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Dear Parents/Carers

This term has got off to a strong start.

We have got a new Drop Off and Pick Up system at secondary which is safer and ensures students get started on morning lessons without delay.

We are continuing to make improvements to the accommodation and sites generally, as I hope will be evident as you look through the latest photos below.

We have a busy few months ahead as we have moved into the Annual Review season. The first few of the summer term have gone well, although we acknowledge that phone calls and remote meetings are not quite the same as meeting face to face and we look forward to a time when we can invite parents and visitors back into school safely.

Thank you everyone for your continuing support. We are very appreciative of the excellent relationships we have established with parents and families.

We very much hope you enjoy our new improved newsletter...

Best Wishes

Stephen



The Steve Drywood building is undergoing a makeover!

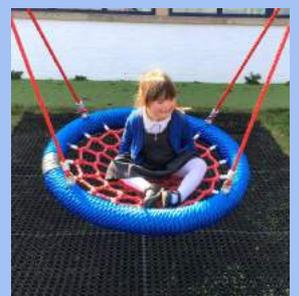
This week's round up from the classes...

Reception/KS1: Adele Class

We have all settled back into school really well this time and were eager to get going. Our new topic around Dinosaurs is a real favourite and we have had fun participating in themed Bucket Time activities. We have been counting with dinosaurs and mark making along dinosaur trails.



One of the more exciting things has been our new playground which we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring and already we are impressed with how much the children are using their



physical skills within their play. This week we have taken advantage of the weather and worked on our physical skills such as cutting, mark making, dressing and climbing.



Please do refer to our website for further information about the school

[link to our website](#)

Dates for the Diary:

- ★ **Monday 3rd May 2021** - Bank Holiday
- ★ **Tuesday 4th May** - start of School Art Week
- ★ **Friday 28th May 2021** - Last day of term (normal finish time)
- ★ **Monday 31st May 2021** - Bank Holiday
- ★ **Monday 7th June 2021** - Pupils return to school

Art Week, 4-7 May 2021

Next week we will be holding a whole Art Week on the theme of New Beginnings. Every pupil will join in a week of creative experiences. We will be painting and printing, taking photographs and making sculptures. At the end of the week the finished artwork will be mounted and displayed in the School.

There will also be an art installation on each site, inspired by symbols of hope and new beginnings.

As this year we cannot open the school to visitors, we will be making a Virtual Gallery which you can visit on the School's website.

You will also be sent a photo of your child's picture and you will be able to buy this for a contribution of £3, which will be used to help fund future School events and trips. Purchased pictures will be sent home at the end of May.



KS1: Sinatra Class:

We have all settled really well after the Easter holiday and have been excited to try out the new outdoor climbing frame. It has provided new and challenging opportunities outside.



This term we will also focus on more outdoor learning and this week we enjoyed a bucket time outside and particularly liked making dinosaur footprints for stage 3.



Last week we started the *Dinosaur Roar* story and have been doing lots of activities around dinosaurs. This week we focused on different textures.



KS3/4 Corrs Class

We have had a very productive start to the new term working on a theme of 'Independence', pupils have been developing their abilities to work in the garden, planting seeds, raking leaves, litter picking and weeding.



Using the donation of seeds from Homebase, pupils have enjoyed planting flowers like sunflowers and watching the process of growth.

WE have also enjoyed extending our independence to learning how to ride bikes safely, including signalling when turning.



KS1/KS2: Swift Class

Everyone in class has settled back in extremely well after the Easter break. The children have been enjoying this term's theme of Dinosaurs, where we've created a jurassic swamp, model dinosaurs, dinosaur slime and dinosaur biscuits.



Our sensory story, Dinosaur Roar, has helped us look at opposites and explore different textures.



It's been exciting for the children to have brand new play equipment outside and it has been great to see their confidence grow as they learn to use it safely. Swift Class have also been keeping our teeth safe as they learn the routines of brushing teeth.



KS3/4: Coldplay



We have had a very busy couple of weeks. Everyone settled back in very well after the Easter holidays.



Students have been working hard on their fine motor skills to support their independence and daily life. They engaged in a variety of cutting, peeling and spreading activities during our cooking and sensory sessions.

We took advantage of the lovely weather and promoted outside learning when possible. Pupils engaged in a variety of activities at the Venison House as well as in the playground to support everyone's wellbeing. We used different natural resources such as stones, sticks, leaves and much more to support our Maths.

