



Children's Hospital School

'Better Together'

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December 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.

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to thank all those who have supported the school and our children. It is a real privilege to work with so many inspiring people and I am regularly in awe of the brilliant work I see across all parts of our school.

Looking back over 2023, I feel a great sense of pride having seen our young people achieve so much, making progress both academically and socially. The staff have helped shape our provision so it continues to be outstanding and they are always looking for new things to do and new ways to improve outcomes for the children. I hope you will join me in thanking the staff for their dedication, hard work and care over the last year.

The newsletter gives you a snapshot of what has been going on in school this term, but there is plenty more beyond what you read here. There have been school trips, visiting workshops in school and plenty of enrichment activities run by our staff.

In 2024 the school will celebrate its 75th birthday, having been established at the General Hospital in 1949 and starting life in an oxygen room with four fold up chairs and one teacher! We hope to have a celebratory event in summer 2024 so look out for details.

We are saying goodbye to Caroline Woods in December who has been our school bursar (and newsletter editor) for several years. We would like to thank her for her hard work and wish her well in her new role.

In the next few weeks, we have two new teaching assistants joining the Willow Bank team – Corisande Collins and Sophie Abell. In January, there will also be two teachers joining the LRI and Beacon teams – Claire Fatkin and Kay Quilter. I am sure the whole school community will make them feel very welcome.

As Christmas approaches, I hope that each of you will be able to enjoy a peaceful and restful time with family and friends. My very best wishes to you all and I look forward to seeing what 2024 will bring.

Stephen Deadman



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NEWS FROM WILLOW BANK SCHOOL

FUNDRAISING - CHILDREN IN NEED

Staff and students wore their pyjamas and non-uniform to work to raise money for Children in Need. A total of **£66** was collected.



HOME GROWN VEGETABLES

Fresh parsnips made into beautiful soup by our amazing chef Nicky.



COOKING AQA CERTIFICATE

One of our year 11 students made this fabulous Black Forest Gateau during her cooking lesson, for the students and staff to share. Not only did it taste delicious and look great, she managed to achieve a AQA certificate as a result of her efforts.



ST ANDREW'S DAY

Willow Bank School celebrated St Andrew's Day on Thursday 30th November with some homemade tablet from Mr McDonald.



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VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY - LEICESTER COLLEGE

On Tuesday 31st October Leicester College did a virtual assembly for our KS4 students. They gave information about different post 16 qualifications and talked about the variety of courses on offer at the different campuses.



WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK 2nd TO 6th OCTOBER

Work Experience week was another success this year for our year 11 students. We had some fantastic feedback from employers and students this year. Those that took part should be very proud of themselves. Not only did the students gain important employability skills, it also enabled the students to think positively about their future careers.



Picture from K9 Heaven-Doggy Daycare

TRANSITION EVENT - 30th OCTOBER

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. This was a huge success and offered the students an insight into available college courses.



WILF THE STORYTELLER

In October we welcomed back Wilf the Storyteller from Read for Good. He brought laughter and joy to all the children's wards – even the nursing team were excited to hear his wonderful stories. The children loved choosing a book to keep and hearing Wilf's recommendations.



CHILDREN IN NEED

On Friday 17th November, children at the LRI had lots of fun taking part in Children in Need activities. Here are some of our masterpieces.



CLASSROOM COLLABORATIVE DISPLAY

Our students have enjoyed contributing to our collaborative Autumn classroom display this term. The display reflects All About Me activities, Autumn themed inspirations, Guy Fawkes, Diwali and Remembrance Day. A busy term celebrating all things Autumnal.



NEWS FROM MAGPIE LEARNING CENTRE

Messy Senses continues to be a highlight of the week here at The Magpie. Students have enjoyed making a tree of life using marbling inks, creating their own tea light holders and making macrame keyrings. Students have now taken ownership of the 'What's in the box' activity.... but have yet to fool Louise!

We enjoyed a special Halloween-themed day at the end of October, with exploding pumpkins in science, decorating biscuits in personal development, creating spooky shape pictures in maths and reading a haunting play in English.

It has been a busy half term for trips, with our CHS students visiting the National Memorial Arboretum and laying a wreath for Remembrance Day, a highly competitive visit to Hollywood Bowl, and a festive trip to the Jubilee Square ice rink still to take place.

We have held our first Foxes and Tigers coffee mornings this half term, giving parents the opportunity to talk with each other and our wonderful Family Support Worker, Jayne. Parents enjoyed a hot drink with cakes and flapjacks freshly baked by our students. More of these events will take place next term.

We celebrated Children in Need; the Magpie team wore t-shirts and hosted a Pudsey quiz and games. As well as creating a Pudsey bear made out of microfibre cloths during our Friday craft mornings for uplift. One of our intervention students brought in some delicious chocolate cake, decorated for the occasion, thank-you!

