



# Fountaindale

A SPECIAL SCHOOL

## Autumn term 2025 Newsletter



Welcome to our Termly Newsletter!

This term has been full of exciting developments, and we're thrilled to share our news with you. From our Next Steps Transition Event in September to a range of engaging activities and initiatives, it's been a busy and rewarding time for our school community.

One of the biggest highlights has been the opening of our brand-new Post-16 extension! This fantastic new space includes three modern classrooms, two accessible bathrooms, and a purpose-built kitchen fully equipped for teaching essential life skills. This extension will provide our students with even more opportunities to develop independence and prepare for adulthood.

We hope you enjoy reading about all the wonderful things our classes have been getting up to this term. On behalf of everyone at Fountaindale, I'd like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support—we look forward to an exciting year ahead!

See you in the New Year.

Charlotte Adu

Deputy Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share how excited I am to lead Fountaindale School as Interim Headteacher for the Spring term. In this caretaker role, my priority will be to continue our current plans with care and consideration, keeping our pupils at the heart of every decision we make.

I feel incredibly fortunate to work alongside such talented teachers, dedicated support staff, and a highly skilled Senior Leadership Team. Together, we will continue to move our school forward and remain ambitious in our next steps.

This term, we have been focusing on our BEE ethos – Belong, Engage, Enjoy – and exploring what this looks like in practice. Our aim is to ensure every student feels a sense of belonging, safety, and value.

We want learning to be engaging and challenging, extending pupils' knowledge through an exciting and stimulating curriculum – something our teachers excel at delivering.

As we approach the end of term, we have some wonderful events planned, including our much-loved school productions and a beautiful Advent Spiral led by Rob, offering our students moments of reflection during this busy season.

I hope you all enjoy time with your families and friends over the holidays and feel supported during this festive period. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday, 5th January 2026.**

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Warm regards,

Charlotte Adu





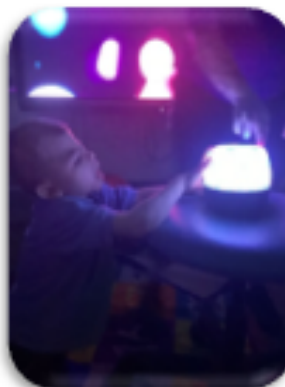
## Hedgehogs



We've had a brilliant first term in Hedgehogs! Through our 'Once Upon a Time' topic, we have learned lots of traditional tales and created some brilliant artwork!



In our Food Technology sessions, we have used lots of different techniques to make some delicious food. We really like using all of our different senses to explore the ingredients.



Through our 'Sparkle and Shine' topics, we have had some lovely sensory sessions where we have explored different lights and looked at reflections.



We love our nursery rhymes session and have got brilliant at choosing which song we want to sing and exploring the stimuli.

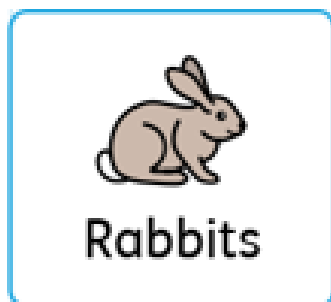


We have loved our Moving Together sessions with Emma and did a fantastic job at the dance performance.



We have had a great time learning about Christmas and have created some beautiful things! We're all ready for a well-deserved rest after working so hard all term!





We have had a wonderful first term in Rabbits starting with our moon zoom topic. We have especially enjoyed exploring our topic story "Whatever Next".



We have created our own sensory story using lots of props with different textures, smells and sounds. We have loved joining Emma for our Moving Together groups, and ended with a lovely show.



To finish off the term we have been very busy creating some amazing Christmas art work to send home with the children.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas!!

# Autumn Term in Butterflies



We have had a wonderful first term in Butterflies! The children have loved taking part in our Moving Together dance sessions with Emma and performing in front of an audience. We also enjoyed filming our Christmas production video and turning into reindeer for our Holiday Inn show.

