



Newsletter

Summer Term 1 2026

Diary Dates

Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May	Half Term Break
Monday 1 June	School Opens for Summer Term 2 2026
Monday 1 June— Wednesday 3 June	Year 9 Lea Green Residential
Monday 22 June— Friday 26 June	Sports Day Week. (Key Stage dates to be confirmed)
Thursday 2 July and Friday 3 July	Class Transition Days
Tuesday 7 July 3.20pm	Last day before the start of the Summer Holi- days
Monday 24 August 8:50am	School Opens for Autumn Term 2026
Monday 31 August	Bank Holiday

A Word From Mark & Sarah

Welcome to our latest newsletter. As we approach the end of the half-term break, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to all of you. Your incredible support, energy, and engagement are what make Forest Way such a vibrant, caring, and successful community. Whether you are attending parents' evenings, Friends & Family of Forest Way events or sharing your feedback, you are a vital part of the Forest Way family.

Your voice matters, and this half-term has been a fantastic example of collaboration in action:

Shaping our RSHE Policy: A huge thank you to everyone who engaged with and provided valuable feedback on our new Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) policy. Your insights were incredibly helpful in shaping the final document, which is now heading to our trustees for ratification.

Parents' Evening Success: It was wonderful to see so many of you at our recent parents' evening. Sharing the incredible progress your children have made this year is always a highlight for our staff, and the conversations we had were invaluable.

Listening to Your Feedback: You told us you would like more information regarding transitions as our young people move from one year group to the next. We have listened. We are currently creating detailed information booklets to help us work together to prepare our young people for their new classes. Look out for these right after the half-term break.

Thank you once again for your unwavering partnership and support. We hope you have all had a wonderful, restful half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming our amazing young people back on Monday.

Parents and Carers Makaton

Makaton is a fantastic communication method that can support our students, including in expressing themselves effectively.

We held both evening and morning Makaton sessions, each over 5 weeks and these were well received. Our parents and carers learnt Stages 1,2 and Additional Vocabulary Part A. Thank you to those who attended these sessions, it was lovely to work with you and see the progress you made each week.

The training will help parents, carers and staff work together to enhance the communication skills of your children and young adults. Jo Rayns.



Acorns 2 - Caring for the Environment

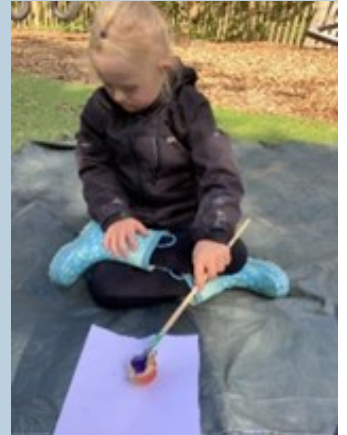
The children in Acorns 2 have been delighted to return to their Forest School sessions with Wendy, our Forest School practitioner. It continues to be one of their favourite learning environments! The children love being outdoors, enjoying the freedom and space to explore their surroundings and learn through nature.

During their recent visit to the woodlands, the children explored print painting using natural materials. They experimented with potatoes, apples, and even cauliflower to create interesting patterns and discover the different effects each one produced. It was fantastic to see their creativity in action!

The group also enjoyed a woodland walk, where they carefully observed the environment, looking out for flowers and listening for birds along the way.

As part of their R.E. learning, the children have been exploring the important theme of caring for animals. They had a very special opportunity to meet a real tortoise named *Speedy*.

Each child had the chance to gently touch *Speedy* and watch him enjoying his favourite snack—lettuce! This hands-on experience helped the children understand how to care for animals with kindness and respect.

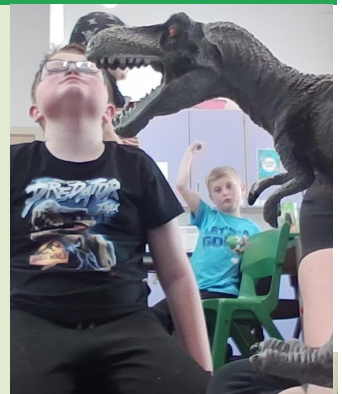


Acorns 8 - A Trip Down the Rabbit Hole

Acorns 8 have had an adventurous term exploring *Alice in Wonderland*, creating imaginative story versions—from Sonic racing down a waterfall to the Queen playing tennis with a breakfast sandwich. In Maths, they enjoyed hands-on learning, comparing measures and presenting data using pictograms.

In R.E., they explored different celebrations, including a fun Mad Hatter tea party. Science focused on plants, with visits to the sensory garden to observe growth. In P.E., the children made great progress in athletics and swimming, gaining confidence and skills.

In History, they learned about the Vikings, creating and testing their own shields—ready for adventure!



Our Egg-citing Chick Adventure!

