



Children's Hospital School

'Better Together'

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December 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, The Magpie Learning Centre, Leicester Royal Infirmary and The Beacon Unit.

Dear Parents/Carers

As I look back at the last term, it seems quite amazing to me how much has been packed in since September. Time has flown by, and it has been encouraging that school life has been able to carry on as close to normal as possible. The opening of our new Magpie Learning Centre feels like a distant memory, and it is great to see it so well established and making such a difference to the young people who attend.

One of the best things I get to do is visit the four different parts of our school and witness the brilliant teaching going on. It is a real joy to see children enjoying their learning and being taught so well by the staff across all the school bases or at home.

This year our whole-school improvement priorities include lots of work developing our teaching and learning, a focus on literacy and reading, along with each member of staff undertaking a piece of research (evidence informed practice). Our exam results last year were excellent and the school came out very positively when benchmarked against similar settings (but we're always striving to get better in what we do!).

I am sure all parents, carers and pupils will join me in saying a huge thank you to the staff across the school. They have worked so hard to ensure learning continues and normality is preserved as much as possible. I have been incredibly proud to see staff and pupils getting on with school in such difficult circumstances.

We are saying goodbye to Danny Riley at the end of term who is moving on to be Deputy Headteacher at another local special school. Danny has been our Head of School at the Leicester Royal Infirmary for almost 4 years and, along with his team, has helped transform that provision into a model of excellence. I would like to thank Danny for his hard work and dedication over the years and wish him the very best in his new role. Sarah Fitzpatrick will be taking over in that role from January.

Thank you all so much for your support this year and I hope everyone has a wonderful break. If there is anything you need, or we can help in any way then please get in contact. Make sure you get plenty of rest and I look forward to seeing you all in 2023.

Best wishes,

Stephen Deadman



CHILDREN IN NEED – 18th NOVEMBER 2022



Willow Bank School raised £91.20 for Children in Need.

Staff wore non-uniform and there was a game of guess how many sweets were in the jar. There was also a cake sale.



MAGIC WAND

Thank you to Merlin's Magic Wand for donating the tickets for Warwick Castle, and the contribution of £200 towards the transport.



SEVERN TRENT

Thank you to Severn Trent for the £6,000 donation for the Music room refurbishment.

This money has helped to purchase lots of equipment for the students.



WONDERFUL ON TAP



WORK EXPERIENCE

Work Experience was a huge success. Well done to those students that completed their placements in October. We are so proud of all the students and visiting staff remarked on how positive and confident the students were. I hope this has helped all the students involved to think about what they want to do next year and helped them to gain employability skills for the future. We have had some fantastic feedback from employers this year. Here is what some of the employers had to say:

- (Student) has made a great impression on our studio this week...
- (Student) has shown to be a great listener, who follows instructions and completes tasks to the best of her ability. A lovely girl.
- (Student's) confidence has grown over the week. It's been lovely to see.
- (Student) has fitted in well...she is a pleasant and polite girl
- (Student) has interacted wonderfully with both customers and staff. Very polite, handled tasks efficiently and shown great initiative.
- (Student) has shown more confidence as the week has gone on. Nice lad!
- (Student) has been a great student, shown lots of initiative and has been loved by the children.
- The children have loved having (student)!
- (Student) has fitted in really well and worked well with staff. She asks lots of questions and offers to do work without being asked.

See below pictures taken from one of our students placement as a studio assistant.



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MORE NEWS FROM WILLOW BANK SCHOOL

LEICESTER COLLEGE VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY

The Careers Team at Leicester College delivered an excellent virtual assembly to our KS4 students at Willow Bank School on Tuesday 25th October. The aim of the session was to provide an introduction to Post 16 options. Students learnt about what options are available to them after year 11, such as vocational learning, academic learning, T Levels and apprenticeships and discovered ways to research these options.



POST 16 EVENT

A huge thank you to the below colleges for coming along to support our Post 16 event at Willow Bank School, and to Lynne Miller from Connexions for organising the event.



BEAUCHAMP CITY
SIXTH FORM



Also thank you to Inspired to Care project, who help social care providers to find and recruit frontline care professionals who have the right values and commitment to the sector. This is done by promoting the rewards of a career in care, signposting potential care workers to information and guidance, and by providing social care employers with tailored recruitment and retention resources. They also offer Careers advice and work in schools promoting care and can help with Work Experience.



PUDSEY BEAR DECORATING



Students at Willow Bank School decorated Pudsey bears for Children in Need.

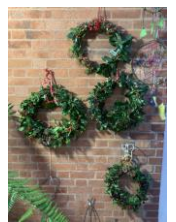
WORLD CUP

Willow Bank School has been decorating to celebrate the world cup.



