



Fountaindale
A SPECIAL SCHOOL

Fountaindale Newsletter

Spring 2025

What an amazing term we have had at Fountaindale once again. Highlights this term have included World Book Day, Red Nose Day the amazing careers and world of work week that saw a wide range of people from different jobs visit us at school to talk about the work they do. We've also had a visit from the Mansfield Masons on their motor bikes to deliver us a cheque and Easter eggs. This week we have had accessible bikes in school which the young people have thoroughly enjoyed.

It has seemed like a very long winter this year but at long last the weather seems to have turned a corner, let's hope it stays that way for the Easter holiday.

As you will be aware Dan, one of our deputy head teachers is leaving us at the end of this month. We wish Dan all the very best in his new school. We have been interviewing candidates for the vacant deputy head position this week and I am pleased to inform you that Charlotte Adu has been appointed to the post. Charlotte will start in her new role as from 1st May and we will be advertising for an assistant headteacher to replace Charlotte. Julie Bullock will be starting a part time secondment in another school as of 22nd April. Julie currently works 4 days a week with us, this will reduce to 3 days a week for the duration of the summer term.

I am pleased to inform you that at long last the work to reshape and extend the old residential rooms in school will begin on 7th April. The work is due to be completed by 22nd August 2025. This will give us additional classroom space in school along with a life skills area. There will be a minor knock on to parking and loading bays at the front of school so I ask that you be patient and report any concerns that you may have to the school office.

Just a reminder that we return to school on Tuesday 22nd April for the start of the summer term. We will send out a list of events and dates shortly after we return to school next term.

Take care everyone and have a fantastic Easter holiday.

Chris Evans
Headteacher



Hedgehog newsletter– Spring 2025

We had a great time during Careers Week. We were visited by Rob the postman and made letters to send around school.



We also loved the Emergency services who joined us throughout the week.



The Intra schools Boccia tournament started, with Hedgehogs playing Owls in a series of matches to begin the tournament.

The annual Panto was incredible once again, lots of smiles, clancing and singing throughout.



We have worked with Tom during music sessions in the hall and in RISE sport we have focused on Teamwork.



In Food Technology we have made vegetarian lasagne, chicken skewers plus a wide variety of cakes and biscuits.

Rabbits Spring Newsletter 2025

We have had a few lovely experiences so far this year. The pantomime Peter Pan came into school and did a fantastic performance for the children.

We have also had careers week which was a HUGE success. Rabbits class particularly enjoyed the emergency services and spraying the water hose at the back of the fire engine. They also enjoyed Zoe's Party animals and touched a tortoise, a



We have enjoyed learning about the past in our topic Memory Box. We have looked at toys from the past and old photographs of our teachers (and our teachers families) when they



On World book day we enjoyed coming to school in our special clothes. We had a princess, a lion, a superhero, Bluey, a footballer, Moana, the butterfly from the hungry caterpillar, Minnie Mouse and where's Wally! It was such fun!



One of our favourite things is when we do PE in the hall with Hedgehogs class. Joining them makes our team games more effective and we have lots more fun. We love to play balloon volleyball and skittles and we have tried a new game called Boccia which is great!

We have explored lots of different foods in our food exploration sessions: mushy peas, baked beans, tapioca, jelly, cereal, pasta, rice, and Angel Delight. We love to squeeze the food and feel it between our fingers (And make lots of mess!)



Well done to everyone in Rabbits for a fantastic term. Hope you all have a

Spring Term in Butterflies



The end of Spring Term has arrived. The time has flown by and we have enjoyed lots of fun events and activities. We hope you enjoy looking at some photos and reminiscing!



Careers Week



Pancake Day!



Spring Term in Butterflies



Visit from the animals

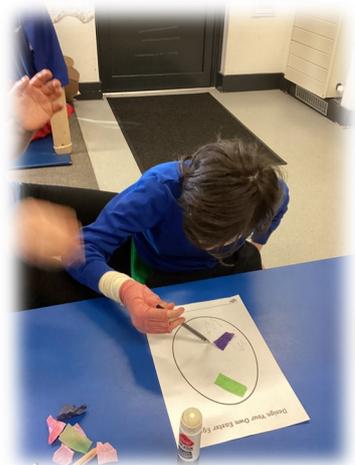


Making pizza

World Book Day 2025



Table Cricket



Easter egg decorating

Thanks to all the parent and carers of Butterflies for your continued support. We can't wait to start our Summer topic... BEAT BANG BOOGIE!

Foxes Class Spring term

This term our topic has been Dinosaurs
We have explored this topic in many ways.
We began our topic with a dinosaur dig
and found them hiding in ice, chocolate
and eggs that we had to dig at very hard!

