



Happy Easter to everyone!

Well what can I say this term has just flown by. We've had quite a lot of staff and pupil illness throughout the course of the term but we have made it. That's 2 terms down and 1 to go this academic year.

One of my highlights this term has to be the fantastic careers week that we had in school. The sight of the young people trying on the emergency service uniforms and using the fire hose was something to behold. A big thanks to everyone who came to school last Saturday morning to welcome the Mansfield Masons Biker group as they delivered Easter eggs. I think some of the parents enjoyed sitting on the bikes more than the children!

I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on a few developments this term and a few more that are in the pipeline. Recruitment continues to be a challenge for all schools but we are now fully staffed for the first time since I arrived at the school. Each class has 6 adults in it and we have a maximum of 10 young people in each class. This is a very favourable ratio of adults to young people in each class.

Swimming has resumed this term and is being coordinated by our specialist swimming lead. We still have the occasional technical issue with the pool but are doing our best to keep to the scheduled swims each day. Unfortunately, the NHS physio team have yet to return to delivering sessions in the pool and we have not been informed when they will be delivering pool therapy sessions. We continue to work closely with all NHS staff to deliver the best possible support for all young people at Fountaindale.

We have secured the services of a Sensory OT who will be working with us during the summer term to support us in supporting our young people in order to meet their sensory needs. Charlotte Adu our new Assistant Headteacher has begun to review sensory support for the young people at Fountaindale and this work will continue into the summer term.

Just a few dates for the summer term to be aware of:

- 15<sup>th</sup> April** – Start of summer Term
- 3<sup>rd</sup> May** – Training Day, school shut to pupils
- 8<sup>th</sup> May**, 9:30am – Coffee Morning – "PTA/Friends of Fountaindale"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June** – Training Day, school shut to pupils
- 17<sup>th</sup> June** – Access Arts Week
- 26<sup>th</sup> June** – Fountaindale Sports Day
- 11<sup>th</sup> July** – Parents Evening
- 25<sup>th</sup> July** – Last Day of Term for pupils
- 26<sup>th</sup> July** – Training day, school shut to pupils

Keep an eye on Seesaw for updates on these and other events, timings etc.

Have a fantastic Easter break and I look forward to seeing you all at the start of the summer term.

Chris

# Hedgehogs Newsletter– Spring 2024

Careers week was a huge success with us investigating lots of different jobs roles.



When outside we have found lots of different 'Signs of Spring' for our current topic.

The annual Panto was yet again fantastic!



Investigating that things don't grow very well in freezing conditions.



Circle time routine games and parachute games are always a big hit in our class!



# Robins - Spring 2024

## Muck, Mess and Mixtures



During this term, we enjoyed taking part in the school wide career week! We had lots of fun, dressing up, meeting new people and looking at the different jobs we could do when we grow up.



Our topic this term has been Muck, Mess and Mixture! We have enjoyed exploring lots of different edible sensory activities. We have learnt to follow recipes to make cakes, edible mud and cloud dough. We have been working hard to create different art work using spaghetti too!

We are looking forward to getting outside and doing some planting with our next topic: 'The Scented Garden'.

# Spring Term 2024 in Butterflies

Despite the Spring term being so short, we have had a very busy time! In January, we enjoyed listening to sensory stories involving animals and learning about different animal sounds. We also liked our chilly winter walks around the woods and searching for our favourite toys in shredded paper. Instruments are an important aspect of our learning and we enjoyed playing with our friends.



In February we celebrated World Number Day and loved searching around the school for numbers and making a display of the 2ps we collected. We also took part in the Big Bird Watch. Although we didn't see many birds, we enjoyed listening to bird sounds and got excited when we spotted a bird on our list. We also made some delicious muffins in Cooking.



In March we enjoyed

Careers Week where we loved meeting Firefighters, Police, Ambulance and Bus drivers. World Book Day was a lovely day to enjoy the books we like to read and to have another excuse to dress up or dress in our comfy clothes. We also rounded off our topic Paws, Claws and Whiskers with a visit from some animals. All the children did so well

with either touching, stroking or looking at the animals.



# Foxes Class Spring term 2024



This term our topic has been Muck, Mes s and Mixtures.

We have explored this topic in many ways.

We looked at different types of solids and liquids and we even explored turning chocolate from a solid to a liquid and back to a solid! It was very exciting and very tasty.

Some of us also enjoyed reading the story George's Marvellous Medicine and did some great work about the characters and events occurring in this story.



This term we focussed on an artist called Wassily Kadinsky.

We have created ,many pieces that look very similar to his art work.

We used mark making, cut out shapes and used tissue paper!

Some of us also found out some key facts about the artist! We liked how he enjoyed and used music to help create his art.



To thoroughly explore mixtures we have made a variety of treats this term and even worked as two groups and began bake off competition to see who could make the best! The judges were very kind and quite often we drew or only won by one point.



This term there had been so many exciting events its hard to recall them all! But we really enjoyed Careers week meeting many new people and getting to explore lots of different vehicles and equipment.

We have also enjoyed table cricket with helpers from Portland college.

We have celebrated Red Nose Day, Works Book Day and Number Day!

It has been a busy term! We are looking forward to a rest and then excited to get started on our next topic is The Scented Garden!

# Rabbits Spring Term 2024

The best parts of the year so far in Rabbits have to be the visit from Bamboozle. Our pupils were treated to a multi-sensory story, with lots of music and singing. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from the Police, Fire Service and Ambulance as part of careers week. We looked at the equipment, tried some things on for size and even had a chance to spray the water from the fire engine. The best bit was locking Nic in the back of the Riot van!



We have enjoyed learning about different animals in our topic Paws, Claws and Whiskers. We have looked at where animals live, what they eat, what is covering their bodies and had a lovely visit from Zoe's Party Animals to finish it off!

