



Forest Way School Newsletter

April 2024

A Word From Gail

Hi Everyone

I am pleased to share the latest newsletter with you, I am sure you will enjoy reading about the range of activities that our pupils are accessing.

Please see the key dates for the Summer Term. We will be holding a Parent's Evening on the 15th May 2024 to give you a further opportunity to meet with your son/daughter's class staff.

We are currently thinking about the classes and transition for the next academic year. We will consider carefully how to maintain peer groups and staff stability within the new classes. We have 2 transition days planned on the 20th/21st June.

We have different events planned for the Summer Term including Sports Days and a Family Social so I hope for good weather and look forward to seeing you there.

Please get in touch if you want to discuss anything, either via the office or using the parent support email.

Best wishes

Gail

Chief Scout's Gold Award



A big congratulations to Thomas Stacey for being awarded the Chief Scouts' Gold Award.

'I had to do a walk around the monastery and Blackbrook Reservoir near the quarry. I also did a walk around the Aquatics Centre. I had to camp outside in a tent over the weekend and went home on Wednesday. I had to plan the route for it too. I found it easy at times and also hard. The long walk was hard. The best bit was staying over.'

As part of his award, Thomas had to complete 9 challenge badges and 8 staged activity badges across levels 1,2 and 3. He also completed an 8-hour expedition which included an overnight camp at Staunton Harold and hikes using maps and compasses. He enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities which included using axes and saws. Thomas' award was presented to him by Bijal Bhagwan, the county commissioner.

Well done!

Supertato—Acorns 1 and the Badgers



Listening to the story with our superhero masks



Making a Supertato with a mallet



Making a Supertato with a mallet

Diary Dates

Monday, 6th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Wednesday, 15th May, 4-6.30pm	Parents' evening
Monday, 27th — Friday, 31st May	Half-term break
Monday, 3rd — Friday, 7th June	Sports Day Week— we will let you know shortly which day and time to attend to support your child
Thursday, 27th June, 6-7.30pm	Family social evening—all welcome
Tuesday, 2nd July, 6-7.30pm	Post-16 only leavers event—parents of Post-16 pupils welcome
Tuesday, 9th July	School closes for the Summer holiday

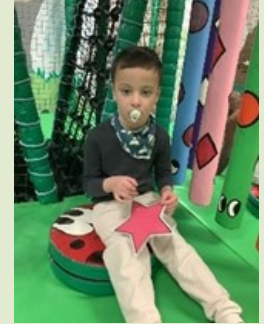
Acorns 1

It's been a busy term for Acorns 1. Our topics of Transport and Watch Us Grow have involved the children in learning new vocabulary associated with the topics and having hands on experience to become budding gardeners.



Planting broad beans.

It was lovely to celebrate Ambition and Achievement Day by looking for stars in soft play and engaging in our favourite activities. We finished the day with a presentation of certificates recognising the children's progress throughout the term. Well done Acorns 1.



Finding stars.

We celebrated World Book Day by focusing on the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. The children enjoyed creating pictures and planting broad beans ready to be part of our door display.



Sharing a book.



Receiving certificates.



Recognising himself.

Wheels for All

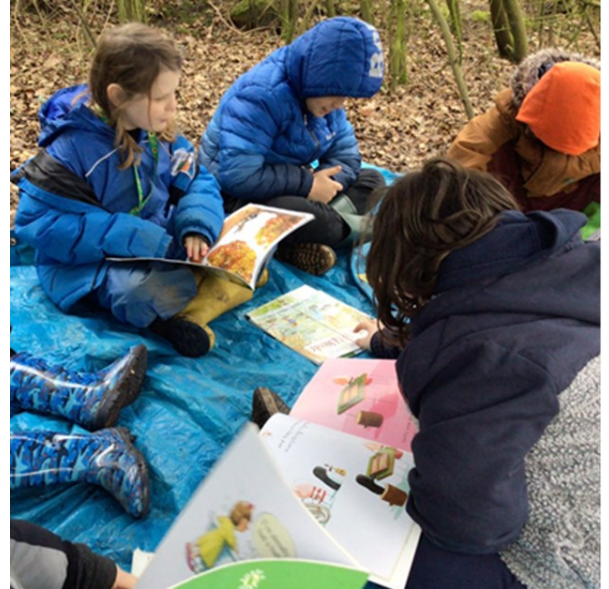
Key-stage 2 Hedgehogs enjoyed getting on the bikes during a Wheels for All session. They all had great fun and loved having the opportunity to have a go on some adapted bicycles.



The Bears

For World Book Day, instead of being in the classroom we took our reading outdoors, an opportunity to let the children see how we can continue to learn beyond the classroom.

We took part in various activities including making a giant Aslan from our favourite class story this term: 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe'. The class then worked together to build a reading den which, after having a go at fire lighting and eating their snack, they sat inside for a quiet read.



Attendance

Attendance so far this academic year has been 91.6%. As an outstanding school, we have high expectations for all our students and our aspirations extend to levels of attendance.