We also looked at the body parts of our
dinosaurs and enjoyed a song we made up
called Head, tails, claws and feet!

This term we have had the opportunity
to work with Rise sports in PE and each
time we have joined in the games well
and loved our photos with the trophy if
we were the winners.

We have also just started our dance ses-
sions with Moving together and these will
continue next term.

This term we also enjoyed careers
week. We particularly liked seeing
the different vehicles , meeting lots of
new people and dressing up.



Spring Term in Moles Class.

Our topic this term has been all about **Egyptians and Australian Aboriginals**. The children have shown a great enthusiasm towards our learning in this topic. We've learnt lots of new words linked to our topic such a **Pharaoh** and **Hieroglyphics** and have learnt some Makaton signs too!



Visitors!

We had a wonderful week during careers week. We learnt all about various careers such as Transport Police, Bakers, Musicians and more!



We even had a sit in a Police car!

We've learnt about Egypt and the River Nile and have learnt facts about the Ancient Pyramids.



Spring

We've loved the beautiful Spring weather and have been on lots of woodland walks and played outside and



In our **Creative lessons** we've looked at Aboriginal dot art and have practised the skill of creating dots with paints.



Keeping Healthy

We've learnt about babies and what we can do now and couldn't as a baby. We've also learnt about privacy and learnt the Pantosaurus song. In our baking sessions we've made jacket potatoes, toast, pasta, Egyptian cakes and more!



We've loved our PE lessons this term!



This term we have enjoyed learning all about 'Ancient Egypt and Aboriginal Australia



Owl



Class

World Book Day
We loved dressing up as our favourite book



Careers Week
We enjoyed visits from the Police, Ambulance Service, Nottingham City Transport and Army Cadets as part of careers week.



Ancient Egyptians
We have enjoyed learning all about Ancient Egypt



Celebrations
We have celebrated Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day and St Patrick's Day



