

# December 2023 NEWSLETTER

Church Lawton School, Cherry Tree Avenue, Church Lawton,  
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. ST7 3EL



## PRINCIPAL NOTES

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the festive season, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support. This term has been filled with remarkable achievements, and I am thrilled to share the accomplishments of our incredible students.

### **Mock Exams.**

The recent completion of mock SATs exams marks a significant milestone for our Year 6 students. This experience not only provided them with a glimpse of the upcoming challenges, but also allowed them to familiarise themselves with the exam format and content.

The mock exams serve as a valuable preparatory step, helping students build confidence, refine their test-taking skills, and identify areas for improvement. This initiative is part of our commitment to ensuring that our students are well prepared and supported as they approach this crucial stage in their academic journey. The dedication and effort demonstrated by our Year 6 students during these mock exams are commendable, reflecting their commitment to academic excellence.

The mock public exams for our Year 11 and sixth form students represent a vital phase in their academic journey. These assessments are designed to simulate the conditions of the actual exams, providing students with a valuable opportunity to refine their exam strategies and gauge how well they are prepared. The experience gained from these mock exams is instrumental in identifying strengths and areas for improvement, allowing students to make targeted adjustments to their study routines. As they navigate this challenging period, the resilience and dedication displayed by our Year 11 and sixth form students is commendable, showcasing their commitment to achieving success in their academic pursuits.

# PRINCIPAL NOTES

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## **Adventure Learning.**

The Adventure Learning Programme holds special significance for students with autism, offering unique benefits that extend beyond the traditional classroom setting.

For students with autism, Adventure Learning provides:

1. **Sensory Stimulation:** Outdoor activities engage various senses, offering a rich sensory experience that can be particularly beneficial for students with autism, helping them develop and integrate sensory skills.
2. **Social Skills Development:** Adventure Learning often involves teamwork, communication, and collaboration. For students with autism, these activities provide a structured yet natural environment to practice and enhance their social skills.
3. **Personal Growth:** Facing challenges in an outdoor setting promotes resilience and self-confidence. Overcoming obstacles during adventure activities contributes to the personal growth and development of students with autism, fostering a sense of accomplishment.
4. **Reduced Anxiety:** Outdoor environments often have a calming effect, potentially reducing anxiety levels for students with autism. Nature-based activities can create a more relaxed and comfortable atmosphere, conducive to learning.
5. **Real-World Application:** Adventure Learning provides practical, real-world applications of academic and life skills. This hands on approach can be particularly effective for students with autism, helping them connect theoretical knowledge to practical experiences.
6. **Physical Exercise:** Outdoor activities promote physical fitness, contributing to overall health and well-being. For students with autism, regular physical exercise can have positive effects on mood, behaviour, and attention.

In summary, the Adventure Learning Programme serves as a holistic and inclusive approach to education for students with autism, addressing various aspects of their development and well-being. It aligns with the philosophy of providing diverse and engaging experiences tailored to the unique needs of each student. Our Adventure Learning Programme has been in full swing. The Primary and Middle students enjoyed Gymnastics at Silk Gymnasium in Macclesfield, while our Secondary students embraced the thrill of skiing and tubing. These experiences contribute immensely to their personal and social development.

# PRINCIPAL NOTES

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(Continued...)

## **Christmas Fayre.**

The recent success of the Christmas Fayre, a pivotal event, brought together parents, carers and friends of the school. Your support made it a resounding success, and I am sincerely grateful. We raised a grand total of **£826.14** which is just amazing.

## **Children in Need.**

I am thrilled to share the heart-warming news of our students' incredible efforts in raising funds for Children in Need. Their dedication and compassion have truly made a positive impact. Our recent Children in Need event, saw our students demonstrate exceptional generosity, raising an impressive **£150**. This contribution will go a long way in supporting the essential work of this charity, making a meaningful difference in the lives of children in need.

I want to express my gratitude to each student who participated, as well as to the parents, teachers, and staff who supported and encouraged them in this noble endeavour. Your collective commitment to philanthropy embodies the spirit of community and compassion that defines our school.

Let's take pride in the positive change we are fostering together. Thank you for being an integral part of our efforts to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

## **Careers Fair.**

The recent Careers Fair in Macclesfield played a crucial role in shaping the future paths of our students in Key Stage 4 and 5. It provided a valuable platform for them to explore diverse career opportunities, gain insights into various industries, and interact with professionals. This first hand exposure is instrumental in helping students make informed decisions about their future educational and career pathways. The well organised event, part of the Warrington and Cheshire Careers Pledge programme, not only broadened their horizons but also served as a stepping stone for their transition into the next phase of their lives. Such experiences are pivotal in ensuring that our students are well equipped and inspired to take confident strides toward their chosen careers.

