



February 2022 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

I hope you are all keeping well at this time. It has certainly been a very busy start to 2022, with more young people coming into the school and many activities returning after a pause. Like all schools, we are balancing staff and pupil absences as best we can to ensure everything on site can carry on as planned. I would like to thank everyone for their determination through a difficult period and hopefully the situation will continue to ease.

We've had a few projects on the go to improve facilities at each site – from an IT upgrade at the LRI to new toilets and learning suite at Willow Bank. The new roof replacement at Willow Bank started this week and is likely to take a few months, however, we are assured this will not impact the exam season when it arrives.

I am aware that many household costs are increasing at the moment and I would encourage any family finding things difficult to seek help, either externally or from Jayne Lister our family support worker who can signpost to other agencies if required.

Jayne Lister (07525 313277)

jayne.lister@leicester.gov.uk

As a school we will do what we can to support, including:

- Free breakfast, breaks and lunch for all pupils who would like it. There is a daily range of hot and cold food available with menus on the website, and catering for all dietary needs.
- Educational resources provided for those who need it, including revision guides, English texts and film studies resources.
- Loan of laptops for those requiring a device to access work from home.

If there is anything else you think we can support with then please let us know.

The nights are getting lighter and I'm ever-hopeful that temperatures will rise soon. I hope you have a wonderful half-term and I look forward to seeing everyone back safely on Monday 21st February.

Best wishes,

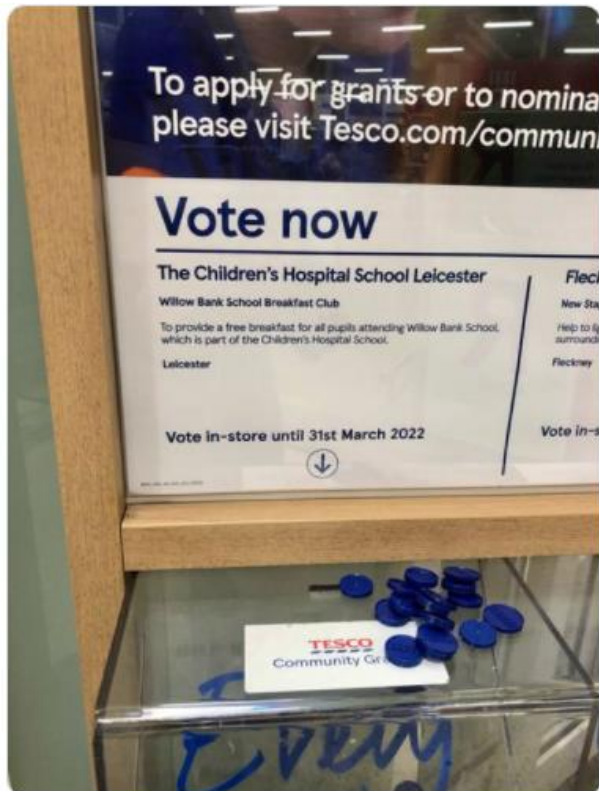
Stephen Deadman

GRANTS, DONATIONS & CHARITY EVENTS

TESCO COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

Don't forget to keep voting for The Children's Hospital School until 31st March 2022.

Stores where you can vote on our project are:
Narborough Express, Leicester Forest East Express, Aberdale Rd Express, South Wigston, Rowley Fields Express, Leicester Saffron Express, Leicester Evington, Leicester Lutterworth Express, Countesthorpe Express



RACE FOR LIFE

At one of our School Council meetings we discussed future fundraising opportunities. One of the ideas discussed was holding our own Race for Life for Cancer Research.

Willow Bank School have signed up to do it and it is on the calendar for Friday 29th April.

The page for donation is:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/willow-bank-school>



MARATHON FUNDS



LRI's latest Star of the Week Taylor. Thank you to everyone who donated to Lisa Ellis's fantastic London Marathon effort. We used some of this money to buy goodies for our Stars of the Week including:

- Notebooks
- Sensory fidget toys
- Bubbles
- Pencils and rubbers
- Colouring pencils
- Badges
- Customised stickers
- Customised wristbands
- Stress relief tangles



EDITH MURPHY FUND CONTRIBUTION

A huge thank you to the Edith Murphy Fund Leicester for their contributions of £1000 to support students with completing the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

Students have been able to use this funding for expedition equipment and resources to support their choice volunteering, skill and physical sections.



