



Children's Hospital School

'Better Together'

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Autumn Term 1 2021 newsletter

Welcome to the Children's Hospital School newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about all the latest news across all our settings, Willow Bank School, Leicester Royal Infirmary and The Beacon Unit.

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a great start to the school year it has been so far, despite some ongoing worries about Covid. All the pupils have engaged well in their learning and have had the opportunity to try out new things. After a long wait, it was good to see some school trips taking place including a residential visit to a Youth Hostel in the Peak District.

The summer school at the Beacon was a great success with the young people taking part in music, art and animal activities. We hope to run something similar in the future at all our sites. At the LRI, children will be able to access our classroom again which has been tidied and looks very welcoming. On a personal note, I have enjoyed being able to visit all parts of the school more regularly this year.

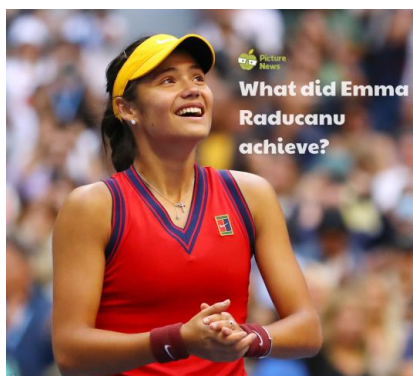
Our new school website is almost ready and will hopefully 'go live' at the start of November. Current news and events can also be seen via our Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

Many thanks to everyone for your support this term. I hope you have a wonderful half-term break, whatever you may be doing.

Best wishes

Stephen Deadman

18-year-old British teenager Emma Raducanu has made history by winning the US Open tennis tournament beating fellow teenager Leylah Fernandez in straight sets in an exciting and tense final in New York. Emma is the youngest Britain to ever win a Grand Slam tennis tournament and has also become the first British woman to become a singles champion for 44 years!



Emma Raducanu's incredible and for many, surprising victory in the US Open is a lesson to us all. We are often capable of much more than we think, and we may find that we surprise ourselves with what we can achieve!

GRANTS, DONATIONS & CHARITY EVENTS

KELLOGG'S BREAKFAST CLUB GRANT



The Children's Hospital School has once again been awarded **£1,000** specifically to help to support the running of our Breakfast Club and to aid its future sustainability.

Kellogg's has been supporting school breakfast clubs for almost 20 years.

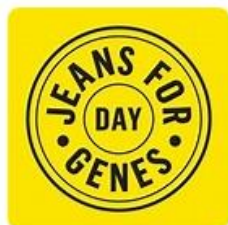


FORD BRITAIN TRUST

Thank you to the Ford Britain Trust who have kindly donated **£248** to Willow Bank School towards the running of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

JEANS FOR GENES

It was Jeans for Genes Day at Willow Bank School on Friday 13th September, a total of **£37** was raised.



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BOOKS2AFRICA

Books2Africa is a UK registered charity that is improving the quality of education in Africa through the provision of books, computers and educational resources that enable individuals and communities to acquire knowledge and achieve their full potential in a globalized world.

The charity collects and ships donated educational resources from individuals and organisations in the UK, reducing waste and increasing 'recycling'.



CERTIFICATE OF THANKS



Awarded to

Children's Hospital School

For donating and funding
a shipment of

**6 box(es) of books and
resources to Africa**

MACMILLAN

**WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING**



Staff and students enjoyed baking sweet treats in preparation for our MacMillan Coffee morning on Wednesday 22nd September 2021.

The students and wider team raised a fantastic **£100** for MacMillan Cancer Support. Once again, a fantastic effort from everyone at The Beacon!

It was the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 24th September at Willow Bank School, **£97** was raised.



NEWS FROM THE LRI

Congratulations to Lisa for completing the London marathon in a time of 3 hours 54 minutes and raising over £1000 for the school. A great achievement.



PDSA

PDSA (the UK's leading veterinary charity) gave an assembly talk to our students at Willow Bank School on Monday 27th September. We learnt that the PDSA provides low cost and free veterinary care to sick and injured pets and promotes responsible pet ownership. The main focus of the talk was about careers at PDSA. The staff and students enjoyed learning about the different roles and career pathways.

Gemma Martin
Learning/Behaviour Mentor



FLU VACCINE



Well Pharmacy visited Willow Bank School on Thursday 7th October to administer staff flu jabs.