# PRINCIPAL NOTES

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## **School Student Leadership Representatives.**

I am delighted to announce that Ebony and Zachary have been selected for the School Student Leadership Group, representing our school within the Liberty Academy trust. Their voices will contribute to the development of the trust, ensuring students have a pivotal role in shaping their educational journey.

## **New Parent Local Committee Member.**

I am delighted to announce the appointment of our new Parent Local Committee member, Mrs. Michelle Lane. Michelle brings a wealth of experience as both a dedicated parent of a student with autism and a seasoned education professional specialising in deafness and education audiology, as well as autism outreach.

As we embrace the festive spirit, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please note that school reopens on **Monday, 8th January**. Your ongoing support is invaluable, and I look forward to the continued success and growth of our school community in the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Scales

Principal





## SUBJECTS & TOPICS

KAREN WOODALL, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Here are some of the topics for classes and subjects for the Spring Term so you can begin some preparations, research or reading if you wish.

### Special Events and Curriculum Days—Dates for the Diary.

- Friday 19th January 2024** Btec Music Trip to Fox Barn Recording Studios.  
**9.30am—12pm**
- Tuesday 30th January 2024** Student Council Meeting.  
**1.25pm—2.10pm**
- W/C 4th and 11th March 2024** Mock GCSE and Functional Skills.

#### Class

#### Subject and Topic Area

#### Donaldson

Primary

**Maths** – Number, subtraction, times tables and corresponding division facts.

**English** – Mixture of texts; fiction and non-fiction with a Space and Aliens Theme.

**Science** – KS1 Animals including humans, KS2 Sound.

**History** – KS1 Events beyond living memory, First Aeroplane flight, The Wright Brothers.

**Geography** – KS2 Settlements.

#### Shakespeare

Primary

**Art** – Landscapes, artists Paul Klee and Monet - pupils will improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials (links to rivers and Geography)

**English** – Narrative, Pandora-Alien World.

**Maths**- Multiplication and division.

**Computer science** – Audio Production.

**Science** -Earth and Space; Movement of the earth. The moon; day and night.

**Geography**- Investigating rivers.

**RE**- Islam



# SUBJECTS & TOPICS

KAREN WOODALL, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Subjects and topics continued below. Please feel free to begin some preparations, research or reading if you wish.

## Class

## Subject and Topic Area

### Darwin and Thompson

Middle

**Maths** – Number including negative numbers and mental calculation strategies with mixed operations and large numbers. Properties of shape. Algebra.

**English**- Playscripts ; Our Day Out by Willy Russell. Introduction to Shakespeare.

Poetic language (similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia) and different poetic types (Haiku)

Knowledge about language; how language changes over time, vocab building, word origins, slang, formal/informal.

**Science** - Parts of a plant and plant reproduction; adaption and variation in animals.

**Geography**- Glaciers; what are they and how are they formed? Rivers; landforms created by a river.

**RE**- What do people believe about God? What happens when we die?

**Art**- Natural form; mark making, observational drawing, using animal skulls and taxidermy to inspire creativity.

**Computing**- Programming essentials, control and motion events using BBC Micro: Bit.

**Music** - Songwriting and Composition with ukuleles.

**Careers** -Interview skills; Personal finance and budgeting.

### English

Secondary

**Y8 Gamma** - The Supernatural in Shakespeare.

**Y9 Delta and Epsilon** - Blood Brothers.

**KS4 Omega, Kappa and Sigma** - Macbeth.

**KS4/5 Pi** - English Language Paper 1.

**KS4/5 Theta** – Functional skills practice.

### Science

Secondary

**Y8 Gamma** - Metals, acids, earth's structure, gravity and contact forces.

**Y9 Delta and Epsilon** - Chemical energy, climate, earth's resources and evolution

**KS4 Omega, Kappa and Sigma** - Cell Biology, organisation, moles, chemical changes energy and electricity.

**KS4/5 Pi** - Revision of Paper 2 topics for Chemistry, Biology and Physics.

**KS4/5 Theta** - Inheritance .



# SUBJECTS & TOPICS

KAREN WOODALL, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Subjects and topics continued below. Please feel free to begin some preparations, research or reading if you wish.

