



Children's Hospital School

'Better Together'

Headteacher: Mr S Deadman
Willow Bank School
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Leicester
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May 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, Magpie Learning Centre, Leicester Royal Infirmary and The Beacon Unit.

Dear Parents / Carers,

It's been another busy term so far with exams for our Year 11 students having started last week. Everyone has risen to the challenge and has given their very best in the examinations already completed. I'm sure everyone will appreciate the half-term break ready for the final push when we come back.

I would like to pass on my thanks to all staff, but especially Kathryn who has helped organise everything and everybody. Not only are exams happening at Willow Bank, but the teams at The Beacon and LRI have also jumped into action when Year 11 and 13 students have been admitted as inpatients.

In April, we had our annual 'Challenge Partners' quality assurance review which was carried out by 3 external reviewers who spent 2 days visiting lots of lessons, meeting pupils and staff. The full report is available on our website but a few quotes to share:

"Relationships, through a well-established culture of a therapeutic approach, are at the heart of all interactions."

"Leaders are clear that alongside a strong therapeutic model of provision, students are pushed outside of their comfort zone to support their social skills as well as academic outcomes."

Not only did we receive a '**leading**' judgement for this review, but we also had an **area of excellence** accredited for our mental health support.

"The school's exceptional work on mental health has been acknowledged and used as a case study in a recent publication 'How to Maximise Emotional Wellbeing and Improve Mental Health' published in 2021."

There is lots planned for after half-term including our second Duke of Edinburgh expedition, the Year 11 leavers' assembly, and our annual trip to Drayton Manor.

I hope you have a good half term break with plenty of rest, and I look forward to working with you again when we return.

Best wishes

Stephen Deadman



Children's Hospital School

PARENT DONATION

The Children's Hospital school received an extremely kind donation of £500 from a parent. This donation was for the LRI to purchase SEND resources.

Items purchased include:

Feathers, torch, musical rhythm toys, light-up tambourine, wooden spoons, mirrors, lion puppet, animal fidget, transport lacing shapes, plush gingerbread man, gingerbread man cookie cutter, castanets, bean bags and leaves.

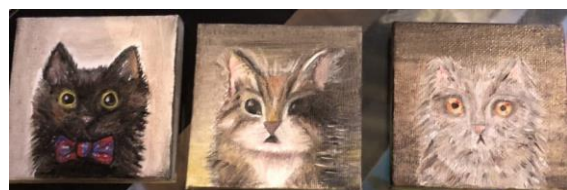


DofE GRANTS

Thank you to DofE Access Without Limits fund. We have been able to purchase tents, Trangias and bag covers to support students to complete their expedition in June.

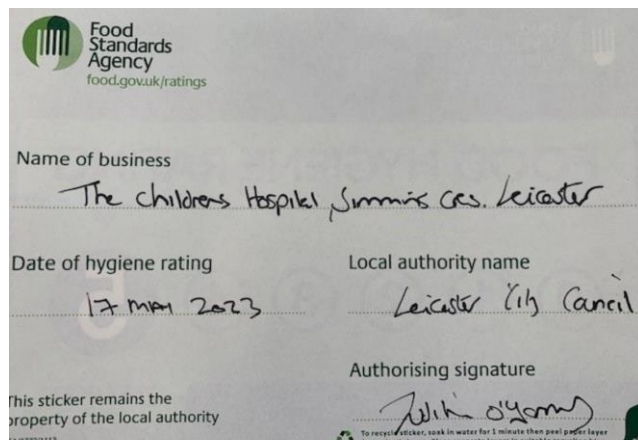


Thank you to DofE Resilience Fund 3.0 for our grant to support participants with their expedition, skill and physical recreation sections. One student chose to develop their arts and craft skills.



FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY

We wanted to share the news with you that we received a 5-star rating from the Food Standards Agency.



DECARBONISATION

Thanks to Greenbridge Renewables we're a step closer to free electricity.



CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

Breaktime treats were on offer to celebrate the Coronation.



CHALLENGE PARTNERS

Our latest Challenge Partners QA review report has been published with a 'Leading' estimate. Thanks to all our wonderful staff that enable the magic to happen!



QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW
REVIEW REPORT FOR
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL



QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW
REVIEW REPORT FOR
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL

Name of School:	Children's Hospital School
Headteacher/Principal:	Stephen Deadman
Hub:	Ash Field
School phase:	Foundation Special
MAT (if applicable):	Not applicable

Overall, Peer Evaluation Estimate at this QA Review:	Leading
Date of this Review:	25 th April 2023
Overall Estimate at last QA Review	Leading
Date of last QA Review	10/11/2021
Grade at last Ofsted inspection:	Outstanding
Date of last Ofsted inspection:	27/06/2017

Quality Assurance Review

The review team, comprising host school leaders and visiting reviewers agree that evidence indicates these areas are evaluated as follows:

Leadership at all levels Leading
Quality of provision and outcomes Leading

AND

Quality of provision and outcomes for disadvantaged students and students with additional needs

Area of excellence Accredited
Previously accredited valid areas of excellence Not applicable
Overall peer evaluation estimate Leading

The Quality Assurance Review estimates are not equivalent to Ofsted grades. The QA Review uses a different framework to Ofsted and the review is developmental not judgmental.

NEWS FROM THE BEACON

SENSORY SESSIONS

We have been busy at the Beacon this month, taking part in various activities. Our resident Artist Sian W Taylor has been visiting us weekly to run Sensory Atelier sessions, incorporating art and science. Last week the young people created exploding and fizzing paint, using various materials, it was great fun!



CALM TABLE

Our new calm table has proved to be a success, this is a weekly themed table which incorporates various materials and objects, for the young people to create individual artwork by using the environment as the third teacher. It is a place of calm, sanctuary and thought. We even created a table to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.



NEW STAFF, GARDENING, CORONATION CELEBRATIONS AND TEAM BUILDING

Another busy term here at Magpie Learning Centre!

To start the term off, we welcomed our new teaching assistant Courtney Fish to the team. Courtney has enjoyed the first few weeks and settled right in.

Our garden is forever growing, with the addition of sunflowers, lettuces, onions, garlic and runner beans. Our students have created bright and colourful bird feeders.

We celebrated the King's Coronation by wearing red, white and blue. Students took part in garden games, a royal quiz and baking quiche – they looked and tasted delicious. We encouraged students to show British Values and helped the environment by litter picking around the local area and collected 4 bags full within 30 minutes.

Eve from Leicester City Football has taken our PE lessons on a Thursday. Students have played games and took part in lots of fun activities, promoting team building.



We have been busy this month on our allotment.

Below is a photo of our freshly potted up wheelbarrow...getting ready for the summer wheelbarrow competition. We have to grow at least 5 plants we can eat in a wheelbarrow. They're still very small, but can you spot any you recognise yet?

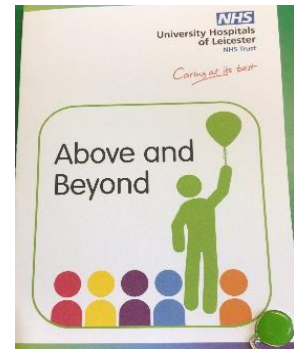
And just look at our pond....no froglets yet, but we're keeping our eyes peeled.

Students have enjoyed a bit of pond dipping this term and identifying all the strange and wonderful creatures that live and flourish in a pond.....



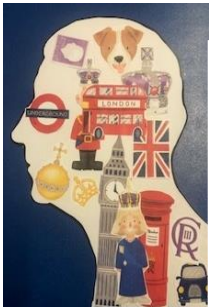
ABOVE AND BEYOND

Congratulations to Amy Thorpe who received an 'Above and Beyond' award at Leicester Royal Infirmary for all her hard work, perseverance and determination supporting a student and their family at the hospital, so very well deserved – thank you Amy!