Squirrel's Class – Spring 2025



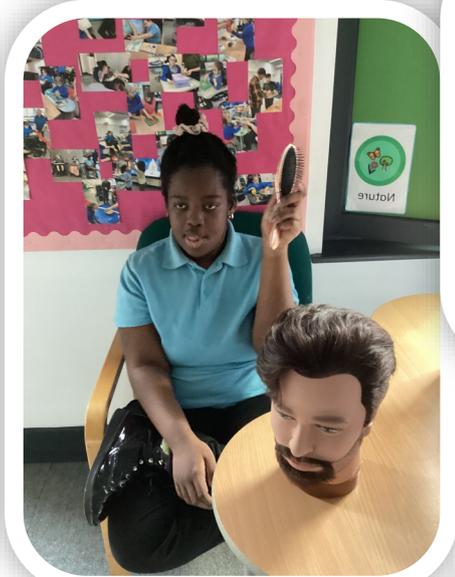
Learning how to care for the babies



Getting creative making memory boxes



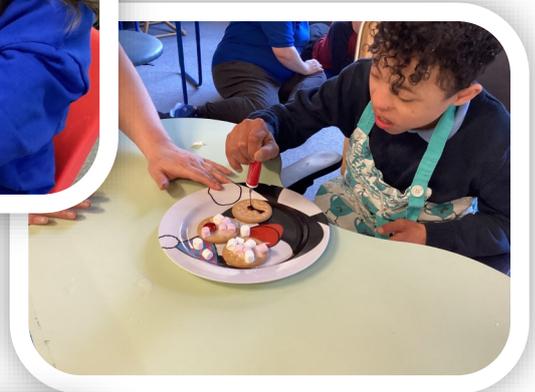
Enjoying reading with the teacher



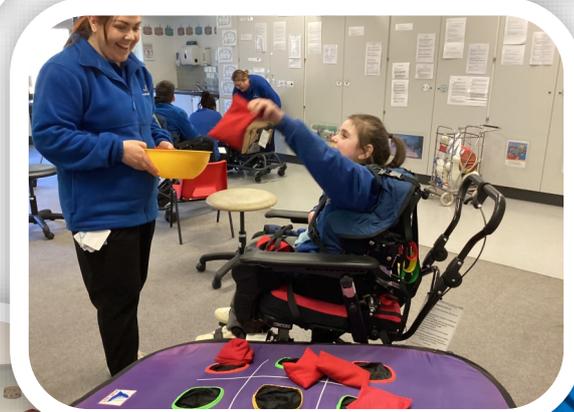
Hairdressing in careers week



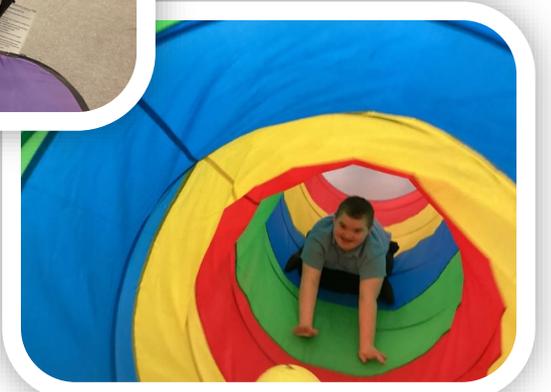
Developing Independence in creativity



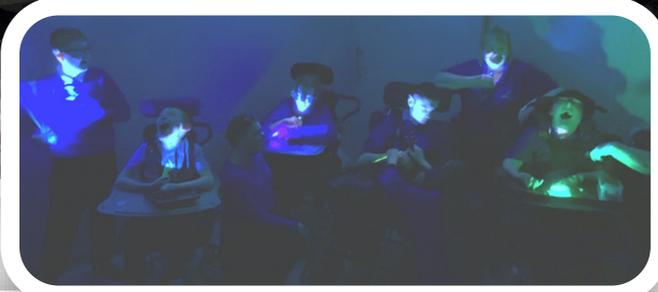
Baking for Red Nose Day



Getting physical and having fun!



Woodpeckers



Wow!

Time just flies when you're having fun in Woodpeckers HQ! Our topic this term was called Urban Pioneers. Throughout this term, we learned lots about Urban areas—including exploring different landscapes by creating shadows of buildings, thinking of ways we can improve the urban environment and creating our own light show and poetry inspired by cities at night. We had a class debate about whether graffiti is vandalism or art. We invited a well-known Graffiti Artist called Small Kid/Kid30 into school for a graffiti workshop which everyone really enjoyed. Following on from this theme, our focus in Food Technology was Street Food—we made potato skins, cheese and onion rolls, mars bar squares and much more! Our friends from The Nottingham City Museum came into school to do a Lego: The Big Build challenge which was all about creating homes for our wildlife. Careers Week was another opportunity for us to explore the world of work and learn about the skills needed for different jobs. We have also been busy in Enterprise creating Valentine's, Easter and Mother's Day gifts. Lots of sport with RISE PE and our own MATP sessions. Another busy term making wonderful memories!

Post 16

Another busy term for Post 16! Lots of fun things packed into a short term! We hope you all have a lovely Easter break and will see you all for the Summer Term.

Careers Week



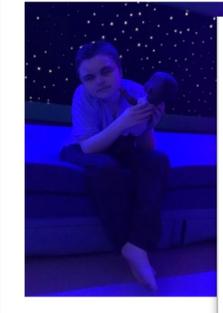
Portland Sports

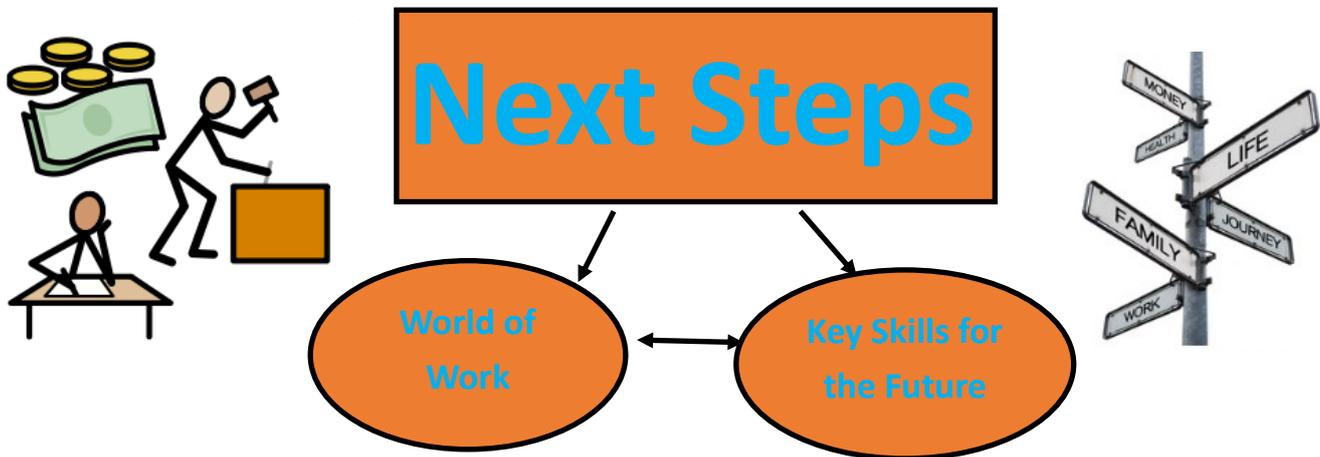


Enterprise Project

Sensory fun!

