

# SPRING TERM 2024



## NEWSLETTER

Spring flowers and longer days... it really does feel like the winter is now behind us. Hooray! Once again it has been a very busy term! We have really enjoyed working with our pupils who have achieved well, learned new and interesting things and have had lots of fun while doing so! We hope that you will enjoy reading this termly update.

*We thank you all for your support this term. Wishing you all a good Easter break and the very best of good health. Let's hope for some sunshine!*

**Laura, Karen, Jane, Lorraine, Jo, Kari, Anna, Sam, Penny, Sue, Natasha, Rachael, Naomi, Carol, Tina and Mandy.**



## From Laura, Headteacher

I can hardly believe that my first term as Headteacher of our fantastic school is nearly over! It has been a real privilege to get to know our wonderful students, staff and families - thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome.

It may have been cold and wet for much of this term but we have had so many good things happening across our sites to keep us all smiling. We have had musicians and storytellers stretching our imaginations and a sports coach keeping us active. Our learners have really impressed me with their enthusiasm and determination across a whole range of curriculum areas and I hope that you enjoy reading about some of their many achievements and successes in this newsletter. We were so grateful to receive a very generous grant from the Nineveh Trust to help transform our small outside area at the Outreach Centre and we are really looking forward to the sunnier days ahead when we can make full use of it as a educational and social space - thank you.

Our Year 11 students are now in the final few weeks of preparing for their GCSE exams and we would like to wish them every success - we know you will do brilliantly.

I hope that you all have a lovely break and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 15 April 2024.

## Outreach Centre News

### Live music at the centre!

#### Lady Nade and Holly Carter

We are very grateful to special guests Lady Nade and Holly Carter who came to visit the centre this term.

We enjoyed a wonderful afternoon listening to their infectious blend of songs that ranged from Jungle Book to Singing in the Rain as well as their own wonderful compositions.

Technology allowed some of our pupils to interact and enjoy from their homes and show their appreciation through creative emojis and the chat! A big thank you to everyone who participated and once again to our wonderful guests. We hope they visit us again soon.



*Lady Nade and Holly Carter*

## Outdoor Area

We shall be planting wildlife friendly plants and encouraging pupils to get involved with the **Devon Wildlife Trust** to make a wildlife area on the site grounds. We already have some wild flower seeds to scatter and will be making a dead hedge and bird boxes

We also would like to say a big thank you to the **Nineveh Trust** for providing us with funding to develop the outside area of our outreach site. We have already made a great start making up our garden furniture and planters. The pupils have enjoyed getting stuck in with a spanner and screwdriver.

