



# Spring Term Newsletter

## March 2024



### Welcome

Dear parents and carers,

After a very busy term, I'm sure everyone is ready for a break. Hopefully, the weather will be kind over the Easter period.

We have continued to support all of our schools with some exciting networks and professional development opportunities. We have brought together school colleagues and leaders to collaborate to support and challenge each other for the benefit of all of our children and young people.

The Trust has now grown to 18 schools, with Cobden Primary School and Mountfields Lodge School due to join us during April. Both schools are based in Loughborough and we are all really looking forward to working with them.

Thank you for your continued support with attendance, the importance of all children attending school each day is vital. All the evidence suggests that regular school attendance is crucial to supporting children with their educational, economic and social outcomes. There is also evidence to suggest that those children with highest attendance throughout their time at school gain the best GCSE and A-level results. This remains a key focus for all of our schools.

I do hope this coming term will be an exciting and fruitful one.

Kind regards

*Gareth*

**Gareth Nemes**  
**CEO**

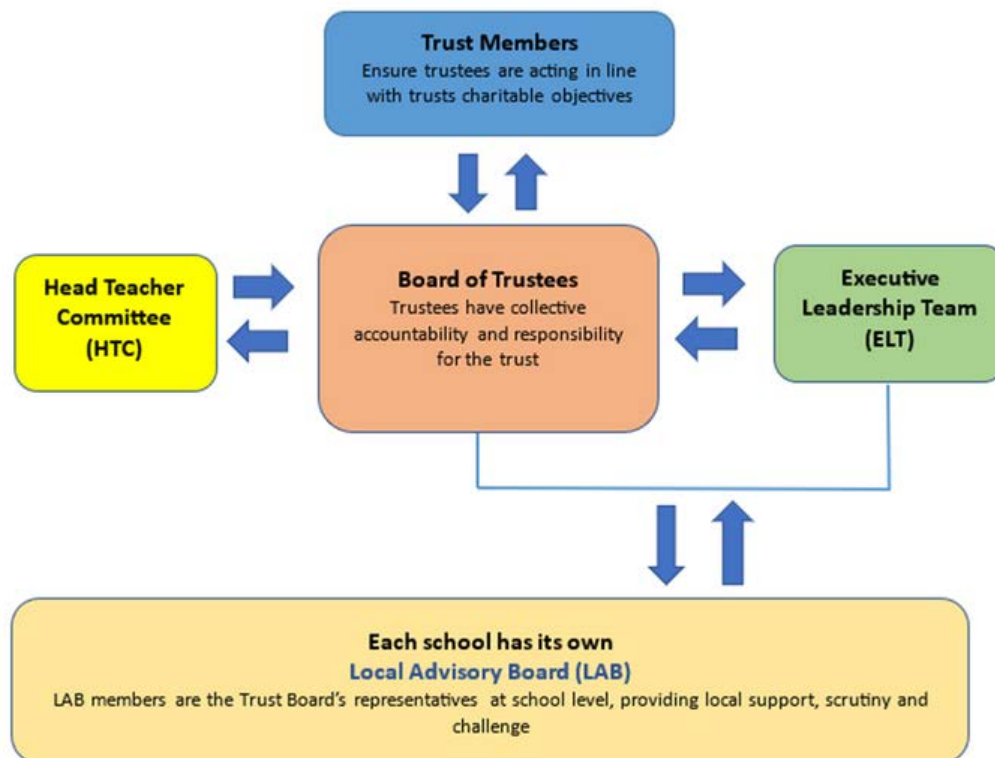
### Feedback

Have you got any feedback on our newsletter or have any suggestions about what you would like including in the future?  
Please feel free to share your feedback [here](#).

# Volunteering in Bradgate Education Partnership Schools - Local Advisory Boards

**Academy Trusts** are legal entities with a Board of Trustees which oversees the carrying out of the trust's charitable objective – to advance education for the public benefit. Our Trustees have collective accountability and responsibility for the trust and are supported at school level by Local Advisory Boards.

**Local Advisory Boards (LABs)** are a full and active part of our trust governance structure and are sub-committees of the Trust Board at school level. They are the trust's ambassadors, engaging with parents and the local community. Our LABs meet four times a year as well as visiting in school. LAB members might be parents/carers of pupils or part of the wider local community.



**Volunteering Opportunities** - we currently have vacancies on some of our LABs and would love to hear from you if you are interested in joining one of our Local Advisory Boards – either at your child's school or at another school in our trust.

We welcome interest from anyone who would like to volunteer in their local community.