The school day at Forest Way begins at **8.50am** with a registration period until 9.25am. Lessons begin promptly at **9.30am**. The school day ends at **3.20pm** and the latest time to collect your child is **3.40pm**, as the majority of staff leave or go into training at 3.45pm. For students who find transition difficult, arriving late can cause more anxiety if they do not have time in their class before moving on to their first lesson.

We work hard to provide an exciting and stimulating curriculum, and attendance is crucial for full access of this curriculum.



PE at Forest Way

In EYFS/KS1 this term, students have been developing their fundamental movement skills in a range of different contexts! Students have been improving their balance, speed and co-ordination!



In KS2 this term in PE, many groups have been learning and practising a wide range of different dance styles! From line dancing and country dancing, to Minecraft style dances! The students did brilliantly to perform their routines to others.

In KS3/KS4 this term, students have been exploring invasion games within PE. Many students have been learning a new, upcoming sport, Kin-Ball! They all did a fantastic job engaging in a new sport and learning new skills.



In post-16 this term, some groups have been going to the gym.

World Book Day

World Book Day is always a big event at Forest Way School - this year we may have outdone ourselves! All classes took part in decorating their door in the theme of a book, chosen by the class or group of staff. The English team ran a competition and classes voted for their favourite door. Some of our students and staff took the opportunity to dress up and spread some joy around school. Huge congratulations to our winners: Acorns 10 and Oaks 2!



Oaks 1 and Oaks 3—Walk to the Shop

This half term in Oaks 1 and 3 we went out for a walk to the local shop. To develop their life skills and independence, students took £1 to spend in the shop. We had to carefully consider budgeting to see what we could afford to buy. Students also worked on money addition and exchange. Not only this, but we also had to think about our road safety skills. We worked on looking both ways before we crossed the road and continuing to do this as we walked. All the students were amazing, and we were super proud of them all.



Oaks 2

Oaks 2 have had a very busy half term. We have had two sessions for the Wheels for All bikes and enjoyed Forest Schools. We've enjoyed using the Wheels for All bikes that are accessible for all pupils. In Forest Schools we thought about team building and played lots of team building games. Well done Oaks 2 - you have worked very hard this half term. We also took part in World Book Day in where we focused on Charlie and The Chocolate Factory and we won the Forest Way door competition. We are so proud!



Oaks 4—Pizza Express

In February, Oaks 4 went on a trip to Pizza Express where they all became 'Pizzaiolos' and created their own pizzas. They were all engaged and very polite throughout, asking the staff questions, learning about the history of Pizza Express and creating a fantastic Margherita pizza!



Chicks

This half term, as part of the Science curriculum, we had the living eggs back at school. Students learnt all about the life cycle from firsthand observations. Classes were able to book the eggs in week one to see how chickens begin their life. In week two we watched how the chicks grew and began to develop their feathers. Some students were even lucky enough to see the chicks hatch!



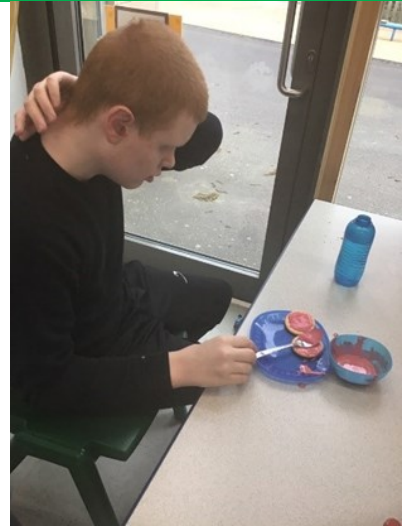
Oaks 6

Oaks 6 have been super busy this spring term. We really enjoyed celebrating World Book Day 24 with Alice in Wonderland; the day could not be complete unless we role played the Mad Hatter Tea party. We are so proud of everyone sitting around the table socializing and communicating excellently for their food.

This term our topic has been Conservation. In Humanities we have been studying Darwin and the Eco System. Students have really enjoyed hands on learning and being able to explore and engage with the sensory trays that have been created. In Art we have been painting, printing and creating 3D flowers influenced by famous artists. We have also had the opportunity to enjoy Wheels for All.



Oaks 8



Oaks 8 have had fun having a go on different bikes including wheelchair bikes when the Wheels for All charity came to school. Some students went to a PMLD festival at Ashmount school with a 'Lions of Legend' theme and they had great fun meeting a big lion, some parrots, and exploring lots of wonderful sensory activities. In school we have all continued to work on developing our life skills with some students being able to show off lots of skills that they can now do independently after working hard with support. We have also loved engaging with our sensory story about the journey of a plastic bag and thinking about how we can help the environment.



Oaks 9

Oaks 9 have been practising their functional maths and communication skills by visiting Morrisons café. The pupils have enjoyed purchasing their own drinks and snacks and using their communication aids to communicate with Morrisons staff.



STEM Day

This half term Forest Way took part in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) day. We worked on improving our skills in problem solving, design and creativity. Classes were all given a brief to create a bridge to hold as much weight as possible and had loads of fun exploring this. We learned about different types of bridges, and this gave us the knowledge to create structures that would be the strongest. Some classes even created a bridge to hold a person!

