

❄️ Snowflake School News ❄️

Safe, Understanding, Patient, Enthusiastic, Respectful



Taylor, Delibe and Assway enjoying PE with Tutors Henry and Stefana.

A message from Kerry, Headteacher

Spring is here at last and with it, let's hope new health and well-being will come for us all.

I want to thank you all for your continued support during the challenges of increased Covid cases and what turned out to be a 4-day train strike. I am sure you will join me in thanking all the staff for their consistent hard work and positivity when working with your sons and daughters.

This term most of you were able to attend our online parent's meetings and we have plans for summer parent's meetings to be in person. I know many of you participated in the online training for PECS, and I am delighted to tell you that there will be further family training next term. You will be receiving a programme after Easter.

1

BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 18th April
2022

2

INSET DAY

Tuesday 19th April
2022

3

FIRST DAY OF TERM

Weds 20th April 2022



Greetings to Gary!

A big **WELCOME** to our new Site Manager Gary who has transformed our premises management across both sites! Gary, we don't know how we ever managed without you!

Felicitations to Fernanda



HUGE CONGRATS to Fernanda on her promotion to Speech and Language Therapist of Secondary school.

In primary, we have a new library and a reading programme set up in which pupils have regular lessons with Leah. From April, all pupils will be reading with their tutors daily, and we will be starting to teach phonics where appropriate.

Molly has completed term 2 of her teacher training and will be returning to teach at Snowflake School. She will be getting used to teaching small groups after teaching 30 mainstream pupils for the last 10 weeks. We are excited to see what new ideas she will be bringing that we can implement to enhance our pupils' learning. We hope to introduce you to a new occupational therapist we are sponsoring from India. We are waiting for her papers to clear and expect she will be with us by the end of April.

Finally, despite all the difficulties, the pupils have still managed to take part in lots of exciting activities, show us their learning and delight us with their progress every time they achieve something they have never done before, whether it is eating new food, joining in a group, speaking their first word or reading us their favourite book.

I wish you all a peaceful and healthy Spring break.

Please keep yourselves and your families safe and well during the next few weeks.

Kerry Sternstein - Head Teacher

A MESSAGE FROM PRIMARY

It's been a wonderful term and start to the new year. We have been able to resume our usual extra curricular activities while continuing to maintain some Covid safety measures in place. We will continue to try and keep all of our families and staff as safe as we can and will be in contact with all of you to keep everyone updated on any government guidelines or changes that might happen over the next term.

I will be organising a training in the Summer term on Introduction to Applied Behaviour Analysis and behaviour management. Please get in touch if you would like to attend.

Reports, Classes and Homework

We will be sending End of Term reports and change of keyworker letters home for each of our pupils, please keep an eye out for these in the bags.

As you know in order to facilitate generalisation across people and settings we usually change key workers for each of our children at the end of each term and at the end of the year classroom allocations as well. The latter is due to some pupils moving on to secondary and us as school ensuring that our grouping in classes are based on similar skill levels and abilities. We do this very carefully and systematically, with plenty of time for handovers and training across key workers. A change of key worker letter will be sent out towards the end of this term to all parents. Upon receiving this, please let us know if you have any questions

Staffing Updates

We have struggled with recruitment over the last few months, we believe this might be due to the

current political situation, but we are now fully staffed, thank you so much for bearing with us, we really appreciate it. Sadly this is the time of the year when staff decide to move on. We are sadly saying goodbye to: Bibi. We wish her all the best and hope to see her again soon.

And Finally...

I am sure you will join me in thanking both students and staff for an excellent half term's work and once again I would like to thank you for your continued help and support throughout this incredibly challenging time. I wish your family an enjoyable, restful and safe break.

