

Children's Hospital School

'Better Together'



Executive Headteacher: Mr S Deadman

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April 2025 Newsletter

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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, The Beacon Unit and The Phoenix Learning Centre.

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the Easter break I want to pass on my thanks for the support you have given the school this last term. It's a later Easter break this year and we seem to have packed lots in over the last few weeks.

Our Year 11 students are working hard preparing for their exams and have already completed some controlled assessments and the art exam. The students have been provided with lots of advice and resources to help them revise. Much of this information is available to students and parents on the school website. We know it can be an anxious time, but staff are working hard to help students be at their best.

In staffing news, we welcomed Laura Myatt-Hughes as our new administrator at the Magpie Learning Centre. Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Megan Hayward at the end of term who has worked with us for almost 6 years as an HLTA, and who is moving on to start her teaching career. She has supported young people at the Magpie Centre and helped establish the Phoenix Learning Centre last September, although the majority of her time has been spent at Willow Bank where staff and students will miss her energy, enthusiasm and endless positivity.

In May I will be giving a presentation about our school at the Hope Conference in Dublin, which is a bi-annual gathering of hospital schools across Europe but also includes visitors from USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and beyond. Hopefully we will be able to establish some beneficial links with similar provisions beyond the UK.

On a personal note, I am proud to have been nominated by the Department for Education to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on the 14th May. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity which I am very much looking forward to!

Despite the pressures, our staff continue to go above and beyond in providing such an enriching curriculum. In addition to the academic curriculum, there is a very comprehensive offer beyond that including arts, music, sport and Duke of Edinburgh to name but a few. I am very grateful to all the staff for their continued dedication and support.

Like me, you are probably looking forward to a warm break with some sunshine. I hope you have a restful time and look forward to seeing everyone when we return on Monday 28th April.

Best wishes,

Stephen Deadman



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NEWS FROM LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY

World Book Day 2025



Thursday 6th March was World Book Day and we celebrated in style. The staff dressed up as some of their favourite characters and headed out onto the wards for lessons. Other hospital users were surprised when they came across knights, princesses, frogs and aliens in the lift!



Lots of books were shared and children took part in activities from stick puppets to storytelling and singing songs to getting creative by planning and creating some of their favourite scenes in a box like this one from *The Smeds and the Smoos*.



Some of the staff toured the wards with the Read for Good book trolley, giving out books to children of all ages. It was great to see the smiles on their faces and the excitement of getting a book. There were a few who spotted some of their favourites straight away.

Messy Senses

It has been a pleasure to welcome Louise and Laura from Messy Senses to the LRI this half term. The children have loved taking part in a Mini-beast, farm animals and Easter theme. From exploring the different textures to creating wonderful art pieces, our children have had so much fun.

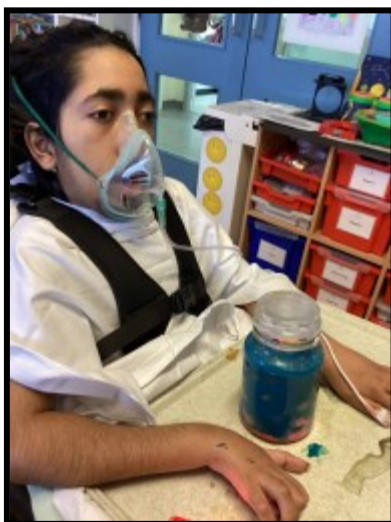


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Science Week 2025



Our young people enjoyed celebrating British Science Week and exploring the theme of 'Change and Adapt.' They participated in a variety of practical experiments by the bedside, including exploding volcanoes, rescuing animals, making lava lamps, bursting rain clouds and creating galaxy jars. Lots of fun was had by all and by the end of the week, we had lots of budding scientists with a greater understanding of the changes taking place not only on our planet Earth, but also in space.

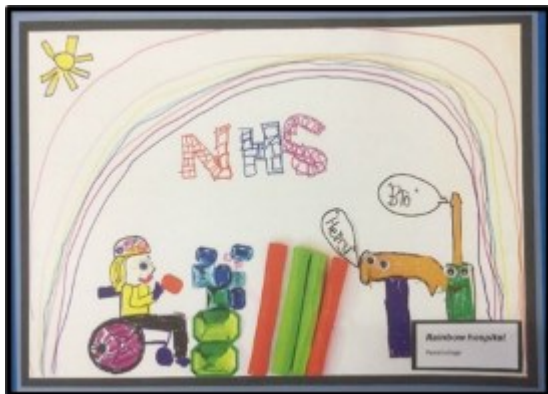


Henry Brothers Art Project

This half term we have been part of a very special project to display our children's artistic skills. The building company, Henry Brothers, are working on a new Endoscopy building at Leicester General Hospital and would like to brighten up their hoardings – the boards around the building site - with some of our children's fabulous artwork. The theme is:

Building Our Better Future

Our children have loved thinking carefully about the images, colours and shapes that come to mind when they think of this theme. From 3D sculptures to collage and painting, our children are delighted to share with you their creations. Thank you to Henry Brothers for providing the children with a Goody Bag.



