



Alfreton Park Community Special School

LEARNING TOGETHER FOR PERSONAL SUCCESS

NEWSLETTER-The Summer Edition 2016

Summer Holiday School closes: Friday 22nd July 2016
School opens: Tuesday 6th September 2016

October half-term School closes: Thursday 20th October 2016
School opens: Mon 31st October 2016

Christmas Holiday School closes: Tuesday 20th December 2016
School opens: Tuesday 3rd January 2017

Inset Days Monday 25th July 2016
Tuesday 26th July 2016

Monday 5th September 2016
Friday 21st October 2016



LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we approach the holiday period I would like to thank all our staff for the massive amount of work they have done this year, to ensure that all the pupils have fantastic learning opportunities and are so well cared for. I am sure you will agree that they go above and beyond expectations in supporting all of our wonderful pupils.

I am always really sad but proud at this time of year as I see the beautiful young people from Oak class move on to colleges. I have known most of them from being 4 or 5 years old, and seeing them develop into wonderful young adults is a real privilege. I would like to wish them all the very best and hope they will keep in touch in the future.

This year the school has continued to grow and develop and we are absolutely full to capacity. We continue to work with the Local Authority to ensure that the building develops to meet the needs of the pupils.

We have developed the staff team to include four middle leaders to lead on Communication, Physical Development, Personal and Social Development and Behaviour. This is helping us to focus on the important foundations that underlie all the other learning of our pupils.

We have been very pleased with Heather's work supporting physio across the school which has had a big positive impact. Additionally, next year we will be buying in extra Speech and Language Support and Tracy will be supporting pupils across the school in communication.

Well done to Teresa Hosie who has been awarded 'Learner of the Year' in the 'Star learner from Apprenticeship and Traineeship programmes' at the DCC Adult Learners' Week Festival of learning.

I hope you all have a good time over the summer and look forward to a new year where all the pupils and staff can continue to learn and develop together.

Cheryl Smart

CLASS NEWS

ACORN CLASS

Our amazing acorns have been super busy. Not only have we spent the last few weeks under the sea discovering all sorts of things about pufferfish and fish fingers, we enjoyed an awesome gymnastics day with some other schools where we balanced on the beam and played in the foam pit.



We all enjoyed cheese bread and a samba for our carnival on the 'Road to Rio' and learnt about the Paralympic competitors.

We showed how brave we are on our residential to Lea Green, by scrummaging through the jungle and flying round the Skyline.

We celebrated an Asian wedding complete with snacks and mendhi and we are looking forward to our trip to the Sea life centre next week before we all relax for the summer holidays.

I look forward to seeing you in September ready and refreshed to learn about some new friends.

APPLE CLASS

This term we have been looking at under the sea and the seaside. We have enjoyed many cross curricular activities that have involved finding fish in the water tray, exploring the rainbow fish in the swimming pool with our story umbrella as well as creating our own rainbow fish. We have also painted fish pictures with celery and fish fingers.



On the last week of term we hope to visit the Sea Life centre in Birmingham to bring our topic to life.

We have role-played going to the seaside with lots of sand and water making lots of tasty treats and creating beautiful beach scene pictures.

We took part in the whole school MOVE day which was themed on 'A Midsummers Night's Dream'. We created potions and forests, became fairies for the afternoon and joined in for the big dance outside, luckily the sun shone for us.

For our RE day we have had the open centre from Derby visit us to re-enact a Hindu wedding and food tasting. It was a great day and we joined together with Acorn and Willow class to share our experience.

We have also had two successful transition days where we met the new pupils who will be joining us in September and to also give our pupils moving to different classes the opportunity to meet new staff and peers.

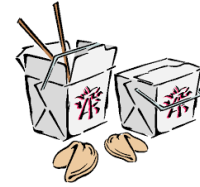
We hope you have a fantastic summer, make many memories and we shall see you in September.

ASH CLASS

Ash class have been on their Skegness residential this summer where they enjoyed the beach, theme park, aquarium and much more!