## Already have governing experience?

If you have experience governing in schools and feel ready to become a trustee, please talk to us about vacancies on the Trust Board.

**For further information or an informal conversation please contact:**

**Isobel Jarvis**  
**Governance Lead**  
**[ijervis@bepschools.org](mailto:ijervis@bepschools.org)**  
**0116 4783426**



## Uniquely You Day

In January, our Year 6 Pupil Ambassadors organised a '**Uniquely You**' Day for our school community. This is an important day of the Swallowdale calendar as it celebrates one of our school values of being respectful. The children and staff came to school for the day dressed in something which represents something unique about their character. Throughout the day, we learnt more about each other including favourite hobbies, characters, families and individual tastes. Thank you to the Pupil Ambassadors for organising this.



## Be Safe

In Spring 1, our PSHE focused on one of our other school's values of 'Be Safe'. Through this unit of work, we learnt lots about different ways in which we can keep ourselves safe both in school but also in the wider world. To help with our unit of work, we had visitors from different places come to talk to us. This included visits from **The River and Canal Trust**, **The Dogs' Trust** and **Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service**.

Our Year 5 children also had a session with our local first aid trainer to learn vital **first aid** skills.

This is always funded by SWAF, who are our very supportive parent and family group.



## Sporting Events and Competitions

Over the Spring term, children have had opportunity to partake in a variety of different sporting events and competitions with other schools locally.

These include the local swimming gala, futsal tournament and the Sky Dance Competition at Melton Theatre.

For the Sky Dance, a group of Year 3 and 4 children learnt a short dance routine based on our musician of the month, Elton John. The children performed incredibly well against some strong competition - well done to all those who participated. We were very proud to be awarded with the certificate for best use of music.





Below is a snapshot of the exciting work, events and activities that take place at Broomfield.  
A small school with a big heart.

## National School Attendance Award

We received national recognition of the hard work we put in as a school in partnership with our families around attendance.



## Water Safety

Water safety is one of our local safeguarding priorities so it was great to have a representative from the RNLI come and give workshops to our children.

## In the classroom

We have been comparing numbers using Numicon, sewing a water bottle holder by repurposing material linked to our Battle of Britain unit in Year 5 and creating dragon eye art in Year 6.



## Sport

We have taken part in a wide variety of competitions including basketball, football and new age kurling! Some of our children met John Brooks, a premier league referee and they learnt more about VAR.

## Music

We now offer guitar lessons as well as piano lessons following an assembly by Joel. We also enjoyed performing at the Young Voices concert in Birmingham!





## Palantir HQ Digital Skills Day

"On the 21st of February 2024, I was invited to an all-day event by two major global tech and consultancy firms, Palantir and PwC as part of the Elephant Access Programme after successfully completing the application process.

This was an all-inclusive event where the Elephant Group even took care of my train tickets down to London, which was where the event was taking place.



The day commenced with insightful sessions shedding light on the work that Palantir and PwC conduct including some of the major projects they've been involved with in several different sectors such as the military and even agriculture.

One of my favourite sessions of the day was the decomposition workshop where we honed our critical thinking skills in teams by addressing real-world challenges such as tackling wildfires in the south of Spain. At the start of this workshop, I thought it was a problem that we could properly tackle in the thirty minutes presented to us, however once broken down into its smaller components I soon realised that it's a mammoth problem that takes a lot of time to find the most efficient solution to.

We also engaged in personal branding and CV workshops and got the chance to have a hands-on session with a chatbot AI developed in-house that works like ChatGPT.

Overall, the day was a comprehensive yet baseline immersion in the realms of a major tech company, the sort of challenges they face every day and provided useful information regarding Careers in Tech. Plus they served great food which is always a plus..."

Ansh Shah - Year 12



## Leicester MusicFest

In half term, some of our talented B6 students competed in the 'Songs from the Stage and Screen' categories at Leicester MusicFest at English Martyrs Catholic School.

The day was full of fantastic performances and some brilliant results with Vayuni Amarasinghe (Year 12) placed 1st in the intermediate senior class and Jasmin Mistry (Year 13) placed 3rd.

**Congratulations to both students!**

## Auschwitz Project

On Wednesday 13th March 2024, two Year 12 students took part in the Lessons from Auschwitz Project where they went to Poland to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum. They learnt more about the Holocaust and considered its relevance for today and we look forward to students sharing their learning with you.



## World Book Day

We had lots of fun celebrating books on World Book Day. We shared our favourite books with our friends and wrote reviews. Lots of us dressed up as book characters.