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE CHRISTMAS..

Getting into the festive spirit at Willow Bank School.



HALLOWEEN BAKES

In cooking lessons at Willow Bank School, students baked some tasty Halloween treats, including decorative cupcakes and spider cookies. This helped the students involved to gain two AQA units in baking. Well done!



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OUTDOOR LEARNING AT THE MAGPIE LEARNING CENTRE



Beginning to build a winter home for our little visitors 🐛🐜

KS3 and 2 students have been very busy this term over at the The Magpie. With the help of Molly Laycock from The Saffron Brook regeneration project, Hollie Campbell from Sustainable Schools, Tracey Inchley from the EMCC and Chris Sullivan a governor from CHS, we set to work building our wonderful community allotment garden!

It's been a very productive term indeed...students prepared and seeded their wild flower garden and built a fantastic bug hotel, with a little help from Molly!

Here's Molly showing us how to press the seeds firmly down!
Hopefully we will have lots of beautiful flowers next summer



Early in the term we set to weeding our raised beds and planting peas, broad beans, onion and garlic sets to over winter, students have enjoyed watching the seedlings pop up! 🌱



And for Christmas KS3 students worked hard putting together our brand new garden arch and making gorgeous sparkly festive hanging baskets

Well done to everyone at The Magpie for all your enthusiasm and hard efforts to make the outdoor area look splendid!

Watch this space in 2023as we are making plans to have our own little pond! 🌿🔔



MESSY SENSES

The KS2 and KS3 Magpie students have been enjoying their Tuesday Messy Senses sessions with Louise Coleman. Messy Senses are sensory specialists supporting children, young people and adults.

So far, the students have designed and created a tie-dye t-shirt and using air-drying clay, have made some personalised decorations. They are looking forward to making slime during the next couple of weeks.

Our students and teachers are also having fun playing the game, 'What's in the Box?' Here, the students connect with their senses to guess what is inside of the box.



UPLIFT AT THE MAGPIE LEARNING CENTRE

Uplift at The Magpie Learning Centre is loved by our students, they have engaged in many activities including baking pizza, lemon and poppy seed cakes and gingerbread men. They have had fun crafting pom poms for Halloween and creating butterflies for a future display in the canteen area.



CHILDREN IN NEED

Throughout the week our KS2 and KS3 students completed various Children in Need activities. The favourite was the no sew Pudsey bears, they started taking over!



REMEMBRANCE WEEK

Our students took part in various Remembrance activities to remember those who have been affected by war. They created a beautiful display with their own poppy artwork. They baked lemon and poppy seed cupcakes and took part in an assembly ran by Mr Stafford



CHRISTMAS AT THE MAGPIE

Our KS3 students have been struck by the Elf on the Shelf! Their first day was a treasure hunt – the elf had hidden their gifts, naughty elf! Luckily, the elf had left them clues to help them find them. They went on a hunt, searching for their lost presents. Thankfully, they were found safe and enjoyed a small festive present. However, he came back the next day and made a mess of our reading nook!



ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY – CHEMISTRY WEEK 2022

Students at the Magpie and on home tuition participated in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Chemistry Week. The focus of Chemistry week for 2022 was sustainability. Students had been invited to participate by the Pilgrim School in Lincolnshire. The students investigated how they could build their own batteries to power different coloured LED's. The students carefully constructed batteries using copper coins, aluminium foil and cardboard soaked in vinegar to produce cells which were then stacked together to light different coloured LEDs.



NEWS FROM THE BEACON UNIT

AQA AWARDS

We have had a productive month here at The Beacon. One of our young people created a delicious Italian dish as part of their AQA awards and we must say it was fantastic!



ART AT THE BEACON

In Art we created poppy pictures using pastels, acrylic paint and watercolour pencils in aid of Remembrance Day.



CONTROVERSY CARDS

On Wednesday afternoons, our young people have been taking part in debate sessions using our Controversy Cards. They have really enjoyed tackling some challenging topics and sharing their views and opinions.



READ ON THE WARD SESSION

We have recently introduced a Read On The Ward session, where we are reading The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman. This is a therapeutic session and the young people really enjoy being read to and are always happy to give their opinions on various characters and predictions on what will happen next.



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AUTUMN GOVERNOR NEWS – WELCOME

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

We welcomed in November Jo Parfitt to the Governing Body, joining the Curriculum and Standards Committee. Jo brings a background in education, currently working as a Maths teacher in a city secondary school.

We were also delighted to re-appoint Chris Sullivan and Jill Townsend for a further term of office.