LOROS Stomp Round Leicester Art Trail.

We were very excited to welcome the elephant to the LRI. Using yellow shades and tones, our children created the most amazing collage effect. It was so nice to see the whole school community involved. The hospital staff were intrigued to see what was hiding behind the cage!



NEWS FROM WILLOW BANK

Cooking

This term our students have been busy in the kitchen creating lots of dishes and bakes, we have also been flipping pancakes, creating our own pizzas, and baking Easter cookies.



We started the term completing our work making and using different types of Pastry and now we have been cooking using the various cake making techniques. This finished by our students creating some amazing cake bouquets and butterfly cakes, show casing their piping skills as well.



Three of our students have also been working hard completing their studies working towards their Level 2 Food & Hygiene certificate. All of which have now received their certificates, which they can use to help them with their college applications and are a recognised qualification for working in any food establishment.



National Careers Week

For National Careers Week, Leicestershire Cares Ltd organised an employability event for our KS4 students. This included virtual and live employer talks for our students, where both staff and students could ask questions about the volunteers' chosen career paths. This was followed by mock interviews. Despite some initial nerves, the students did really well during their interviews and the volunteer employers were very impressed.



Post 16 visits

Some of the year 11 students visited their chosen post 16 college providers for tours this term. This gave the students the opportunity to experience the campuses/sites, to talk with tutors and make decisions about courses. We visited HOET (Heart of England Training), Leicester College (Abbey Park campus and St Margarets campus) and YEP (Youth Education Project).

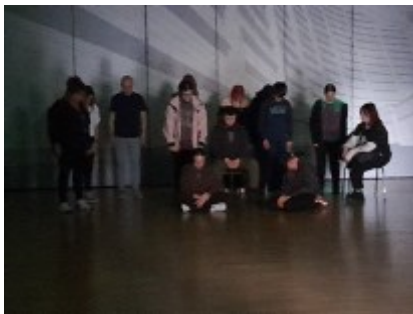


NEWS FROM THE MAGPIE



Trips

In March we took our CHS students to the Curve theatre for a day of workshops. The students were amazing and got stuck into all the activities. We were lucky enough to have a tour of the Curve and see the behind the scenes of a professional show. They showed us the wardrobe department, all the performance and rehearsal spaces they have. We even got a sneak peek of Mauriel's Wedding doing their 'get in'. We got to see how they set up for a show and load all the set pieces and lighting rigs. It was a fantastic day, and we've got some talented actors and actresses!



Cooking

Magpie were host to a new SEND Pilot workshop, titled 'Who Am I?' ran by The SEND Foundation. It was a workshop designed for children and young people to educate and raise awareness for topics surrounding mental health. It was an informative and engaging session for the students, creating a safe place to talk about more difficult topics. The Send Foundation are an organisation that are "championing special needs, embracing mental health", who can offer support for those struggling with their mental health.

THE SEND FOUNDATION

Championing Special Needs, Embracing Mental Health



HOW TO GET HELP

If you would like to speak to somebody about mental health and/or specific topics, here are some handy links to organisations that support mental health for young people.



Outdoor

'Magpie students have been busy helping to create our wonderful winter board. Everyone contributed with adding 'their hands' to our senses hand tree and had a go at using each of their senses to find out what they could hear, smell, touch, taste and see in the garden and allotment.

We also found out lots about the Celtic festival of Imbolc and how it is celebrated and some of us had a go at making a Brigid cross.

Outside there have been lots of volunteers from the community centre laying weed suppressing fabric and pebbles around our raised beds. It looks amazing and makes a great sound underfoot....we've had lots of fun imagining we're at the beach, and thanks to our resident seagulls we can almost believe we are actually heading off to the golden sands of Skegness!



Events

On March 6th, we celebrated world book day. Our staff and students had great fun and dressed up as various characters such as The Tardis and Doctor Who, Eeyore from Winnie the Pooh and Mr Bean. We also took part in Comic Relief where staff wore jeans to raise money and students took part in a quiz, hosted by Amy.