## Maths Day

Highgate children and staff celebrated maths day by dressing up as occupations that use maths. The children took part in real life maths situations and some even created their own milkshake shake!



## Wellbeing Wednesday

We all took part in a special wellbeing day. The children took part in yoga, team building sessions, aromatherapy, playdough and emotion recognition sessions.



## Sports

Some of the children have had some wonderful sporting opportunities. We were lucky enough to have coaches from Leicester Tigers and Leicester City Football Club to work with the children.





## **We are Scientists!**

Year 1 have been working hard in their Science lessons this half term. They began with a scientific investigation testing everyday materials. They had to predict and find out which materials would make a good roof for Buckingham Palace. The children had to predict if the material would be waterproof and strong enough for King Charles III to use. Then they built a Lego house and tested each material by pouring water onto it.

For British Science week, the children learnt about this years' theme, Time.

They predicted how many seconds are in one minute and then completed challenges to see what they could do in one minute.

A super, scientific Spring Term Year 1!



## **World Book Day**

We had a lovely day celebrating World Book Day 2024. All the teachers and pupils dressed up as different book characters. The children took part in reading activities throughout the day.



## **Pen Pals – Shenton Primary School**

Our Year 3 pupils have had another fabulous opportunity to visit the Church with their pen-pal children from Shenton Primary School. They had a fabulous time learning all about the Easter Story from the Bible including a tricky quiz game.

All children then had time to make some Easter themed crafts and enjoy some juice and a biscuit. The children really enjoyed their morning and can't wait to read their next letters from their new friends.





## All Schools

The Trust has invested over £1.3m into our schools during 2023/24. This has been through general repairs and maintenance along with some larger projects:

£1.3 million investment  
across 2023/24

## Eastfield Primary School

The Key Stages were closed off inside Eastfield Primary School to reduce noise from the main hall.



## Merton Primary School

The front entrance to the school was reconfigured so that there is a waiting area and a toilet at the front of the school alongside a new meeting room.

An extension has been built towards the rear of the building and now provides a SEND room, small group room, a PPA Room as well as two new cloakrooms.





**Roundhill Academy**

New kitchen extraction was fitted along with new combi ovens and a new floor. The old swimming pool has now been converted to an outside canopied area.



**Bradgate Inclusion Centre**

An unoccupied classroom modular building at Wreake Valley Academy has been transformed into a new Inclusion Centre.



**Other planned work:**

**Broomfield Primary School** – The next phase of the roof replacement is taking place over Easter and a redundant IT room is being transformed into a cookery room.

**Great Dalby Primary School** – refurbishment works are due to start in corridors and toilets.

**Mercenfeld Primary School** – The main hall is being redecorated over Easter.

**The Pochin School** – a new extended canopy is going to be installed in the EYFS outdoor area.

**Roundhill Academy & Wreake Valley Academy** – new access control is being installed and phone systems upgraded.

## Wellness Day

On 9th February we had a whole school Wellness Day as part of Children's Mental Health Week.

The children went around each class taking part in various activities: yoga, Lego, mindfulness colouring, crafts and circuits.



## The Living Eggs Company

Class 1 were thrilled with their arrival from **The Living Eggs Company** this term.

The children loved watching the eggs hatch right in front of their eyes! By the end of their visit the chicks were happily chirping away to each other and starting to grow their wings.

## Visiting Author

We welcomed local author Karen Wilbourn into school earlier this term. She came in during assembly to share her story – **The Swimming Lesson**. The story tells us all about Hattie who is going to her first swimming lesson and is feeling a little bit nervous about it, but her mum offers her some advice on how to overcome her nerves.



## Sporting Achievements

We were very proud of our Year 5 / 6 Swimming team who came 2nd place in the Melton and Belvoir Swimming Gala.

We also had 8 children qualify for the County Cross Country finals held at a very muddy Prestwold Hall.

In both events the children gave everything they had and did our school and themselves proud.

## World Book Day

World Book Day this year was celebrated by dressing as a word! We had some fantastic costumes to match the children's chosen word. During the day we shared our chosen words with each other to enhance our vocabulary. Some of our favourite words and costumes were – Metamorphosis, Tornado, Camouflage and Obsessed!



## British Science Week

The Friends of Great Dalby kindly funded a visit from the Royal Institution, as part of British Science Week. They put on 3 exciting shows, including one for our parents in the evening. The shows were filled with experiments and facts and developed our love of science.



