



# Children's Hospital School

*'Better Together'*

Headteacher: Mr S Deadman  
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## Spring Term 2 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,

It has been great to see pupils returning to school as we all attempt to get back to some kind of normality. Many thanks to everyone involved in the rapid Covid testing that has now been rolled out to all staff and pupils.

There are a wide range of activities taking place across all our sites including music with Soft Touch at the Beacon, cake making for Mother's Day at Willow Bank and World Book Day fun at the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

At the same time, we are working hard to support our Year 11 students towards their end of year assessments. This sits alongside some extensive transition work in preparation for post-16 studies next year.

As the days become longer and warmer, I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break. We look forward to seeing you all again in the summer term.

Best wishes

Stephen Deadman



## GRANTS & SPONSORSHIPS

We are making good progress with our Forest School area and with the help of some students and staff we now have a fire pit and seating area almost ready to go!!!

This term we have also been collecting wood and have started a log store.

Just recently we used our grant money (from the Soil Association) to purchase lots of lovely equipment including a kelly kettle, fire gloves, pans, tarps. camo net and flint and steels.

Hopefully next term we can share a hot drink and soup around an open fire!!!  
Watch this space.....

Kerry Whiteley  
Teacher



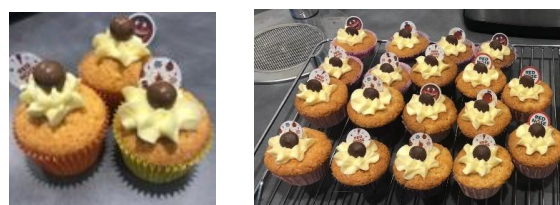
## CHARITY EVENTS

### **Do 100 of Something!**

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021 the students at The Beacon celebrated 'Children and Young People's Mental Health Awareness Week' and commemorated Captain Sir Tom Moore's life and achievements. The students and staff completed our 'Do 100 of something' challenge: 100 second back bend, 100 jabs on a punch bag, 100 lengths of the garden, 100 throw and catches, 100 pose turns, 100 Star jumps, 100 press ups and 100 cookies baked! The cookies were sold and **£70.21** was donated to 'The Captain Tom Moore Foundation'. The students received a certificate to recognise this fantastic achievement!



Students at The Beacon have been baking to celebrate Red Nose Day; vegan and non-vegan cakes were shared amongst students and staff at the end of the day. Delicious!



Willow Bank School had a cake sale and staff wore something red which raised **£66.60** for Comic Relief.



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## FOR YEAR 11 SCHOOL LEAVERS 2021

Leaving school and making changes to a routine is often very difficult and often described as shifting from being a big fish in a small pond to a small fish in a big ocean. Click on the link below to view a psychology article by Dr Susan Newman which outlines 15 concepts that are well worth sharing and talking with your child to help them prepare for the transition.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/singletons/201807/15-tips-ease-the-transition-high-school-college>

Who is here to help?

Lynne Miller, Connexions Adviser (07802 405327 or [lynne.miller@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.miller@leicester.gov.uk))

**James Stafford**

Assistant Head Teacher

## UPCOMING PARENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

Our April meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 2:00PM**. We will be joined by Maggie Brooks, specialist Autism Teacher with Leicester City Council SEND Support Service. She will be sharing with parents ways to best support young people who are either formally diagnosed with Autism or who are exhibiting Autistic behaviour. This will be a snippet of what the council offers in the summer for their parent workshops and should prove very informative and helpful. As always, there will be time for questions and discussion.

Thanks

Micki Handford

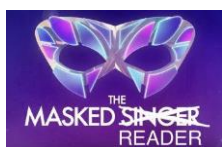
## SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

Thank you to Nicky, our cook at Willow Bank School, for making the below biscuits to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day.



## WORLD BOOK DAY

The Masked Reader came to the LRI for World Book Day. This involved students guessing which Hospital School 'Celebrity' was behind the mask and which favourite story was being read.



## MOTHER'S DAY BOUQUET CUPCAKES AT WILLOW BANK LEARNING SUITE



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## NEWS FROM THE BEACON

### Yoga at The Beacon

Downward Dog, Cobra and Child's Pose were features of our first exercise session on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Leona Knott, Dance and Fitness instructor, visited The Beacon to put the students through their paces with a touch of Yoga. Students and staff enjoyed the session and are looking forward to this weekly exercise activity!



### Making Their Own Entertainment!

Students developed their own entertainment by developing their own version of the popular card game 'Dobble', basing it on items frequently found on the ward. A fabulous example of independence and engagement that will provide many hours of fun!



