

Forest Way School

Newsletter Spring Term 2021

It has been a busy time in school with more pupils returning after lockdown. We understand that the transition back may be difficult and staff have carefully planned to provide the structures that we know many of our pupils and young people need. We realise this has been a tricky time for many families and we will be working closely with you over the coming weeks to ensure we are providing the correct support to our students. For those children and young people who are still shielding at home we will ensure that we are in regular contact with you too.

We have included a brief write up from classes in this newsletter and there are some news items that we would like to draw your attention to. We are aware of the implications of the introduction of Personal Transport Budgets for both our Post 16 students and families and on the amount of traffic on our site. We will be considering our options to make this manageable and we will keep you updated on these.

We are aware of the high rates of COVID within the North West Leicestershire area and we are continuing with the measures such as face mask wearing, room ventilation, extra cleaning and hand washing. Please contact us if you would like to discuss any issues either by calling school in office hours or by emailing parentsupport@forestway.leics.sch.uk

Thank you for the positive way you continue to engage with school, we send you all our best wishes and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Thank you for your response to the home flow testing kits. As soon as they arrive in school we will get them sent out to you.

As a family you are able to collect a household test from various places around the local area. You can find this information about on the gov.uk website



We have had a brilliant half term making the most of the opportunity to learn in our registration class groups. The children have all worked hard and we are looking forward to soon welcoming back our class mates who have been learning remotely and been sorely missed. We will see you all very soon! Take care, Beth.

Acorns 1 have been gardening again. They decorated tall and short kitchen rolls, filled them with soil and then planted broad beans. The plants are now very tall just like Jack's in the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. A few weeks later the gardeners of A1 planted turnip seeds and they are growing too. We have lots of very keen gardeners just like Mr Bloom from cBeebies!!



Acorns 2 have been exploring in the Woodlands in Forest Schools. We love to put on our boots and coats and go for our weekly adventures. We have all been able to stand or sit on the bouncy lines that Nicole stretches from tree to tree and when we get on together and bounce each other up and down it makes us all laugh. Our next challenge is to travel along them!

Acorns 3 created amazing dragon masks to share at the LIVE session for Chinese New Year.

We have also been taking part in lots of fun activities linked to the topic 'Seasons and the Weather' and especially enjoyed playing 'Guess the weather game'.

We also decorated a picture of Elmer when learning about different colours, and we were so proud to share them with all our friends.



Acorns 5 loved reading the story 'Mr Big' and learned how letters can help us to tell people things and build friendships, even when we can't see them.

We have had lots of fun writing letters to people around school who we miss and we are checking our class post box every morning to see which of our new pen pals have replied.



Acorns 6 It seems like a lifetime ago, now that the weather has warmed up and we can see the daffodils popping up to say 'hello', but Acorns 6 made the most of the fantastic snow we had at the beginning of February and enjoyed some sledging on the big field! The children all loved taking turns to pull each other up (and down!) the hill and throwing lots of snowballs! We enjoyed it so much we kept asking to go out and do it again—even when all the snow had melted!

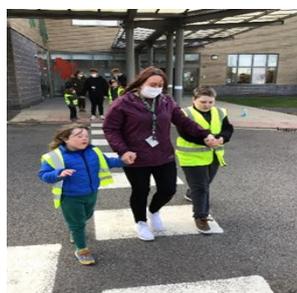
Acorns 7 have been doing lots of fantastic cooking this half term.

They have made everything from healthy pizzas to carrot cake and have done a great job of trying everything they have made, even when they weren't quite sure if they would like it.

The carrot cakes were amazing!



Acorns 8 have been making rope swings in the woods. We've also loved practicing composing and performing our own music on keyboards and guitars. Well done Acorns 8.



Acorns 9 have been practising Road Safety using the crossing at the front of school. We used bikes and high visibility jackets to promote the 'Stop, Look, Listen' message. Each child has been set homework to practise their 'Stop, Look, Listen' skills when out walking with their families - stay safe when out and about everyone.

Oaks 1 Every Wednesday afternoon, we go up to the woodlands.

Some of the pupils have been practising using flickers to light the fire to keep us warm!



We even managed to go up to the park to play on the swings. It was great fun!