**The Royal Institution**  
Science Lives Here

[View our Twitter feed](#)





It's been a busy start to the Spring term at Roundhill, with an amazing residential trip to Austria skiing along with other school trips and celebration days.

## Year 11 students

Our Year 11 students have successfully completed their final Mock Exams in preparation for their GCSE's commencing in May.



As part of their careers education our Year 11's were invited to a day of Mock Interviews. We were supported by local businesses who came in to interview our students, giving them the opportunity to experience a formal interview process with feedback from our interviewees to take with them when they begin their Further Education application process.

## Year 6 transition

Our Year 6 transition process has now begun. We welcomed parents and carers of our new starters for an information evening and we are looking forward to our transition process. We are excited to be offering some Taster evenings for both Year 5 and Year 6 students. This will give pupils an opportunity to experience Secondary School lessons and create new friendships ahead of them starting later in the year. More details can be found on our website.

## World Book Day

World Book day was celebrated at school with Year 7 and 8 reading a book in a day; quizzes; staff dressing up and bingo! There was a real buzz around the school, and it was brilliant to see so many students genuinely enjoying books.

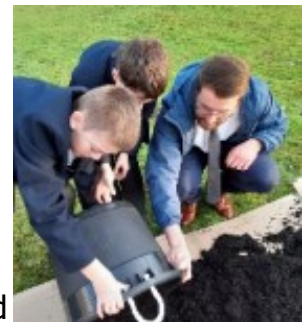


## Austria Trip

Year 9 students took to the slopes in March with an overseas trip to Austria. They spent five days on the slopes learning to ski. The experience was shared with Year 9 students at Wreake Valley. The trip was a huge success and many thanks go to our staff for organising a trip full of life long memories.

## Eco School

Students have begun work on our Eco School creating an allotment on the school site, seeds have been planted and we look forward to seeing what grows!



## British Science Week

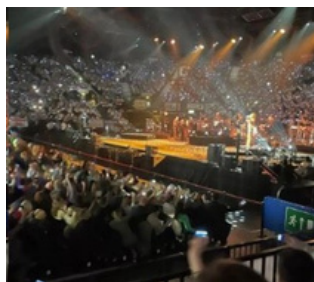
For British Science Week, to celebrate the 30th anniversary, the theme was 'Time'. Following an assembly for each year group, we did a variety of different tasks linked to this theme. Year 7 were sent home with a reaction time practical, Key Stage 3 students had the opportunity to enter the National Poster Competition, Key Stage 4 had the opportunity to make the slowest continuous marble run, all students had the chance to complete a treasure hunt of time pieces around the school to find clues to solve the anagram about time and STEM club focused on making water and sand timers. We have had such a good time this week celebrating this theme and we look forward to the next one!



We have had a busy term at Seagrave. Although it was not a long half term the children were as industrious as ever!

## Young Voices 2024

On 25th January, some of our Key stage 2 children attended the "Young voices" event at the NEC. It was an amazing day and the children sang their hearts out. They exhibited impeccable behaviour throughout and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



## Beyond Bullying

This year Seagrave are working towards the Gold standard of the "Beyond bullying" award. Mrs Chafer and the school council are leading the work and have already done assemblies and updated the child friendly anti-bullying policy.

Although behaviour across the school is very good we have recruited 3 anti-bullying ambassadors who are there to support any children who may feel they have witnessed or are being bullied. After a letter from one of the pupils, the school council have also introduced "non-uniform day" on your birthday which the children are very excited about!



## Happy Lunchtimes

This term we have introduced Happy lunch times which has had a positive impact on the children's well being. The children have a rotation of different activities prepared by the lunchtime staff and can receive pompoms for being a great friend, helper etc. At the end of each half term, 7 children are chosen to sit at the Captain's table with an adult of their choice – this has been very well received by all the pupils and they are excitedly waiting to see who will be chosen next week.

## British Science Week

In the week beginning 11th March, we celebrated British science week. The children had special science assemblies in their Key stages and then took part in lots of science investigations in their classes. It was lovely to see their enthusiasm and hear their scientific discussions and hypotheses.



## World Book Day

On Thursday 7th March we celebrated World Book Day and the children all came dressed as book characters. The teachers swapped classes and enjoyed books and stories with different classes.



## Spring flowers

Over the past two weeks the whole school has been involved in planting bulbs and flowers both in the school grounds and in the village. We are looking forward to seeing them bloom in the late Spring.



