



## Doncaster School for the Deaf Newsletter

May 2024

### Welcome

Another busy half term! Pupils have once again taken part in so much in the last 6 weeks including; playing football at St George's Park, rock climbing and zip wiring at Kingswood Outdoor Activity Centre to name but a few. We hope you enjoy reading all about their learning and adventures.

### Football at St George's Park

Some secondary pupils took part in the Deaf Schools' annual football tournament at the FA Centre of Excellence St George's Park . Captain of the boy's team, Seth, reported that they were really unlucky, as despite winning plenty of games, they didn't make it to the finals. The team displayed good teamwork and felt very professional playing at St George's Park. Seth chose Ralfs as the 'Player of the Tournament'. Ralfs played with skill, passed the ball brilliantly and communicated well. Captain of the girl's team, Lili, really enjoyed the day. She said the team was very determined and didn't give up. Lacey, who played in goal, was awesome and made some great saves. Lili chose Keira as 'Player of the Tournament'. Lili explained her reasons, : Keira scored plenty of goals, passed accurately and encouraged others. Both teams felt very lucky to have had the opportunity to play at St George's Park, which is an inspiring venue.



# Magna Science Adventure Centre

This year, Magna hosted a SEND day and we just had to be part of it. Christine, Henry and Lucy had an amazing time - "We made clouds, learned about how a lock in a canal works, had a fantastic time using wind tube to change the flow of air, made slime, explored fossils but this was our favourite part: the fire tornado."



# Animals and their Young

Pupils had a wonderful time on our recent visit to Cannon Hall Farm. We had a look at all the animals, many of them had just had babies. We were able to feed some of the sheep, lambs, cows, calves, pigs and piglets. The pupils thought it was funny when they saw some of the lambs and kids (baby goats) jump around on top of anything they could to get closer. Pupils were very quick to point out that the pigs were very smelly!

We went on a tractor ride and saw lots of llamas in a field. The farmer on the tractor told us that we had to be careful not to get too close to them because they spit at people when they are afraid.

We watched the sheep race. Everyone cheered as they ran as fast as they could to the finish line. The one we wanted to win, Elvis, came last unfortunately.

We all loved the reptile house. We saw some working ants. It was incredible to see them carrying leaves on their backs to their anthill. We were amazed! We also saw huge snakes, boggle eyed chameleons, impressive iguanas and terrific tortoises. This was an amazing start for our 'Animals and their young' topic this term.



# Enrichment

Some of the pupils in secondary enjoyed a picnic in the sun as part of their enrichment course. They had picnic food and played games.



# Our Earth

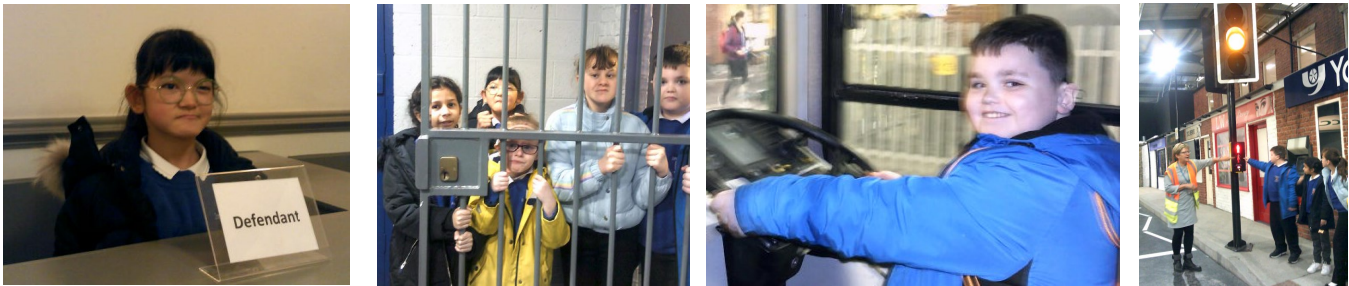
In upper Key Stage 2, pupils have been learning about our Earth, including mountains and volcanoes. To understand how a volcano is formed, they did an experiment - pupils looked at where it erupted and added a layer each time. When they cut the volcano open, you could see all of the layers of volcanic rock that formed the shape of the volcano.



# Crucial Crew

One of our primary classes attended the Crucial Crew at the Lifewise Centre in Rotherham. Pupils had the chance to practice getting on and off the bus (making sure to thank the driver), learned where people stand in a magistrates court, discussed online safety, practiced what to do in the event of a fire at home and had a go at crossing the road, making sure they check for cars, even if the green man is showing. We then had a picnic lunch in a local park and had a well earned play on the swings!

All the pupils really enjoyed the day and have been telling everyone at school the important safety facts they learned.



# Graffiti/Street Art

Primary have started their final Graffiti/Street Art project recently. They have used spray paint and stencils to create the background of their piece.



