Christmas performances. During numeracy we have started to look at sorting objects into sets, and during literacy we have been developing our mark making skills with Dough Disco, Write Dance and fine motor activities.

As we approach Christmas, we have already enjoyed the Christmas Fayre and we are looking forward to visiting Santa's Workshop, carol concerts, Christmas dinner and our Christmas party! We are definitely going to be ready for a well-earned rest during the holidays!

I am incredibly proud of all the Hazel pupils, and there are so many proud moments and super stars each week!

Wishing you all a peaceful and restful festive break,

Victoria



## Oak

Oak class have had a great start to the school year. Everyone has worked so hard on their ILP's, independence and social skills. The student fobs have allowed pupils to be more independent around school.

We started the year with choosing our class school councillor, after some amazing speeches, Hannah was chosen to be Oak class representative with Codie as her deputy.



As part of our Equals English lessons on poetry, all pupils created their own harvest rap to perform for the harvest festival, all we can say is 'WOW!' Such great teamwork and enthusiasm from everyone.

Oak class also planned and created individual activities for classes for Children in Need, they picked classes to support and spent the morning having fun around school.

We spent a day at Lea Green, pupils excelled at orienteering, and showed what a caring bunch they really are, by working together and helping each other. We also explored Yorkshire Sculpture Park as part of our Arts award.

Work experience has been a huge success, spending time at Matlock Farm Park, Barnardo's and David Nieper library with Netty and Rich.

Oak class have also taken over 'sign of the day' for Josie, everyone is involved in the process, recording and demonstrating signs for everyone to learn.

For our enterprise project, we have been making Jacket potatoes for staff. This has been a huge success and as a result, everyone decided to treat themselves to a well-deserved Christmas meal at a local restaurant.

It's been such a busy, fun and productive term. We are so proud of you all. We hope you have a lovely Christmas break; you all deserve a good rest.

Clare, Amy, Katie, Jeni, Netty and Rich 🌲 🎅 🧑🏻 🎁



## Cherry

Cherry class have had a wonderful first term together, building some fantastic friendships and working on our independence.

We have enjoyed working hard during Cherry café and have tried out a few different roles, this was put on hold whilst we focussed on our Christmas enterprise projects but will be back in the new year!

We have had a focus on newspapers in our literacy this half term and have all impressed with either typing sentences or using colourful semantics to form them. Our 'Woof Times' newspaper features stories about Hugo and Rooney which we found very motivating.

We have had some fabulous art and music sessions with the help of Treg and Ed. Some pupils are also in the school choir and had a brilliant trip to Derbion to perform in the choir competition organised by Ed and Ruth, we were fantastic representatives of the school.

We really enjoyed Children in Need activities organised by Oak class. It was fantastic to see the teamwork of everyone working together to find the Pudsey bears that we had taken it in turns to hide.

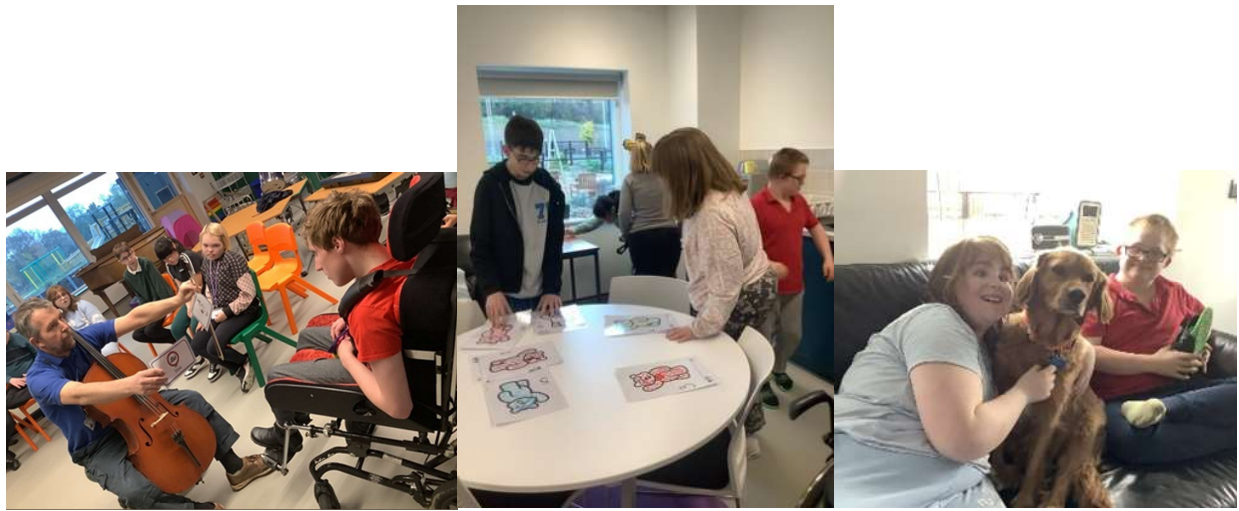
This half term we have had some lovely festive activities (and the appearance of the Elf!). We all really enjoyed the visiting Panto 'Beauty and the Beast'. We worked hard to make cards and sell toys for the Christmas Fayre and seeing Santa.