Every morning and every afternoon during register time, those who are at home have been communicating with us at school in Oaks 1! We have been having conversations, singing, dancing and even celebrating birthdays together as if we have not been apart! It is lovely to see those pupils who are at home have been engaging with us.

Oaks 2 have been doing 2 live lessons a week alongside home learning being sent out to our students at home. PSHE has been a part of our live lessons with a big focus on mental wellbeing and hygiene to help our students understand why we are separated and how to make the most of the situation whilst maintaining hygiene and following rules to keep us safe.

We made the most out of the snowy weather by working together as a student/staff team to make our very own class snowman mascot!

Trainee PE Teacher Maisie has dedicated large parts of the timetable to focus on students health and wellbeing with a PE reward chart which they have responded very well to and got them more active!



Oaks 4 have had a big focus on ways to take care of our local environment. In Citizenship we have learnt about the importance of the slogan 'reduce, reuse, recycle'. We have created posters and raised awareness of ensuring litter is put in the bin. As well as this we have been out for a weekly walk around our school and the local environment litter picking.



"I liked going litter picking. I thought it was fun picking up the cans. It is important because lots of animals are dying from eating plastic. Even the sea has plastic. We need to pick the litter up because people keep chucking them and this is not healthy for animals and the earth" from Katie

Oaks 5 and 6 have been having great fun in Forest Schools. We have been working on our fire skills! We have popped popcorn, toasted marshmallows and made smores! On one of our Forest Schools sessions we noticed there was lots of litter, so the week after we started a big spring clean, which we took great pride in.

This half term we have started looking at tools and how to use these. Looking forward to developing our skills and learning these hands on activities!



This term, as part of our topic Rivers and Seas, **Oaks 7** have been looking at the classic story of Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson. We have enjoyed following the story, making predictions about the characters such as Long John Silver and predicting where the story might go. We have also created our own treasure maps, thought about what treasure might be to us, written diary entries as if we were lost on a desert island and enjoyed some character profiling.



Oaks 8 have some new class visitors – Indian stick insects! They are babies at the moment but we will be learning about them and other insects this term as well as learning about how to take care of them and other pets.

We have also been learning about road safety and have been going out for walks in the local community to practice crossing the road safely, following the sequence of 'Stop, Look, Listen and Think'.

The pupils have all done very well so far and will continue to practice these skills and other skills we need to stay safe while out in our communities.

In English, Oaks 8 have been studying the story of Oliver. They enjoyed doing some drama, learning the songs and are able to sequence the key aspects of the story and name the key characters. They are now looking forward to studying Rudyard Kipling's 'The Jungle Book'.



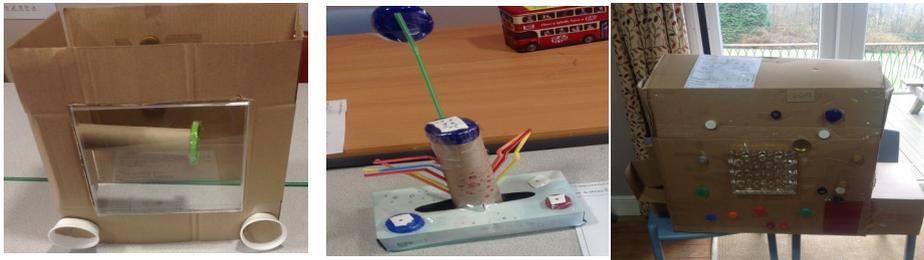
Oaks 9 have been very busy this term.

In Art and Culture we have been learning about lots of different local artists and trying out their techniques to create our own artwork. We have had great fun trying out paint and oil pastels. Some of us have even tried sewing or sticking to make our own toys.

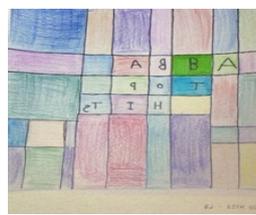
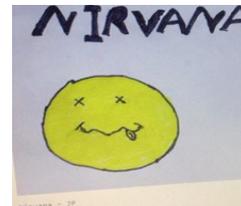
We have also loved our cook and eat lessons, working hard on developing our skills in the kitchen and of course enjoying our delicious meals!