In Coldplay class, we promote communication at all times across the day during formal and less formal activities such as break times, playtime and snack and lunchtime. Our students had a lot of fun engaging in various board games and physical activities with other peers during these times.



KS1/KS2: Stevie Class



It has been lovely to see all the children back in this term. We have started the topic about dinosaurs. Children have been exploring and learning about this topic through sensory activities, such as painting a prehistoric landscape, playdough Maths, tuff tray exploration with dinosaurs and slime and dinosaur roars and sounds in our Music session.



We have also enjoyed exploring the new equipment in the KS1 playground, which has been a very exciting time for us.



KS3/4 Celine Class



We had a fantastic couple of weeks in Celine class.

For Maths, Making the most of the weather, we did some learning outside, taking our maths resources with us. We are still working on how to make different arrays up to 5 or 10. Some of us continued working on the concept of dividing and doubling using stock cubes and cutting them into quarters

and halves, as well as working on time and thinking about what time it would be one hour before or after.

We are putting our reading skills into practice by making word puzzles matching them with the correct picture or even recipe puzzles matching title, photos, ingredients, and method for different recipes using the Sound Reading System approach.



We also tried to peel a pineapple as a science experiment without using a knife. We followed all the instructions from a tutorial video, but it didn't work. We used this opportunity to discuss that not everything we find online is safe and reliable.



KS2: Ludovico Class

We have started a new topic of Rainforests this term. We looked at some of the animals that live in the jungle.



Then the children chose to have a story about monkeys, so we read *Monkey Puzzle*. The story had lots of animals in it and we wrote their names in our books.

Then we made monkey masks and a butterfly, like in the story.

This week we moved on to the story of *The Skipping Rope Snake*. We cut out spiral snakes and made patterned snakes. In cooking we made patterned puff pastry snakes - they were delicious!



We have also been making the most of the sunshine and we have taken our leaning outside. The whole class enjoys a sensory story outside, and everyone joins in for our outdoors orchestra!



KS3: Idina Class

It has been important in Idina Class to get back to our routines, which many of our students feel most comfortable with. We have continued to try to do activities outside whenever possible, supporting our wellbeing and enjoying the sunny weather. As part of our science and exploration, we have been to Venison House on a bug hunt, looking for small creatures and where they live.



Some students have also participated in Lord's Taverners Cricket, working on their coordination and ball skills. We also met Bella the Therapy Dog, which was wonderful. Working on our



communication skills overarches the school day and these opportunities support us to generalise our skills.

In our learning activities, we have worked hard to improve our skills, using a range of strategies for students to meet targets.



As our topic this term is Into Independence, we have begun working on different healthy snacks suitable for a lunch box, or picnic. So far we have made bread sticks rolled in poppy seeds, and dairy free blueberry muffins.



KS2: Louis Class

We have had a busy start to the new term. We have enjoyed doing lots of hands-on learning. For example, we have been learning about insects so we made our own worm farms. We learnt why earthworms are so important. We have also planted sunflower seeds. We are looking forward to seeing who's sunflower grows the tallest!



We have also been learning about rainforests and jungles. We listened to the story *Giraffes Can't Dance*, we loved listening to the different genres of music and dancing along. We then used computers and I pads to find out facts about giraffes, some of us typed and others asked Siri.



Sixth Form: Ezra Class

We have been busy starting new life skill challenges. These have included learning about seasonal fruit and vegetables which are available for eating in April at home and school. During the week we made a potato salad with new potatoes, fresh chives and mayonnaise.



We have also been learning about suitable picnic foods, students prepared themselves a sliced chicken roll and they worked together to make cheese scones with wholemeal flour. Other activities completed include practising following directions by playing games in the venison house area.



Another life skill challenge students

have started is called 'Developing functional skills-shopping.' Students have been working on their coin and money recognition. They have also been sorting a bag of groceries to find the biggest, smallest, heaviest and lightest items at school and at home.



Art activities we have completed are all linked to two life skill challenges, 'Exploring print' and 'Exploring mosaics'. Students selected their favourite mosaic from a choice of two and had fun printing with bubble wrap in paint.



KS2: Lennon Class

We have had a lovely start of term and it has been really nice enjoying the outside area. We have been thinking about signs of spring, and have created some lovely paintings of our tree.



We have been exploring colour mixing and we have made some lovely patterns and pictures.