We also have a trip to Wheelgate to look forward to as we have been looking at traditional tales and Wheelgate is based on the story of Robin Hood. We will be enjoying the theme park and the outdoor water park which the children cannot wait to experience.

Ash class also love Chinese food so we are going to take a trip to the Lotus Lounge as our end of year treat.



Overall we have an amazing few weeks left together which we are all really looking forward to and Ash class staff would like to wish the children an amazing summer holiday!

BEECH CLASS

It has been a busy term for Beech Class. We have been working really hard learning about traditional stories in Literacy and making great progress with our reading and writing. In Science we have been doing experiments that have included whizzing balloons across the playground and making towers with marshmallows and spaghetti!!

We have been having great fun at horse-riding, even though some of us were a bit nervous at first we had a go at trotting and playing games on Millie.



We had a fantastic trip to the cinema to watch The Jungle Book. The film was amazing and all of the class had a great time, we were worn out by the time we got back to school after playing in the tunnels at McDonalds.

We had some special visitors in school from Watchorn Church to do some activities with us about why the Bible is a special book. We made some special Bible Binoculars to help us explore the Bible and had a great time singing and dancing to some new songs. We are really looking forward to having Jocelyn back in school in September to teach us some more songs and read stories with us.

We have been working really hard this term on our Makaton signs. We have been practising them in class and trying to use them throughout the week - ask us to show you some of them at home and practise them over the summer!

I have really enjoyed teaching in Beech Class. They made me so welcome and I was sad to leave them. I wish them the best of luck in their new classes in September and I look forward to hearing all their news when I see them on the playground.

Gail is now back from Maternity leave and is really enjoying finding out about all the great learning and fun that the pupils (and staff!) have been having whilst she has been off!!

So far since Gail has returned, we have attended Ashgate Croft American KS2 Games where we had a go at playing lots of different American games with pupils from Ashgate Croft School and Stubbin Wood School. We played well with the other pupils and worked well together as a team.

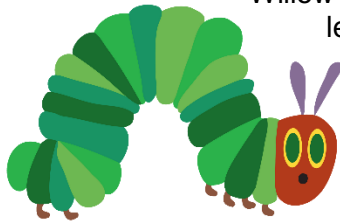


We have also enjoyed Sports Day which we had at the leisure centre this year. It was a great success and everyone took part and gave 100% effort and determination. It made the class staff very proud!

As a reward for all of Beech Class's hard work this year we have also been on a trip to Planet Happy where we had SO much fun and had lunch there as a special treat.

We hope that you all have a great summer and look forward to seeing you back in September.

WILLOW CLASS



Willow Class have had a wonderful summer term! We spent the first half learning all about mini-beasts and creepy crawlies, exploring books such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Superworm* and *What the Ladybird Heard*.

After half term we began our 'under the sea' topic which we have really enjoyed! We have created sensory ocean bags, collaged ocean boxes, explored shells and underwater creatures and used salt and foam during our mark-making sessions. Our favourite books have been *The Biggest Thing in the Ocean*, *Sharing a Shell* and *Commotion in the Ocean*.

It has been our turn for Forest Schools which has been wonderful and we have also been working hard on our fine and gross motor skills and had a very successful residential trip to Lea Green!

We all hope you have a wonderful summer holiday.

LARCH CLASS

We cannot believe how quick this academic year has gone, we are extremely proud of every pupil in larch class for the progress which they have made.

Since Easter we have been very busy learning about the Ancient Egyptians this has included visiting Derby museum, tasting Egyptian food, constructing the pyramids and writing in hieroglyphics.

Recently we have been learning about living things and keeping healthy, we have been able to visit Twycross zoo, learn about animals and their habitats, experience Olympic sports and discuss our likes and dislikes.

We have been lucky enough to visit Lea Green taking part in a sensory scavenger hunt, ride the buggies, participate and test our braveness on the skyline as well as using our directional knowledge during orienteering.

We wish all pupils moving into new classes the best of luck on their new adventures and look forward to welcoming new friends into larch class.