Yours faithfully,

Andrea Moldovan-Grunfeld, BCBA - Assistant Head of Primary Site

Diamond Class News

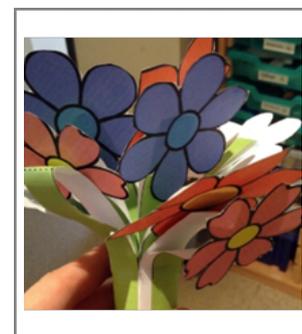
Diamond Class have had a great Spring term. All of our pupils have worked really hard with their communication this term and we have seen fantastic progress with this in our NET sessions.

There has also been a focus on group skills this term within Diamond Class - every morning as part of our registration we take part in Attention Autism – all pupils and staff enjoy the bucket activity and it is a nice start to our day to come together as a group.

On International Women's Day, we celebrated our female pupils and all the things we appreciate about them, as well as making Mother's Day cards in March. As usual, we are making the most of the nice weather with our Nevern Gardens trips, and we are taking turns to go swimming which is always a great start to the week.

In Diamond Class this term we have been exploring stories and books in our NET sessions and during our lunch club. With the support from the tutors, all pupils have been reading and enjoying stories and creating artwork around the books and stories we have been reading. A favourite is *The Three Little Pigs!*

Have a lovely Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming Diamond Class pupils back to school in the summer term. *(Jessica, Diamond Class Supervisor)*



Sapphire Class News

As always, this term has been super fun, we have all learnt new skills and had fun with our tutors.

We have welcomed 4 new tutors to our class who have settled into our team and made school super fun for all the pupils. As always, the tutors have continued to make sure that each pupil's targets are being run in fun teaching sessions! Vivian is running fantastic Attention Autism which everyone loves (including the adults). We celebrated international pizza day by making our pizzas and having a pizza party, everyone enjoyed eating them. This term we have begun to practice our typing skills, Harry enjoys emailing his mum and dad, Wali loves to type his mum a letter every day to bring home to her. Have a lovely Easter break! *Samantha, Sapphire Class Supervisor*)



A message from our SALT, Athina:

The holidays present many opportunities to generate activities for practice with your child. Practicing speech and language skills during the holiday break can be easy and fun for the entire family. Here are some speech therapy tips incorporating elements commonly used in speech therapy materials to ensure that your child can continue to hone their speech and language skills during holidays.

Remember to always incorporate your child's interest in the activities you are planning.

During holiday crafts, younger children can practice requesting. Perhaps your child has all the necessary materials that you've given them, but there is one that is specifically not included. Encourage them in checking that they have all the items they need. Have them ask questions if they do not have everything.

Baking can help your child practice requesting, reading, and following directions. Don't be afraid to get a little bit messy! Use ingredients like flour to practice writing or drawing. This will give your child the opportunity not only to practice requesting but also to discover new textures and vocabulary. The best part about this practice is that there is something sweet to eat once the recipe is complete!

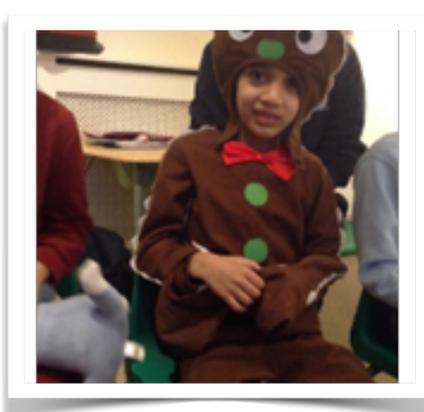
Another interactive activity is playing "What's inside" the Easter Egg? Begin by stuffing objects of all sizes into the plastic eggs. When your child is not looking, place different items inside the eggs such as a penny, a rubber band, toothpicks, etc. Think about things that will elicit different sounds and weights when picked up and shaken. Ask your child **Yes or No** questions to see if your child can figure out what is inside. Take turns - let your child stuff the eggs in the next round and ask you to guess.

Lastly, Storytime is one of the best activities to enhance speech and language development. Whether you choose to read to your child or have your child read to you, you can set aside a little time before bedtime to read a chapter or two from their favourite book. While you may think having your child read is the best way to improve their language skills, it is actually better for reading comprehension for you to read to your child. After you finish reading the chapter, you can spend time discussing what you read with them.

