

# #FountaindaleFamily

## HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER

# 2022

This term for our newly named school seems to have flown by and it has been a pleasure to see so many of our children flourish. I know the staff continue to benefit from sharing their experiences about your children with you to become better equipped at dealing with them so again thank you for sharing your experiences, coming into school and supporting us as a staff team. Often at this time of year we think back to the things we are grateful for, the moments that have brought us joy and plans for the coming year. I can say without doubt the stories I have heard from you as families about the difference we have made to your family life remains my most joyful thought. Seeing your 'memory jar moment' on seesaw where your children are trying new things, taking part in family activities and you all being part of your child's learning is the most rewarding part of my job. I'm grateful for the staff team who work endlessly to provide your children with the best education and having this privileged role where I often experience 'firsts' with your children, first time stood vertically, first time achieving a new skill or first time trying a new food. I'm also saddened to see our 'lasts' also. As you know this term we lost one of our wonderful pupils Vlad. I know you will join me in sending Vlad's family our love, thoughts and prayers over this difficult Christmas. Finally, I look forward to our new adventures together in the new year. I'm hopeful that friendships will continue to grow between the children and that you as families will continue to reach out to us for help and support. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas together as a family and I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2023 when it arrives.

### Term Time Dates

Return back to school Wednesday 4th January 2023

Finish for half term break on Friday 10th February 2023

Monday 20th February when we return for spring 2 term is an INSET day for Nexus.

### Plans for the New Year

Family coffee morning Wednesday 25th January at 9.30am Come and learn about our curriculum and the learning pathway your child is on.

### New Families Update

Welcome to our new families for January. We do have a Whatsapp group hosted by one of our school Governors Rachel Mendham—please do contact school if you would like your number sharing with Rachel to join the group. It's a friendly family group that has a whole host of advice and experience to share.

### Mobility Car update— top tip!

A family recently shared a Mobility car top tip... The link below is for Brook Millers who are supplying the VW Crafter Van [Brook Miller Mobility Elland West Yorkshire | Cars On Mobility](#) They are able to supply specialist mobility cars for our families who need a little more than the top level offer available to you. Please contact through the family whatsapp group for more information.



*Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year*

## Curriculum Update

All the classes began our new curriculum in September and I know they have all enjoyed where their learning has taken them. Whichever pathway your child is on they all have the underlining principles of our '6 big ideas' these are the curriculum focus areas which are vehicles to deliver learning at the level that your child needs.



You will find out much more about what your child's class has been learning about in this newsletter but thinking forwards to the Spring term the classes will be following the topics below.

L1— Dangerous Dinosaurs & Rainbows and Puddles

L2—What is a Predator?

L3— What things wiggle and crawl?

L4— What is a Predator?

L5— Magnificent Monarchs and How do Animals Survive?

U1—Potions, Magic and transformations

U2—What is a Predator?

U3- What things wiggle and crawl?

Post 16—How do I transfer my skills and qualities for employment, education or training?

## NHS Team

We continue to host the NHS health team in school 3 days per week alongside the speech therapy team who work with staff on specific medical needs for your children. As always, please do contact them if you need any support or advice as they are all happy to meet with you in school and advise accordingly.

I know some of our colleagues from the NHS will be working over the Christmas period certainly due to the pressure that is placed upon the service over the next few months. We send our thoughts and love to these colleagues and hope they are kept safe and supported in their roles.

As a school to develop our offer we have additional speech therapy , music therapy with Matt and a new sensory OT starting in January. These professionals work is based upon educational parts of EHCP rather than health input hence the school paying directly for these services rather than them being NHS funded. Please do contact us if you would like to know more information about how these professionals can help you.



# Fountaindale

A SPECIAL SCHOOL

## Staffing Updates

This term we say a short farewell to Nicola who is due to start her maternity leave. We are especially looking forward to meeting her new baby when it arrives. We are grateful that Nicola managed the Christmas show and is only a few days off giving birth.