Panto





After consulting with families, pupils and staff, we are changing the name of the careers curriculum to
Next Steps!

This curriculum is all about teaching our pupils about the World of Work and key skills for their future—communication, independence, team work, resilience – all these skills that we work on every-day across the curriculum and throughout all pathways. These are the skills that our pupils will always need to be able to make choices and be part of their community. Any questions about this curriculum, please feel free to get in touch with Majella (Woodpeckers teacher). Email address: mrobson@nexusmat.org



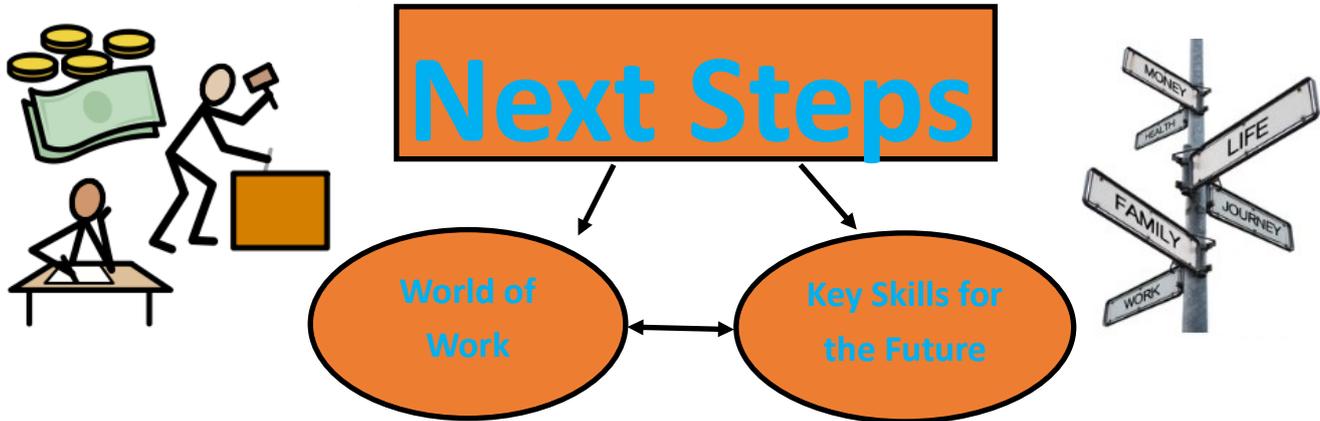
Jenny—Next Steps Advisor

Jenny is our Next Steps Advisor and this term, she has been spending time with our Post 16 students and making contact with families to offer support, information and advice on Post 19 progression routes.

If you would like Jenny to contact you to talk through all the different options for Post 19 progression and next steps, then please let us know or contact her directly on:

JHallam@nexusmat.org 07955 287635.

She can support with completing application forms, exploring options, arranging visits to different education and day service providers and signposting to relevant services for further support as needed.



Part of our Next Steps curriculum is learning about different jobs. We had a fantastic Work Related Learning (Careers) week recently. We had lots of different visitors come to school including bus drivers, emergency services, petting zoo, website and AR designer, baker, postal delivery worker, army cadet and much more! This was an opportunity to invite different people in from our community for our pupils to learn about what they do, to explore objects and equipment that they use to do their job and take part in different activities. Feedback from our visitors: *“It’s a brilliant school and really rewarding to show them what we do, let them take part and to see how much they enjoy it.”* *“I felt so welcome at the school and that my visit had a positive impact”*. We also had a visit from a group of students from Portland College who spoke about college life and we had a visit from former Fountaindale student, Adrian, who now studies Music Production at Confetti college and is a paid musician—a very inspirational visit!



Goodbye from Dan!



As you will know already, with a heavy heart, I will be leaving the Fountaindale Family a few days after Easter. I joined on Monday 21st February 2022 on a secondment, amid a whirlwind of exciting changes and so many young people and families to meet. I was amazed at the reception that Luci, Chris and I received and it was not long before I inflicted my love of videos and a little silliness on the school community. I thank you all for allowing me to drag everyone along with all the videos and visual library projects, which I hope that you have enjoyed!

I will soon be starting at Seven Hills School in Sheffield as their Deputy Head, and I hope to take and use all the valuable experiences and skills that Fountaindale has gifted me. Seven Hills is soon to be joining the Nexus Trust and so I hope that I will still be working with you all again in the future. Schools like this are rare and should be cherished; the pupils and staff are all sparkling gems to be treasured.

I thank all of the pupils, staff and families for the fondest of memories that I will keep close for many years to come. I hope to come back again soon and remain part of the #fountaindalefamily!

Happy Easter and see you all soon. Dan