A note from our Emerald class...

This has been a very busy term! Emerald class have celebrated world book day and pupils dressed up as their favourite characters. Hamdaan came dressed as his favourite character from the gingerbread man story. Our pupils made bookmarks to celebrate world book day. Lukas was enjoying this activity exploring a variety of glitter mark pens. As a class we also celebrated a red nose day, pupils in my class created red hero masks! Hamdaan has been working hard on his spelling and participating in groups. We particularly love PE with Victoria. Swimming and going to Nevern Gardens continues to be the most exciting parts of the week for our pupils! To celebrate mother's day pupils made Mother's day cards.

All pupils have achieved a lot of new skills and this would not be possible without our dedicated tutors, with this being said we are sadly saying goodbye to Bibi and we have welcomed a new tutor to the emerald team Lily. I would like to wish all families a lovely Easter break! *(Paulina, Emerald Supervisor)*



A MESSAGE FROM SECONDARY

As we finish another term in Snowflake School, I would like to thank all the staff in the secondary site who have worked so hard to make sure that all the pupils have had a successful term despite all the challenges that covid continued to present

The team have been exceptional and worked so hard to ensure that the pupils settled in and did not feel the impact of Covid.

Andrew joined us in January as a class teacher; he has fitted in so well and has been an asset to the school. His lessons are engaging, and the pupils enjoy doing their learning with him.

Molly will join us again after Easter as she has been at another school on her placement, and we are looking forward to the knowledge that she will bring with her. Sadly, we are all saying goodbye to Ciara who is moving to a role outside education. Ciara, you have made a huge contribution and we will all miss your positive outlook and sunny disposition. Thank you again for your hard work and for being such a supportive team. I hope everyone has a wonderful break and returns refreshed after Easter.

Catherine Stephenson - Assistant Head of Secondary

'All About Reading' – Leah Jasubhoy, Senior Teacher

All pupils attend a weekly literacy session in our designated teaching space. This term we have been exploring books and print.

What we are working on in school...

- I can look at a book by myself
- I can hold the book the right way up
- I can open the book to the first page
- I can turn the pages carefully
- I can look at the pictures in a book
- I turn the pages from left to right
- I can understand page sequencing
- I show motivation / pleasure in illustration and print
- I listen whilst others read
- I can identify where there is text on a page
- I understand that print has meaning
- I can point to a picture
- I know that text is read from top to bottom (in English)
- I know that text is read from left to right (in English)
- I can recognise and join in with predictable phrases and repetition in a text
- I can sound out the letter sounds and blend them to read a word
- I can recognise tricky words such as 'the' and 'they'.

How you can help...

- Have a dedicated reading space, this can be a well-lit, comfortable and quiet space where you and your son / daughter can relax with a book.
- Follow their interests - let your son / daughter choose the book, look at the pictures, turn the pages slowly and carefully.
- You can read anything, anywhere! Encourage your children to read food menus, road signs, instructions, the shopping list at the supermarket, or the ingredients list while baking.
- Short bursts of regular reading can be just as helpful and this will help them to build fluency and confidence.
- Read aloud and follow the words with your finger.
- Talk about what you have read, look at and discuss the pictures, find words or pictures in the book you are reading.
- Magic keys books (<http://www.magickeys.com/books/>) is a website with a number of e-books you can read at home, alongside story books you already have.



SHOOTING STARS CLASS NEWS

During the spring term in shooting stars we have done some amazing work. During our English sessions we have been learning about poetry and have been working towards creating our own acrostic poem around our names, whilst also looking at the different styles of writing and ways of conveying emotion through our words. This has turned into some amazing work some of which we are looking forward to sharing with you at our end of term performance!



In Math's we have been looking at money and time. Everyone has improved across the term and I hope you have noticed these skills generalising over to home. We have tell the time at O'clock, half past and are working towards quarter past and to.

