



Children's Hospital School

'Better Together'

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February 2023 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

I hope you are all keeping well at this time. It has been a very busy start to 2023, with more young people coming into the school and plenty of activities being organised in each of the school bases. There is a real buzz around the school and after all the disruption of the past few years, it's great to see a sense of normality returning.

Our Year 11 students are working hard as they start to think about summer exams and planning for post-16 studies. Further information to support independent study can be found on the school website and will also be provided by teachers. We hope this is useful to students and parents, but any questions or concerns then please ask.

A reminder that our family support worker, Jayne Lister can be contacted if there is anything you'd like to discuss. Jayne can support with a wide range of issues and signpost to other agencies if required.

Jayne Lister (07525 313277)
jayne.lister@leicester.gov.uk

Lastly, I would like to congratulate staff for being award winners at the Leicester City Sustainable Schools Awards a few weeks ago. Lorraine Biddle won the "Mental Health Champion" award with Kerry Whiteley winning "Forest School Champion". The school was shortlisted for "Team of the Year" but was especially pleased to win overall **"Environment, Health & Wellbeing School of the Year"**. This is well-deserved recognition for the staff who work so hard across all areas of the school.

The days are getting longer, daffodils are emerging, and I hope temperatures will continue to rise. Have a restful half-term and I look forward to seeing everyone back safely on Monday 27th February.

Best wishes,

Stephen Deadman



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MIND DONATION

The young people at The Beacon Unit had money to spend on resources to create items to sell.

There was **£140** profit made from this, which was donated to the Mind Charity.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

A huge thank you to the Edith Murphy Fund Leicester for their contribution of **£1,500** to support students with completing the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

We will use this funding towards expedition equipment and resources for students.

We are also pleased to share with you that the school application for the DofE Resilience Fund has been successful.

The school has received **£1,100** from this bursary.



Children's Hospital School

AWARD WINNERS



Congratulations to Lorraine and Kerry who were both winners at the Leicester Sustainable Schools awards evening this week. Lorraine as Mental Health Champion and Kerry as Forest School Champion.

At the end of the evening, our school was also announced as 'Environment, Health & Wellbeing School of the Year'. Our nomination included forest schools, mental health, sport, healthy living, food & cooking, PSHE, relationships and staff wellbeing. Each base of the school featured within the whole-school nomination.

EARLY INTERVENTION UPDATE

Our early intervention provision has been open for a term, supporting many who are stuck on CAMHS waiting lists. Very successful reintegration results so far and demand means we have extended the age range to include Year 10 from February.



NEWS FROM WILLOW BANK SCHOOL

BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATIONS

It was Burns Night on 25th January, Willow Bank School celebrated with some tasty treats for staff and students.



PDSA ASSEMBLY

PDSA (the vet charity for pets in need) delivered an excellent virtual assembly to our KS4 students at Willow Bank School on Wednesday 25th January.

The aim of the session was to provide an introduction to the charity and to discuss careers within the PDSA.



YEAR 11 REVISION

With GCSE exams fast approaching for year 11 students at Willow Bank it is never too early to start revision. After half term we will be launching our revision programme to students and outlining all the opportunities and support on offer to help students through the exam season.

As a start point here are some useful websites and online resources which will help students to ensure they have the content needed for revision.



MathsPad



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MORE NEWS FROM WILLOW BANK SCHOOL

We thought it'd be nice to share some photos with you of the school dogs carrying out their daily duties, it's a hard life!!



NEWS FROM THE MAGPIE LEARNING CENTRE

GARDENING NEWS

We have been very busy over at the Magpie Learning centre this term! Students have been bracing the freezing temperatures to get outside and to continue to help create our lovely outdoor space.*

The hole is now dug and ready for the belfast sink which we will hopefully be bringing over at half term. And in spring we will be introducing some pond plants, snails and frog spawn....YAY! 🐸🐸🐸

Either side of the pond, students have been creating tyre planters and painting these and getting them filled and planted up for spring daffs! 🌷

Lastly, not forgetting the eco-brick seats we are building and the arch which is now ready for the sweet potato climbers..... at the moment we are chitting about 4 sweet potatoes in our outdoor learning inside area, ready to plant out and grow up and over the arch. They make great climbers with very cute little white flowers on which the bees love!!! 🐝

So please, continue to watch this space gardeners!



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COOKING

The students at the Magpie Learning Centre have been baking up at storm this half term! From scones to soda bread, Victoria sponge to breakfast cookies. The most successful was a beautiful cheesecake! It went down a storm with the students – and staff!



SOFT TOUCH MUSIC

With thanks to Ciaran, our students are having the opportunity with music project Soft Touch.

In these sessions the students have a chance to learn and play instruments. Over the course of the sessions, they will try out a range of instruments, have sessions on how to write lyrics, form a band and finally to visit the Soft Touch studio to have a couple of recording sessions.

The students love being able to try different instruments and learning to play various songs!



