



Alfreton Park Community Special School
LEARNING TOGETHER FOR PERSONAL SUCCESS

NEWSLETTER-The Easter Edition 2016

Easter Break

School closes: Thursday 24th March 2016 - School opens: Monday 11th April 2016

Inset Days

Friday 29th April 2016

May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 2nd May 2016

Half-term Holiday

School closes: Friday 27th May at 3.30pm - School Opens: Monday 6th June 2016

Summer Holiday

School Closes Friday 22nd July at **1.30pm** until Tuesday 6th September 2016

(Monday 5th September will be an INSET day).

LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This term has been busy and productive in school. The pupils have continued to amaze and surprise me daily with their enthusiasm and capacity. We have seen lots of excellent work, many pupils are making fantastic progress in their reading writing, and number work – our WOW board is getting full of their brilliant work.

With several members of staff absent due to ill health we have all pulled together to ensure that the pupils' learning needs have been met. I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff who have worked tirelessly to make the pupils' learning enjoyable and effective.

Work on the new pool has started and despite the challenges that presents, the pupils have really enjoyed watching the construction work and the various machines involved.

We have had the usual range of exciting special activities including Lea Green visits, theatre performances, Super Heroes Day and World Book Day.

Other exciting changes for the school behind the scenes have seen us formally join the Federation of Derbyshire Special School, 4 Derbyshire Teaching School Alliance and Alfreton Nursery Teaching Schools Alliance. Joining these organisations means that we have more opportunities for collaborative working for pupil and staff. The impact will be increases in shared activities, improved staff training and recruitment, enhanced self-evaluation and more efficient purchasing of services and resources.

In light of recent government announcements these links will also put the school in a strong position when it comes to managing the move to becoming an academy. I will keep you informed of future plans as they become apparent.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter.

Cheryl Smart



WHEELS ON THE BUS APPEAL

We are continuing with the 'Wheels on the Bus Appeal' to raise fund for a new mini-bus and would welcome your support in organising fund raising events. We have applied for grants to support the appeal but have not had any positive responses so far.



EASTER EGG RAFFLE

The Easter Egg Raffle - drawn on Tuesday 22nd March –
Winners are posted on our website.

CLASS NEWS

ACORN CLASS

Acorn class have been amazing this term and we have really enjoyed our Journeys and Pirate topics! We travelled the world exploring different kinds of transport and legends and stories from different cultures, such as How the Kiwi lost its wings from New Zealand and the Fiddler of the Northern lights from Finland. For our exploration of China we had a fantastic trip to Derby Museum, the Chinese supermarket and a beautiful Chinese restaurant where the Acorns behaved brilliantly.

We loved being Pirates and enjoyed some really funny books from the library including, Pirates Love Underpants, The Pirate Cruncher and for World Book Week we looked at Peter Pan and Captain Hook. We have explored foods to keep Pirates healthy like celery planks, hummus islands and chocolate treasure chests to celebrate the bake off.

We have all been working hard on recognising and writing our names and hearing the phonic sounds that make up our names. Acorn class enjoy their time in the community and relish the challenges of eating out and shopping in Alfreton. All our Acorns have been learning the Stop, Look, Listen, Think song to remind us how to stay safe when walking in town.

We are looking forward to discovering some marvellous mini beasts in our topic next term!

APPLE CLASS

This term Apple class have been looking at Pirates and Easter.

We have followed a treasure map that we created to find hidden treasure, walked the plank and been involved in pirate sensory stories.

We have made pirate biscuits and explored the foods that stop us from getting scurvy, we all enjoyed the pineapple and oranges.

We had a great day at Lea Green where we all took part in accessing the obstacle course, we flew on the zip line like Peter Pan.

During the last week we are looking into Easter and taking part in the Easter Day celebration.

Next term we will be studying mini beasts.

Have a great Easter

ASH CLASS

Ash class have been very busy this term looking at shops and buildings. We went on a trip to Derby Cathedral to see this amazing building and created our own stain glass windows. We then walked around Derby town centre taking pictures of the buildings that we really liked, of course the children selected McDonalds!

For Chinese New Year we joined Beech class at the Lotus Lounge to sample some amazing Chinese food which we all really enjoyed! Again with Beech class we took a trip to Lea Green and the soft play there was very popular with the children and even the staff!

We have had a great term looking at buildings and have particularly enjoyed searching on google maps for our homes, going on trips to see and take pictures of buildings and we have loved cooking Easter foods and hearing about the Easter story, which was another of our terms topics. We cannot wait to sample some delicious chocolate Easter eggs!!

BEECH CLASS

Hello, Beech Class have been very busy this term learning all about buildings and shops. We looked at our houses on google street view, then modelled them using paper mache! We also wrote shopping lists and visited shops. At Chinese New Year, we had our lunch at the Lotus Lounge restaurant in Alfreton - it was delicious! We have also been learning about the Easter story in RE and ICT and baking different breads in Food Technology. We are looking forward to learning all about mini-beasts next half term! We hope you have a wonderful Easter.