Children's Hospital School

NEWS FROM THE BEACON

BAGS OF FUN!

Students at The Beacon enjoyed some therapeutic enrichment by creating some wonderful tote bags and t-shirts!



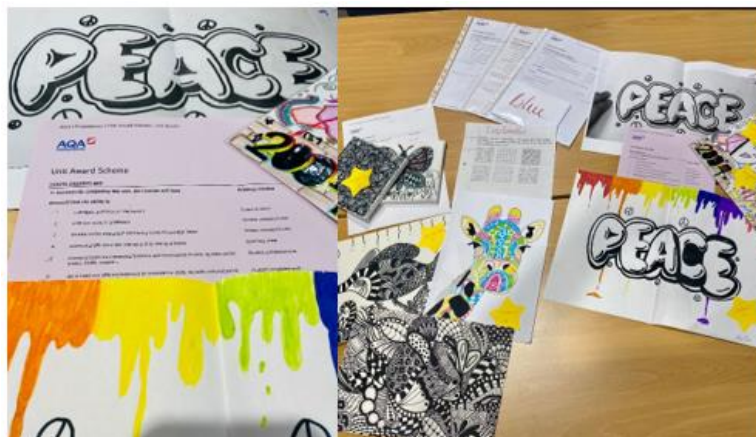
BEAUTIFUL ORNAMENTAL BOWLS

The students at The Beacon have been busy making papier mâché bowls, which they have decorated beautifully, as part of their Arts Award programme.



AQA UNIT AWARDS

Some wonderful work has been produced whilst studying for an AQA Unit Award on Graffiti! For this award, students must research graffiti art, create their own name using graffiti style and apply specific design skills.



NEWS FROM WILLOW BANK SCHOOL

ONLINE PRIVACY SETTINGS & ONLINE SAFETY

Lots of young people will continue to rely on technology over the coming months, for entertainment and keeping in touch with friends and family.

Please find three useful articles to help you keep your child safer online:

1. [A parent's guide to privacy settings](#)
2. [Gaming: what parents and carers need to know](#)
3. [What is the Internet of Things \(IoT\)?](#)

James Stafford

Assistant Head Teacher and
Designated Safeguarding Lead

CHINESE NEW YEAR

The Chinese New Year was celebrated at Willow Bank School with Mr Pepper playing his very own lion drum!



WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day changes lives through a love of books and shared reading.

This year is the 25th year there's been a World Book Day, and on 3rd March 2022, children of all ages will come together to share the joy of reading for pleasure.

Spending just 10 minutes a day reading and sharing stories with children can make a crucial difference to their future success and it's fun for all involved.



PARENT MEETING DATES

The upcoming Parent Meeting dates are as follows:

Wednesday 2nd March @2:00 with Nikki Cole and Support Learning at Home

Wednesday 23rd March @2:00 with Lorraine Biddle on Understanding Self-Harm

Micki Handford
Pastoral Manager

PRONOUN BADGES

Our new badges for students & staff have arrived.



HORSES FOR CAUSES



With the weekly Equine therapy session being moved indoors this gave Tally our school dog the opportunity to meet Bolt!

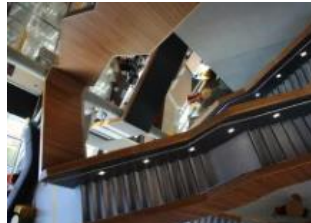


TRIPS

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY

This term some of the year 11 students visited De Montfort University for a University Experience Day. This trip was a fantastic opportunity to see what a university has to offer and for the students to think about their future education choices. Both staff and students enjoyed the tour around the campus, which also included lunch in the student union and viewing some student accommodation. The students had a chance to chat to members of staff and DMU students, which included a talk about student support. It was lovely to see the students get a taste of campus life and they were a credit to our school.