As part of recent science learning, chicks were brought into classrooms to support exploration of life cycles. Pupils experienced the journey from eggs to hatching, with some watching as the chicks made their first appearance. Over the following days, the chicks grew stronger and more active, offering valuable opportunities for close observation and gentle interaction. This experience supported understanding of growth and change while encouraging curiosity, shared engagement and communication. A truly egg-citing experience for all!



A Magical Theatre Experience

Our school hall was transformed into a theatre as we welcomed the talented performers from M&M Productions for a very special treat. The children were captivated by the vibrant production of the classic tale, *The Secret Garden*. Whether students enjoyed the show from their classrooms or joined the audience in the hall to see the action up close, the energy across the school was truly brilliant. We want to give a huge well done to all our pupils for their exemplary behaviour. You all demonstrated incredible focus and shared attention throughout the performance



Oaks 1 Visit to Conkers

On Wednesday 13th May, Oaks 1 had a fantastic visit to Conkers! They had great fun exploring the sensory lights and interactive games indoors, before enjoying an exciting 4D cinema experience. After lunch in the café, the children rode the Conker Choo and went for a lovely walk when the sunshine finally appeared.

All the students were amazing—they listened carefully to their teachers, stayed together, and kept safe throughout the day. Well done, Oaks 1!



Oaks 3 Visit to Morrisons Cafe

Oaks 3 had a fantastic trip to Morrisons café last week! The students showed great independence, putting their skills into practice—from waiting patiently for the bus to taking turns and using money to buy their own snacks and drinks.

There were lots of smiles and excitement as everyone enjoyed their treats and shared the experience together in the community. What a wonderful way to showcase all the skills they have been developing in the classroom—well done, Oaks 3!



International Dance Day Celebrations

Our Student Council has been incredibly busy lately, leading the way for our fantastic International Dance Day which was held on Wednesday 29th April! After the whole school voted for the event, the Council took charge of the planning, deciding how the day would run and ensuring every class had the information they needed. Their hard work included designing a special commemorative colouring poster and creating an informative PowerPoint presentation that was shared across the school to get everyone excited.

Throughout the day, classes explored dances from many different cultures by watching videos and trying out new moves in their own way. A highlight of the morning was when our Headteacher, Gale, invited classes to the playground to learn some basic steps and perform a large collective dance together, which brought out so many smiles. To finish the celebrations, the Student Council supported a whole-school assembly where every class joined in via Teams to dance together to the "YMCA." It was a brilliant day of movement and school spirit!



Interview with Riley Patterson

Riley, what competition did you take part in at the weekend?

The Special Olympics Championship Leicester 2026.

What did you win?

I won three gold for pommel horse, three silvers for rings, parallel bars and overall and a bronze for pommel horse.

How long have you been doing gymnastics?

I started when I was about 4 years old. 14 years.

How often do you train?

I train every Saturday and Sunday in Leicester.

What is your favourite piece of apparatus?

The parallel bars because it's my favourite.

Have you got any more competitions coming up?

Yes, I have. 1 is Waverley, 1 is Birmingham, 1 in the summer with my club and the Special Olympics in September.

What do you enjoy about gymnastics?

I like gymnastics because it's my favourite sports to do and it's the best one in the world.



Post 16 Work Experience

We currently have a few students from Forest Way completing work experience and learning skills to prepare them for the future.

We have two Post 16 students going to Beaumont Leys each Tuesday and working alongside a former student from Forest Way who now works there full time. This is a great example of where these opportunities can lead. This work experience involves helping with maintenance of the shopping centre and has varied jobs including litter picking, sweeping and crushing cardboard in the compactor. The students have learned about Health and Safety in the workplace and are fully equipped with uniform and PPE. Elliot, one of the student, explains

“I am gaining confidence, speaking to new people and getting a real taste of working life. It’s been great and I really enjoy doing something different and learning these skills.

Another two students have recently started going to Caterpillar in Desford each week on a Wednesday. These students have also learnt about health and safety in the workplace and have already completed tasks based on the real work completed there. The student have shown maturity and understanding of the necessary skills and attitude to working life.

Well done to all students for tackling these opportunities and developing skills for your future.

A Woodland Adventure to the Land of Oz

On Tuesday May 12th, we had a day in the woodlands specifically for our complex learners in Oaks, based on The Wizard of Oz. The story was recreated by our students in Oaks 12, who told the story and brought it to life using props and items made by a number of creative classes in school.

Some of our more complex young people can struggle to get out into the community for quality experiences, so we brought the fun to Forest Way and observed some very special moments!

Thank you to everyone involved for making this day so memorable but a special big thanks to Oaks 12 teacher Louise Burnett, who went to great efforts to make this day successful.



Oaks 12's Wizard Of Oz masterpiece!

Brought to you by Oscar Lightfoot.

The classroom known as Oaks 12 have recently done something special and spectacular for the classes that don't get to out much. Oaks 12 did a sensory experience based on THE WIZARD OF OZ!