We have been working hard on practicing for the carol concert and in school performance, so we hope that everyone enjoys them.

Have a lovely Christmas!

Cherry class





## Chair of Governors

Apart from a lot of time and effort being put into defending the school's position on the proposed Solar Park (which we are pleased to say will not be going ahead), this has been a quieter period for the Governing Board. The school appears to be performing well under the auspices of Josie and her SLT, and the Governors have not been called upon often, or had to challenge frequently.

The Governors believe that the school has coped well with the rapid increase in pupil numbers and thank all the staff for their efforts, we do understand that it is not always easy.

As mentioned in the summer, we have now recruited 2 additional Governors – Susan Allen and Becky Wells – both of whom have many years' experience in SEND education and will hopefully spearhead our efforts in supporting the SLT in school improvement, and consequently with Ofsted inspections.

The whole Governing Board will continue to support the school as before, although the rest of this school year will probably be one of consolidation after the many changes of the last 2 years. We still have strategic aims but these will be 'slow-burners', rather than rapid changes.

On behalf of all the Governors, can I wish each and every one of you a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year, and perhaps in these difficult times to always consider those that are worse off than ourselves.

Happy Christmas,

John Glasby – Chair of Governors

## Family Support Team

As we approach the end of a very busy term that has been packed with so much fun and festivities for all, the family support team, Sharon and Jasmine, hop into the past and take a look at their achievements over the autumn term...

In September, we reached out to Mel Alexander from LDCAMHS and asked for a workshop for parents and carers around the topic 'sleep'. This proved useful to many parents / carers.

A few days later, Friends hosted a coffee morning in hopes that parents and carers would come along and join in with the family-feel that Alfreton Park provide. This was a huge success as we tucked into some delicious homemade flapjack, hot drinks, biscuits and conversed.

October was the month that Friends began their intense planning of the first Christmas fayre in school since covid! We have all shared excitement over this festive event and discussed ideas for internal and external stalls and how to bring the Christmas magic back to Alfreton Park's Christmas fayre! Many meetings were held to make sure the big day ran smoothly. We held a Halloween colouring competition which had a huge response and all children received a small prize.

We jumped straight into November after the holidays with a 'Benefits Advice' information session for parents and carers on ways to tackle the upcoming national living crisis and a Zones of Regulation workshop for parents the following week. On 23<sup>rd</sup> November, we hosted a Read, Write, Inc information session to support parents with their child's early reading and writing.

Sharon and Jasmine would like to thank all parents who turned up and expressed an interest in the information sessions this year. We know how important these sessions are for our parents. If anyone has any suggestions in the new year of information session topics, please inform us and we will try our hardest to facilitate!

As December has sneakily snuck upon us, we held the Christmas Fayre (at long last!) This was a huge success and we saw so many happy, smiling faces! Thank you to those who came – we can't wait for next year!

Throughout the months, after school club has been a huge success and we have had many fun times. We've created plenty of arts and crafts, watched films, had games nights and much more. After school club is a great way for our students to catch up outside of the classroom with no demands, to simply get to know one another and have a fun time – thank you to all of the pupils who attend and make our Wednesday super fun!

We wish you all the merriest of Christmases and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

## **School Business Manager**

Whilst we have been settling into our beautiful new building our thoughts have been never been far away from The Deer Shed. It may've seemed we've been a little quiet of late, but our ambitions to create a meaningful place for our pupils to develop life-long skills is still a top priority. For the past few months, we have been waiting to see what was going to happen with the Deer Shed building and we have now been informed that the old Deer Shed is going to be demolished in December of this year. This is great news!

The demolition of the existing structure means that, once we have raised enough money, we can build a facility which will really serve the needs of our pupils and of the local community. Our fundraising continues and we have recently been the recipients of a £3000 donation from the Alfreton Freemasons, for which we are incredibly grateful. It is only with the support of our wider Alfreton family and friends that we will be able to make this dream a reality.

## **Friends**

Friends were able to host our first proper event since covid and the move to the new school this term. The Christmas Fayre was a huge success, we can't thank all the pupils, parents, staff and families enough for their support with donations and attending the event on the day. It was amazing to see all our families together enjoying the atmosphere.

I can confirm we raised a whopping £1133.44 at the Christmas Fayre; this is just amazing. The friends committee and I can't thank you all enough.