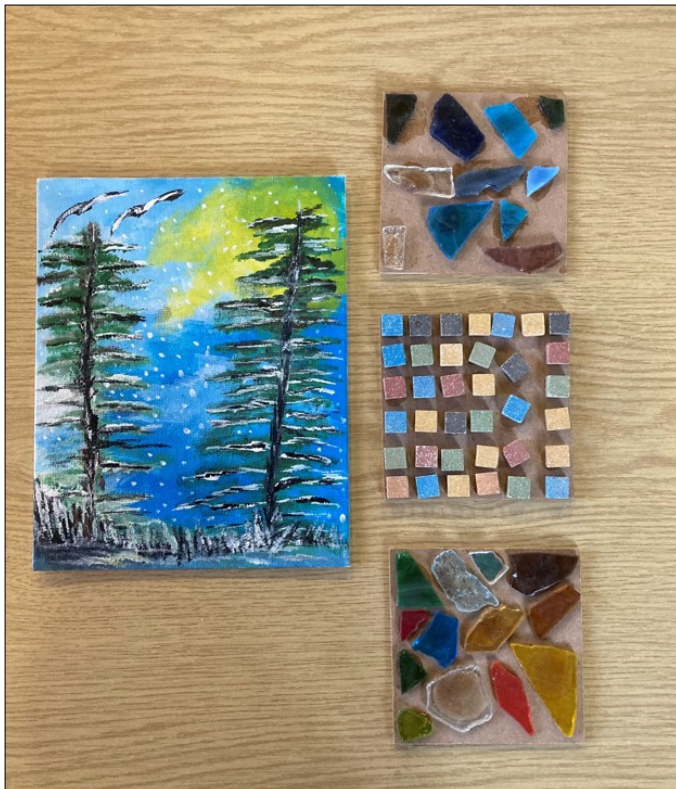




## Out and About

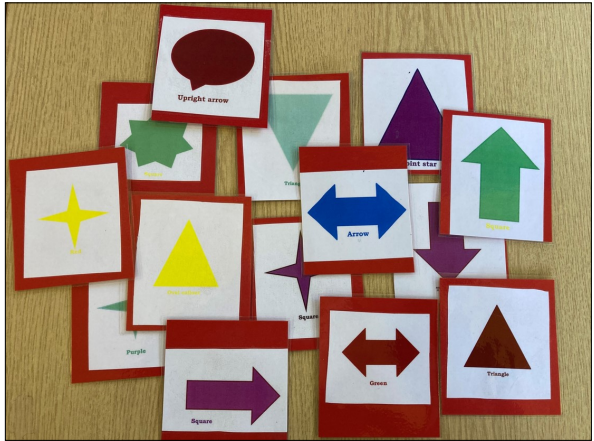
Students have been out and about this term, for example visiting the local area to observe the onset of Spring, Cricklepit Mill to look at the wildlife garden and the museum as part of our science lessons about adaptation. Here's an example of an adaptation to eating ants!

## Friday Art





**A game, designed  
and made by a pupil**



## **Sports sessions with Dan Hewitt**

PE is a valuable lesson in which pupils and staff can improve their physical and mental wellbeing through fun and engaging lessons. This term we have been busy improving our tennis skills in PE. Dan Hewitt (from Exeter City Community Trust) has been enthusing us through his games, to improve our technique and accuracy. We have focused on developing our serving skills and extending the length of our rallies. When the weather has been less than favourable, we have enjoyed playing badminton and dodgeball in the hall and even some table tennis in the classroom too!



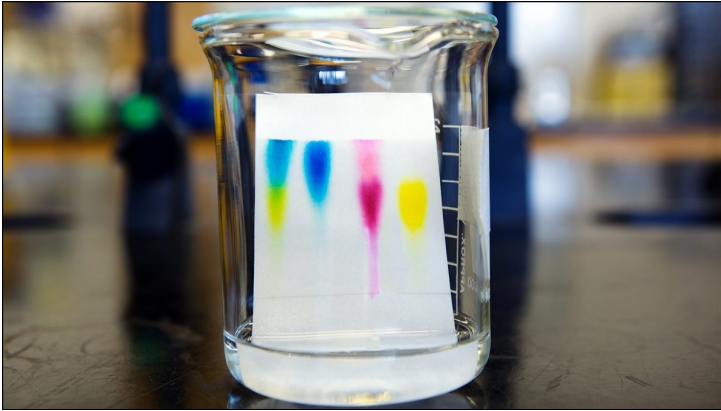
Swimming has also been available for one of our pupils, an important life skill which we highly value. We have had an active and enjoyable term and we look forward to another exciting and energetic summer term with lots of new ideas to explore.

## Bramble Schoolrooms News

There has been a big improvement in the entrance to the children's ward with this fantastic jungle scene. Work will be continued into other areas which will hopefully improve the children's experience of being on the Bramble Ward.



Pupils have engaged with lessons on the ward, in the classroom and the garden, when it has been warm enough. To name a few we have carried out chromatography and using the microscope at the bedside, made ramps in the classroom, played instruments in the garden and engaged with maths, history, literacy and art and crafts.



*Photo of chromatography*

Some comments left by our pupils and parents this term:

*'A lovely space and a great distraction'*

*'Very relaxed and friendly'*

*'Lots of different resources to keep children busy'*

We would like to say a very big thank you to the **Hele's Trust Fund** for their grant to enable the school to update resources for our pupils with SEND. We also will be using some of the funding to enhance the experiences and curriculum for those youngsters that we see in our outreach service through the purchase of musical instruments and sports equipment.

## A Read For Good Delivery at the RDE



The Read for Good books are always received with thanks and pleasure by the children and their families.