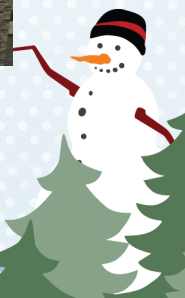
We also say goodbye to our teachers Rebecca and Abby who are leaving us to start roles elsewhere. In their place we are looking forward to Sam starting in L4 and Sue who once worked at Fountaindale into U3. Nadine also returned from her maternity leave this term so I am sure you will welcome these new staff and wish the ones





## What's been happening in L1?

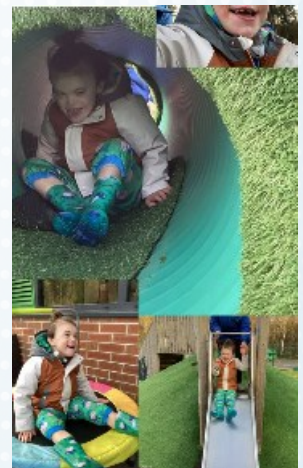
Our topic this term was 'Once upon a time' a great theme to listen and learn from the many stories we have all enjoyed as children ourselves. The children have dressed up, the adults have dressed up and we really don't know who has enjoyed it the most! There has been lots of fun in and out of the classroom with beanstalks growing over night and the sensory room being taken over by fairies. We have also enjoyed another topic on Sparkle and Shine. Our new sensory room with all the colourful lights has really helped us learn.





## What's been happening in L2?

L2 follow a semi-formal pathway in learning. This is a very adapted thematic way of learning that encompasses the children's health and sensory needs. Our topic this term was Towers, Tunnels and Turrets. We learnt all about the Kings and Queens, we built a castle and designed our own shields. This term we finished off with a Kings and Queens tea party.





### What's been happening in L3?

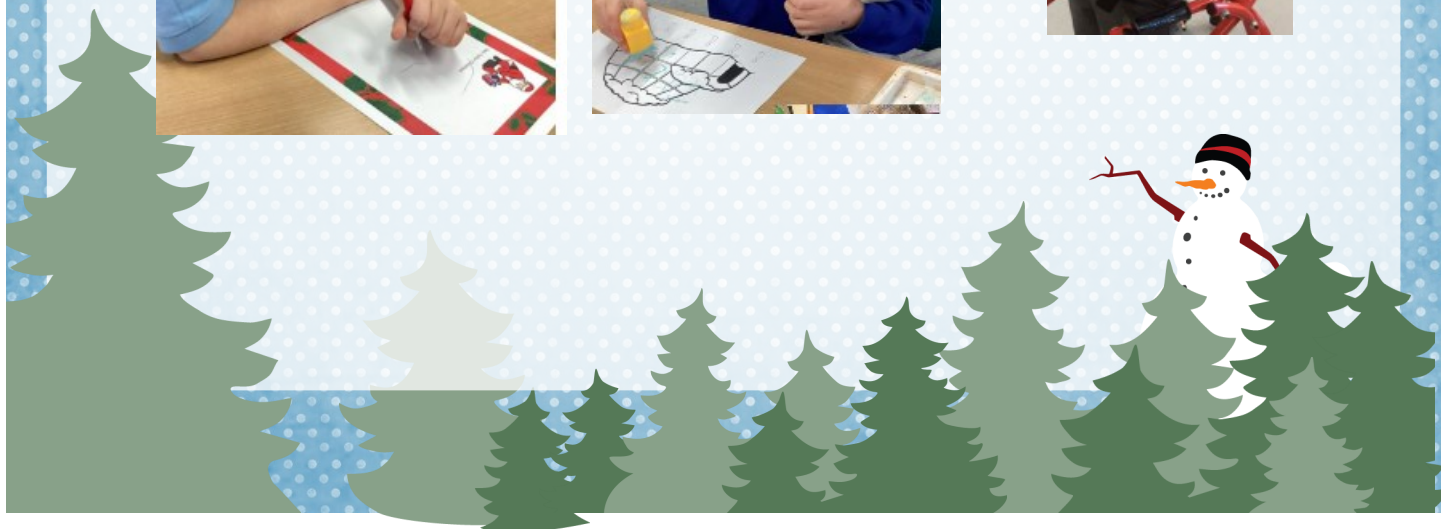
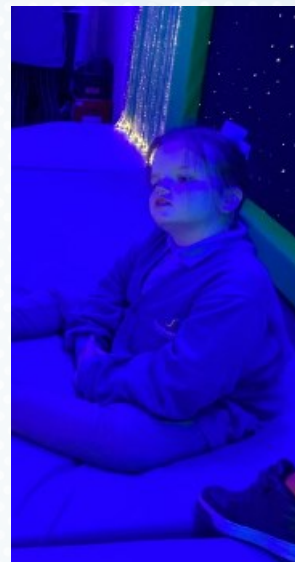
L3 have had a wonderful term learning with Phil. We follow a pre-formal learning pathway in our class and this means learning is about experiences for children and finding ways to engage them through sensory approaches. This term our topic was called 'Moon Zoom'. The International Space week was fun when Luci set us challenges to try and learn or solve. We have loved spending time in our new sensory room and our classroom has been a brilliant rocket zooming us on different adventures.





