



## Alfreton Park Community Special School

LEARNING TOGETHER FOR PERSONAL SUCCESS

### NEWSLETTER-The Christmas Edition 2015

**Autumn Term** - School closes: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30

**Spring Term** - starts on: Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016

**Half term** - School closes: Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016 School re-opens: Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2016

**Easter Break** - School closes: Fri 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016 School opens: Mon 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**Inset Days** - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016

#### Letter from the Headteacher

Welcome to our newsletter.

The autumn term has flown by and the new pupils and staff have all settled in extremely well.

We have been pleased with the work that all the children are doing and they have enjoyed a whole range of exciting activities.

The work that Matt has been doing with groups of pupils is great to see and they are all contributing to make the school look great.

Heather has started her work as physio support TA this term and the pupils are really benefitting from the support that she is providing.

I take a real pleasure in seeing our young people grow in confidence and independence and can see many pupils really blossoming this term.

I hope you can all join us for the Christmas Fayre on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec (9.30-11) at School and for the Carol Service on Dec 17<sup>th</sup> at the Watchorn Church Alfreton.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

*Cheryl Smart*



#### Wheels on the Bus Appeal

Our school minibus is on its last legs and we have started fund raising for a new one.

A new bus is likely to cost around £35000 but we hope that if we can raise around £10000 -£15000 we will be able to obtain match funding to help us!

We would really appreciate any support in fund raising and have already received generous donations from the Coop distribution Depot, The Christian Centre and Slimming World.



## CLASS NEWS



### ACORN CLASS

What a busy term our little Acorns have had learning all about Polar animals where we had the opportunity to visit Yorkshire wildlife park to meet Victor and Pixel the polar bears! We then did some lovely handwriting all about our visit and created some masks of our favourite polar animals.

We then got stuck into preparing for Christmas by reading the Polar Express and also watched it on DVD. We are firm believers of all things good at Christmas time and have been trying very hard to be kind and respectful of one another. The children wrote to Father Christmas telling him all about how they helped each other in the Acorns class with hope that they remained on the good list this year.

We are very much looking forward to the Panto this year - 'Oh yes we are!' and The Snowman performance too! We are so lucky. The Acorns Elves have also been very busy planning and preparing what Christmas decorations they wanted to make for the Christmas fayre - which went down a treat with all of the customers that brought them.

Our super stars are all set for the church carol concert performance and are all excited to show off our fantastic Christmas jumpers on the last day.

This term we say goodbye to our Jo, who is going to 'go and buy a baby' as the Acorns think (if only it was as easy as that). We look forward to beginning our new year with the lovely Ruth, who will be taking the lead as the class teacher whilst Jo is away.

We hope you all have a very lovely Christmas time, full of love and sparkles.

Best wishes from the Acorn Team

Jo, Wendy, Michelle, Tracy, Belle and Angela.



### APPLE CLASS

Merry Christmas to one and all.

This term our topic has been the Polar Express, the pupils have thoroughly enjoyed role-playing being aboard the Polar Express, making train tracks in snow, hot chocolate and ice.

Making and drinking hot chocolate and exploring the North Pole.

Our trip this term will be to Whitepost farm to see a performance of the nativity, see Santa and help the elves in their workshop. Pictures will follow after the visit on the website.

Our carol concert song this year is 'This special night' which we will be performing at the Watchorn church on Thursday 17th December at 1.30pm.

We hope you all have a great Christmas and a happy new year.

Apple class



### ASH CLASS

Class 3 (Ash) have been celebrating Christmas by cooking our own Christmas dinner and making cards for our families. We have decorated snowmen and elves and then stuck our faces on them and even been to the Ashwood Inn with class 6 for a Christmas meal, it was beautiful! We also pulled crackers and wore a party hat while we ate it

To carry on the Christmas spirit we will keep making Christmas foods in our cooking lessons and decorating in our Art lessons. In RE we are looking at how we celebrate Christmas and starting to watch Christmas films! Only 20 sleeps til Santa comes!!

## BEECH CLASS

Ho Ho Hello from Beech Class!