Our topic, 'Moon Zoom', was a big hit, and we had great fun creating lots of space-themed crafts.

Wishing everyone a lovely Christmas break. See you all in January!

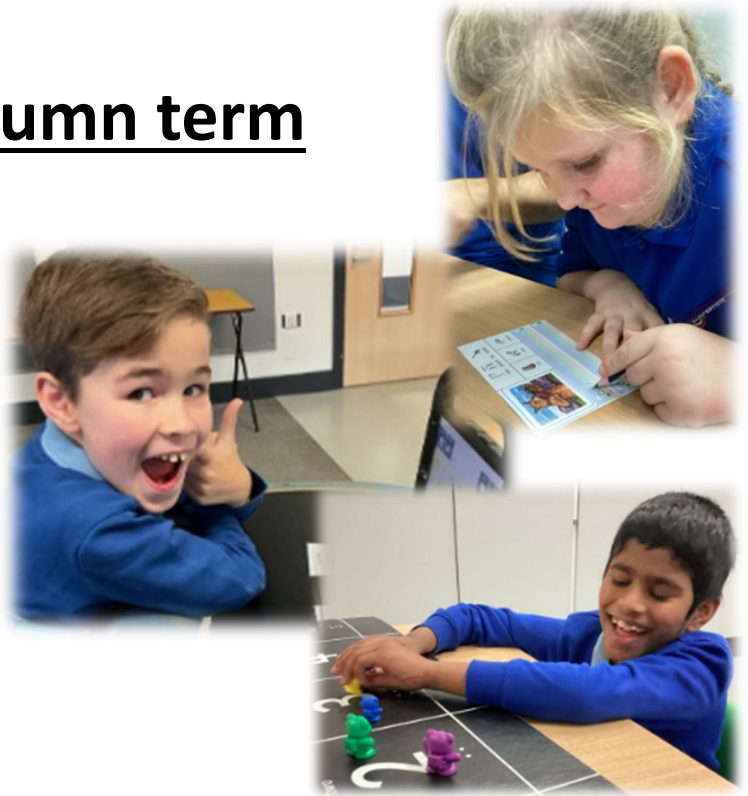


# Foxes Class Autumn term

This term we have been extremely busy!

With our phonics sessions we have been practicing our sounds daily and making progress though the different sounds.

In maths we have done so much work around our number recognition and counting skills. We have also worked hard on shape and time.



This term we have all been taking part in activities weekly to develop our emotional awareness and we have particularly enjoyed using the colour monster resources to do this.

We have also been trying hard to take turns and share activities we enjoy



These last few weeks Foxes have been preparing for our Christmas show! We hope you enjoyed it!



# Robins Class

What a brilliant start to the 2025-2026 year! We have settled in to the new routines, enjoyed our learning and been working hard with everything we do!

Our topics this term have been 'All about me' and 'Towers and Turrets'.

We have enjoyed using mirrors and drawing self-portraits, listening to different sensory stories, exploring colourful semantics, creating shields and castles.



As part of our PE, we have enjoyed Moving Together with Emma and learnt a routine for the dance show and the Christmas performance.



We have also enjoyed exploring dance.

As part of our sensory learning, we have enjoyed fun with food sessions, messy maths and Attention Autism sessions.



## Autumn Term in Moles Class.

We've had a fantastic start to the new school year in Moles Class. After lots of waiting, we were thrilled to finally move into our new classroom in November! We are incredibly proud of how all our wonderful Moles have adapted to the change—they've been amazing.



## Remembrance Day

We spent time learning about Remembrance Day and made some wonderful poppy paintings to help us remember and reflect.



## Gymnastics!

In our PE lessons, we have been practising and improving our gymnastics skills. We've learned how to move our bodies into tuck, straddle, and pike positions, as well as how to balance and perform different jumps.



## Outdoors!

We've had so much fun outdoors this term! Whenever we could, we headed outside to play. The new bikes have been a huge hit, and we've loved zooming around, playing with our friends, and enjoying lots of laughter and fun.