Many thanks for all your support over the year

CHESTNUT CLASS



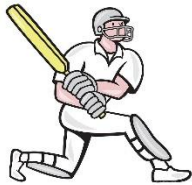
In the first half of this term Chestnut Class have been learning all about some great British people who have been inspirational. These included the Queen, Sir Winston Churchill, Princess Diana and Tanni Grey Thompson.

In Maths we learnt about comparing weight, consolidating our skills in money and improving our number skills.

In Literacy in this first term we concentrated on improving our phonics and sentence writing as well as learning more about some great British people.

In Science we learnt how to classify animals and mini beasts and we went on a lovely trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park.

In Art we got to try our hand at painting in the style of some great British artists such as; Lowry, William Morris and Damien Hurst. We then got to do a sculpture in clay in the style of Henry Moore.



In PE we got to have a go at playing cricket and in Music we tried our hand at following rhythms of our favourite songs using the drums. A full packed term.

In the second half of this term our topic has been learning about some truly inspirational people who have stood up for the rights of others such as Emmeline Pankurst, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King.

In Literacy we learnt a lot more about these inspirational people as well as improving our sentence structures, phonics and sharing our weekend news.

In Maths we have been measuring distance and height through a range of practical activities.

In Science we have learnt about and tried healthy foods and in PE we have been trying lots of different races and we all enjoyed the Sports Day.

In Music we have learnt about Bob Marley and his music and in RE we have been learning about different religions and how they worship and celebrate.

We will be saying 'goodbye' to a number of our classmates this year as they move up to 6th Form. Every Thursday morning they have been up to 6th Form to participate in their cookery sessions, which they have really enjoyed and are now excited about moving up.

We wish them all the best and look forward to welcoming a new group of students to our class in September.

OAK

Wow what a final term it's been. It seems to have flown but we must say it's been full of fun and happiness.

Our new curriculum is now in full swing and is proving to be a great success. We are incredibly proud of all of the students and the progress they have made this year. We've been

visiting colleges, working on our Independence skills and have been extremely busy preparing for the Leavers Prom.

Dom, Simon, Owen, Charlotte, Kyle and Luke had an amazing week sailing with Emma, Kaylie, Joe, Amanda, Charmaine and Jade, we visited lots of different places in the Isle of Wight and the students all worked really hard on the boat. Emma and Mark also had a brilliant residential at Lea Green, thank you to Willow Class for inviting us along.

We all had a fantastic activity week; we were lucky enough to go to play football and paddle in the pool in Matlock, explore all the rides at Drayton Manor, watch The Jungle Book at Derby Cinema, and have a Sports Day and a BBQ in the garden at school. The students behaved impeccably and thoroughly enjoyed the week.

It's with tears in our eyes that we say goodbye to Daniel, Callum, Clare, Joshua, Jordan, Luke, Charlotte and Jya. We wish them all well for their futures and hope they will all keep in touch.

A huge THANK YOU to all parents, carers and families for continuing to support us, we really do appreciate it.



And of course, the biggest THANK YOU must go to all the students in Sixth form for being such a delight to teach! You make every day unique.

OTHER NEWS

WORK EXPERIENCE

Sue Tunnicliffe has continued to support 10 of our students in work experience placements. We continue to receive outstanding praise from all the placements regarding our student's behaviour and attitude to work.

Barnardos Charity Shop in Alfreton awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to our pupils who access work experience there, which just shows how valued our students are!

Thank you to all students who have participated in work experience. You are a credit to our school.

FAMILY SUPPORT

There have been 2 parent/carer workshops this term:

Dea Ayling came into school to deliver a workshop on Personal Budgets and Person Centred Reviews, which was very informative and Josie held an On-line Safety Workshop to provide parents with valuable information around this very high profile topic. Thank you to both Josie and Dea.



Thursday 28th July will be our Family Summer Trip to Scarborough, this will be the 6th year that we have facilitated the summer trip and it is always a fantastic day....fingers crossed for some sun!

FRIENDS OF ALFRETON PARK

'Friends' have had a very busy few months!