Class	Subject and Topic Area
<b>Maths</b> Secondary	<b>Y8 Gamma</b> – Measures, mensuration, functions and graphs. <b>Y9 Delta</b> – Sequences, co-ordinates, linear graphs and Real-Life Graphs. <b>KS4/5 Omega, Sigma and Kappa</b> - Congruence, Similarity, Pythagoras, and basic Trigonometry. <b>Theta</b> - Working towards functional skills. <b>Pi</b> - Individual revision pathways.
<b>Food Btec</b>	Cooking with meat. Cooking on a budget. Food labels. Home-made and take-away comparisons.
<b>QOL</b>	<b>Gamma, Delta, Epsilon, Omega, Sigma and Kappa</b> - Budgeting, understanding money, bank accounts and finances. Also interview skills. <b>Pi and Theta</b> - ASDAN AoPE/Award of Personal Effectiveness short course.
<b>Media Studies</b>	<b>Year 2</b> – Creating an advert.
<b>Geography</b>	<b>KS3 – Gamma, Delta, and Epsilon groups</b> - Economic Activity and Natural Resources. Influencing the Environment, Ecosystem Cycles and the Human Effect. Acid Rain and Global Warming. <b>KS4/5 Option group</b> - The changing demand and provision of resources, food, water and energy, in the UK. Creating opportunities and challenges economically and environmentally.
<b>RE</b>	<b>Y8 Gamma</b> – Sources of wisdom and authority. Human rights. <b>Y9 Epsilon and Delta</b> - How do we build a cohesive society?
<b>German</b>	<b>Primary and Middle</b> – German descriptions. <b>Year 8</b> - Holidays. <b>Year 9</b> – Clothing and Shopping. <b>GCSE</b> – Holidays and at home.
<b>Art and Design Btec</b>	<b>Year 1</b> - Textiles. The theme is Aquatic world. <b>Year 2</b> - 3D Sensory Installation Art.
<b>Careers</b>	<b>KS3</b> - Money and Finance in the workplace. <b>KS4 &amp; 5</b> - Possible College taster days and University visits before Easter.



## SUBJECTS & TOPICS

KAREN WOODALL, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Subjects and topics continued below. Please feel free to begin some preparations, research or reading if you wish.

Class	Subject and Topic Area
<b>History</b>	<b>Y8 Gamma</b> - Elizabeth I.
	<b>Y9 Epsilon and Delta</b> - The 60s.
	<b>Year 10 Mon/Tues group</b> - Russia 1894/1945.
	<b>Year 10/11 Wednesday group</b> - Conflict: Afghanistan and the gulf 1990 to 2009.
	<b>Year 10 Wednesday guided study time</b> – Normans.
	<b>Year 10/11 Thursday and guided study group</b> - Power and the people, America 1920-1973 Opportunity and Equality.
	<b>Y10/11 Friday group</b> - America 1920-1973 Opportunity and Equality and Conflict Afghanistan and the gulf 1990 to 2009.
<b>Music</b>	<b>Middle</b> - Songwriting and composition with ukuleles.
	<b>Year 8 and 9</b> - Composing using Logic Pro X, sequencing.
	<b>BTEC</b> – Fox Barn Studies and visit. Music Promotion.
<b>PE</b>	<b>Secondary</b> - Alternative Sports - Fencing, Boxercise, Archery, Curling, Dodgeball.
	<b>Middle School</b> - Net/Wall Games - Tennis and Badminton.
	<b>Primary</b> - Games - Gross Motor Skills Focus.
	<b>BTEC</b> - Unit 6: Leading Sports Activities.
<b>Computer Science</b>	<b>Year 8</b> - Information technology in the work world, from cloud computing to remote working.
	<b>KS3 Data science</b> - Looking at what it is, and how computing can transform dull raw data in meaningful visual illustrations.
	<b>KS4 GCSE group</b> – Revising hard and will continue to do so in the New Year.
	<b>KS4 Entry Level students</b> - Focussing on their qualification before moving onto their GCSE. In the Spring term they will have the opportunity to plan and create the required programming project.
<b>Adventure Learning</b>	<b>Middle Thursday afternoons</b> – Swimming at Alsager leisure centre.
	<b>Primary Friday afternoons</b> - Swimming at Crewe leisure centre.
	<b>Secondary</b> – Indoor climbing wall: February dates to be confirmed.



# Safeguarding



RLSS UK offer safety advice for winter water safety, with simple steps to keep safe during the winter:

1. Never go onto the ice to play, to retrieve an object, or a pet.
2. Never enter the ice to rescue somebody, call 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service.