### What's been happening in L4?

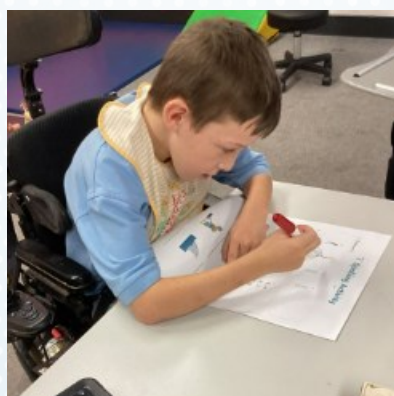
We follow a semi-formal pathway in learning. This is a very adapted thematic way of learning that encompasses the children's health and sensory needs. This term we have used the theme of Towers, Tunnels and Turrets. We have enjoyed building castles, exploring tunnels and made lots of funny foods from the past. We have all worked really hard on our phonics as well this term.





### What's been happening in L5?

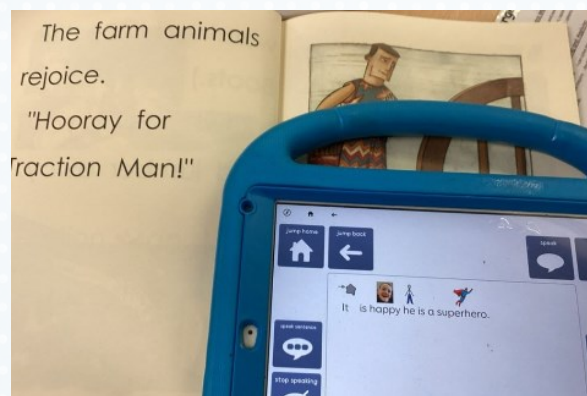
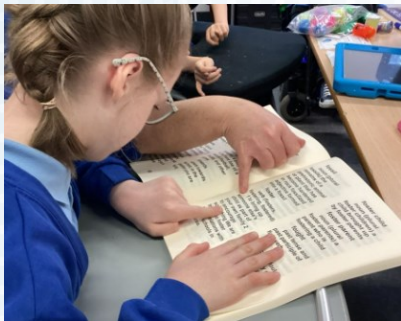
We follow a formal pathway of learning in L5. This means our lessons are adapted from the National Curriculum but delivered at a slower pace to ensure children's complexed needs are continually met. Our theme for learning this term was 'Childhood'. We learnt about growing up, about babies and what happens to our bodies as we grow. We also looked at different games that we played in the past. We really enjoyed meeting the bay animals and creepy crawlies.





## What's been happening in U1?

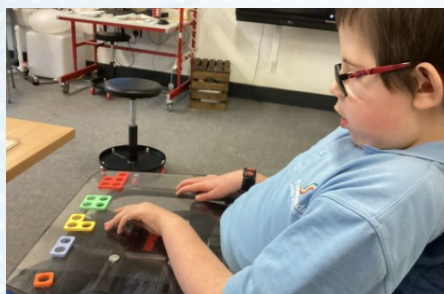
U1 follow a formal learning pathway where the health needs of children are met alongside a differentiated national curriculum. We have enjoyed our enterprise lessons and particularly the music lessons that we have weekly. This term our topic has been 'Scrumdiddlyumptious' a topic based on Georges Marvellous Medicine. We have heard the story and looked at the characters. We have also enjoyed our enterprise lessons this term and all taken different roles in the class business.