Oaks 12 made amazing props like A yellow brick road, flying monkeys and even the famous Tinman as a few other classes joined in too for this project. It started with Dorothy/Olivia greeting the students as Rhys and Archie hosted a tornado remake with the parachute! During this Oscar was in charge of effects as he lifted a prop of Dorothy's house and had it landing in Oz! We had Dorothy explore Oz as she met the good witch/Sophia as Nathan blew bubbles for the students! After this the good witch gave Dorothy some ruby slippers as she was told to follow the Yellow brick road. Oaks 12 also made the famous yellow brick road which they filled with different sensory fillings. They used the sewing machine and did a good bit of hand sewing. We used sound buttons for musical effects to sing the famous tune too! Eventually Dorothy met the Scarecrow/Molly the Scarecrow was looking for a brain! There was also a prop scarecrow too. Dorothy and Scarecrow set off until they ran into the Tinman who needed a heart! Students looked at the Tinman made by Oaks 12 as the journey continued Dorothy and Scarecrow met the Lion/Jamie who was looking for his courage! Students met the Lion as each activity lasted 5 minutes. Dorothy, Scarecrow and Lion continued the journey as they ran into FLYING MONKEYS AND THE WICKED WITCH! Katie was spraying water with a water gun which melted the witch. WHAT A WORLD!!!! After everything Dorothy, Scarecrow and Lion reached the Emerald city where everyone including the students came together in a circle saying the iconic quote 'There's no place like home' 3 times! This experience was exciting for the classes that can't get out to places much. Oaks 12 got positive reviews from Oaks 3,9 and 7. It was the greatest experience they've had!



Enrichment at Forest Way School

The summer term at Forest Way is always exciting when it comes to enrichment opportunities! We have had lots of engaging activities take place both within and outside of school, including the start of the summer term class enrichments!

Summer Class Enrichments

Some of our classes across the departments have begun to participate in their end of year class enrichment. Each class will be accessing a meaningful experience which is relevant to their interests and independence and an opportunity to celebrate their successes! So far some classes have attended rock climbing, crazy golf, conkers, farms and local parks! In the upcoming term, we look forward to the start of the primary class summer enrichments.



Sporting Events and Sports Leaders

During this term, we have had multiple sporting opportunities across the school for our young people. Including athletics competitions at Saffron Lane and a visit from Northwest Leicestershire Schools Sports Partnership offering an alternative sport session of Quidditch!

This term, we have had all our level one and level two Sports Leaders complete their practical sessions for their coursework portfolios. The Sports Leaders have planned a range of practical sessions from football, dodgeball and playground games, for a primary class. A big congratulations to all our Sports Leaders for their confidence and leadership!



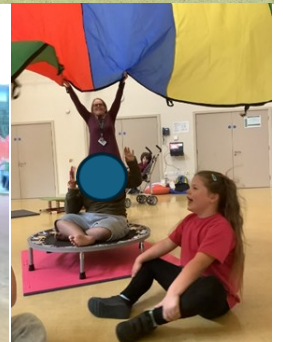
OTP Football Friendlies

During this half term Forest Way have had their second football friendly against Fusion Academy! All the students had a fantastic time and enjoyed working together and mixing up the teams, including the Forest Way and Fusion teachers!



After School Clubs

Throughout the academic year, the students have continued to enjoy after school clubs and recently have been enjoying clubs in the sunny weather! We have had a wide range of clubs each Tuesday and Thursday. Including multi-sports, sensory circuits, dance, forest schools and parent/carer swim!



We Are Shining Bright: Our Incredible Ofsted Success

The Just before the Easter break, Ofsted paid a visit to Forest Way. Under the rigorous new inspection framework, achieving top marks is harder than ever before.

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that Forest Way was awarded a **strong standard in every single category!** While this officially confirms that Forest Way continues to be an excellent school, the report does something much more important, it truly captures what a magical, unique place this is. This is a massive achievement not just for our staff and pupils, but for you as parents and carers. You should be incredibly proud!

Highlights from the report

A Safe, Happy Place: Pupils love coming to school and behave well. They feel safe, happy, and genuinely cared for. They know their voices are heard, and the relationships between staff and pupils are deeply positive and productive.

Thriving at Every Level: Pupils with different abilities, needs, and starting points don't just get by here—they thrive. Across all pathways, our young people make substantial progress.

Breaking Barriers: Our dedicated staff skilfully remove barriers to learning and wellbeing, ensuring everyone can succeed both academically and personally.

Communication First: Ofsted rightly highlighted that communication sits proudly at the very heart of our curriculum.

Enriched Learning: Classroom learning is brought to life by a vast, exciting range of enrichment activities.

We strongly urge you to take some time to read the full report [here](#). It is a beautiful reflection of our school, and a celebration that belongs to our entire community. Thank you to everyone for your hard work and ongoing commitment.