## **What to do if you fall through the ice:**

- Keep calm and shout for 'help'.
  - Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you.
  - If the ice is strong enough, kick your legs to slide onto the ice.
  - Lie flat and pull yourself towards the bank.
  - If the ice breaks, work your way to the bank-breaking the ice in front of you anyway.
  - If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Press your arms by your side and keep your legs together. Keep your head clear of the water.
- Once you are safe, go to hospital immediately for a check up.

## **What to do if you see someone fall through the ice:**

- Shout for assistance and phone the emergency services – call 999 or 112.
- Do not walk or climb onto the ice to attempt a rescue.
- Shout to the casualty to 'keep still' and offer reassurance to keep them calm.
- Try and reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.
- When reaching from the bank, lie down to avoid being pulled onto the ice.
- If you cannot reach them, slide something which floats, such as a plastic bottle or football, across the ice for them to hold onto to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If the casualty is too far away, do not attempt to rescue them. Wait for the emergency services while calming and reassuring the casualty.

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/winter-water-safety>



## **What Should I Do if my Child Swallows a Button Battery?**

If you think your child may have swallowed a button battery, seek medical advice immediately. Remember that the saliva in their body will react with the battery and so time is very much of the essence.

It is sometimes difficult to know whether a child has swallowed a button battery. Great Ormond Street Hospital has provided helpful information about the signs you can look out for:

- 1. Vomiting fresh, bright red blood. If your child does that, you absolutely have to get them immediate medical help.**

Other symptoms can include:

2. Suddenly developing a cough, gag or drooling a lot.
3. Appearing to have a stomach upset or a virus.
4. Being sick.
5. Pointing to their throat or stomach.
6. Having a pain in their tummy, chest or throat.
7. Being tired or lethargic.
8. Being quieter or more clingy than usual or otherwise 'not themselves'.
9. Losing their appetite or have a reduced appetite.
10. Not wanting to eat solid food/be able to eat solid food.

**For further resources videos and posters**

**<https://www.rosipa.com/policy/home-safety/advice/product/button-batteries>**  
**<https://capt.org.uk/button-batteries-understanding-the-risks/>**



# Smartie the Penguin

If anything happens online that makes **Smartie the Penguin** feel worried, upset or confused, he doesn't try to fix things by himself ...



Always ask an adult for help!

- He stops ...
- Thinks about what to do ...
- And always asks an adult for help!



Childnet International UK Safer Internet Centre Co-financed by the European Union Connecting Europe Facility

**“Before you tap and click,  
You need to stop and think,  
And TELL someone!”**

[www.childnet.com/smartie](http://www.childnet.com/smartie)

<https://safetynet.skipseducational.org/parent-guides/#a-parents-guide-to-social-media>

**Who am I really chatting to online?**

Childnet International

**I'm so bored. What's it like where you live?**

**Love the pics you posted**

**Great game. Same time tomorrow?**

**Private chat?**

**I'm 14 next month. How old are you?**

**You are so funny. Wanna meet up?**

**Chatting to you is the best part of my day**

**You are so right. I hate that stuff too**

**Can I trust you with something?**

**Are you ignoring me?**

**If someone you only know online asks you...**

- ...to meet up with them
- ...for personal information
- ...for pics or vids...

**TELL A TRUSTED ADULT**

**Childnet International**

**SEND NUDES**

**JUST SEND IT**

**YOU CAN TRUST ME**

**IF YOU LIKE ME, YOU'LL DO IT**

**PRESSURED FOR PICS?**

**Remember:**  
Being pressured to send pics or vids when you don't want to is never okay.

**Always talk to a trusted adult if this is affecting you**

## IMPORTANT.

### Reporting an Absence.

The law requires parents or carers to ensure their child attends school regularly. Attendance at school is important and recent research shows pupils with the highest attainment have higher rates of attendance over the key stage.



**Please telephone school by 8.30 a.m. every morning your child is absent, and state the reason for the absence.**

Where possible, please make any Doctor, Dentist or Medical appointments either before or after school hours.

If appointments are during the school day please hand in a copy of your appointment card or letter to the school office, or alternatively, a screenshot.

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility, and it extends beyond the school gate so please talk to us and tell us why your child is not in school.

Thank you.

“Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, a child in Year 10 who is absent for three days over a half term could miss 15 lessons in total.

The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.

Data from 2019 shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage” (Gov.uk,2023)

Gov.uk (2023). *The Education Hub*. educationhub.blog.gov.uk. Available at: <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/05/18/school-attendance-important-risks-missing-day/>.



## IMPORTANT - Bringing Medication into School?

Students needing medication during school hours both Prescribed and Non-Prescribed, need to have a permission slip completed by a parent or guardian.

Please contact your child's key worker or the school office for the consent form.