We have had a wonderful start to the year, settling in beautifully and enjoying learning all about Africa in our first half term. We cooked African recipes in Design Technology working on our mixing, pouring and chopping skills, read and wrote African stories in Literacy working on our phoneme recognition, segmenting/blending and finger spaces, and found out all about the people of Africa through our Geography sessions.

Since half term, we have been thinking about the weather and we have been using ICT to create weather scene pictures, developing our mouse skills. We have also designed and made our own pair of slippers in Design Technology to keep our feet warm when the snow comes! This week we wrote our letters to Santa and we have already received some replies through video messages.

Merry Christmas, from Beech Class

## WILLOW CLASS

Hi Everyone

What a busy, fun and interesting two terms we have had in Willow (Class 5).



The first term we focused on learning about the country Bangladesh and had lots of sensory experiences including tasting Bangladeshi foods, listening to music and creating Bangladeshi arts. In our sensory story times the pupils 'travelled' to India on a magic carpet ride where we found ourselves in a vibrant market with lots of spices to smell and beautiful cloths to feel and we had to escape the evil Maharaja and travel through a vortex.

This term we have been learning about Victorian Life and one moment which stood out was watching the pupils devour ALL the smoked salmon we were using to create sandwiches for a Victorian tea party. Who knew that they all had expensive tastes?? We also turned the classroom into a Victorian school room and the pupils had to sit in rows and work on chalk boards. I'm not sure if they were scared or just thought Miss Lesley was funny when she put on her strict school mistress voice and told them to work harder.

To coincide with our topic we had a wonderful and very welcoming visit to Derby Museum and Art Gallery. We even got to touch and hold some stick insects with a curator Nigel, which had just arrived at the Museum. The Museum is packed full of all sort of interesting artefacts and exhibits and well worth a visit when you have a rainy day in Derby (or a snowy day!!)

We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jo, Lesley, Emma, Kelly, Emily, Jeanette, Lisa, Bev, Nikki, Lisa and Sue.

## LARCH CLASS



Wow, since September Larch class have been really busy, we had a great time team building at Skegness on our residential the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the term, which provided us with endless amounts of fun! After that we have been learning about countries and continents, from Europe to Africa, Asia, Australia, South America, North America and we are looking forward to our visit to the snowdome for Antarctica (We are all hoping for some real snow to truly explore our topic!).

Over the term we have really enjoyed developing lots of different skills including during P.E when Derbyshire County Cricket Club has helped us to improve our hand eye coordination,

batting, fielding and turn taking skills. During science we have been working on mixing substances to improve our knowledge of temperature, solid, liquids and gases. Numeracy has helped us to grasp the concept of patterns and Art has encouraged our painting skills. Well done to all our wonderful pupils who have worked extremely hard and continue to make us proud every day!

During the next few weeks we have lots of things to look forward to, the pantomime, Christmas fayre, the carol concert and of course wearing our Christmas jumper and eating Christmas dinner on the same day.

In the New Year we look forward to starting a new topic on Amazing Machines followed by Space.

Please remember to keep checking our section on the school website as we regularly update our page with lots of pictures and information.

Thank you all for your continued support

Larch Class would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Katie, Denise, Clare, Ann, Rebecca and Sue

### CHESTNUT CLASS



This term Chestnut Class (Class 7) have been learning about India in Geography we have enjoyed learning about the culture, the religions and loved trying lots of different foods from the country. In Literacy we have compared traditional tales with those written by Roald Dahl and have looked at the differences between them. In Maths, after successfully learning how to use a numberline to work out addition calculations, we have applied these skills to work out subtraction calculations and have done so very successfully. We have also been practising our money skills. In Science the students have been learning about electricity. They have learnt about how to use it safely and have been investigating circuits and have had the opportunity to make circuits using a bulb, a motor and a buzzer. We had great fun putting these circuits together and loved seeing the effect of electricity on these different components. As part of our Enterprise in DT, the students have been making pizzas and salad for sale to the staff and have learnt lots of new skills. In PE the students have been learning an Indian Bhangra dance routine and have enjoyed putting new movements together to the upbeat music. As well as dance, this term we have been swimming regularly on Monday and have loved horse riding on Tuesday mornings. On Wednesdays we have been very lucky to have music sessions with Kate who has started teaching us how to read different music notes as well as singing lots of great songs with us. We have had a full and varied curriculum this term and are looking forward to next term learning about The Indigenous People of North America and learning about Native Americans.