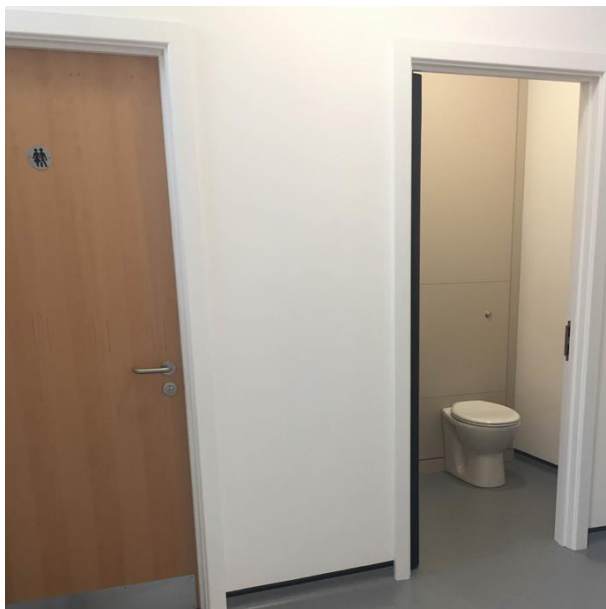


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WILLOW BANK TOILET REFURBISHMENT

After a summer programme of refurbishment, Willow Bank School is delighted to announce the opening of our new student toilet block. Gone are the old, dark, traditional cubicles and urinals, to be replaced by 6x self-contained, gender-neutral facilities, 2 of which are fully accessible with integrated plumbing systems. We'd like to thank Mark Berrill of YMD Boon Ltd for his project management of the refurbishment, along with the principal contractors PJ Lilley Ltd of Hucknall in Nottingham.

Student feedback has been hugely positive, with comments such as 'they're just so not like school toilets!', 'they're really nice' and 'much more private than before'.



FOREST SCHOOL UPDATE

Forest Schools at Willow Bank!

This term we have made a start on bringing Forest schools to our school.

We've made a great start and students have been enthusiastic to take part 🌿

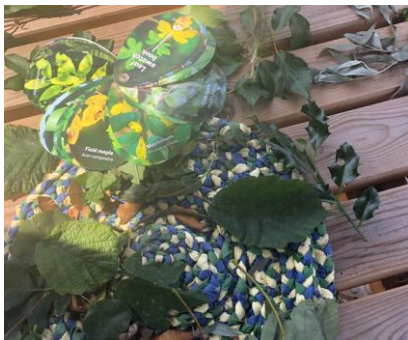
We have tried tree ID around the gardens at Willow Bank and found some interesting species... who knew we had a Hazel tree... great for coppicing and making bows and arrows!!

We have done some leaf rubbing, making dream catchers and of course, had a go at making a bow and arrow which was lots of fun....and worked!!!

We coppiced our own willow for the dream catchers too 💚💚

In the coming weeks we hope to make some nettle tea and try berry bashing

Kerry Whiteley
Teacher



ECOBRIK PLANTER

Ready to build eco brick stuff!

With help from Graham from Pollination group at LearningThroughLandscapes 💚

Watch this space.....



ROCKET AROUND LEICESTER

We wanted to share with you a picture of our wonderful rocket on display in the LOROS shop on High Street in Leicester



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AUTISM SUPPORT AND ONLINE SAFETY EVENT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

An event is taking place on **Thursday 18th November 2021** aimed at supporting parents and carers of people with suspected or diagnosed Autism. This event will be held at [The Pitches in Hinckley](#), just off the A47, and will start at 10am with the first speaker starting at 10.30am. The event will also be Live Streamed via Microsoft Teams if you are unable to join us in person and there will be the facility to ask the presenters or support agencies questions whilst watching us online. **The event is FREE and intended to be very informal with refreshments and lunch provided.**

Local Authority representatives will be present along with a number of local support groups and services who will be providing presentations and information stands. Parents and carers will have the opportunity to meet and chat with the various support groups present and other parents and carers. We hope the event will also encourage parents and carers to form their own local support groups.

Our main aims for the event are to:

- Improve the links between Prevent and local support groups and services.
- Help Parents / Carers Understand:
 - What Autism is as well as some common traits and misconceptions
 - How Autism can affect a child's development and social skills.
 - What support is available (education, financial, life skills, home support etc)
 - How to obtain this support / how to get a diagnosis.
 - The pros and cons of getting a diagnosis.
 - How to better understand, support and communicate with your child.
 - Where there may be increased risks in relation to rigid thinking, accepting presented information as the truth, different learning / communication styles etc.
 - What steps to take to help ensure your child is safe including online safety / grooming / reporting etc.
 - Who to turn to for ongoing support.

If you are a parent, carer or anyone else who feels that this event may be of benefit to them then please register for the event at <http://autsupport.eventbrite.co.uk>

James Stafford
Assistant Head Teacher
The Children's Hospital School
0116 229 8137

PROTECT YOUNG EYES WEBSITE

The digital world for young people is an ever-evolving environment and it is important that we have a knowledge and understanding of the risks posed in that space. The Protect Young Eyes website has useful information including a blog and an App to help parents and carers to safeguard young people in a digital environment.