Medication needs to be handed in to an adult on arrival at school. If your child arrives by taxi please could you ring or email the school to notify us of medication coming into school.





## Autumn 2023 Menus from Mellors Catering!

WEEK 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Main dish</b>	Macaroni cheese	Homemade Meat & Potato Pie with Diced Potatoes	Roast beef, with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes & gravy	Chicken korma with 50/50 rice	Fish Fingers With Chunky Chips
<b>Vegetarian Main dish</b>	Vegetable stir fry with chicken style pieces and 50/50 rice	Vegetarian bolognese	Vegetarian Sausage with Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Sweet potato, cheese & onion pie with new potatoes	Vegetarian burger with chunky chips
<b>Accompaniments</b>	Corn on the Cob & Peas Salad Bar	Green Beans & Carrots Salad Bar	Cauliflower & Cabbage Salad Bar	Sweetcorn & Broccoli Salad Bar	Peas & Baked Beans Salad Bar
<b>Desserts</b>	Fruit crumble & custard	Flapjack	Cheese & crackers with grapes	Marble sponge & custard	Fruit in jelly
<b>Fresh fruit or yoghurt</b>	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt
<b>Jacket potato or sandwich selection</b>	JP - Cheese/Beans/Tuna SW - Ham/Cheese/Tuna	JP - Cheese/Beans/Tuna SW - Ham/Cheese/Tuna	JP - Cheese/Beans/Tuna SW - Ham/Cheese/Tuna	JP - Cheese/Beans/Tuna SW - Ham/Cheese/Tuna	JP - Cheese/Beans/Tuna SW - Ham/Cheese/Tuna

WEEK 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Main dish</b>	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	Mexican chilli with 50/50 rice	Roast Chicken & Roast Potatoes with Gravy	Traditional cottage pie	Breaded Fish Square & Chunky Chips
<b>Vegetarian Main dish</b>	Chickpea & vegetable curry with 50/50 rice	Creamy butternut squash pasta	Quorn Fillet and Roast Potatoes with Gravy	Vegetarian meatballs with pasta	Cheese & bean bake with chunky chips
<b>Accompaniments</b>	Corn on the Cob & Peas Salad Bar	Roasted Vegetables Salad Bar	Carrots & Parsnips Salad Bar	Cauliflower & Broccoli Salad Bar	Peas & Baked Beans Salad Bar
<b>Desserts</b>	Chocolate brownie	Ginger biscuit	Chocolate & orange muffins	Fruit sponge & custard	Bananas & custard
<b>Fresh fruit or yoghurt</b>	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt
<b>Jacket potato or sandwich selection</b>	JP - Cheese/Beans/Tuna SW - Ham/Cheese/Tuna	JP - Cheese/Beans/Tuna SW - Ham/Cheese/Tuna	JP - Cheese/Beans/Tuna SW - Ham/Cheese/Tuna	JP - Cheese/Beans/Tuna SW - Ham/Cheese/Tuna	JP - Cheese/Beans/Tuna SW - Ham/Cheese/Tuna

WEEK 3	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Main dish</b>	Quorn™ lasagne with herb bread	Beef burger with baked potato wedges	Roast Gammon with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken & tomato pasta bake	Crispy battered fish & chunky chips
<b>Vegetarian Main dish</b>	Vegetable tikka masala with 50/50 rice	Marinated Quorn™ pitta with baked potato wedges	Vegan sausage & mash potato with gravy	Vegetable & bean chilli with 50/50 rice	Quorn™ nuggets with chunky chips
<b>Accompaniments</b>	Peas & Sweetcorn Salad Bar	Roasted Vegetables Salad Bar	Cauliflower & Cabbage Salad Bar	Broccoli & Carrots Salad Bar	Peas & Baked Beans Salad Bar
<b>Desserts</b>	Oaty jam squares	Apple pie with custard	Lemon cake	Sticky toffee pudding with custard	Fresh fruit & whip
<b>Fresh fruit or yoghurt</b>	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt
<b>Jacket potato or sandwich selection</b>	JP - Cheese/Beans/Tuna SW - Ham/Cheese/Tuna	JP - Cheese/Beans/Tuna SW - Ham/Cheese/Tuna	JP - Cheese/Beans/Tuna SW - Ham/Cheese/Tuna	JP - Cheese/Beans/Tuna SW - Ham/Cheese/Tuna	JP - Cheese/Beans/Tuna SW - Ham/Cheese/Tuna

### Snack Time!

Mellors also have a good selection of snacks available to purchase every day during morning break.

All snack items cost 50p each.