### OAK



It's been a fabulous first term in Oak Tree. We welcomed Sarah, Jacqs and Alison to our staff team, and Maitiu, Tim, Dominic and Simon to our class. Everybody has settled extremely well and we are very proud of them all. We recently introduced a new curriculum, 'Moving on'. As part of this, the students have been learning all about towns, villages and buildings, making items for the home, understanding emotions, positive relationships, planning for the future, using money and improving functional literacy and numeracy skills. Many of our students have been enjoying work experience each week. We are lucky to be supported by so many organisations within the local community, who allow our students

to represent the school in such a wonderful way each week. Thank you so much to Sue and Sharon for putting so much effort into the work experience scheme, we are all very grateful.

We have enjoyed participating in two coffee mornings, and we are proud to say that we won the Halloween Bake off. A great achievement for our students!

During our cookery sessions, we have recently been learning all about Indian food. The students have thoroughly enjoyed this and within three weeks several of them were able to independently make samosas. Through our community visits, many of our students have become independent shoppers, we will continue to build on this through our Independent Travel scheme next term.

We have enjoyed several trips out including a visit to Matlock, Meadowhall, The Christmas Markets in Sheffield and Portland College. The students have demonstrated their ability to transfer skills gained in the local community into the wider community; shopping independently at Meadowhall, finding their way at the Christmas Markets and asking for help from the appropriate people. WOW!



We are really excited to see what 2016 holds for us all. May we take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support, we truly appreciate it.

We wish you all a healthy, Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Best wishes,

Emma, Sarah, Amy, Debbie, Teresa, Matt, Alison, Jacqs, Anne, Katie, & Hilary x

### **School Council**

We have our new School council member elected and they will be meeting soon to discuss things they would like to do in school and things that could be done differently as well as plan activities and discuss issues that are important to them.

### **Friends of Alfreton Park**

The Friends have run a successful Bake Christmas Fayre. They help by raising support the pupils in school and are minibus.



off event and are busy organising the money for a range of equipment to raising funds towards the new

We would like to thank the small group of Friends for all their hard work and dedication. If you would like to join them, please contact Cheryl and she will pass on details of the next meeting, alternatively talk to them at the Christmas Fayre.

### **Swimming Pool**

Margaret continues to nurture the old pool to keep it running.

The sessions for Mums and Tots remain popular with a waiting list and we host Puddle Ducks, an independent club after school one night per week. Other users include Cheshire Homes, and Holbrook school.

However, the pool is used primarily by our pupils with class sessions focusing on cross-curricular activities such as science, literacy or numeracy in the pool as well as hydro therapy, relaxation, aqua-aerobic and of course swimming sessions.

We are really looking forward to having the new pool built.

### **After School Club**

Denise and her team are doing a fantastic job with the Out of School club every Tuesday night. The pupils all have an enjoyable, social time with a range of activities to suit all and particularly like their 'tea time' snack. If you are interested in your child attending please contact Denise via the school office. Sessions run from 3.30-5pm and parents are responsible for collecting their child at the end of the day.

### **Staff Changes**

Tracy, Claire, Annabelle and Emily have joined us as TAs, Sarah and Danielle as Teachers and Rebecca in the new post of School Business Manager.

Jo Gent will be taking maternity leave from January and Rebecca Dallman will be on maternity leave from February half term. We wish them both the very best and look forward to having them back.

Dee sadly left us at the beginning of December to start a new career in full-time fostering but is staying involved through the 'Friends' group.

### **Governors**

2015 has seen some significant changes in the make-up of our Governing Board, and many of you may not know personally a number of our current Governors. We have tried to bring in a cross-section of new skills to complement those Governors who have served the school so well over many years, and to ensure that our (your !!) children are provided for in the best environment that we can possibly achieve, in cooperation with the Local Authority.