Gemma Martin
(Learning/Behaviour Mentor)



ICE SKATING

Students at Willow Bank School were given the opportunity to take part in a trip to the ice rink at Jubilee Square in December.

We thought this would be a festive way of rewarding students for all their hard work over the past term. There were also other Christmas activities going on in the city centre including Wheel of Light, Clock Tower Christmas Tree and Nativity Scene at Town Hall Square.



UPCOMING TRIPS

LONDON

There is a residential trip to London taking place in February 2022. We will be staying at a Youth Hostel Association accommodation.

This residential includes visits to the following landmarks:

- Tower of London
- Covent Garden
- Westminster Abbey
- Downing Street
- Buckingham Palace
- Natural History Museum



AUTUMN GOVERNOR NEWS

Welcome to our very first termly update of news from the Children's Hospital School Governing Body, the purpose of which is to keep parents informed regarding some of the activities of the school governing body.

We welcomed in December Chris Haydon to the Governing Body, joining the Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee. Chris brings experience of Human Resources and Finance, as well as a background working for charity organisations.

Visits

Thankfully the Autumn Term saw a return of face to face visits and meetings, following the difficulties posed by the pandemic.

Visits provide the opportunity to monitor key areas of the school, meet staff and students and bring into context information and reports shared at meetings.

This term they centred around:

- Safeguarding
- Looked After Children
- Health & Safety
- Special Educational Needs and Disability
- Leicester Royal Infirmary Provision

In addition Governors joined staff and students for the Macmillan coffee morning and Christmas lunch.

Monitoring

Some of the key areas looked at this term included:

- Analysis of examination results from 2021, including how outcomes will inform planning and interventions for this year.
- Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) - how the new PSHE curriculum (Sept 2020) is being planned and delivered across the school and the impact this is having.
- Willow Bank presentation from Diane Davies (Deputy Head), focusing on the ways in which students are monitored daily, weekly and half termly to support their progress and well-being.
- The Headteacher's Report from the Autumn term was discussed, including the impact of the summer school held at The Beacon, updates on building works and referral numbers.
- The School Improvement Plan - a key document driving school improvement, with Governors allocated to specific areas.
- Management Accounts discussed and scrutinised by the Finance Committee.

Governors were also delighted to read the Challenge Partners Report from November 2021 which evaluated the school as 'Leading'.

"Staff at CHS know students well and show exceptional commitment to improving their lives".

"The carefully thought out and relevant curriculum in each setting improves well-being, resilience, skills and knowledge, preparing students for the next phase of their lives".

Who are the Governors?

The Governing Body consists of a diverse group of people from different backgrounds. The different skillset each brings to the group allows us to effectively support and challenge the leadership team.

Meetings are held each year as follows:

- Full Governor x4
- Curriculum and Standards x3
- Finance, Personnel and Premises x3

More details about the Governing Body can be found on the school website [here](#).

ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL



At the Leicester Royal Infirmary, we aim to engage inpatients of school age in learning whilst they are in hospital. Our key aim is to minimise the impact of their stay in hospital on their education and wellbeing, allowing them to keep up to date with their classmates and the learning that they are missing out on in school. Most children are taught on a one-to-one basis due to medical needs. This enables us to develop personalised programmes for each child, helping us to meet each child's individual academic and emotional needs.



Willow Bank Day School provides an education for students aged 11-16 who are unable to access education in their own school for medical reasons. Each student has a personalised timetable comprising core and foundation subjects. We also offer Arts Award, a vocational element, and a therapeutic curriculum, as appropriate. Individual timetables are designed to meet students' academic needs, whilst taking account of health and emotional factors.



The Beacon CAMHS Unit is Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trusts CAMHS Inpatient Unit based at Glenfield Hospital in Leicester. It is a 15 bedded Unit providing care for young people aged 12 – 18 years. Young people are admitted to The Beacon either in a state of crisis, or when their circumstances and presentation becomes complex and an assessment is needed. We admit from the city, the county and beyond.

Education at The Beacon CAMHS Unit is provided by specialist teaching staff from The Children's Hospital School. The education staff aim to marry academic and therapeutic progress by working closely with the clinical team.

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

Spring Term 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



Children's Hospital School