Snack menu:

Toast \* Crumpet

Pancake \* Waffle

\* Pots of fruit

Milkshakes \* Juice

Milk



School dinner and snack payments should be made through your MCAS account (My Child at School)

The current charge for a school meal is £2.40.

[www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin](http://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin)

School ID: 12295

**Bromcom**

My Child at School (MCAS)



or visit [www.mychildatschool.com](http://www.mychildatschool.com)

Whichever local authority you reside in, you can check your eligibility by contacting Cheshire East Local Authority:

Email: [freeschoolmeals@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0300 123 5012

Even if you're not sure whether you are eligible or not, we urge you to check, as not only will it benefit your child, it also benefits school.



Are you entitled?



# Adventure Learning

What an amazing half term it has been at Adventure Learning for the Primary and Middle school pupils. They have relished the fun doing Gymnastics in Macclesfield; a new activity for them all and they have really enjoyed themselves! They have learnt some fantastic skills, from basic stretches to balancing on the beams and showing their strength on the bars. They have all built confidence throughout the 6 sessions and it's looking like we have some talented gymnasts. Well done to the children that got Gymnast of the Week for this half term!



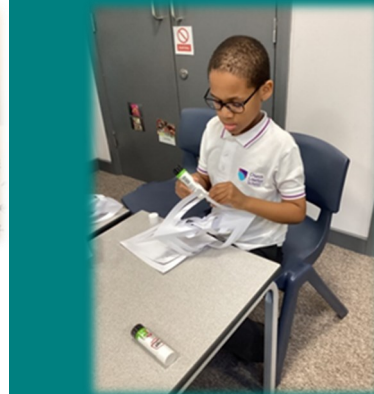
Secondary have had a great time at Stoke ski centre. They learnt how to independently put ski boots and skis on, use the ski lift and different skills going down the ski slope. After lunch the pupils also had a go at tubing – which was so much fun!



# Donaldson

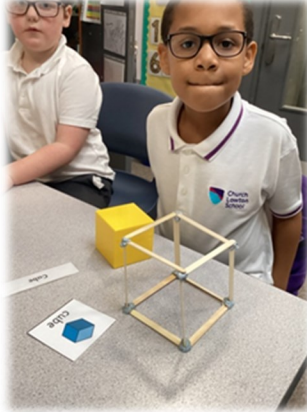


We had a wonderful time visiting **All Saints Church**. It was great fun helping to decorate the trees. We have also made some Christmas decorations in class.



Donaldson have had a lovely half term, a new student joined our class and the children have all welcomed him really well.

In **Maths**, we have been learning all about shapes. We have looked at 2D and 3D shapes. We even made our own 3D shapes out of plasticine and lolly sticks.



In **Science** we have been learning all about the seasons, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.



We have been learning about Hans Christian Andersen in **English**, finding out about his life and all the amazing stories he wrote.

And we have attended **Silk Gymnastics** for Adventure Learning.



# Shakespeare



This half term Shakespeare class have been focusing on 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. They have enjoyed listening to school radio chapters of the story and working on description, dialogue and action.



We have also had a visit from the mobile library. We got to choose some books to borrow.

In **Maths** we have been learning about fractions.

**Science** has been fun as we explored the planets, mapping the distance between each planet and the sun by using toilet paper sheets and different fruits!



In **ICT** we have been making our own stop motion animation and enjoyed using the school iPad and tripods to achieve this.

This half term we have had a **Food Technology** lesson each week and cooked our own meals of beans or spaghetti on toast, tomato pasta and pizza.





# Darwin & Thompson

Let's start with our second trip this term to Nantwich. All the children completed the 1.3 mile walk along The King's Shilling Way and respectfully remembered those who have fought and died in both World Wars. They then bought their own lunch or snack in Sainsbury's. They also returned an abandoned shopping trolley and were rewarded with two free tubs of Cadbury's Heroes – thank you, Sainsbury's!



**Maths** this term has moved away from the 4 operations to look at fractions, decimals and measure. Thompson made Alfie2 and Tommy2 from their measurements; whilst Darwin looked at types of number and rules of Math, including BIDMAS.



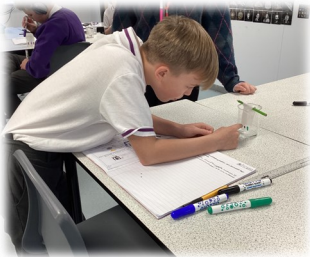
In **English** we have continued to use War of the Worlds as inspiration for our own Martian descriptions and stories. Darwin tried to write the prequel which I'm sure will be turned into a film soon. We have ended the term with some non-fiction writing about Mars and the other planets in the Solar system.

