



Spring Term 1 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. We hope to be able to provide half-termly updates.

Dear Parents / Carers,

As I write, we are once again in the middle of a national lockdown with all the difficulties and anxieties that brings. I know how challenging this will be for so many in our school community, but in time things will improve and we will move beyond Covid.

Please be reassured that we are doing everything we can to support the young people in school, either with face-to-face lessons on site or through remote learning. There have been additional measures put in place at school so more students can be welcomed back, including new timetables and regular testing.

All our young people deserve credit for the hard work they are putting in and for the way they are supporting each other. Despite the barriers, we've seen students baking, making music, creating brilliant artwork and showing progress in other areas of learning. This newsletter is a reminder of all the great things going on across each of our sites.

Remember to keep communicating and let us know if there is anything else you need.

Take care

Stephen Deadman



Children's Mental Health Week 2021 - Express Yourself

Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that make you feel good.

It's important to remember that being able to **express yourself** is not about being the best at something or putting on a performance for others. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself.

GRANTS & SPONSORSHIPS

Kick Start Grant

British Science Week takes place every year in March, but is going to look a little different this year!

In previous years we have been lucky enough to be offered grants for visits from the National Space Centre with their StarDome and to take the students to Twycross Zoo. This year we have once more been offered funding to enable our students to experience science in a different way to their normal science lessons. This time we have received a British Science Week Kick Start Grant which we have used to purchase a rocket car launcher and rocket car kits. We plan to use this equipment to allow our students to explore forces, aerodynamics and engineering, and as we have been able to purchase the equipment ourselves many more students will be able to benefit over the coming years and across our various school sites.



Waitrose Green Token Scheme

Leicester Children's hospital school was nominated to the Green Token Scheme in October. A donation of £333 was received.



The school has registered to take part in The Royal Academy Young Artists Summer Show. The Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for students aged 5 - 19 studying in the UK and British schools overseas. Artworks are judged by artists and arts professionals with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts. There is a permission slip available for parents/guardians to complete on behalf of the students, these are available from the school office or directly from the website, see below.

Each student can submit up to three artworks of any type and there is no theme. When you enter images of the students artwork plus some information about the piece such as title, size, and a little text about the artwork and why they made it will be needed. The students artwork will be submitted and then seen by a panel of judges and the selected pieces will be shown in the RA online exhibition. Some of the artworks will also be shown at the Royal Academy of Arts. In addition prizes are awarded to two artists from each key stage, as chosen by the President of the Royal Academy. There is also an opportunity for you to vote for your favourite in the annual peoples choice Award.

This is an invitation for all bases to take part, so if any students wish to submit some work jpegs of students work are required before the 25th April 2021.

I look forward to seeing some wonderful art work made our young people.

For more information and to look at previous entries go to:
youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk

Oli Jeffcote
Art Teacher



COMPETITION WINNERS!!

Willow Bank School were joint winners of the pumpkin growing and cooking it competition in December 2020, see pictures below:

K Whiteley



UPCOMING PARENT SUPPORT GROUP VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Year 11 Options Subjects Discussion – Film Studies, Health & Social Care & Art

11th February 2021 @ 2:00pm

Supporting Young People with Autism – still to be confirmed

11th March 2021 @ 2.00pm

Micki Handford
Pastoral Manager
Children's Hospital School Leicester

NHS

COVID-19 Vaccine

All of the LRI team were offered the vaccination at the beginning of this week commencing 18th January 2021, on site. It was an operation supported by the army and was done very smoothly and professionally with no fuss and very efficient.



[lendlease.com](https://www.lendlease.com)

Lendlease have also joined the Careers and Enterprise Cornerstone Employer group for the Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership. Our Social Value Manager has signed up to be an Enterprise Adviser for the Children's Hospital School. We have already started engaging with the school teaching team and will be starting a virtual work experience programme with the students in January. We had a great session with Rita about preparing for interviews and interview questions in PSHE covering the wider world and also units in the Prince's Trust for work experience and careers. We hope to arrange a site visit to one of their developments when the restrictions allow.

James Stafford
Assistant Head Teacher



Children's Hospital School

#NCW2021

Empowering Positive Change through Careers Education.