WILLOW CLASS

This term Willow class have had a Pirate theme, we have been exploring this way, that way, forwards and backwards over the ocean waves, experiencing lots of pirate foods, doing pirate jobs and looking for pirate treasure 'Ooo...arrh'.

We enjoyed World Book Day with our story 'Pirates love underpants' searching for the amazing **pants of gold** and we had a pirate party with some new friends from Ashgate Croft Special School. We also enjoyed our visit to Lea Green where we searched for more treasure, read a sensory story in the woods and explored the amazing new soft play equipment.

This term has been eggstra special with lots of Spring and Easter activities in the classroom and out and about with an Easter egg hunt in the park during our bus trip to Matlock to finish with.

Sadly we will be saying goodbye to Emily who is off to new adventures, we wish her lots of luck for the future and after the Easter holidays Willow class will welcome our new teacher Josie and look forward to exciting new experiences.

Happy Easter from Willow class

LARCH CLASS

Larch class have been extremely busy since Christmas, our first topic was Amazing machines, learning about different forms of transport, electrical products and robots.

During P.E we explored different movements, shapes that we make with our body and how to do basic gymnastics rolls. Throughout cookery we used different machines to make doughnuts, angel delight and smoothies.

Science was exciting learning about habitats and making our very own worm house for class.

We even celebrated the Chinese New Year at the Lotus Lounge in Alfreton, it was delicious!

Our trip was to the Aerozone at East Midlands Airport which then led us nicely onto our next topic Space. During the first week back we had an adventure to the National Space Centre, where we visited the moon in a rocket (lift), sat in the planetarium and found out facts about the solar system.

We have made some paper mache planets, space ships and aliens during art and World Book Day, created a menu for Tim Peake throughout literacy and tasted dried space food during cookery.

We have also been to Lea Green developing our outdoor education; team building and self-help skills during orienteering and balancing the equilibrium.

Next term we look forward to learning out the Egyptians.

Enjoy the Easter holidays and don't eat too much chocolate.
Thank you to everyone for all your support.

CHESTNUT CLASS

Chestnut Class have had an exciting half term learning about Space! We have made paper mache moons and twirled around the playground pretending to be the earth, sun and moon! We then went on a lovely trip to the Space Centre at Leicester. We saw a rocket, watched a great 3D show at the planetarium and got to know a lot more about our topic. We have been lucky enough to go to Lea Green this term and it was great to see everyone having a go at all the activities. They especially loved the huge soft play area - we just wish we had one at school! Our topic this term has also been looking at great British landmarks such as Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace, Stonehenge and lots of other famous places. In order to see them up close we have been learning how to use Google Maps and we have loved zooming in and walking around each of the landmarks to see all around it. We even got to see our own homes! We have also started our Forest School sessions and the students have loved learning new forest skills and having a good sing-along around the camp fire. Next term we are looking forward to learning about famous Britains and we are going to try and grow our own food! So if you have any seeds for things we can eat or some old small plant pots we would love to have them! Have a fantastic holiday and Happy Easter.

OAK

It's been a super second term in Oak Tree. As you are aware, we have had a few changes but throughout it all the students have been stars and we are very proud of them all. We have welcomed Mark into Sixth form and are thrilled to say he has settled in beautifully.

We are really starting to get to grips with our new curriculum; the students have been learning all about different cultures, including celebrations in China. We had a lovely visit to the Lotus Lounge to complete our investigations. We have continued to work on our understanding of emotions, positive relationships, planning for the future, using money and improving functional literacy and numeracy skills. Independent travel has been a great success, the students have made wonderful progress!

We have all visited Lea Green and have really enjoyed ourselves. The new soft play is incredible. We all enjoyed testing our balancing skills on the equilibrium, building dens & exploring the obstacle course.

We are really excited for our final term this year! We have so much to look forward to including; Activity week, Prom, Sports day, College visits and much more. Please feel free to join us for any events!

A huge THANK YOU for continuing to support us, we really do appreciate it.

Most importantly, thank you to our amazing students for being our motivator each and every day.

Hope you all have a calm and happy Easter break.



WORLD BOOK DAY



A fantastic day was had by all when we celebrated World Book Day on Tuesday 1st March. The whole school took part and by 9.30 the hall was full of a whole host of characters. There were pirates, caterpillars, aliens, Horrid Henry, fairies - and even The Incredible Hulk made an appearance! The day was filled with activities from painting Alien's underpants to creating cosmic crafty goodies.



Thank you to everybody who participated and for the entries to the reading competition. Winners will be announced in the final assembly before the Easter holidays.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council meet regularly and have reported to the Governing Board this term. Members were elected by the pupils in the class to represent them through a vote that took place last term. Elected School Council members have their photographs on the notice board in school and on the schools website.

FRIENDS OF ALFRETON PARK

FRIENDS FEST

On **Monday 2nd May** the Friends of Alfreton Park are organising the '**Friends Fest**' at the **Out of Town at Ripley** with live music, raffle, BBQ, Tombola, Cake Stall, glitter tattoos and more. Please come along and support us. Funds will all go to support our pupils in school.

BISCUIT WRAPPERS

Please remember to send in your wrappers from any brand non-savoury biscuits or multi-pack wrappers – we can recycle them and get cash back from McVities!