The hamper raffle will be drawn on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December and that also currently stands at £491. Tickets will still be on sale until the morning of the draw.

The friends committee work tirelessly all year round to plan fun events and activities for the school. These events help raise vital funds to support extra-curricular activities like in-school performances and fun days.

We are always looking for new people to get involved either as a committee member or helping out at events. If you would like more information, please contact me at school.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you,

Toyah Ridgway (Treasurer) and the friends team



## Outdoor Learning Team

### Horticulture

We have had a busy term in the horticulture area, our produce has supplied Holly Class with veg for their enterprise soup.

The pupils have been busy making our enterprise for the Christmas fayre, bird boxes, Christmas signs etc. In partnership with work experience, the pupils have harvested and pickled beetroot as well as making tomato chutney.

On a sad note, Alison is retiring at Christmas. It will be a sad loss for the horticulture area but also for the school. There is no substitute for experience as they say and Alison had it in bucket loads.

Merry Christmas and see you in the new year.

Matt

### Forest School

We have been using our new Forest school area this term and the pupils have really enjoyed being back outside. They have been making sparks, using natural materials collected from our local woods to create collages, using the stepping stones and new resources to create potions.

In January, there will be new additions to the forest school area, which is very exciting. We have taken on a Forest school assessment framework so pupils can work through different Forest school elements and have their own passport to work through, which will start next term.

We look forward to lots more exciting Forest school sessions in the new year.

## Physical Therapy Team

### Swimming

Hi all,

I cannot believe it's already the time of year to be writing in the Christmas newsletter, where has this year gone?!

It's been a crazy year with the new school move but I must say everything seems to be working out nicely. Our pupils have adapted fantastically with the new system in place for getting to and from the pool. We are currently having more pupils than ever accessing the pool, which is fantastic. It makes our job so much easier seeing all the smiles on pupils faces whilst using the facility.

As I'm sure you may have noticed the adventure playground is developing nicely next to us and we are all excited for that to open in the near future. I'm starting to think pupils may prefer to head on the play equipment rather than come and see me!!

We continue to hire the pool to East Midlands Swim Academy on evenings and weekends and this provides valuable income to help us to run the pool. We also hire the pool out privately on a first come first served basis in the school holidays. The next holiday we will be open is February half term so please get in touch if you would like to book.

All that's left for me to say is that I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and New Year, and I will see you in 2023!

Take care,

Joe

**The Physical Team** continue to work closely with the physios and OTs, ensuring our students have the best possible opportunities to progress within their physical abilities.



We are sad to say that Georgina, one of our physios is leaving us for ventures new and will be greatly missed by our students and staff. However, on a positive note, we have a new OT, Selina, who has joined the team and who comes with years of experience in her role, so we welcome Selina to Alfreton Park.

**Rebound – ‘Physio on Rebound’** - We have been working closely with our physios and together have completed programmes for the trampoline. This has been a positive experience for our students who have been working on their exercises whilst being able to have fun. Some of our students have made such outstanding progress that they have already required updated programmes. Rebound sessions have been very successful and the students that access the therapy have not only enjoyed the sessions, but have also made great progress in a range of areas, including physical and communication.

**Physio** - We continue to complete physio programmes on the trampoline with some of our students with great results. We also complete physio programmes through PE sessions and within the class setting. Some students also receive physio within the therapy room, either 1:1 or 2:1.

**Physical Reviews** – These have been set up within school and have been working really well, with all involved viewing them as a positive step forward. Our physios, Emma and Georgina set up appointments for our students and then the team around the pupil are all invited to complete the assessment together and look at the progression the pupil has made. We believe that working together as a team, supporting each other helps everyone involved and gives everyone the opportunity to ask questions and contribute to the physio programme.

**MOVE** – Our students continue to work hard on their MOVE targets throughout the day during their daily timetable.

We are thrilled to announce we have won £500 Jiraffe vouchers for taking part in the ‘Dare to be’ category of the competition having been proudly nominated by other MOVE schools. Our recognition award is for supporting other schools and staff and for promoting good practice, so a huge well done, Alfreton Park.

**Moving and Handling** – If your child has a Moving and Handling plan, you will have already received this for you to look at and add any comments. School staff have received their update training and any staff new to school have completed full training in Moving and Handling. As ever, we continue to keep our staffs’ skills up to date.

**Seating Clinic** – We are always trying to look at new ways that we can support our families. We have contacted wheelchair services to see if they would consider holding seating clinics within the school setting as we understand that some of our parents / carers struggle to attend appointments. They have said that they would discuss this suggestion at their next meeting - we will keep you posted.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Thank you, Donna

## Sports Provision

We believe it's fair to say we have had an active first term back to school, which has involved many pupils from all classes wanting to get involved in different sports. We now have a football club on a Monday lunch time which has provided an opportunity for all pupils across the school to play, develop, watch and gain understanding of the game.