**THE WAR  
OF THE  
WORLDS**  
H. G. WELLS



# Darwin & Thompson

In **Science** we have been finding out about climate change, solids, liquids and gases. We are very lucky to have access to the Science lab once a week and the students have gained their Bunsen burner license! They have also carried out experiments applying the principles of sieving, filtering and evaporation to separate materials. But how do you separate 2 liquids?



**Art**, with both classes is always a great way to end the week. There is a lovely ambience in the room. We have moved away from drawing to producing more 3D art forms. We have studied Gargoyles as an art form and produced our own using plasticine, paper-Mache and clay.



**Adventure Learning** has moved to Gymnastics in Macclesfield. The coach has concentrated on the core skills of balancing, rolling and jumping. We've got some really agile children.

We think some of them have their eye on the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles!





**Welcome to our Attenborough December Newsletter.**

Our students have continued to flourish during the Autumn term, with individual students being awarded Star/Achiever of the Week awards.

There have also been a number of celebration and charity events this half-term, including our Halloween disco and the cake sale for Children In Need.



Some of our students dressed up for Halloween and attended our annual Halloween disco.



Adventure Learning saw us orienteering in the Pavilion Gardens located in the centre of Buxton. We hunted for clues to help us reveal a secret message.

A very enjoyable day!



Skiing at Stoke Ski Centre was a fantastic experience for our pupils. They started on the nursery slope on their Ski's and then went on to more fun tubing in the afternoon!



**Finally, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

# Cadbury

Our form took on the mammoth task of introducing Anti-bullying week to the whole school.

We decorated the dining hall board with slogans of support to help pupils who are being bullied.

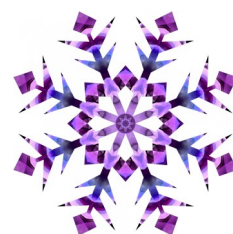
We also produced inspirational messages on stickers for each student in Secondary.

What an amazing time we have had in Cadbury form this term. We have won class awards, Key Stage 3 star, and PE and achievement awards. It has been a very successful half term!



In form time, our students take part in various activities and skills. Some prefer to have a challenging game of Connect 4 or Jenga whilst others prefer to follow the sensory circuit and dribble a football through cones.

Some students like to bounce on therapy balls whilst trying to catch bean bags and of course there's always the challenge of Wordle to get the brain thinking!



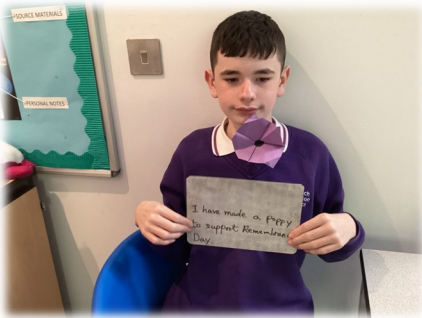
# Matthews



Matthews class has welcomed it's newest member, Jacob the Dream Nibbler. He is our quietest and cutest member of the class!



We have been extremely busy with Remembrance Day, Halloween and the build-up to Christmas. We made poppies to commemorate Remembrance day and enjoyed the Halloween disco. In P.E. students in Gamma enjoyed a boxing session and sparring on the pads.



We have also really enjoyed our KS3 trip to Stoke Ski Centre.

**We are feeling super festive now!**



# Nightingale

Our BTEC Art & Design group are studying all aspects of ceramics. From the science of different clays to constructing beautiful and interesting pieces.



We experienced an energetic and thrilling day at Stoke Ski Centre. Learning skills and techniques on the slopes.

The downhill 'tubing' was tremendous fun and excitement!



# Branson

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Branson newsletter. Our Year 11 students have completed their mock exams and look forward to success in the Summer exams next year.

At the start of this half term they were orienteering at the Buxton Pavilion Gardens, and were looking for clues to discover a secret message!



Our students have excelled in Science, as illustrated here. This experiment was analysing the performance of different wattage kettles.



Our visit to the Stoke Ski Centre was such good fun for the students. They went skiing on the nursery slope then went snow tubing in the afternoon.



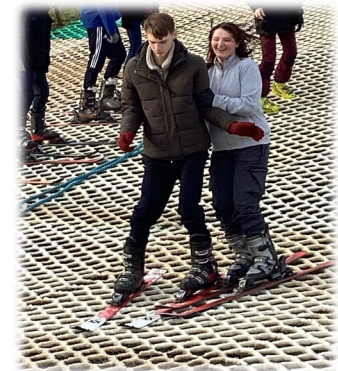


# Newton



A great time was had by our students on our Adventure Learning day at Stoke Ski Centre!