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Baking

This half term, students have been busy baking in the kitchen, they've baked various sweet treats such as chocolate brownies, carrot cake, flapjacks and sprinkle cupcakes. As part of their farewell, the Tigers hosted an afternoon tea for staff, students and parents. They bought the ingredients, prepped and served sandwiches, cheese on toast and baked cupcakes, it was a lovely way to end their placement.



AQA Unit Awards

We have had our first delivery of AQA Unit Award certificates here at The Magpie! Our CHS Red and Yellow groups have been working with great independence to complete these qualifications. All students have completed an award in mvolunteering with young children to link to our work at the Eyres Monsell Pre-School each week and they have all begun to choose their own qualifications now too. We have a wide range of qualifications on the way; from sleep hygiene to caring for horses. A big thank you to Cindy at the Beacon for her help with this.

LOROS Elephant

You will be seeing a herd of elephants arriving in the city centre this Summer as part of LOROS' 'Stomp round Leicester'. We have been lucky enough to have an elephant to decorate as a whole Children's Hospital School and The Magpie were given both back legs! Students worked hard to come up with designs based on the theme of hearts and flowers and their collaboration to bring these designs to life was amazing. The finished elephants will be in the city centre from July-September so make a note in your diaries to go and see their work in person.

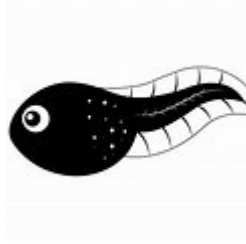


Gardening

We have a freshly newly lovely painted outdoor shed, which is looking great. We have a table and bench in there now and it's looking like a real working outdoor classroom...yay !!!

This term students have been helping to set it up, tidy it and sort our equipment.

And...we have tadpoles again!



Students continue to enjoy a bit of pond dipping in their break times and our Tigers group love being outside and are super gardeners. They have been lifting turf and creating a border this term in readiness for our garden make over which the community centre are leading, so watch this space.

We have also secured an amount of money from The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) this month, and hope to be purchasing some nice bits and bobs to enhance the pond area and encourage wildlife to our garden. So far we have ordered a nesting box with camera, nature games, a hammock and are planning what plants and flowers we want.

As always, there's lots going on and it's so lovely to see the garden coming back to life now spring has finally arrived.



NEWS FROM THE BEACON

Spring has arrived at The Beacon and the young people have been busy planting Sweet Peas. We will be working on the garden within the grounds, over the coming weeks.



For Mother's Day our young people planted sunflower seeds and decorated pots, using Posca pens.



In science we have been looking at separation techniques and produced these beautiful salt crystals. We will be looking at chromatography next.



Children's Hospital School

NEWS FROM THE PHOENIX

We have had a very busy term engaging in lessons and participating in enrichment activities in the local community.

In English we have a student studying Inspector Calls and working hard on her preparations for GCSEs. Other students are engaging with acrostic poems, Sunflower poetry and creative writing.

During Science week students enjoyed getting messy with the experiments.



In uplift students have achieved the gaming PawPrint badge; students have really enjoyed creating their own board game and playing it together. They've also enjoyed Spring time activities to achieve a spring badge.

We celebrated World Book Day by signing up to the local library and choosing a book each. Students were able to exchange their book vouchers in The Works to choose a free book to take home. In our book club we also shared our favourite books and stories that have inspired us to continue reading.



During Get Active we have continued visiting places in our local community. We have begun the local History trail gathering information to create our own local history poster. We had the opportunity to have a tour of the Concordia Theatre and we're hoping to go back to see a dress rehearsal or to help make backdrops.



We visited Lychgate Farm and students engaged well participating in the activities, learning about looking after horses.



We also created flower arrangements to celebrate our mums and those we care about.



Year 11 Revision @Willow Bank

After Easter there will be only **8 school days** remaining until the beginning of the GCSE exams. Students have received their **CGP revision guide, revision planners and revision bag** (full of goodies to help with their revision!)

Exam packs have been sent home with students which contain a statement of entry and individual timetable. It is important to look through these and ensure all information is correct. A copy of the exam timetable can also be found on the school website.

The **Easter holiday** is a great opportunity to continue with revision and plan for the remaining weeks through the exam season. We will be providing an Easter booklet with suggested activities to complete. It is also important to have some **relaxation time and fun!**

REVISION TIPS



**Eat healthy snacks
and drink lots of
water.**



Declutter your study



**Make a timetable
but be flexible.**

**Think confident &
feel good about
yourself!**



**Sleep well and
avoid late nights.**



*Have a wonderful Easter Break
and we will see you back on
Monday 28th April.*