# Deaf Awareness Week

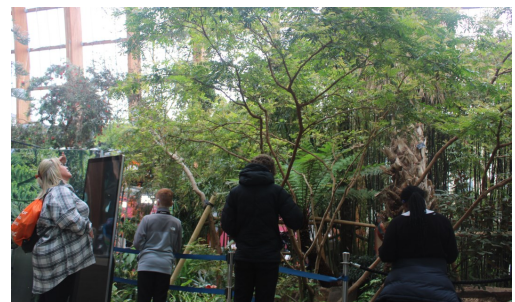
To raise Deaf Awareness in Deaf Awareness Week, we were invited to a primary school in Gainsborough to deliver Deaf Awareness Day for their Year 4 children. We explained what being deaf means, the different types of deafness, the machines that help us hear more and had a great day doing activities, teaching some signs, taking part in non-verbal activities and trying new forms of communication. Thank you for having us, Castle Wood Academy.



# Art

Year 9 pupils visited the city of Sheffield recently as part of their Art 'Building' project. They created cut paper silhouettes inspired by the talented artist, Rich McCor (aka paperboyo). Pupils held their silhouettes on various buildings and then took photographs.

During their visit to the city, pupils also visited both the Graves Art Gallery and the Millennium Gallery, where they had the opportunity to draw plants. Everyone really enjoyed the day.



## Careers

A massive shout out to Club Doncaster Foundation who have provided pupils with careers advice and delivered various presentations and hands-on workshops over the last few months. As a reward for all the pupils' hard work, Club Doncaster Foundation funded a school trip to Kingswood Outdoor Activity Centre.

Pupils had a great time and had the opportunity to take part in zip wiring, rock climbing and archery.



Pupils have been involved in various careers workshops and presentations throughout the half term to help with their career choices and aspirations. Thank you to Emma Smith, our Careers Lead, for arranging all these opportunities.

## Exams

The exam season is now well underway. Pupils have been studying extremely hard in preparation for their GCSEs and other exams, including attending homework club and twilight sessions in GCSE Art, Craft & Design and GCSE Photography.

We wish all our pupils who are sitting exams this term the best of luck.

It was lovely to receive parent feedback in the run up to the exams, such as: "Wishing all the students the best for the exams and I am very grateful for all the hard work and dedication the teachers have put into the students. God bless."

We would like to thank all our staff for all the additional support and encouragement they have given to our pupils. Special thanks to Mrs Hodgett, our Exams Officer, for ensuring the smooth running of the exams.

# Pupil of the Week Award



Autumn was chosen for showing kindness in class all week and being very helpful to her classmates. Samuel received the award for trying hard in his swimming lesson and for his amazing effort with BSL.



Congratulations to Mohammad, who was chosen for the Pupil of the Week award for being kind and helpful to others. Well done, Mohammad.



Well done to Finn J. who received the award for writing full sentences independently.



Igor has had a great attitude to learning and has been phenomenal in his English. Nieve has been awesome, trying new foods. Well done!



Congratulations to Christine who was chosen for the Pupil of the Week award for thinking her options through and choosing the correct path.

# Achievements and Recognition



Eleanor had the honour of accompanying the County Standard yesterday at St George's Day as a Young Leader. She did a fantastic job. Well done, Eleanor.

A huge thank you to the team at Amazon for their wonderful donation of £9,000. The money was raised over 3 sites locally. We are so grateful for their kind donation.



Sadly, Maria Dixon, Deputy Manager of our care home, has left her role for pastures new. Maria has worked at the school for 24 years and has been inspirational to so many pupils over the years. Her commitment and dedication to the trust has been outstanding and she will be missed so much by all the staff and pupils. We wish her lots of happiness for the future and truly hope she keeps in touch.

Here's a few photographs of our pupils proudly displaying the trophies they received from involvement in the recent British Science Week event. Liam, from St Roch's Secondary School in Glasgow, helped organise the event and contacted British Science Week asking for funding towards the event. Enough funding to supply medals to all 4 schools involved was received as well as funds to book a performance by the Visual Vernacular artist, Petre! The theme this year was 'time based on science' – how it had evolved over time from the past to present and into the future. The performance was fascinating to watch.

At the end of Science Week all 4 deaf schools involved met together via zoom and shared videos of their projects. Pupils were delighted to receive their trophies to celebrate all their ideas and hard work.



# SPORTS DAY

What a fantastic day to end the term! All the pupils showed grit and determination throughout the morning as they took part in a variety of races, including the traditional egg and spoon race. Parents, carers, and other family members cheered and encouraged the pupils throughout the morning. At the end of all the events, Mrs Taylor-Bunting, Mrs Gaywood and Mrs Cartlidge presented pupils with medals, trophies and certificates. Most Improved trophy went to A Jay who has worked hard and achieved high standards throughout the year. The Sportsmanship medal was awarded to Tiffany for determination and resilience. Sam was thrilled to be our overall winner for winning the most points. Our medal winners went home proudly displaying their success. Congratulations to all the pupils for working so hard and putting in such fabulous performances.



## IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday 24 May 2024**

**Monday 3 June 2024**

**Thursday 18 July 2024**

**Friday 19 July 2024**

**Monday 22 July 2024**

**Tuesday 23 July 2024**

**Monday 2 September 2024**

**Tuesday 3 September 2024**

**Wednesday 4 September 2024**

**School closes for half term**

**School re-opens**

**Prize Day (pm) parents invited.**

**School closes for summer**

**Training day (school closed to pupils)**

**Training day (school closed to pupils)**

**Training day (school closed to pupils)**

**Training day (school closed to pupils)**

**School re-opens**