For your information the current Board is made up in the following way :

- School staff Governors - Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, School Business Manager, Teaching Assistant.
- Non-staff Governors - 2 Parents of existing pupils, 1 Parent of a former pupil, 1 retired former Headteacher, 3 former Senior Managers from the Private Sector, 1 Local Authority appointed Governor.

All ably assisted by our Clerk who ensures that we comply with our legal requirements.

You will immediately notice that we now have a School Business Manager as part of our Senior Leadership Team, and she will be assisting Cheryl with some of the day to day general management and financial functions, which over the next few years are likely to become more onerous. We now have a good range of skills available, and we hope that this will lead to our school continuing to do its very best for the kids even in the face of a challenging financial future which will affect all schools.

Next year there will also be more disruption to normal school life as we at last (hopefully !!!!!) begin the construction of the new pool, and we have further plans to improve the schools facilities which the Governors are determined to push through as soon as possible.

You will also be pleased to hear that because many of us are new to being Governors we have robustly challenged the teaching staff to prove to us that we are delivering the best possible outcome for our (your!!) children, and we are already satisfied that the education, the welfare and safety, and the happiness of the children are all exemplary. We are also in the fortunate position of having many young staff members who are constantly striving to improve matters still further, and to make each day in school a "happy learning day" for the children.

Please feel free to contact us, through the school, if you ever need to bring anything to our attention that is important to you – we operate an open policy and welcome any input from parents.

On behalf of all the Governors may I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and hope that the New Year will bring at least part of all that you are hoping for !!

Best wishes to you all,  
John Glasby – Chair of Governors.

### **The Local Offer**

The Local Authority progress towards all our pupils having an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC) is making some slow progress. Please see the 'local offer' – see <http://www.derbyshiresendlocaloffer.org/> to investigate services available in your area, and how to access personal budgets.

### **100 Club**

The Christmas Draw will be taking place on before Christmas. If you would like to get involved. For your chance to win between £10 & £100, just send your £5 in before the 11<sup>th</sup> December and mark it FAO Joanne Palmer and you will be allocated a number.

Fund raised through the 100 club help to pay for fuel for the minibus to enable our pupils to take part in a range of trips.

*Joanne Palmer*

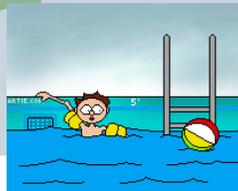
### **Superheroes Day**

We will be having a Superheroes day on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January and in the afternoon will be hosting an open afternoon. You are welcome to join us and see the new Sensory room. Please send your child in fancy dress on this day to join the fun.

### **Premises**

#### **Let's Raise the Roof**

The tender for the new pool will be work is due to begin early in the new completed by the autumn term.



awarded within the next week and year. The new pool should be

We are proud to announce that we have raised £57617 for the sensory equipment and finishing of the pool and will now be closing the fund raising for the pool. Thank you to everyone who has helped us in this project and especially Margaret who has worked so hard to help us reach this target. We look forward welcoming everyone to a grand opening next year!

### **Bingham House**

It is now apparent that the Bingham House building is not viable as a suitable building for the school and we are working with the Local Authority to redevelop the site to provide more outdoor space and classrooms. There are also plans to include the rebuilding of the brick 'Deer shed' building. I will keep you informed on progress.

### **Leave of Absence**

Please remember that the government have said that we should not be allowing holidays to be taken during term time and the local authority do have the right to fine parents who take their children out of school during term times.

### **Closure Procedure**

If the school closes due to adverse weather or mechanical breakdown, it will be published on the Derbyshire Count Council website and parents and transport staff will receive a text message as soon as possible. Please make sure the office have up to date mobile phone numbers so we can contact you.

If we need to close during the school day we contact the transport companies and all parents as soon as possible.

### **Bumps and Bruises**

Please let us know if your child has an accident or injury, a bump or bruise and we will try to do the same. We are obliged to report inconsistent or concerning bruises or marks directly to social services.

### **Ill Health and Antibiotics**

Please remember that school policy states that no pupils are allowed to return to school following being **sick** or having **diarrhoea** for **48 hours after the last time** they were sick or have a loose bowel movement.