We have made so many things this term including cheese and potato pie, roast vegetables, microwave meals and even our own coleslaw.

Oaks 10 As part of our spring term work Oaks 10 have been enjoying Film Studies lessons. We studied different genres and then focussed on science fiction. We have explored the concepts of extra-terrestrial life and time travel. We thought about how characters time travel in film and then designed and created our time travel devices. We hope you enjoy seeing some pictures of what we created. Our devices included a time travelling shoe, house, car and spaceship. We are now thinking about how the use of music in film makes you feel before moving on to writing and filming our own short film.



Oaks 11 Exciting moment for some of our Oaks 11 students. They entered a Pete McKee art exhibition and some of our students had their work put on the Thud Crackle Pop Exhibition website. As part of their work on Skills Builder and the topic of creativity the students were asked to follow some criteria and design a record album cover for Pete McKee's latest online art exhibition. Feel free to have a look and follow the link and spot the following album covers in the virtual record shop. <https://www.thudcracklepop.com/virtual-record-store>





At Maplewell in Young Enterprise, Post-16 Prime have been making concrete pots and using artificial succulent plants. We have a new advisor on board called Robin Neighbour. Due to COVID-19 we are only selling to Oaks 11 and staff. We are very excited about our new product. We have also entered a competition for the best product advert.



Transitions information

If your young person is due to leave Forest Way in the next few years, they will have been invited to a group on Teams called 'Transition Event'. Usually we have a Transitions evening event in school, where colleges and social care providers are available to chat about what they can offer your young person, to help you make decisions about the next steps after leaving us. However, with the current rules around Covid-19, we are unable to do this, so as an alternative, we have put information on to Teams from providers for your perusal. Please take a look and if you need any further support with the Transitions process, please do not hesitate to contact Leanne or Sam in Post-16.

Year 14 leavers. Don't forget to make your transport to college applications by the beginning of June. As long as the college has offered a place, you do not need to wait for confirmation from SENA before making the application.

Changes to Post 16 Transport

We have been informed by the local authority that traditional transport will no longer be available for pupils from 16-19 years old as of the next academic year (August 2021). It will be replaced with the personal transport budget. The local authority should have made contact with anyone who this affects; however, if you require any further information please see the contact details below:

Contact details for further information on Post 16 Transport

Email (preferred method of contact, but please note that standard email is not secure): transportassessments@leics.gov.uk

Post:

Transport Assessments
Transport Operations Service Department of Environment &
Transport
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
LEICESTER
LE3 8RJ

Phone: 0116 3050002

Please also note that the transportassessments@leics.gov.uk email address is only for enquiries relating to your child's eligibility to school transport; if you are enquiring about any of the following please use the specific email address shown:

- SEN Transport – queries about the actual SEN transport arranged or allocating transport after eligibility checking: SEN-Transport@leics.gov.uk
- Mainstream transport - queries about the actual mainstream transport arranged or allocating transport after eligibility checking: Mainstreamtransport@leics.gov.uk

Business volunteer wanted

Forest Way alongside the Careers and Enterprise Company are looking to recruit a new volunteer Enterprise Adviser (EA).

Enterprise Advisers help open the eyes of students to the wealth of career possibilities available to them. Their real-world business insights are invaluable, and help to shape not just careers education, but entire lives.

We are looking for business professionals from all working backgrounds and industry sectors to volunteer as EAs.

Enterprise Advisers will be matched with Forest Way's Leadership Team and work strategically to bridge the gap between the world of work and careers education.

The role of the EA can include engaging with local businesses and employers to put a wide variety of careers opportunities at the heart of education.

Anyone interested can contact Saahera.mahomed@llep.org.uk, or can find out more information or by visiting <https://enterpriseadviser.careersandenterprise.co.uk/>

EAs provide an employer's perspective on industry, and help shape how a school or college embeds labour market information and opportunities into the careers programme. Becoming an EA is the perfect way to make a positive difference and give back to the local community.

All our EAs have a full induction and are supported by a LLEP Enterprise Coordinator working alongside them and the school to deliver careers education at Forest Way School.

If you know of someone who may fit the criteria and be able to support Forest Way School please free to make contact.

Thrive at Forest Way



Where **young people** are at the heart of **everything!**