On Red Nose Day and World Book Day we enjoyed coming to school in our own clothes and doing lots of exciting activities around books and the colour red.



One of our favourite things is when we do the "In the middle of the night" song where we can make lots of noise with various musical instruments, trying to keep up with the song as it adds more and more sounds. We also look forward to our Sensory massage, Shabang and 'Boomwhackers' sessions which we do every week.



As well as all the exciting things we do, we also do lots of numeracy and mark making as well as floor time and singing. I don't know how we fit it all in!



Well done to everyone in Rabbits for a fabulous year so far!

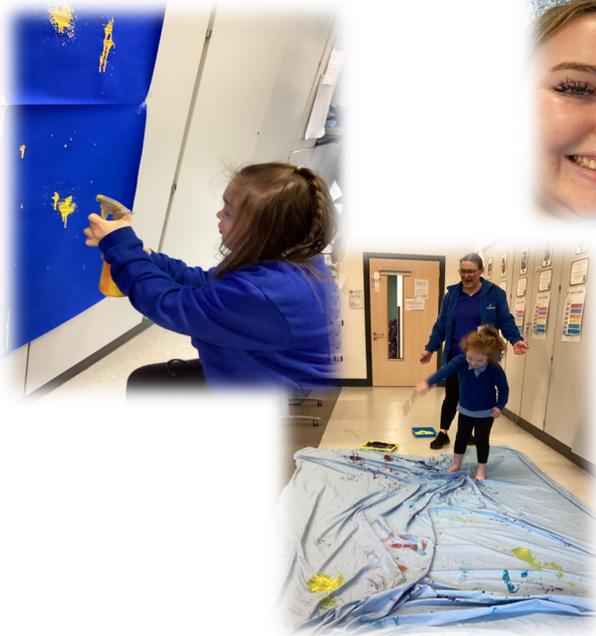
# Owl's Class Spring 2024



We have enjoyed planting trees this term.

It's a great to start more Learning Outside the Classroom. Spring has sprung and bring on our Summer Topic link to growing plants.

Careers week was so much fun!  
Our kids loved the flashing lights, loud noises and huge hoses.



We have had a brilliant time being creative!  
There have been lots of opportunities linked to our topic:  
"Misty Mountains and Winding Rivers"

# Squirrels Class Spring Term 2024



We totally love books!



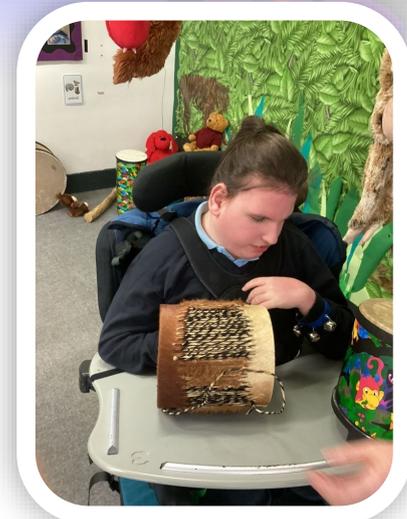
Using IT to learn all about shape and space.



Encountering all kinds of different animals.



Making a splash in the pool!



On the bus for careers week. Having fun exploring the outdoors. Communicating through jungle drums.



# Woodpeckers Spring 2024

The Woodpeckers have had a very busy but wonderful term together! Our topic has been all about Art, in particular Artists who were Rebels (Gallery Rebels). We learned about different styles of Art which were not popular when first introduced but now very highly regarded, such as Impressionism and Expressionism. We really enjoyed creating our own works of Art based on these styles. We also enjoyed becoming Eco-Warriors!

We are working hard with the Owls class on gaining the Eco-Schools Green Flag and learning about what we can do in school to protect our planet. We worked hard in other lessons including Enterprise, making gifts to sell for Valentine's Day and Easter and in Music, working with our friend Tom from Inspire, using accessible technology to create music. We also had a great time during Careers Week, learning about different jobs. Next term, we are learning about Burps, Bottoms and Bile! Should be interesting!.....



**Hi to all Parents and carers,**

**Post 16 have had a blast this spring term we were joined by Lorraine our new curriculum TA and PCA Nicola who's back from having a beautiful baby.**

**We have collected food for the beacon project which is still ongoing we would appreciate any donations of non-perishable foods.**

**Students have explored different career options for the future we would love to hear from any of you who could help with offering a placement please contact the office if you feel this is something you could assist with?**

**We have had made some fantastic memories this term we have enjoyed sessions at Portland college our young people have loved the community choir on Friday afternoons we love a dance.**

**Our young people practicing road safety to help with independence.**

**Our post 16 learned has been entered into an art competition with his amazing picture.**



## **A Warm welcome**

Hello to everyone in the Fountaindale family. I am coming up to completing my first half term in school and what a busy half term it has been. I have recently joined Fountaindale from another special school in Leicestershire and my background of working in special education spans from being in my 20's- that was a while ago! - where I worked in my first special school in Norfolk and developed such a passion for working. In the Early years, all the way up to Post 16, creating exciting teaching opportunities and working experiences. I have led residentials and trips out, supported weekly horse-riding sessions, swam in hydrotherapy pools, been a part of MATP (Motor Learning) celebrations days, worked with Rebound trained staff, driven the Mini bus, supported with travel training and taken our young people into theatres and arranged links with local businesses to offer working experiences (all in a day's work in a special school).

I feel it is a privilege to work with our young people and I am passionate about working in special education and being the young people and families advocate. I am constantly learning new ways of working and I am excited to get to know all the students and families in this very special school. I hope to meet more of you during the next half term.

Wishing you all a restful and Happy Easter.

*Charlotte Adu*

**Assistant Headteacher**