Alongside our football club, during enrichment time on a Friday afternoon we have begun a multi-sport club which has opened up the opportunity for different sports to be explored. This has included tennis, table tennis, dancing, dodgeball and basketball so far. Multi-sport club offers an opportunity for our pupils to choose what they would like to do and play. It seems dodgeball has become a very popular game, and many pupils have developed confidence, passion and understanding of the different sports listed above which is so wonderful to see.

We have witnessed so many new friendships blossom over the last term, and it has given the chance for pupils to work and play with others that might not already be in their class through a fun, active and inclusive environment.

We held a tennis tournament in our school sports hall, which was an amazing opportunity for some of our pupils. The word spread, and tennis was a choice of sport that our pupils wanted to do more of during multi-sport club. After a successful term of different sports clubs becoming a choice for our pupils, we are very much looking forward to the next one. Our pupils are always so excited to come along and suggest different skills and sports they would like to learn and play on a weekly basis.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. ❤️

Shannon and Lewis

## Music

There has been plenty going on in music this term as we build towards Christmas.

The choir have been particularly busy rehearsing for the Derbion Christmas choir competition, where we will be singing and signing for all the Christmas shoppers! We are also looking forward to Young Voices in February and are busy practicing already for that.

The orchestra piece this term has been Imagine by John Lennon. We have been blown away by the work the pupils have done on this, in particular some of our piano and keyboard players who have learned melodies and chords by ear or by reading colour scores. We have mostly been working in smaller groups and will begin to bring those groups together next term. Hopefully we will get to perform before too long.

Ukulele group is also going well. We have played along to lots of new songs and also some of our old favourites. We are hopeful that the ukulele group will perform as part of this year's school Christmas concert, so we are already practicing some Christmas songs!

Ed

## Art

The Art Room has been a hive of activity this term! We have done junk modelling, created pictures thinking of light and dark, some have looked at portraits and tried out different printing techniques.

All classes have been discovering different cultures; Scotland and Christianity this half term and Hindu and West Bengal last half term.

Larch and Oak class have been working in sketch books too, which is a great way for them to try out new styles and art ideas. They have been choosing to do this in their own free time so can take them to class with them.

Oak class have been working towards their Arts Award Explore a, d we went on a trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park, which we all loved.



Oak 'LOVE' Yorkshire Sculpture Park

There is a chance for everyone to win an Art Star award at the end of the week in our Achievers assembly so I'm looking forward to seeing what amazing creations happen next year!

Have a fabulous Christmas and a very happy new year.

Treg



Portraits



Monoprinting



Owls and Fireworks

## Thrive and Pupil Wellbeing

We started the year with a very busy Thrive room, supporting pupils' transitions into school and adjusting to new classes after a long summer break.

Pupils love their Thrive sessions and it definitely works. We have watched pupils grow in confidence and self-esteem, develop their coping skills, and increase their sense of security around school. We have also had some wonderful feedback from parents who have noticed improvements at home, and we are always happy to help with strategies and resources – just Dojo me or Treg if you would like any input from the Thrive team.

Pupils have enjoyed spending time with, and caring for, our guinea pigs, Violet and Ewie, and also our beautiful dogs, Rooney and Hugo.

Thrive Club on Friday afternoons is our favourite time of the week, and it's so lovely to see pupils from across the school who don't attend individual Thrive sessions.

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy Christmas,

Lynne and Treg





## Post-14 and Work Experience

We have had a great start to the school year in Post-14. We have continued with our work placements at Barnardo's, Enablement Ark, David Nieper and Matlock Farm Park. We have been able to offer these experiences out to a wider group of pupils this year and they have all absolutely thrived in these lovely working environments. It has been amazing to see our pupils showcasing their independent skills away from the classroom and they have really done themselves, and the school, proud.

In January we will be starting a new placement at Teversal Cafe. This is a great opportunity for a couple of Oak pupils to trial this new placement - and hopefully get lots of tips for when we can open the Deer Shed Cafe in the future.

We are also hoping that we will be starting another Supported Internship Programme in the new year. We are just waiting for confirmation as to where this will be so we can allocate pupils appropriately.

College applications are underway for those pupils who leave us at the end of this year and we will be organising some college visits for our year 12 and 13 pupils in the spring.

We have recently been appointed a new Enterprise Advisor who we will introduce to you in our next newsletter. We are hoping that she can help us build some more local business links so we can further extend our work-based skills.

Please get in touch with us if you have links with any potential companies who may be willing to offer our pupils some work experience.

Many thanks,

Amy and Jeanette

## Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read our Christmas newsletter. We wish you a wonderful, happy and healthy Christmas.

See you on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023. 😊