Our new Tigers and Foxes groups have settled in well and are already making great progress, with some fantastic feedback from both schools and parents.

Students have benefited from some amazing opportunities, such as a VR session, archery and visits from some horses in our garden!



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CELEBRATING OFSTED

OFSTED have published our recent inspection report. We are very proud of the outcome which reflects the hard work and dedication of all our staff. We are very pleased to remain 'outstanding' and wanted to share a few of the highlights from the report with you.

"Pupils receive an exceptional standard of education & care"



"The school goes the extra mile to re-engage pupils successfully in learning"

"Approach to improving attendance is exemplary"

"Pupils receive a heart-felt welcome by staff each morning. Pupils look forward to coming to school"

"The arrangements for safeguarding are effective"

"Those responsible for governance understand the school very well"



"There are high ambitions for all pupils"



3rd and 4th October 2023

To read the full report please visit [10254970-The-Childrens-Hospital-School-120363-final_Oct23.pdf](https://www.childrenshospitalschool.leicester.sch.uk/120363-final_Oct23.pdf) ([childrenshospitalschool.leicester.sch.uk](https://www.childrenshospitalschool.leicester.sch.uk))



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MORE NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL

WORKING ON THE WARDS DAY - 10th NOVEMBER

The annual 'Working on the Wards Day' took place in Leicester. Almost 90 practitioners came together to share ideas of how best to support education of young people in hospital. This event was a huge success



TRIPS UPDATE

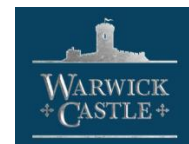
NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

Students from Magpie Learning Centre visited the National Memorial Arboretum on Friday 10th November. Seeing a selection of the over 400 memorials, it was a very poignant and meaningful day. One of our students placed a wreath which was in the same place as the remembrance service the next day.



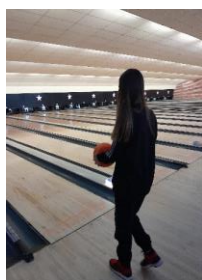
WARWICK CASTLE

Students from Willow Bank School visited Warwick Castle on Tuesday 21st November. The day was all about promoting positive relationships and feelings of health and happiness. It was also an opportunity for the students to relax after a busy start to the new academic year. A fabulous day was had by all.



HOLLYWOOD BOWL

Magpie Learning Centre enjoyed a trip to Hollywood Bowl on Wednesday 22nd November. Well done to our very own Mr McDonald for coming top of the leader board.



PIZZA EXPRESS

Students from Willow Bank School are invited to a trip to Pizza Express (Leicester Highcross) on Tuesday 9th January 2024. This trip will take place in the morning and students will learn about food and restaurant life. They will also get involved in making their very own delicious pizza.



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INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

USEFUL WEBSITES



www.talktofrank.com

for any drug related problems/questions/issues



www.Turning-point.co.uk/services/leicester

for drug and alcohol related support

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday 18th January @ 11:30am

Internet Safety with Mel Madlani, teacher of Computing

**This session will be hosted online on Teams due to the nature of the content. However, we can provide a space at WBS for parents to view the session via Teams should they request it and a recording will be made that can be requested for those that cannot attend.*

Wednesday 31st January @ 2:30pm

Post-16 Options Discussion with Lynne Miller, Connexions advisor – (face-to-face session and online upon request)

ONLINE SAFETY



Talk

Chat to their child about their online world, just as they'd ask about their day at school, such as discussing the apps, social networks and websites their child uses.



Explore

Explore and understand the apps, games and sites their child uses and get to know their child's online world better, such as making a list of their child's favourites.



Agree

Make sure they are a good role model and agree common ground rules and boundaries with their family, such as which websites and apps are okay and not okay to use and why, times they are allowed online and what they are allowed to do.



Manage

Make use of the technology. Adapt privacy settings and use parental controls where necessary. Set rewards if their child sticks to the agreements and allow them more freedom as they mature and develop.



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MORE 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](#)

FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER CONTACT DETAILS

Jayne Lister

Family Support Worker - Children's Hospital School

07961 397 364

jlister@childrenshospitalschool.leicester.sch.uk

Working days are Wednesday and Thursday

Or contact

safeguarding@childrenshospitalschool.leicester.sch.uk

2023-24 TERM DATES

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

YEAR 11 SUMMER 2024 EXAMINATIONS

The summer 2024 national exam timetable has now been published. Please use the QR code which will take you to the EXAMS page on the school website. You will find the timetable along with other useful documents and guidance relating to examinations. Further information will follow in due course.

Contact: exams@childrenshospitalschool.leicester.sch.uk



GOODBYE

As mentioned by Mr Deadman at the start of this newsletter I will be leaving the school in December. I just wanted to share what an absolute pleasure it has been to work here for the past three and a half years, it is a magical place for staff and students. The Children's Hospital School will always hold a special place in my heart.

Caroline Woods

and finally



WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



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