[Protect Young Eyes: Internet Safety for Families, Schools, and Churches](#)



James Stafford
Assistant Head Teacher
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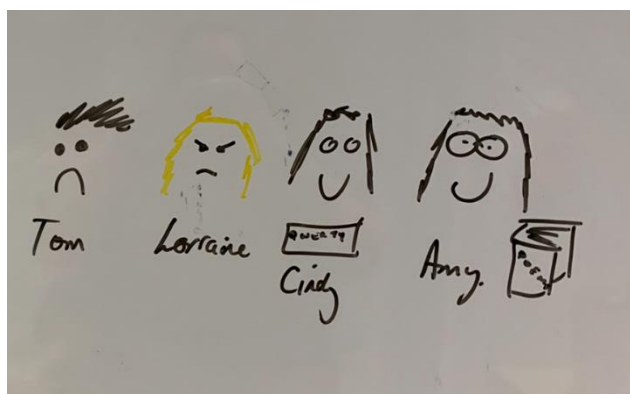


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NEWS FROM THE BEACON

MEET THE TEAM

Students have been enjoying lessons at The Beacon School this term; much fun and amusement were had when they kindly created portraits of the teaching team!



Lorraine Biddle – Head of School; Tom Hopkins – Maths teacher;

Cindy Lucas – HLTA; Amy Thorpe – English teacher.

AFTERNOON TEA

Before the end of the summer term, everyone enjoyed our 'Afternoon Tea' event. During the afternoon, students sold items they had made, baked or planted alongside running games including 'Guess how many Starburst in the bag!' as part of their Enterprise Project. Students raised £100 for their chosen charity, The Albert Kennedy Trust. Well done to all involved!



SUMMER SCHOOL SPECTACULAR

The Beacon School students experienced a variety of activities on a Monday and Wednesday during the summer holidays. Students and staff alike thoroughly enjoyed participating in abstract and silk painting, collage, mosaic and graffiti art alongside 'Fudge and Co' Exotic Experience and 'King Brass', who delighted the students with their energetic live performance featuring the mighty sousaphone! Thanks to Soft Tough Arts for organising such fantastic events that made our summer school spectacular!



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MORE NEWS FROM THE BEACON

T-SHIRTS AND BAG PRINTING

Soft Touch Arts have visited again this term to show the students how to create their own t-shirt and bag masterpieces! Baby Yoda, Pikachu and botanicals were a firm favourite!



WE'VE ALL GONE POTTY!

On Friday 1st October 2021 the students enjoyed pot painting which were created together with kinaesthetic and sensory visual artist Sian Watson Taylor. Sian is the current Artist in Residence at The Beacon school which was organised by the Attenborough Arts Centre.



BEACON BIG SHOUT OUTS



This term's 'Big Shout Outs' were awarded for:

Fabulous engagement in PSHE!

For completing the almost impossible 6 x 10 Pentominoes puzzle!



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MEET THE STAFF



Keziah Caldwell
Administrative
Coordinator

I started this term at Willow Bank as the Administrative Coordinator. Previously I worked at Next as a Test Analyst for 7 years, prior to that I was a Prison Officer at HMP Leicester in town. My job is to look after student's admin from attendance mark to sending messages to parents and I am also the first person to greet visitors to the school.

Hobbies/interests: I have been singing, dancing, and acting since I was 3 years old. I currently do amateur dramatics and will be doing a show in November at the Little Theatre in the city centre. I am also a big Leicester City fan, love reading but never find the time and I regularly head out to Bradgate Park with my family to climb the rocks and get some fresh air.



Mr Jeffcote was NOT involved in a modern art project!

He was changing his first ever waste toner cartridge!

NEW ADDITION TO WILLOW BANK SCHOOL



We are pleased to introduce our new resident dog Tally.

Tally has joined Issy on site at Willow Bank School. Tally is a KC registered golden Labrador she is 17 weeks old. She is getting used to things I think...

Emma Compton
Art Therapist
Assistant SENCo



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Your children may be eligible for free school meals if you receive:

- > income support
- > income-based jobseekers allowance
- > income-related employment and support allowance
- > national asylum seeker support
- > child tax credit (providing you're not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- > the guaranteed element of state pension credit
- > working tax credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for working tax credit

Applying could also help your school get extra funding through the Government's Pupil Premium scheme.

Visit: <https://freeschoolmeals.leicester.gov.uk>
[Free School Meals | Leicestershire County Council](#)

TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2021

INSET day (staff only): Friday 15th Oct 2021
Half term holiday: 18th Oct 2021 to 22nd Oct 2021
INSET day (staff only): Friday 26th Nov 2021
Christmas holidays: 20th Dec 2021 to 3rd Jan 2022

Spring Term 2022

Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd Jan 2022
Start of term for pupils: Tuesday 4th Jan 2022
Half term holiday: 14th Feb 2022 to 18th Feb 2022
Easter holidays: 11th Apr 2022 to 22nd Apr 2022

Summer Term 2022

Start of term for pupils: Monday 25th Apr 2022
Bank holiday: Monday 2nd May 2022
Half term holiday: 30th May 2022 to 3rd June 2022
Last day of summer term: Friday 8th July 2022



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