# Eastfield Primary School and Bradgate Preschool



## Eastfield PTA

Our developing PTA has been enabling our children to be independent in the recent Mothering Sunday Sale. The children had the opportunity to purchase gifts for special women in their lives. Year 6 also supported in the organisation and selling of the gifts.

Our PTA have plans for another Summer Fayre, Cinema event, Year 6 Disco and much more.

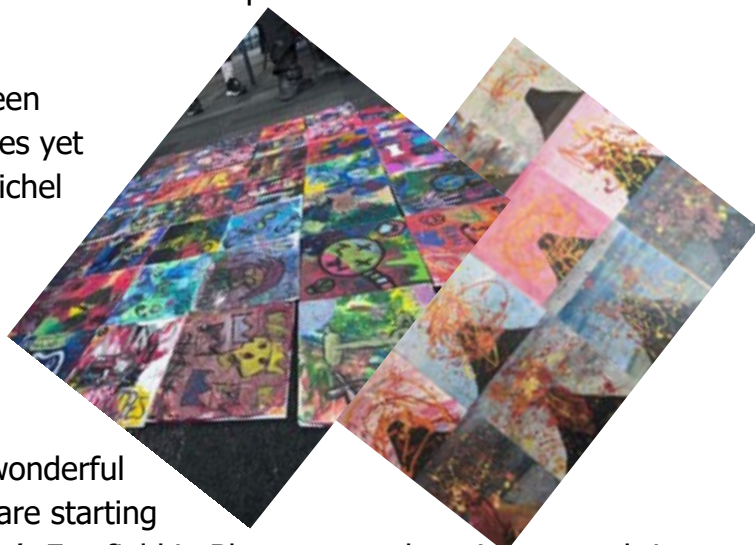


## Trips and Visits

Getting out into new places is really important to us at Eastfield. We have had trips to the Space Centre, Cookery at Roundhill for Year 6 and most recently, Reception class have been to the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham. They enjoyed seeing lots of sea creatures and also going on the motorway! The bus driver was really impressed with their behaviour and positive attitudes.

## Eastfield Art Gallery

Here a few of the latest artistic creations that have been developed. Year 4 and Year 6 have excelled themselves yet again. Year 6 have been inspired by the artist Jean-Michel Basquiat.



## Out in the sunshine!

We are really fortunate to have a wonderful outdoor space at Eastfield and we are starting to see the bulbs planted at last year's Eastfield in Bloom event, bursting out to bring colour to the site.

Bradgate Preschool have been into the peace garden on a bug hunt and have been using their eagle eyes to spot and notice minibeasts.

Year 1 have planted a bean in the hope of growing a bean stalk that will grow as high as their castle.



[View our Twitter feed](#)





It's been an exciting term at Stafford Leys! Here's just a few of our highlights....

## Year 4 trip to Caythorpe Court

The year 4 children had an amazing time during their week long residential at PGL, Caythorpe Court. The children enjoyed taking part in a range of activities including abseiling, rock climbing, fencing and giant paddle boarding.



## Year 5 trip to the space centre

Children in year 5 enjoyed their recent trip to the space centre as part of their learning about space in school. They enjoyed looking at the exhibits and spending some time in the planetarium.

## World Book Day

We love reading at Stafford Leys! For World Book Day, we decorated our classroom doors to represent different authors. Our favourite authors include Maz Evans, Maya Angelou and Judith Kerr.

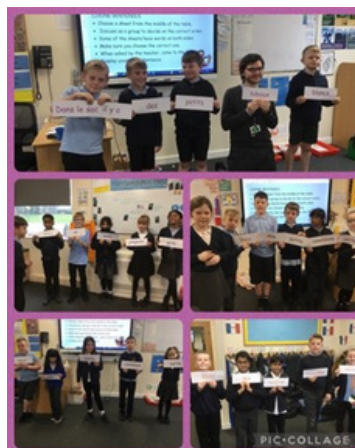


## Author visits

We have a number of author visits planned at Stafford Leys this year. Most recently, it was a pleasure to host Hannah Shaw, author of the Unipiggle series and many more. The children loved the assembly where they even got to draw their own Unipig in their own style! The children in Year 2 and 3 took part in a workshop, where they created their own fantasy land. The queue of an excited group of children waiting to get their books signed was endless. The children were raving about the day and about how much they enjoyed meeting and spending time with an inspirational author. Another author event coming soon....

## Languages

At Stafford Leys, we love languages! All children have the opportunity to learn French. This term, we have been working on our sentence building. Madame Smith has also represented Stafford Leys at the Language World 2024. And to top it all off, this week our year 6 Language Ambassadors will be performing a whole play in French to the children in KS2.