It is very important that these policies are maintained to avoid cross infection. Many of our pupils have medical conditions which make them vulnerable to infection and the consequences of illness can be severe. Cross infection to staff means that we are unable to support the pupils due to them having to take time off. Please do not send your child in if they are not fit to be in school.

### **Medication**

Please can you make sure that you inform class staff of any medication given to your child, such as antibiotics or painkillers on the first day of the course of treatment, or if you have administered Buccal during the night or before school? We need this information to ensure we can monitor pupils and in case of any emergencies.

Medication can **only** be administered at school if we have a signed permission form, medicine is in original package with dispensing label and must be within dates of use.

### **Visits to medical professionals/ Change in medication**

Please write a note to let us know what the doctor and consultant have said so that we can keep up to date with your child's medical needs.

### **Absence from school**

Please ring directly to school on the first morning to let us know why your child is not in school.

**Return to school after a fracture, serious illness or operation** – we have a new form to complete from the county council before your child can return to school. The school nurse will complete this with you.

## School Meals



You may have noticed the school meal menu now includes many new dishes. The Catering Service is always grateful to receive any feedback you may have regarding the meals. Please e-mail [catering@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:catering@derbyshire.gov.uk) or telephone 01629 536704 to discuss any area of the school meal service.

## School Dinner Charges

A charge of £10.00 for primary age pupils and £11.75 for secondary age pupils per week is made for school meals.

## Free School Meals



Parents/carers may be eligible to claim free school meals. It's easy to apply; ask our office and we will provide you with an application form to complete, see the online form

[http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your\\_child\\_at\\_school/meals/school\\_meals/default.asp?VD=freeschoolmeals](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your_child_at_school/meals/school_meals/default.asp?VD=freeschoolmeals) , contact the Catering Service by e-mail [catering@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:catering@derbyshire.gov.uk) or telephone 01629 536704 and they will send you an application form.

On return of the completed form the local authority will contact you to advise on eligibility.

## Help

The school can claim a substantial sum of money called 'Pupil Premium' for an child eligible for free school meals, so please claim eligibility for free school meals even if you do not intend your child having the meal of if they are able to claim free meals for infants.

## School Accounts

All school account balances, School Fund, Friends, 100 Club, Comenius & Let's Raise the Roof are available from the school office if you wish to see them.



## Website

Please keep an eye on our school website and note that some information and forms are available to you online that may be useful such as parental permission to administer medication forms.

<http://www.alfretonpark.derbyshire.sch.uk/>



## Contact details

Tel: 01773 832019  
Fax: 01773 833227  
E-mail: [info@alfretonpark.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@alfretonpark.derbyshire.sch.uk)  
Head Teacher: *Cheryl Smart*  
Deputy Head: *Rhys Hancock*

School Business Manager: *Rebecca Dallman*  
Admin: *Angie Gadd, Angela Stapleton, Holly England*  
School Nurse: *Hannah Gregory*  
Chair of Governors: *John Glasby*  
Family Support: *Sharon Walker*

**DECEMBER 2015**

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	1	2	3	5
			Pantomime @ Mansfield Palace	
7	8	9	10	11
	Xmas Fayre			
14	15	16	17	18
Rotary Santa in School			Carol Concert 1.30pm	Xmas Dinner @ School & Xmas Jumper Day Pupils Break up at 1.30pm

**JANUARY 2016**

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
4	5	6	7	8
New Term Begins				
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
				Super Heroes Day
25	26	27	28	29

**FEBRUARY 2016**

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
16	17	18	19	20
Half Term				
23	24	25	26	27

**MARCH 2016**

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
29	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11

<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
				Good Friday
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	
Easter Monday	Easter Hols	Easter Hols	Easter Hols	Easter Hols

**APRIL 2016**

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				<b>1</b>
				Easter Hols
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Easter Hols				
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
				INSET DAY

**MAY 2016**

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
May day Bank Holiday				
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			
Spring Bank Holiday	Holiday			

**JUNE 2016**

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
		Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>

13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

**JULY 2016**

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29
	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday

New term begins 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016 - likely to be INSET day.