Pudsey bear hunt

## Children in Need

We celebrated Children in Need by dressing up for Pudsey Day. We learned about the work BBC Children in Need does and reflected on how our donations help. We also got very crafty!



Children in need Pudsey crafts

## Fine Motor Skills

We've loved dough disco and squiggle and we are making super progress with our fine motor skills!



Making habitats for our creatures

## Christmas is coming!

We've been getting so excited about Christmas too! We've been making some Christmas crafts and singing lots of songs.



## Habitats

We've learnt about how some animals hibernate during the winter months and made our own little habitats.



Autumn Term Topic  
Childhood—Shade  
and Shelter



Building  
Shelters

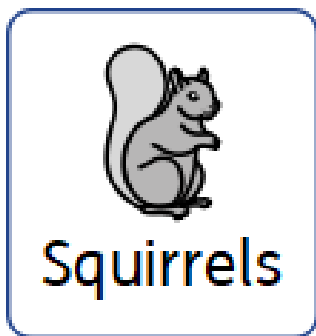
Portland Visit  
We had a great time visiting  
Portland College. We had a Teddy  
Bear's picnic, it was great fun!



Remembrance Day

Children In Need





Squirrels have had a really busy term.

We have enjoyed our topic 'Moon Zoom' and lots of lovely sensory activities around space and our class story 'Whatever Next'.



We have worked incredibly hard this term on building up literacy and numeracy skills and we have made some great progress.

We have loved our Rise PE sessions and have been working so hard to build up the amount of time we can focus during our Attention Autism sessions.



# Moon Zoom!



# Woodpeckers



We've had a fantastic start to the academic year in Woodpeckers! Our topic this term was *Scrumdiddlyumptious*—a celebration of all things creative and delicious. Our class story was the timeless classic *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. One of the highlights was designing our very own Sensory Invention Room, inspired by Willy Wonka's magical factory. We explored sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures to bring the experience to life! In Food Technology, we had great fun baking sweet treats and adding our unique Woodpeckers twist. The Autumn term is always a busy time for Team Enterprise at Woodpeckers Headquarters. We created lots of beautiful Christmas gifts to sell, and some of our class even helped at the Christmas Fayre. Another proud moment was delivering an assembly on Children in Need, where we raised awareness and enjoyed fundraising for this wonderful cause.

# Autumn Term in Post 16

A very busy first term for Post 16!

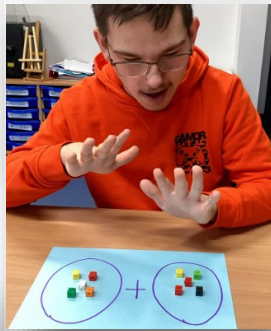


## Moving Day!

We finally got to move into our brand new classroom! We think we are just about settled in now and have unpacked everything!

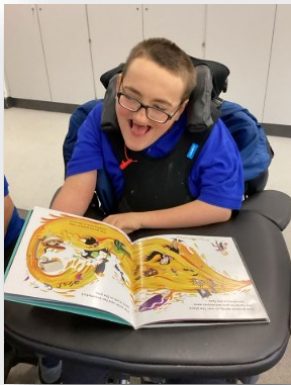
## Marvellous Maths

This term we have started Mastering Number and everyone has been working really hard on their stem sentences and explaining the maths that they see.



## Communication and Literacy

This term we have been practising our blending and segmenting skills, recognising and using symbols, sharing stories and of course writing a letter to Santa!



## ASDAN

Keeping Healthy—This term we have been finding out about how we can keep ourselves healthy as part of our ASDAN accreditation.



## Bucket time fun!

We have enjoyed investigating the surprises in our bucket and taking part in fun sensory activities!