[View our Twitter feed](#)





It's been another busy term at Gaddesby.

## Wreake Valley Academy visit

Year 5 had a wonderful afternoon readying themselves for secondary school with a visit to the Wreake Valley food department. The children made their very own Swiss Rolls from scratch and loved working in the kitchens with the wonderful Wreake staff.



## Sky Dance Challenge

Our school dance team took part in the Melton and Rutland Sky Dance festival at Melton Theatre. In the first round they qualified for the final event and were awarded with most polished performance and best pupil interview. The girls performed incredibly in the final too and were rewarded with the second-place trophy.



## Sport at Gaddesby

In cross country, our girl's year 5 team became the South Charnwood champions. 5 of our girls from year 5 also represented South Charnwood in the county cross country finals along with 13 other pupils from school. Congratulations to them all. In the cross-country championships our girls finished as the best overall small school in the whole of Leicestershire.

In Swimming our team of 8 boys and girls were successful in the South Charnwood gala and will now go on to represent South Charnwood in the county swimming finals at Uppingham College in June.

Finally, our school football team bowed out of both the Wreake Valley league and the Rice Bowl cup this week - the team finished 3rd in the league - narrowly missing out on the finals.

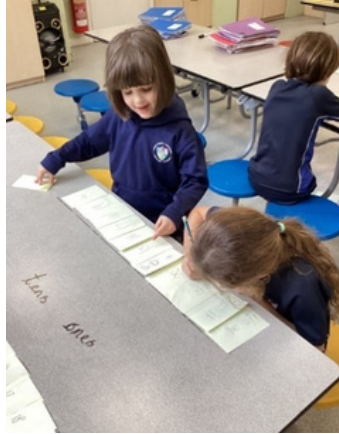
On Tuesday the team put in an incredible performance and should be very proud of themselves despite a 3-2 defeat to last year's winners Glenn Hills - good luck to them in the semi-finals.





## Ramadan

We are very proud of how hard our children work and of their achievements. We have recently had a talk in school about Ramadan. The children asked some amazing questions and showed really empathy and understanding for people who have different beliefs.



## Topics covered this term

The children have worked hard in all areas of the curriculum this term. They have loved their topics, ranging from Mountains, The Romans to learning about where their food comes from around Europe.

## Music

We are very proud of the music opportunities that we provide for our children. Our choir have performed at Young Voices with other BEP schools in Birmingham and will be performing again at De Montfort Hall in April.

We also offer keyboard, ukulele, ocarina and hand bell lessons.

In our hand bell band, children have recently achieved their first badge in the Crescendo scheme where they had to prove they could demonstrate a variety of skills.



## Reading

We have been working really hard on improving our library this year and have some new fabulous books the children are loving reading. We have now set the teachers a challenge of reading one of our new books so they can give a recommendation. Some children have managed to read over 1 million words and been awarded our 1 million word reader badge.







## Working outdoors

Children across school have been making a difference to the school environment this term.

Following the planting of dozens of new trees around the school grounds, EYFS were joined by the School Council to plant a hedgerow to enhance our forest school area. We are looking forward to seeing this begin to grow as the weather warms. Our year 1 children were inspired by one of our parents, Mr Randal who shared his landscape gardening expertise and helped the children to re-design the garden outside of their classroom. Plans are being made to bring some of the designs to life.



## Trips and Achievements

Year 6 spent an enjoyable and informative day at The Warning Zone, developing important life skills.

We are also thrilled & honoured to be in the final 3 in the award category of 'Innovation in Education & Community', for the Leicestershire Innovation Awards, alongside De Montfort University and East Midlands Chamber and Loughborough College.



## Waste Warriors

Our year 2's made a difference as they took to the streets of Syston to collect litter. They were helped out by the Syston Wombles who helped them spread the word about how to responsibly get rid of unwanted items and waste as well as helping them to understand how and what can be recycled and reused. Please check out their recycled art project that is being displayed in Syston Tesco store!







As we reach the end of our Spring Term it is good to look back and reflect on what we have achieved so far in 2024.

## Year 11

Year 11 students have sat their final Mock Exams and the countdown to their GCSEs is now on. Many of them have been busy going for College Interviews. They recently took part in a mock interview process, our thanks go out to the local community and local businesses who supported us with the process, giving up their time to interview our young people and importantly give feedback on their interview techniques for future reference. We were very proud of how well they did.