### What's been happening in u2?

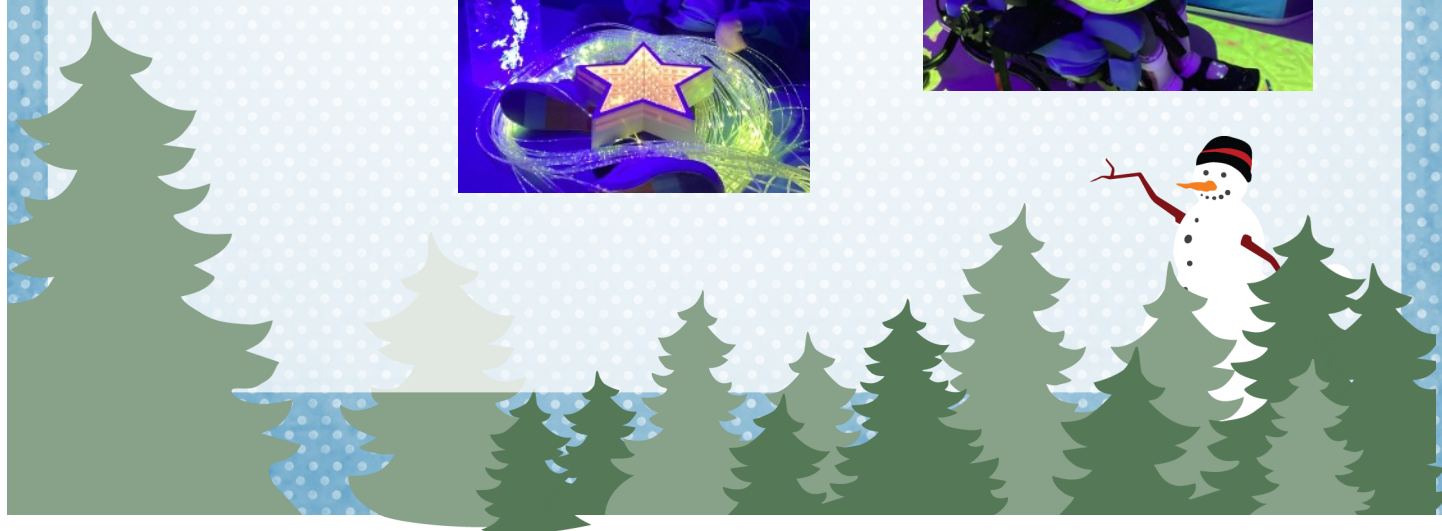
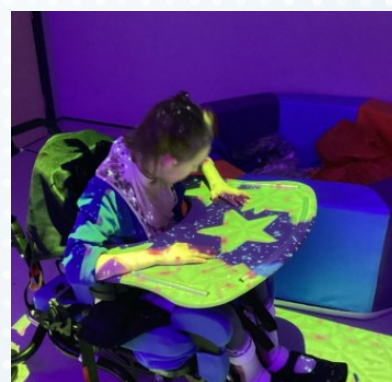
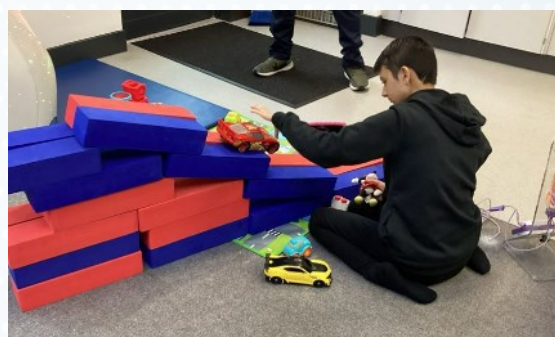
We follow a semi-formal pathway in learning. This is a very adapted thematic way of learning that encompasses the children's health and sensory needs. This term we have used the theme of Towers, Tunnels and Turrets. We have learnt about the past, made shields that reflect our choices and interests. We have really enjoyed our UNICEF rights lessons with Emma where we learn all about what rights we have as children.





### What's been happening in U3?

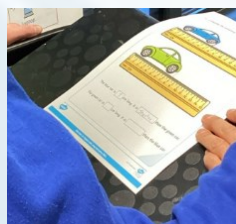
We follow a pre-formal curriculum in U3. This means that children's learning is delivered through sensory experiences. This term our topic was called 'Moon Zoom' we really enjoyed our Space Week where Luci set challenges for us each day. Our new lights in the classroom have been great for us to relax under and we have enjoyed spending time in our new sensory room.





## What's been happening in Posy-16?

In Post 16 we are all about Preparation for Adulthood. Our topic was called What do I need to do to prepare for my next steps. We met new friends from Portland college and looked at different jobs and what skills are needed for those. We also looked at money handling as that is important to our rights and spent some time in the kitchen starting up our mini enterprise café.





## What else has been happening in school?

Along with the Nation we said a final Goodbye to Queen Elizabeth this term. We all enjoyed celebrating her life and learning that she actually visited Fountaindale many years ago.



In October we joined Luci's other schools and enjoyed the International Space Week challenges. We shared lots of our work with our friends from Abbey and Discovery some of which came to see us to share their learning too.