Visits

Governors have been busy visiting The Children's Hospital School during the Autumn Term.

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
- Finance

In addition, Governors joined staff and students for the Macmillan coffee morning and are looking forward to the Christmas lunch at Willow Bank and the Magpie Learning Centre.

Monitoring

Some of the key areas looked at this term included:

- Analysis of examination results from 2022, including how outcomes will inform planning and interventions for this year.
- Pupil Premium – a report on the pupil premium expenditure 21-22 and the impact, as well as the strategy for the upcoming academic year.
- Leicester Royal Infirmary presentation from Danny Riley (Head of School - LRI) and Kayt Hennessy (primary teacher), focusing on the ways pupils with significant special needs are taught at the LRI, and literacy across the curriculum at the LRI.
- The Headteacher's Report from the Autumn term was discussed, including the impact of the summer school held at The Beacon, updates from each Base, including the new Magpie Learning Centre provision, and an overview of the outcomes from the learning walks which took place across the school in September.
- 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.

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

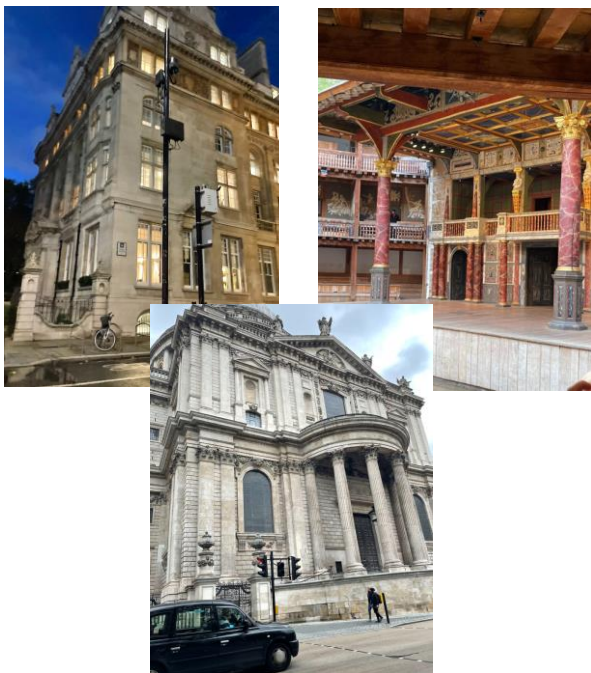
More details about the Governing Body can be found on the school website [here](#).



TRIPS UPDATE

LONDON

A group of students from Willow Bank School went on a residential visit to London from 3rd to 4th November. They visited landmarks and attractions within the city including Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.



WARWICK CASTLE

We wanted to share with you some photos from the Warwick Castle trip.



LEICESTER UNIVERSITY

Students at Willow Bank School visited Leicester University on Wednesday 23rd November to experience what they had to offer. The students had a tour of the campus and looked at different facilities available at the University. Students explored how University is different to school/college and what it can lead to, learnt about post 16 options and took part in fun activities and quizzes.



ICE SKATING

For our Christmas treat, the Magpie went ice skating! 4 students, Amy and Oli all piled into the minibus kindly driven by Mr McDonald. Everyone got on their skates and off we went! Carefully holding onto the side, we all made it round once. Oli found his alter ego of Christopher Dean and was well away! With only a few falls, and some cold feet and hands, we all made it back to warm up with hot chocolates! This was followed by an afternoon of making pizzas, Christmas games and watching Nativity. It was a good day all round of Christmas fun.



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT GRANT

This grant could possibly help you be awarded some money towards your utility bills, and an e-voucher for food. Jayne Lister is offering support to parents to apply for this grant in both the City and County. If you are interested please email your name, child's initials and family email address to jayne.lister@leicester.gov.uk.



CONTACTS SHOULD YOU NEED ASSISTANCE

Urgent contacts for Early Help and Prevention and Children's Social Care

Leicester City Council – 0116 4541004

Leicestershire County Council – 0116 3050005

Rutland County Council – 01572 758407

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 2022-23

Spring Term 2023

Start of term for pupils: Tuesday 3rd January 2023
Half term holiday: 20th February to 24th February 2023
Last day of Spring term: Friday 31st March 2023
Easter Holiday: 3rd April to 14th April 2023

Summer Term 2023

Start of term for pupils: Monday 17th April 2023
May Bank Holiday: Monday 1st May 2023
Extra May Bank Holiday: Monday 8th May 2023
Half term holiday: 29th May to 2nd June 2023
Last day of Summer term: Friday 14th July 2023

REMINDER – The school closes to students at lunchtime on Friday 16th December, and re-opens on Tuesday 3rd January

and finally



WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



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