STORYTELLER

The Foxes have been entertained by Wilf a storyteller from Read For Good. Not only has he told us stories from around the world, America, Japan and Russia. One of our students' cats, Boris, was integrated into a story, he deviously escaped from home and decided to move into the neighbour's house because he did not want to wear a flea collar.

We look forward to welcoming Wilf back with more adventures from around the globe.



MESSY SENSES

Mess has come to the Magpie! Lovely Louise from Messy Senses has come to offer some mess making fun. Messy Senses are an organisation offering sensory sessions. They make slime, tie dye t-shirts, marble art and string art. All the students love these sessions and the mess they make, slime was a particular favourite. At the end of all her sessions, Louise finishes with "What's in the box?". All the students – and teachers – put their hand in the blind box and guess what was in there. These are things like slime, pineapple ring.

The first time was a pineapple ring, followed by foam slime. To conclude the session, everyone went round and picked a conversation card and answered what it said. These were questions like "what are you watching on tv?", "what's your favourite colour", "show us your happy face". We even had a visit from Louise's tortoises.



NEWS FROM THE BEACON UNIT

SOFT TOUCH ARTS

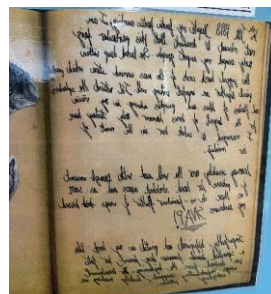
This month at The Beacon we have welcomed Soft Touch Arts, who visit on a Thursday afternoon.

The young people have been taking part in music sessions within the classroom and down on the ward and have thoroughly enjoyed it! Wider staff on the ward have also been getting involved, which has been fantastic in building positive relationships with our young people



ENGLISH LESSONS

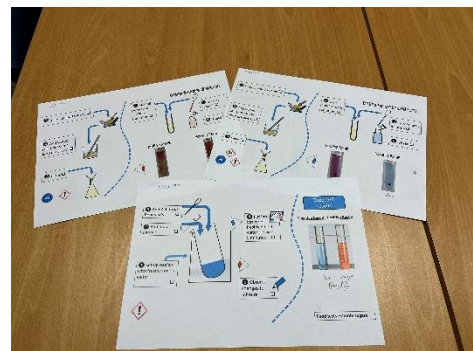
During English lessons, the young people have been looking at Lady Cottington's pressed fairies by Terry Jones. By incorporating art, our young people developed their own interpretation of a captured fairy, using marbling skills. Finally moving on to writing their own diary entry using a variety of language devices.



SCIENCE LESSONS

In Science our young people have been learning about the digestive system and how your body breaks down food.

They have been taking part in practical sessions testing to see if there are fats, starch and proteins in certain foods. Our young people really enjoy taking part in the practical sessions.



Children's Hospital School

NEWS FROM THE LRI

COLLABORATIVE ART

It has been a pleasure to watch our children on Home Tuition and our students at The LRI take part in the weekly art challenges. Pupils have loved learning new techniques and seeing their work on our collaborative art display.



MUSIC ON THE WARDS

This half term, we have thoroughly enjoyed having Robin and Caroline with us from Soft Touch Arts. They have brought fun, laughter and music to our children's wards on a Friday afternoon. It has been wonderful to see our students of all ages take part in singing and music sessions. Parents and nursing staff have also been eager to join in.



CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

We have started the year celebrating two festivals: Chinese New Year and Australia Day. Our students really enjoyed writing poetry, creating word art on the iPad and exploring Aboriginal art.

Our display is a work in progress. We look forward to sharing more of our work with you throughout the term.



Children's Hospital School

TRIPS UPDATE

BROOKSBY COLLEGE – 14th MARCH 2023

On 14th March 2023 there is a trip taking place to Brooksby College (part of the SMB college group), for students who have shown an interest in studying animal care next academic year.

The aim of the trip is for the students to look around the animal management centre and to experience what the campus has to offer. The Animal Management Centre has a reputation for having some of the best animal care training facilities in the region. Its specialist, purpose-built animal care unit houses a huge range of animals, including both domestic animals and exotics such as amphibians and reptiles.



CURVE THEATRE - AN INSPECTOR CALLS

On 23rd March 2023 there is a trip to Curve Theatre to see a production of the play An Inspector Calls, as part of the GCSE English Literature curriculum.

This is a brilliant opportunity for students to see the play as Priestley intended and it will help to develop their knowledge and understanding of it in preparation for the Literature exam.



OTHER INFORMATION

LEICESTER CITY FOOTBALL CLUB


LEICESTER CITY
IN THE COMMUNITY
PROJECT 15

INCLUSIVE LEICESTER

Five ways to wellbeing, physical activity, football, lunch provided, workshops and community volunteering.



DATE	VENUE	TIME	AGE	PRICE
Wednesday	Eyres Monsell Club for Young People, LE2 9AQ	12:30pm – 3:30pm	Adults 18+ with a learning disability	First Session FREE
Wednesday	New Parks Club for Young People, LE3 9SB			

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST PLEASE CONTACT:
LUKE.MILLER@LCFC.CO.UK



Children's Hospital School

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

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



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