For Science we have been looking at the life cycles of animals. Here we were delivered some eggs and we have been nurturing them all the way through their lifecycle whilst tracking them in our butterfly diary from egg to caterpillar, to chrysalis and through the final metamorphosis to butterfly. We also had science week this term where we did a different experiment everyday that week which our learners loved. We made lava lamps, a balloon car, volcanoes. We loved working with our peers to conduct these as a group.



Social skills and building our peer to peer interaction has been a massive focus and we are very proud to see the friendships, play skills and communication skills continue to develop going forward.

We are all looking forward to an exciting summer term which will be full of fun, learning and maybe a few surprises along the way. Have a great easter and we look forward to seeing everyone in the summer term!

(Andrew, Shooting Stars Class Teacher)

Milky Way News

Milky Way has been quite busy celebrating various festivals in its unique ways. As a group, the whole class worked on celebrating Chinese new year, International women's day, St Patrick's day, World book day, Ramadan, and Easter. Ravson and Adya had the time of their life in swimming and enjoyed the whole pool to themselves. Hodan, Cheran, and Ravson enjoyed going to the park with their peers.

Additionally, Milky Way welcomed its new member Megan to the classroom. (Poonam, Milky Way Supervisor).



Supernova Class News

This term has been very exciting in Supernova class. We have been partaking in lots of groups, like drama, PSHE, music, PE, as well as having a movie afternoon all together every Friday

As well as our groups, all of the pupils have been doing individual National Curriculum and Speech and Language sessions weekly. They have been working on answering 'who' questions, answering questions with 2 key pieces of information, and lots and lots more!

Additionally, some of the Supernova tutors have been trained in Attention Autism this term, so the pupils in the class have been having Attention Autism sessions every week, where they get to look at lots of interesting toys and items and work on their joint attention and waiting skills. Supernova class went swimming this term, and all of the pupils enjoyed their Thursday afternoons at the pool. The pupils worked on independent dressing skills and had individual swimming lessons in the pool where they followed visuals and instructions from the swimming teachers. We have been making lots of trips to the community this term, and all of the pupils have enjoyed being out and about, going to the shops, the cinema, and the park when the weather is nice. All in all, the

A Note From Lunar Class...

Lunar Class has had a great Spring Term.

The pupils have been working on waiting, taking turns and sitting in groups for longer periods of time.

In PSHE this term the pupils learned about healthy and unhealthy eating habits. The class also prepared their own fruit salad!

In Music class the pupils have been enjoying trying different instruments and playing them to the beat. The class have also been practicing their favourite song "Little Peter Rabbit" with the signs. As the weather has been getting warmer, the class has been out to the park to enjoy the sun! (Polita, Lunar Class Supervisor).



Spring term has been very successful, and the pupils have been making lots of progress with their targets at the table, as well as in the natural environment. They have been working on targets from Essentials for Living with great success, such as preparing their snacks, putting on deodorant, and washing their teeth. We can't wait for next term to continue doing lots of good work and having lots of adventures! (*Aihbín, Supernova Class Supervisor*).



Home-School Diaries at Primary

Through the summer term, we will be replacing the home-school communication books with our new online progress and attainment tracker, **Earwig Academic**. Families at Secondary have been using this since the autumn term and it's been a great success.

This means you will get to see photos and/or videos of the learning your child undertakes each day, as well as be able to comment on this learning and add your own photos of any activities you may get up to out of school time: going on holiday, visiting the zoo, or the park for instance. In this way, we hope we can enable genuine, two-way communication between home and school, as well as give you a greater insight into all the progress your son or daughter makes each day.

The platform can be accessed at www.earwig.uk.com. You should already have received a 'Welcome to Earwig' invitation email which will contain your login details. If you haven't received this, please let us know at primaryoffice@snowflakeschool.org.uk.

If you are struggling with the technology, are not getting regular updates, or need any support to make Earwig Academic work for you, please speak to your child's tutor or supervisor, or call the school and I will be happy to help.

Have a fantastic break and I can't wait to see you and your children for the summer term,

Jody Tranter - Deputy Headteacher