On 2nd May we held our very first 'Friends Fest' at the Out of Town pub at Ripley. A fabulous and very busy day was had by all and we raised a huge £1400!!

Alfreton Golf Club has very kindly chosen us for their Charity of the Year and we have been working very closely with them in their fundraising events.

We have been chosen for Ripley Sainsbury's Charity of the year, how exciting!!

We have just published a Friends newsletter 'Friendly Post' which has all our news and informs you of what we do and how your children benefit from our fundraising. We always welcome new members, please contact Sharon for details.



A huge 'Thank you' to all 'Friends' members for all your hard work this year.

WHEELS ON THE BUS APPEAL

We are delighted to announce that The Sunshine Variety Club have committed to providing the school with a brand new adapted minibus. We now need to raise £20K in order to turn this commitment into a reality. We have been very fortunate to secure donations from a number of local businesses and we are grateful for the fantastic fundraising work of our dedicated volunteers from the local community.

However, we still have a long way to go and we are hoping that our fantastic parents will assist us with this. We now have a donations page on our Events/Wheels on the Bus section on our website we would be really grateful if you could send this link to as many of your friends, family, work colleagues, people you stand next to at the footy etc. You know how important our minibus is to your children so if we can get as many people to donate to the campaign the quicker we can get our new minibus!



POOL

As ever our pool is in great demand by both school and community, being used all the time to full capacity.

Pupils who access our pool have continued to achieve at all levels gaining skills, confidence and awards. Those pupils needing additional physio or sensory sessions have improved greatly and the benefits are clear to see. These improvements have been brought about by appointing Heather our physio assistant. Her input is invaluable, thank you to her for all the support she gives.

Community use of our pool is full, supporting 80 parent/toddler sessions, 10 adults with learning disabilities from Green Gables and Golding Grange and a number of pupils from Holbrook school. We currently have 23 parent/ toddler on our waiting list and on a weekly basis I receive phone calls regarding other groups wishing to use our facilities.

In the future? Our new pool is almost finished, ready once again to give numerous years' service and support to school and the community enabling all who use our pool facilities the opportunity to succeed, aspire and achieve.

NEW POOL

We are delighted with the progress that Henry Bros have been making with the new pool. It's looking like we will be ready to welcome our first swimmers in the second part of the autumn term. We will certainly keep you posted with any key dates.

OLD POOL CLOSURE

The old pool will close down at the end of summer term as we are unable to keep it open due to staffing issues. Unfortunately, this will mean that we do not have use of a pool onsite until the new pool is open. Offsite swimming lessons will continue at the Leisure Centre as usual.

GIFT AID AND SCHOOL TRIPS



Many thanks to those parents who have already sent back completed gift aid forms. Gift Aid could really make a difference to the school as it means that we can increase any donation made to the school by an additional 25%, so for every £10 donated we can claim £2.50. Any money that we can get back from the tax man will go towards the education of our children, so if you are eligible for gift aid we would be very grateful if you would complete the forms and send them back to the office.

In order to really maximise the amount of money we can claim back through Gift Aid we are going to introduce a slightly different way of organising the voluntary contributions for class trips. Instead of contributing for class trips as and when they are organised we would like to offer you the opportunity of giving an annual donation towards your child's class trips. You would have the option of breaking this donation down into terms or even half terms, if it's easier for you. If you have chosen to donate annually you will not be asked for any further contribution towards your child's class trips. Panto, residential and any other full school trips would be the only additional trips that we would ask you to contribute towards.

We hope that this will give you the benefit of being able to budget for your child's activities and the school will be able to claim Gift Aid back on these annual donations. You will still have the option of contributing for trips as and when they are arranged, but due to the Gift Aid rules we will not be able to claim back as the contribution is linked to a specific event. Teachers will be sending out letters with the suggested annual donation for their class once they are back in September.

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

We are sorry to say 'goodbye' to Diana O'Keeffe, Joe Corton, Dannielle Dyson, Lesley Burton and Lisa Crompton who are moving on and wish them well in their next ventures.