SAINSBURYS VOUCHERS FOR SCHOOL



Please remember that until 3rd May the Sainsbury's voucher scheme will be running.

If you shop at a Sainsbury's Local you will get one voucher for every £5 you spend. These will be larger than the ones you get in Sainsbury's supermarkets. In the supermarkets you will get 1 voucher for every £10 spent and the vouchers will be printed on one piece of paper.

Please save your vouchers and send them in to school. Ask your neighbours and friends to help. There will be a collection box in the entrance hall at school. It would be appreciated if all vouchers could be in school by May 27th so that we can get them counted, posted and choose some equipment for school.

Thanking you in anticipation of a great response.

SWIMMING POOL

The Building work is going to schedule and completions date is 28th September 2016

The building Contractors, Henry Brothers, are working hard to ensure that we can run the school as normally as possible.

We will be adding regular updates on progress to the schools website.0



LET'S RAISE THE ROOF CELEBRATION EVENING.

There will be evening of celebration on Saturday 14th May at the South Wingfield Social Club to say thank you to everyone who helped our fundraising for the pool.

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

I am sorry to say that Teaching Assistants Laura Wilson and Emily Driver will be leaving us at Easter and we wish them well in their new adventures.

MATERNITY LEAVE

Kelly Chadderton will be taking maternity leave from the end of April.

Rebecca Dallman had a baby girl in February and Jo Gent had a baby boy in March.

We will be welcoming Toyah Ridgway back after Easter and Gail Kearsley is due to return in July.



CLASS CHANGES

After Easter Josie will be moving to teach in Willow Class and Amy will be stepping in to cover in Beech Class until Gail returns in July.

GOVERNORS

The relatively new Board of Governors is settling in well and becoming more confident in their ability to support the school staff in their day-to-day roles. Each Governor has taken an area of responsibility commensurate with their own expertise, and this will lead in time to a much more effective and decisive Board.

As everyone can see the new pool is now well underway – I am assured that it is ahead of schedule, although personally I think we are 3 years behind!!!! The Governors will now be involved in trying to bring forward the “Bingham House Project”, although in these times of austerity this will not be easy – watch this space!!!

As Governors we are naturally concerned about the potential loss of support for parents with regard to transportation of pupils to and from school. Two of our Governors are working alongside “Friends of the School” to protest to Derbyshire County Council, and the whole Board wish them well in their endeavours.

The Winter Term has been difficult for the school in terms of staff absenteeism. Accidents, illness and maternity leave have all contributed to extra pressure on those remaining “at their posts”, and the Governors would particularly like to thank Cheryl for being almost “Last Man Standing” from our Senior Leadership Team, and to all the staff who helped the school through a difficult time.

As I write this the sun is shining – hopefully Spring is here at last – and on behalf of the Governors may I wish you a Happy Easter and sunnier days !!!

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

Spring Draw winners

£50 – No.37 Denise Mitchell

£10 – No.13 Tracey Hobson

£10 – No.40 Carla Higgins

£10 – No.51 Rachel Owers-Jones

£10 – No.21 Paul Cross

£10 – No.27 Jenny Oldknow

PREMISES

As mentioned previously, work continues to progress with the building of the new hydrotherapy pool. The build is ‘on track’ and it is expected to be completed by the end of September. Some of the children featured in a ‘photo shoot’ which has appeared in the local newspapers recently along with an article to thank everyone involved in the fund-raising.

During the February half-term holiday. Willow and Larch classrooms, along with the adjacent toilets were painted and new flooring installed. This redecoration programme will continue during the Easter break with the main corridor, offices, the Nurse’s room and toilets being decorated - the flooring in the main entrance will also be replaced.

BINGHAM HOUSE

We are presently awaiting further information regarding our bid for new classrooms on the Bingham House site.

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 County 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 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 had 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.

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Please ensure that we have up to date emergency contact details including someone who can arrange for your child to be collected from school if they are taken ill during the school day.

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 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 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 , contact the Catering Service by e-mail 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 any 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

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

MARCH 2016

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
21	22	23	24	25
	Easter Bonnet Parade and Raffle		School Closes 3.30pm	Good Friday
28	29	30	31	
Easter Monday	<i>Easter Hols</i>	<i>Easter Hols</i>	<i>Easter Hols</i>	<i>Easter Hols</i>

APRIL 2016

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				1
				<i>Easter Hols</i>
4	5	6	7	8
<i>Easter Hols</i>	<i>Easter Hols</i>	<i>Easter Hols</i>	<i>Easter Hols</i>	<i>Easter Hols</i>
11	12	13	14	15
School Re-opens	Image Musical Theatre Performance in school			
18	19	20	21	22
	Dental Clinic in school			
25	26	27	28	29
				INSET DAY

MAY 2016

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
May Day Bank Holiday			Level Performance in School	
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
				School closes 3.30pm
30	31			
Bank Holiday	Holiday			

JUNE 2016

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		1	2	3
		Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
6	7	8	9	10
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
				School closes at 1.30pm to pupils
25	26	27	28	29
Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday

New term begins 6th Sept 2016
5th September - INSET day.