

01.04.19

Dear Parents and carers,

As we approach the end of another busy term it’s very clear to see that all pupils have worked extremely well and have made some lovely progress in all areas of the curriculum. All of the pupils are now preparing for Easter and a well-deserved break!

Last Friday we held a very special assembly where we were very fortunate to have approximately twenty five special guests who were all involved with the organisation of the Percy Hedley Ball that was held in November. All funds raised from the ball are to be donated to our school so therefore, the theme of the assembly was ‘thank you’. The guests then had a tour of school and met some of the children – they were very impressed with the work being undertaken and all our pupils had achieved!

The pupils in our hearing impaired cohort have been busy in many ways! Penny’s class have been developing their knowledge and understanding of houses and in RE they have experienced a visit to a local church. They have researched the theme of electricity and identified a range of items that use electricity. They have completed literacy based tasks focused on the tale of ‘A Squash and a squeeze’ by Julia Donaldson. The highlight of the term was ‘Ladies Day’ where important ladies in the lives of each of the children came into school to watch individual thankyou power point presentations prepared by the children and then participate in an afternoon tea. Everyone had a great time!

Helen’s class have been studying the Greeks and have immersed themselves in Greek culture. The children now know all about Greek Gods and had a great time preparing a range of Greek food. More recently they have been researching different Greek islands and planning which island they would go on holiday to. They have also visited Newcastle College in order to experience a pottery session, which sounded a lot of fun!

Mairead’s class have conducted some experiments to observe how yeast reacts when mixed with a warm and cold liquid. They have been using yeast to make bread and held a ‘bake off’ bread competition. All of the bread looked and tasted amazing. It was a difficult decision to select a winner! They have continued to work diligently to develop their functional literacy and numeracy skills further.

In 14-19 pupils are continuing to focus on their accreditation pathway, they have been examining the digestive system and writing a newspaper. Some pupils have also been involved in a football course based at Percy Hedley School. Work experience has seen pupils in a range of locations including Mears, Tesco’s and Formica. The highlight of the term has been creating different goods to sell using our new laser printer – watch this space as more items will be appearing soon!

The pupils in our PMLD cohort have continued to experience a range of new equipment in the sensory room, especially the fantastic Magic Carpet. Many staff have received additional training for using this piece of equipment and therefore promote good learning from the pupils.

This term Ros’ class topic was “animal” and they decided to focus on six special animals – elephant, giraffe, monkey, lion, rhino and crocodile. They learnt about Noah’s Ark during sensory story and used different fabrics to make the different animals in art. They also had good fun designing and wearing animal masks as part of hand function group! In sensory exploration they made a monkey banana milkshake and tropical smoothies – blending all the ingredients together was lots of fun. The start of the good weather has enabled Pam’s class to visit the local community again. The library is still a favourite place for a future visit however Exhibition Park was top of their list this week due to the sun shining. The sensory story ‘The Tiger Who Came for Tea’ has allowed the children to explore a range of stimuli and one child in particular especially liked to pull the tiger’s tail! The smell of coffee was another favourite and we all feel it resembled Costa coffee so the children gave away their weekend visit treats….

Rachel’s class have accessed the life skills kitchen and a range of delicious food have been cooked or baked after the exploration of many of the ingredients. We all hope these treats have managed to arrive home safely! Some pupils have been touring the school to ensure that the recycling of such items as plastic bottles, paper and card have been placed in the correct bins. This has been part of their ASDAN programme of which they are working through well and have accessed many parts of the school environment.

The pupils in Hillcrest have spent the term working on their topic, ‘Game Shows’. This has culminated in Enrichment Week, where pupils have taken part in a whole unit games experience on the school field.

Ashleigh’s class visited the Autism Show at the Sage, trying a whole host of new activities, such as boxing, green screen and DJ-ing. Pupils have been learning about pop art and produced their own works of art. The class have visited the Hextol Factory in Hexham to complete a work experience placement and had a workshop from the RDA (Riding for Disabled Association). All of the enterprise work is being sold to provide funds for their end of year prom. The prom committee are very busy in the planning stages for the end of Summer Term event.

Other highlights across the unit include visiting the Mosque in Heaton with our youngest pupils. There has been lots of play skills going on with the topic, with a strong focus on turn taking, listening to instructions, waiting for turns and engaging in new activities.

We have had a great Spring term 2019 and are all looking forward to the Summer term which will be just as busy. We all hope that you have a restful Easter break and look forward to seeing everyone back in school on 23rd April.

As always please do not hesitate to get in touch around any issues or queries you may have.

Yours sincerely

Jo and SLT