We welcome Edward Acons and Kelma McCarthy who will be starting with us in September as Teaching Assistants.

GOVERNORS

Over the past few months the Governors have been quietly re-organising the way in which we work, and each non-staff Governor is taking an area of responsibility commensurate with their own personal expertise. We hope that in this way we can support Cheryl and her staff in the best way possible, whilst ensuring that we challenge wherever appropriate, to provide “nothing but the best” for our kids.

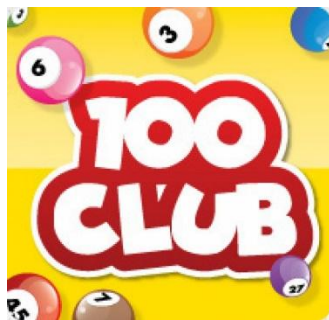
Governors have always met periodically with the school’s Senior Leadership Team which has enabled us to understand the needs of the staff, and helped us with long-term planning. We are extending this cooperation to enable the Governors to assist in the early stages of the annual School Improvement Plan, and also to meet regularly with the Middle Leadership Team so that we have a greater understanding of the requirements of staff at all levels. It is not our intention to meddle in the day-to-day operation of the school, we are satisfied that this is progressing well, but to facilitate wherever possible the needs of the staff and for us to be aware at an early stage of any substantial changes or investments necessary.

As you can all see the new pool continues to progress and will hopefully be up and running in the early autumn. We have also secured additional funding which will allow the footprint of the school to be increased substantially, demolish the old pool and hopefully to construct a new 6th form block – all this work should be in progress as soon as the new pool is completed.

Our School Business Manager has also secured the promise of help for a new minibus, as long as we can raise the additional funds ourselves – thanks to all the “Friends” who are helping to make this possible.

Finally, a word of thanks to Cheryl and her whole team who have been willing to work closely with the Governors, and to “patiently inform” them along the way into the mysteries of education and the special requirements that our kids need. As a group we are now much more confident and hopefully that will be reflected in the support we can give to the school.

On behalf of all the Governors may I wish you and your families a good summer, and plenty of sunshine – it will all begin again in September!!!! John Glasby – Chair of Governors.



100 CLUB

Summer Draw winners

£50- No 19- Carole Norman

£10- No 52- Theresa Higgs

£10- No 5- Suzanne Green

£10- No 45- Audrey Carline

£10- No 2- Jayne Clarke

£10- No 9- Tanya Dodson

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council meet regularly. Elected School Council members have their photographs on the notice board in school and on the schools website.

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 MEAL 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.

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.

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.

McARTHUR GLEN

Great news! Just as the long summer holidays approach McArthur Glen have announced the opening of a new Changing Places facility at their East Midlands Designer Outlet at South Normanton! This is fantastic and very welcome news for those of us who need these vital facilities.

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
Heads PA	Toyah Ridgway

Admin	Angie Gadd
	Angela Stapleton
	Holly England
School Nurse	Hannah Gregory
Chair of Governors	John Glasby
Family Support	Sharon Walker

Sept 2016

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
INSET DAY				
12	13	14	15	16
Skegness Resi Larch Class	Skegness Resi Larch Class	Skegness Resi Larch Class	Skegness Resi Larch Class	Skegness Resi Larch Class
19	20	21	22	23
		Friends Coffee Morning	School Photos Morris Men for Derbyshire Day	
26	27	28	29	30
				Parents Support Makaton Taster

Oct 2016

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
		Lea Green Resi Chestnut Class	Lea Green Resi Chestnut Class	Lea Green Resi Chestnut Class
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
				INSET DAY
24	25	26	27	28
Half Term	Half Term	Half Term	Half Term	Half Term
31				

Nov 2016

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

Dec 2016

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
Mansfield Panto C1-5		Mansfield Panto C7, 7 & 6 th Form	Carol Concert	
19	20	21	22	23
		Xmas Hols	Xmas Hols	Xmas Hols
26	27	28	29	30
Xmas Hols	Xmas Hols	Xmas Hols	Xmas Hols	Xmas Hols