KING CHARLES III CORONATION

We have been very busy at LRI celebrating the coronation of King Charles III. Our students have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in an array of coronation – themed activities including decorating crowns and learning about the history of coronation.



COLLABORATIVE ART

It has been wonderful to welcome more students to our classroom and for them to take part in our collaborative art display. What a beautiful welcome!

Our students love to see their work on display and if they are not able to come to the classroom, we take a photograph to show them at their bed side.



TRIPS UPDATE

DRAYTON MANOR - 26th JUNE 2023

This trip has been made available to all Willow Bank School students.

We are planning a visit to Drayton Manor. The day will be all about promoting positive relationships and feelings of health and happiness. It is also an opportunity for the students to relax and celebrate a successful year before parting ways for the summer holidays.



TWYXCROSS ZOO – 29th JUNE 2023

This trip has been made available to our KS3 and Year 10 students.

The Science Department have arranged a visit to Twycross Zoo. The zoo offers the opportunity to discover over 400 animals of 80 species, from big cats to monkey, apes and birds PLUS more - some of the rarest species on the planet.



CASTLETON - 3rd to 5th JULY 2023

This trip has been made available to Year 10 students at Willow Bank School.

This visit will be organised by the Youth Hostel Association, an organisation that specialises in offering students the opportunity to develop their confidence and self-esteem. Students will take part in a variety of activities focussing on teamwork and confidence building. Proposed activities include shelter building, fire lighting, archery, abseiling, and egg rocket building.

This trip is being fully funded in partnership with Leicester Children's Holidays and The Children's Hospital School Charitable Trust.



SUPPORT SERVICES

HEALTHY TOGETHER

See below support services available for young people struggling with any aspect of emotional or mental health.



Send a text to your Public Health Nurse (School Nurse) on

07520 615 386

to start a conversation about how you're feeling

YOUNG MINDS

Visit their website

youngminds.org.uk

for support, advice and information

HEALTH FOR TEENS

Visit

healthforteens.co.uk

for support, advice and information from NHS professionals

kooth

Visit their website

kooth.com

for a free online counselling service

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

Visit their website

childline.org.uk

or call

0800 1111



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INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

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](#)

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

TERM DATES 2022-23

Summer Term 2023

Half term holiday:
29th May to 2nd June 2023

Last day of Summer term:
Friday 14th July 2023

TERM DATES 2023-24

Term No 1: 32 days (6 weeks 2 days)

Schools Open	Wednesday 30 August 2023
Schools Close	Thursday 12 October 2023
INSET day (closed to pupils)	Friday 13 October 2023
Autumn Half Term Holiday	Monday 16 October 2023 to Friday 20 October 2023

Term No 2: 44 days (8 weeks 4 days)

Schools Open	Monday 23 October 2023
INSET day (closed to pupils)	Friday 1 December 2023
Schools Close	Friday 22 December 2023
Christmas Holiday	Monday 25 December 2023 to Friday 5 January 2024

Term No 3: 30 days (6 weeks)

Schools Open	Monday 8 January 2024
Schools Close	Friday 16 February 2024
Spring Half Term Holiday	Monday 19 February 2024 to Friday 23 February 2024

Term No 4: 20 days (4 weeks)

Schools Open	Monday 26 February 2024
Schools Close	Friday 22 March 2024
Easter Holidays	Monday 25 March 2024 to Friday 5 April 2024

Term No 5: 34 days (6 weeks 4 days)

Schools Open	Monday 8 April 2024
Bank Holiday (school closed)	Monday 6 May 2024
Schools Close	Friday 24 May 2024
Summer Half Term Holiday	Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024

Term No 6: 30 days (6 weeks)

Schools Open	Monday 3 June 2024
Schools Close	Friday 12 July 2024
Summer Holiday begins	Monday 15 July 2024



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