Headline Partner:

NatWest Group

National Careers Week

Year 10 and Year 11 students have been working on careers education and the wider world. We have looked at interview skills in preparation for Year 11 mock interviews in April and Year 10 are starting to plan work experience opportunities for next year. We will be taking part in a variety of activities during careers week next month.

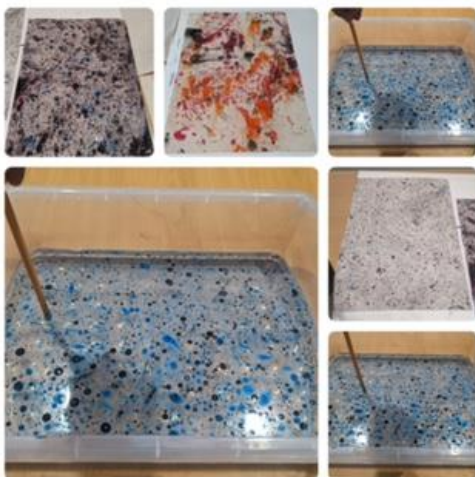
James Stafford
Assistant Head Teacher

THE BEACON SCHOOL BAKES AGAIN!



The evocative aroma of Vegan Chocolate Brownies filled the ward once again this term as students at The Beacon School baked for the first time since moving into the new build. The students not only got to enjoy their brownies but have also earned an AQA Award that recognises their skills in following a recipe and producing excellent cakes! Weekly cooking sessions will now take place to enrich the curriculum and equip our young people with essential life skills for the future.

ARTS AWARDS AT THE BEACON SCHOOL



Students have begun to work towards gaining their Bronze Arts Award this term at The Beacon School. Students have had the chance to experiment with paper marbling techniques, with beautiful results! Students are also researching their art 'inspirations' with artists from Gaudi to Melanie Martinez making an appearance!

CHRISTMAS DINNER CELEBRATIONS



WILLOW BANK SCHOOL

Roast turkey with all the trimmings, pigs in blankets, butternut squash & spinach roulade were all thoroughly enjoyed by staff and students at Willow Bank School on Christmas dinner day.



THE BEACON

The Beacon prepared and served the young people and staff a turkey cob lunch, it was enjoyed by all!

WILLOW BANK SCHOOL COVID-19 TEST CENTRE

We are pleased to announce that the COVID-19 test centre has been up and running for a number of weeks at Willow Bank School. The test centre is open to staff and students most days.



LATEST ON DORIS AND BABS IN LOCKDOWN!

Both our beloved little friends are doing well and one might say thriving in their own little palace in my back garden!!

They have the run of the shed, as you can see...and once they had settled in I did spot them literally running around the shed 🐹

They seem very happy and are keeping me busy... They eat sooooo much!!!! 🥕 🥦 🥒 🍅

I'm also pleased to announce that they have survived the sub zero temperatures and snowy climate (I have a little heater in there which I pop on when it's really cold!!! 🐹)

.....And are back outside chillin' 😊 ❄️ 🧑‍🎄 ❄️

K Whiteley,
Teacher



MEET THE STAFF

In each newsletter we will be introducing a couple of members of staff across the bases, we thought this would help give you an insight into the Children's Hospital School:-



Micki Handford Pastoral Manager

Micki joined Willow Bank School back in 2011 as a Teaching Assistant, having previously worked in education for ten years in the United States in various roles, including as a school counsellor. She took on the new role of Pastoral Manager at the beginning of the 2019-2020 academic year and is presently completing the Thrive Practitioner Training course as she embarks on embedding the Thrive Approach within Willow Bank School.



Sarah Fitzpatrick Teacher

Sarah has been a Primary Teacher for 16 years. She joined The Children's Hospital School in August 2019 and is based at the LRI. Sarah has a passion for maths and enjoys making lessons fun and enjoyable.

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/>

TERM DATES

Spring Term 2021

School opens: Tuesday 5th January 2021

Half term break: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2021

School closes: Friday 26th March 2021

Summer Term 2021

School opens: Monday 12th April 2021

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May 2021

Half term break: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2021

School closes: Friday 9th July 2021