## Anti violence presentation

In January, students in Year 10 were visited by Alison Cope. Alison is an Anti Violence campaigner who's son Joshua was a victim of knife crime in 2013. Alison now dedicates her time to speaking to young people and helping educate young people on the realities and consequences of youth violence.



## Ski Trip

A huge thank you to Mrs Osman and staff at both Wreake Valley and The Roundhill Academy for organising a successful Ski trip to Austria. Taking nearly 40 students abroad for a week is always a huge responsibility and it was incredible to see how much the students enjoyed themselves and how they improved on the slopes over the week. Memories made to last a lifetime! We have a range of trips planned for the Summer term including trips to the National Holocaust Centre, a Paris residential trip and Religious Educational visits to our local Mosque.



## Red Nose Day

Comic Relief saw the school come together and raise money for a worthwhile cause. A huge thank you to Bradgate Sixth Form in organising a bake sale during morning break. At lunchtime, members of staff took to the stocks and students enjoyed the opportunity to throw wet sponges for a small donation!

## Transition for new Year 7's

As we look forward to welcoming our new Year 6 pupils we held a Transition Evening for our new parents. We will be going out to Primary Schools over the coming weeks to meet pupils and towards the end of the Summer Term, pupils will be invited into school for their Transition Days.

[View our Twitter feed](#)



## World Book Day Fun

The whole school enjoyed fun activities relating to different authors and stories. The children took part in online events as well as activities across the school. Our children enjoyed sharing their favourite books with children from different classes, with the children reading to each other. We had some amazing art and design projects come in, for the theme: **A book in a box!**



## Celebrating with our pupils!

This term as a school we have celebrated significant festivals and events in the religious calendars of our pupils. The whole school took part in the Easter Service at St Mary's church, ranging from our little pre-school pupils dancing and singing "Bunny Hokey Pokey" to our Year 6 pupils who led the service. The school revisited the festival of Holi and our Pre-school pupils took part in a Holi themed dance workshop. Ramadan has started for many of our pupils and all students who celebrate this special time of year contributed to a very lively and active assembly, sharing what makes Ramadan special to them.



## Whole school leadership team

We are fortunate at The Pochin School to have pupils that really want to support their peers and give up their time to help others ensure the smooth running of the school.

All of the student leadership team had to apply for their jobs, be interviewed and then actively do their jobs each week. We are proud of them and grateful for their support in such roles as office managers, digital leaders, friendship finders, gardeners and paramedics to name just a few of their roles.





## New arrivals

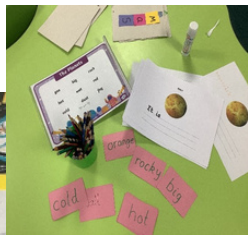
We have welcomed a new member of staff this term into our Church Hill family... Mrs Cook has already settled into her role as our Office Manager and has been getting to know the staff, pupils and parents! It has been a busy few weeks but Mrs Cook has quickly adapted to our school and made a huge contribution – thank you Mrs Cook!

We have also been excited by the arrival of some duck eggs and having watched them very carefully through our Duck Cam we have had 4 incredibly fluffy ducklings hatch. This week they have been for their first swim and they loved it!



## Foundation Stage

After Christmas the learning was all about Space – and the children had a wonderful experience when the Wonder Dome came to visit school for the morning. It was a fantastic way for the children to understand more about the solar system.



The children have been finding out all about 'People that help us' since half term and had a visit from an ambulance and two paramedics. They found out about the job that they do and got to see inside the ambulance and hear the siren—they do a very important job and help us when we are in need.

In maths, there has been a focus on number facts and in particular finding different ways of making numbers. There has been lots of work done at home to practise this – well done to everyone.

## Year 1

In history the children have been thinking about the past and how things have changed over time - they explored toys and how these have evolved.

To build on their learning, Year 1 went to Newarke House which has many historical displays about toys and also about life during the war. The children then did some wonderful writing in school which demonstrated all of the amazing things they had learnt about the past.

In Geography, it has been all about sustainability and the ways in which we can make a difference to the planet. Each class has appointed Eco-warriors who help by switching of lights and taps and monitoring things such as recycling.



## Year 2

It has been a big term for Year 2 who had the chance to take part in an overnight stay at Beaumanor Hall! All those that went had a wonderful time exploring the beautiful grounds, taking part in team building activities and having a colour party. Those children that stayed in school were taught by Mrs Elliott and did a scavenger hunt, artwork and an experiment to find out which biscuit is the best for dunking! The record was held by a rich tea biscuit that was dunked 140 times before breaking! Other highlights for Year 2 this term included using 'the claw' cutting method to cut ingredients for a pitta pizza and a visit from Lion Learners who brought a range of animals and told us about their diet and habitat.