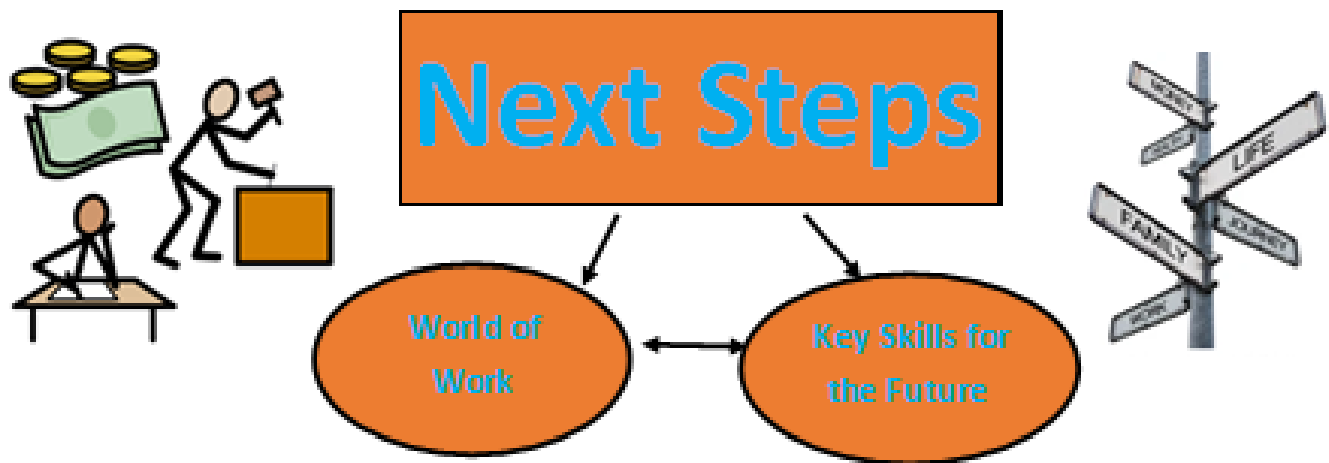


## Preparation for Christmas!

We have worked hard on planning and preparing for the Christmas Fayre and then had fun decorating the tree and practising for our Christmas Performance.



We hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas break and will see you all in 2026!



## Next Steps Transitions Event

Friday 26th September Our Transition Event was a real success! This was a fantastic opportunity to explore the wide range of education providers and day services available to support your child's next steps after school. We are now planning our World of Work week which starts on Monday 2nd March. If you would like to come into school and talk about your job or if you know someone else who can, please contact Majella Robson Tel: 01623 792671 or [mrobson@nexusmat.org](mailto:mrobson@nexusmat.org)



## Jenny—Next Steps Advisor

Jenny has focused on gathering information on the wide range of day service providers that our young people could access after Fountaindale. Jenny will be in school on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January, if any families would like a meeting with Jenny to talk through the range of options that could supplement an education package. Jenny will be able to provide information and signposting on questions relating to this, including referrals to the Preparation for Adulthood Team, funding processes and transport. Jenny is also available for appointments on these days, to support with completing college application forms.

If you would like to arrange a call, Teams or face to face meeting with Jenny in the Spring Term, please let Majella know or you can contact Jenny directly on: [JHallam@nexusmat.org](mailto:JHallam@nexusmat.org)



## **A Special Goodbye from our wonderful Chris...**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of term has come and with it the end of my time at Fountaindale.

To say that it has been an amazing journey would be a huge understatement!

I came to the school (then Harlow) in mid January 2022 to see if Nexus could help get the school back onto its feet following a very difficult period.

I never thought for one minute that I would spend the next 4 years at the school.

Here we are 4 years later with the school going from strength to strength.

We have an amazing staff team who work so hard to ensure that we meet the needs of all of our young people. It has been a privilege to work with the staff and the young people at Fountaindale and I leave knowing that the school is in safe hands and ready to move to its next stage of development.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped to get Fountaindale back to where it deserves to be, this includes staff, pupils, parents, governors, Nexus central and all visiting professionals.

I am sure that Charlotte will keep me updated on all things Fountaindale.

Have a wonderful festive season and all the very best for 2026, take care.

Chris Evans

Headteacher