We also had our first careers day for older students. It was great to see so many visitors in school answering questions for our students and families about their next steps and preparation for adulthood. We were really proud of our students asking so many informative questions

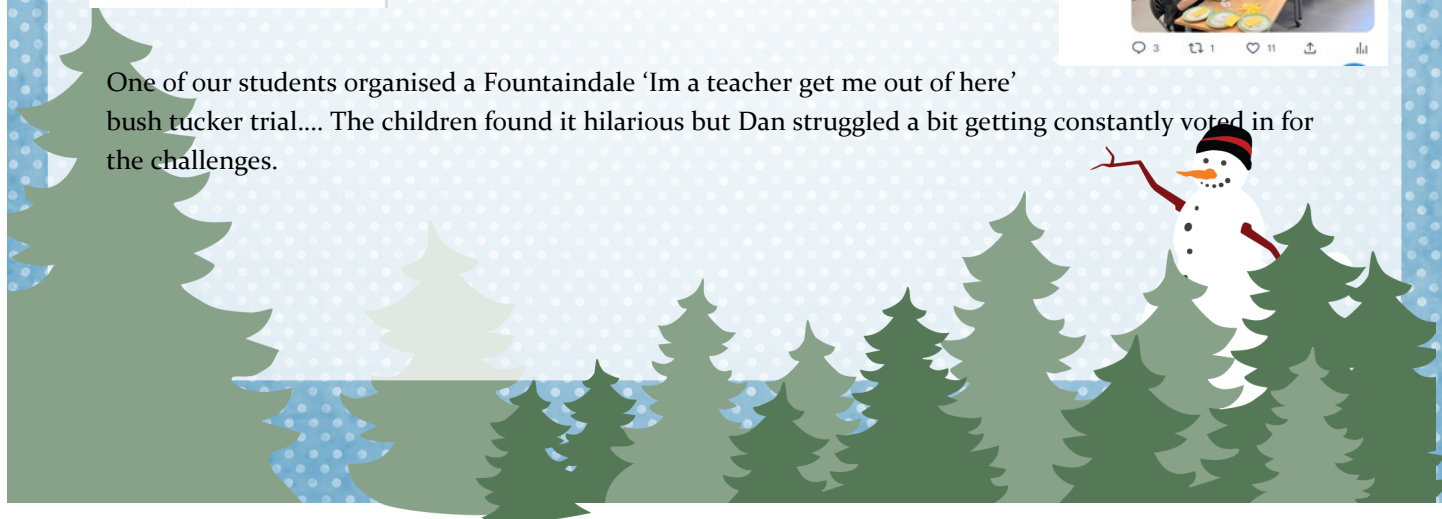
about their future.

We also celebrated it being 'good to talk' mental health awareness day. We all wore some yellow and had opportunity to learn about our rights to being mentally healthy.



Halloween came round very quickly so we took the opportunity to have a #FountaindaleFamily not so scary Halloween party. There was some fantastic costumes.

One of our students organised a Fountaindale 'I'm a teacher get me out of here' bush tucker trial.... The children found it hilarious but Dan struggled a bit getting constantly voted in for the challenges.





## What have visitors said about our school this term?

In September we invited Dr Sarah Mosely to train staff on using sensory approaches to teaching reading. As you would imagine the staff loved making the new stories and mostly enjoyed dressing up. Its been great seeing this training delivered in the classrooms.



We spent some staff training time developing our phonics teaching knowledge. Many of our children are at the 'pre phonics' stage of learning but we learnt how effective it is to use the outside environment to teach about sounds. We also enjoyed making the new resources for this particular area of the curriculum. Jolly Phonics is such a great system to teach phonics to our children as they love the resources and characters that come with it.



Mist recently we hosted the Christmas fair back at Fountaindale. We raised nearly £3000 which is a huge amount of money all going towards improving our school. Thankyou to everyone that came, supported, sent things in or had a stall on the day. It was a wonderful day that celebrated everything that makes our #FountaindaleFamily so special. Thankyou!



We also hosted a visit from Colin Pettigrew Director of Nottinghamshire Children's services and Bishop Andy Emerton. Luci talked with them about the most recent history of the school and how it was nearly one year later. They both took the time to visit the classrooms and talked about the future support that we need as a school moving forwards. We are looking forward to Bishop Andy meeting our families in the new term.





nexus  
Multi Academy Trust



**Fountaindale**  
A SPECIAL SCHOOL

From everyone at both Nexus Academy Trust  
and Fountaindale School, could you wish you all  
a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy  
2023!