## PSHE Workshops

Year 5 and 6 have been fortunate enough to take part in some PSHE workshops this term. During children's mental health week, Year 6 took part in a '5 ways to wellbeing' workshop which was aimed at improving the children's mental wellbeing. It taught the children how to deal with their emotions by looking at the 5 steps 'connect', 'keep learning', 'be active', 'give' and 'take notice'.

Year 5 took part in the ASB busters workshop which is designed to positively engage the children in identifying areas of concerns within their neighbourhood.

Last week, Year 6 also had a very exciting visit from the police! The children were given an overview of what the police do and were shown some of the equipment that they use on a daily basis.



## Dodgeball

After recently bagging the prize of Hinckley and Bosworth Active Sports Team of the Year, our Year 5/6 Dodgeball team went to the Hinckley and Bosworth finals. They managed to draw one game and win two in the group stage which saw them cruise into the final.

The final was a one sided affair and the team managed to win comfortably and progress to the County finals where they will face off against the best teams in the whole of Leicestershire! We also came runners up in the Active Schools Award.



## Celebrating Science Week

We were extremely lucky to "blast off" our science week with a very special visitor.

Dr Samuel Richards came into school (with his NASA flight suit) to talk to the children about his incredible experiences leading projects for NASA and other space agencies around the world, including leading a project that landed a rover on the moon. Year 5 were then lucky enough to complete a mission devised by Dr Sam mirroring his experience of landing a rover on the moon. The children were asked to devise business plans, create presentations, design and build rockets and landing crafts. Then, in the afternoon the rockets were launched with their payloads (eggs) to see if they could survive the landing. On Tuesday, KS1 and Year 4 were lucky enough to be visited by Jasneet, from the University of Leicester. She demonstrated and explained chaos theory and centre of mass with cuddly toys. Year 4 then had the opportunity to test these themselves. Jas also did a presentation to the Year 4 class about inspirational women in astrophysics which really inspired the whole year group.



## Community gardening day

We held a wonderful community gardening day on a Saturday in March. Parents, grandparents and even ex-staff of Mercenfeld turned out in force. People came and went throughout the day, so it was hard to get a total number, but it was lovely to see the community pull together for the benefit of the children. Dani Pattuzzi, who runs

our garden rangers scheme, has asked me to pass on his thanks. He and the children have been working on the garden more this week and it is now ready for them to get stuck in to growing fruit and veg after Easter. We are looking to run another day in the summer term, where we will also focus on things like painting the fences and trying to repair any of the sheds that need looking at. If you have any carpentry skills and would like to help out, keep an eye out for the date and contact us.

[View our Twitter feed](#)

# You said, we did



Thank you to those of you who completed our Family Survey at the end of the Summer Term. Our schools have now had time to implement the suggestions and your comments and we have captured examples below. Individual schools will continue to work alongside families to ensure other feedback is actioned.

You asked for a wider range of after school and lunch time activities

We now offer a greater variety such as Mindfulness, British Sign Language, Singing and Music opportunities.

We have introduced guitar lessons in addition to piano lessons.

We have asked the children what clubs they would like to attend and offered these opportunities.

We have worked closely with an after school sports provider to organise a variety of opportunities for the children on 2 days a week. These sessions have not always been full but we will look at increasing the number of days if these clubs become over subscribed.

You asked for better communication and asked us to keep you more up to date with upcoming school activities.

Weekly newsletters have been overhauled across a number of schools.

We now send a half termly newsletter with information of what the children have learnt, a regular focus on an area of curriculum and events that have happened across school.

Emails now sent home if children have received a Head Teacher certificate or had a class Dojo award. Headteacher postcard sent home for children whose work has been shared with the Head and displayed on the 'Wow Wall'

You asked for more SEN support as parents.

We have provided more opportunities for parents of children with special educational needs to find out what we are doing to support their child - this has been during parents' evening drop in sessions and coffee mornings.

We have set up a half-termly Parents SEND support group across the Trust schools.

You wanted more opportunities to come into school.

We have introduced several Open Book sessions for families to look at their children's work after school. This is in addition to Parents Evening and class assemblies.

Children were not having school dinners due to the menu and standard of meals.

We are working with Caterlink to adapt menus which children enjoy. Caterlink has a new catering manager and they are looking at offering Taster sessions at parents evenings for parents and children to try meals.