We skied in the morning and then did some tubing in the afternoon!



Here is Ben doing guided reading in Primary class working towards his Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Ben goes into Primary each week to help with reading activities during form time.

Our Year 10's have had another successful half term at Reaseheath College, working hard on their Car Mechanics and Food Technology/Business Studies. Our Year 11's have also continued their endeavours in Animal Care and Food Technology/Business Studies.

The Year 11's in Newton have been involved with the NCS program in school which looks at their next steps and careers.

Charlie AKA The Joker at our Halloween Disco! Absolutely fantastic Charlie; you looked amazing!





# Merry Christmas



Austen have had a busy term working towards a range of accredited qualifications. Our students have also completed a season of mock examinations. They all applied themselves well to the mocks and it is great to see them gaining confidence in their abilities to manage the stresses involved with exams.



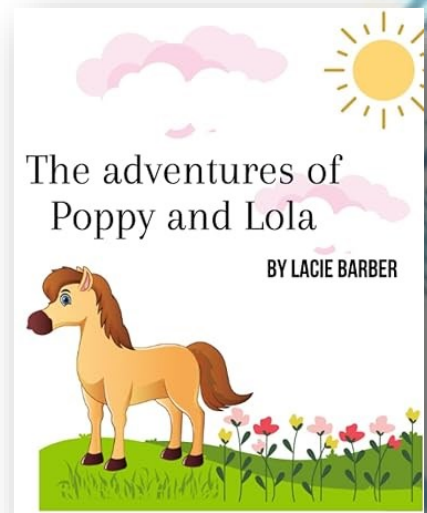
We are very proud of our students that have begun work experience placements. Lacie has helped support our Primary students, Ben has applied himself well to working in our kitchen and Joey is doing wonderfully well at Somerford Park Farm. Harley has also engaged well with his college placement. They have all applied themselves fantastically well to this and have demonstrated a great deal of maturity and independence during these activities.

**Our students enjoyed our adventure learning Skiing day. Fun was had by all!**

Finally, congratulations to Lacie who has now published two books on Amazon about the adventures of Poppy and Lola. An excellent stocking filler!



*Austen wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!*





Dear Parents,

We have introduced a program to all year groups at school called myHappyMind. myHappyMind is all based around helping children to understand how their brain works and to support them in developing positive skills and habits to be their very best selves!

myHappyMind is delivered in schools by class teachers through a series of interactive lessons and then the children apply these learnings throughout the day. To further embed this learning and ensure that you are able to engage in these topics with your child, myHappyMind has developed a set of resources for parents. These resources can be accessed online on your computer, or through an app on your phone. The resources allow children to continue to practise some of the habits they have developed at school, such as Happy Breathing, for you to learn more about what they are learning in the program. Also included are activities for you to do together at home, to complement the in-school lessons.

To access these materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> and enter your name, email, and authentication code.

Or scan this QR code to sign up

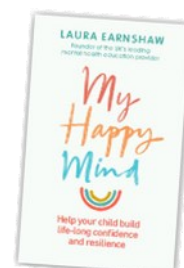


We really encourage you to make use of this free content so that you can support your child in getting the best out of the curriculum. If you have any questions about the curriculum, please contact your class teacher.

If you have any technical questions about accessing the resources, please contact [hello@myhappymind.org](mailto:hello@myhappymind.org)

Want to learn more? Check out myHappyMind founder Laura Earnshaw's best selling book on [Amazon](#).

Many thanks.





## Update on the Holiday Activities and Food programme and the new activity booking platform.

The Cheshire East HAF programme enables children and young people who are in receipt of income/benefits-related free school meals who live in Cheshire East or attend a Cheshire East school to attend free activities during the main school holidays, where nutritional food is also provided.



The new platform is live, and you can book your child's winter school holiday activity places now!

Over the next few days more exciting holiday activities will be added to the booking platform.



### **Booking an activity session is easy!**

All you have to do is visit the Cheshire East HAF programme booking platform, or alternatively, scan the QR code above. You can then look through all the activities on offer (filters are available), and when you find an activity your child will like, select book and complete the booking information.

### **The next HAF programme takes place during the Christmas/winter school holidays.**

For more information about the programme and eligibility criteria visit the Cheshire East webpage <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-haf.aspx#:~:text=The%20Cheshire%20East%20HAF%20programme%20enables%20children%20and%20young%20people,where%20nutritional%20food%20is%20also>