### Soft Touch Arts visit The Beacon!

Percussion sounds, singing and dancing reverberated round the garden at The Beacon School when Soft Touch Arts visited on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Students enjoyed playing instruments, making rhythms and beats, singing and dancing to a variety of genres of music; the conga around the garden and a dance off to 'The Jungle Book' were firm favourites! A fabulous way to end the week!



### Big Shout Outs!

Students on the ward can get a 'Shout Out' in acknowledgement of their hard work, determination and endeavours! 'Shout Outs' this term have been awarded for:

*Fantastic participation in Soft Touch music activities!  
Fabulous singing with Soft Touch Arts!  
Attending school and engaging well in English and maths!  
Being mature and reflective during and after PSHE lesson!  
Working out the volume of a cylinder and being proud of yourself!*

We love the round of applause students receive when they're awarded a Shout Out! Well done!



All Leicester Schools are part of a safeguarding initiative, which aims to improve outcomes for children and families affected by domestic violence and abuse.

This scheme has been designed to provide early reporting to schools of any domestic abuse incidents that might have an impact on a child that attends their school. The approach, known as Operation Encompass is used in a number of other places across the UK and is run in partnership with Leicester City Council and Leicestershire Police.

All public agencies currently share information where there are safeguarding concerns or risk of harm to children and the Police currently share information on all incidents of domestic abuse in Leicester with Leicester City Council.

To further support the welfare of children this information sharing is extended to schools. Our Head Teacher will now be informed when any domestic abuse incident has been reported to the police and one of our pupils was in the household. It will not give any details about the incident. This has been introduced because domestic abuse in a household can have a big impact on children, even if they do not see what is happening.

This information will be used to ensure the school is able to provide appropriate support to our pupils. The information will remain **confidential** and only shared on a strictly need-to-know basis. It will not be shared with any pupils. Pupils can talk to any member of staff at school about concerns they have, and they can find a poster around our school of our Safeguarding Team.

If you would like to speak to someone in confidence about domestic abuse, call the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0800 802 0028 or visit <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-community/emergencies-safety-and-crime/domestic-and-sexual-abuse/>

We look to offer the best support possible for our pupils and believe that this scheme is going to be beneficial and supportive for all those involved. In other areas of the country where it is in place it has been found to be a very effective way of supporting children at a most difficult time.

**James Stafford**

Assistant Head Teacher

### Private Fostering - Let us know

If a child is living with, and being cared for by someone who is not a relative, the arrangement is called private fostering.

This can be for a number of reasons and it can be temporary or long term. Maybe the child's parents are unwell, or there has been some difficulty in the family.

The arrangement can be for convenience when the parents live abroad.

A privately fostered child is a child under 16 (or under 18 if the child has a disability) who is being cared for and is living with someone else.

That person is someone who is not

- a parent, or other person who holds parental responsibility for the child
- a close relative; for example, a grandparent, step-parent, brother or sister, uncle or aunt. The relative can be half blood, full blood or by marriage.

It is an arrangement where care is intended to last more than 27 days.

If your child or a child, you know is being private fostered following the definition above we can provide advice and support. Please get in touch with one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads at school by emailing [safeguarding@childrenshospitalschool.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@childrenshospitalschool.leicester.sch.uk) or call the main office.

**James Stafford**

Assistant Head Teacher





## ISSY



Issy has been coming to Willow Bank School, everyday for the last year. she is a sociable, small Daschund with a big personality. Issy thoroughly enjoys being in school and has made good bonds with many staff and students. She has become accustomed to most of the school over the year and attended many lessons with students to assist them to feel comfortable in the room. Issy has also helped students in reviews and careers talks too!

Sometimes it has felt like Issy has been needed in more than one place at one time, especially in the less structured parts of the school day. She thoroughly enjoys her school routine and is much more content in the week when she comes to school than at the weekend when she is supposed to relax!

**Emma Compton**, Art Therapist

## DORIS AND BABS

The ladies had a safe 5 months in my shed and were pampered!! They have now returned to their new set up at Willow Bank School which involves settees, blankets and heat pads!!

**Kerry Whiteley**  
Teacher



## MEET THE STAFF



**James Stafford**  
Assistant Head  
Teacher

James is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and feels that the safety and welfare of all children is of paramount importance.

James leads the pastoral teams working with colleagues in school and other professionals.



**Dr Elizabeth Hope**  
Lead teacher in  
Science

Elizabeth joined the CHS in 2016, becoming Lead Teacher in Science in 2018.

She started working with the Leicester Royal Infirmary team, introducing Science across the wards, before moving on to Home Tuition, Willow Bank and finally on to Ward 3 in 2019. She currently teaches Science across all bases - or will do once again when the pandemic allows.'

## 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

### Summer Term 2021

School opens: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

Half term break: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021

School closes: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021