All three sites enjoyed fun and creative sessions with Michael Loader, the storyteller from Read for Good this term. At the Outreach Centre, pupils wrote poems using a communally generated bank of words. It was

amazing to see how the same vocabulary can be used to create completely different scenes and moods! We then enjoyed making puppets using party props and stickers, and we had fun using our puppets to improvise a story together.



On Bramble ward, at the RD&E, Michael told a very imaginative story about a potato! Staff and pupils then chose props from Michael's treasure chest, which they used to create a communal story together. It was lovely that pupils and staff at our North Devon site were able to join in online for the storytelling session.

Many thanks to Michael for more inspirational activities, and to the Read for Good charity that provides us with fantastic books every term.

We look forward to more inspirational sessions next term!

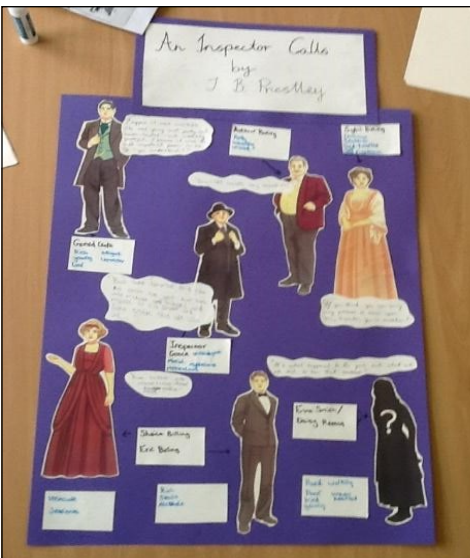
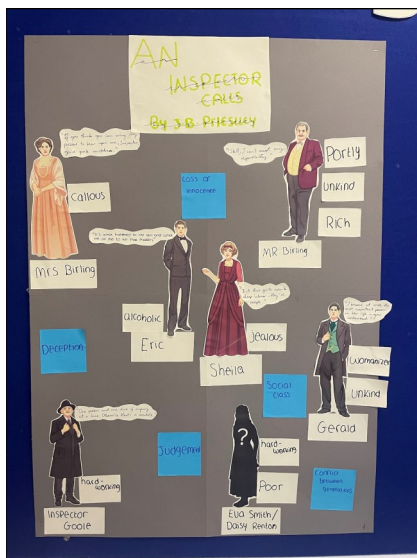
## North Devon Schoolrooms



Quinn was able to sign along with Jo using Makaton to sing and sign; "I can sing a rainbow." She then painted a beautiful rainbow and used stamps to print her name.



Tommy learnt about persuasive literary techniques during his time in the School Room. He also was introduced to atoms and the Periodic table in Chemistry lessons.



Jimmy and Ruby both created character posters of 'An Inspector Calls' play by J. B. Priestley to aid their GCSE English literature revision for this key text.



The National Literacy Trust have created an excellent programme, 'Represent' designed for girls aged 11 to 14 in alternative provision. Using engaging texts and with a strong oracy focus, this programme aims to support communication skills, resilience and wellbeing. This has been a successful cross curricular English and SEMH resource to have in our toolkit for many of our pupils' education and wellbeing.



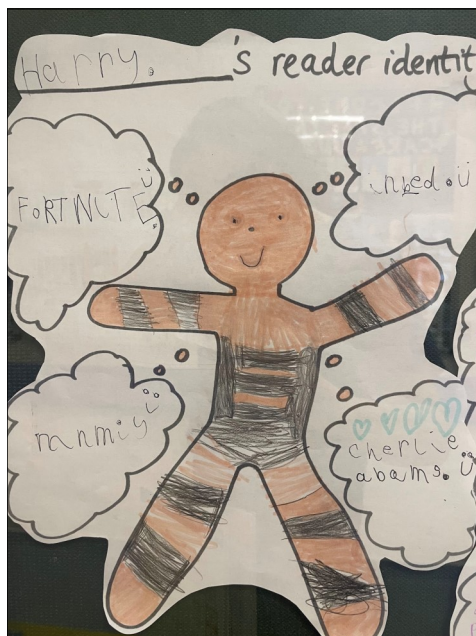
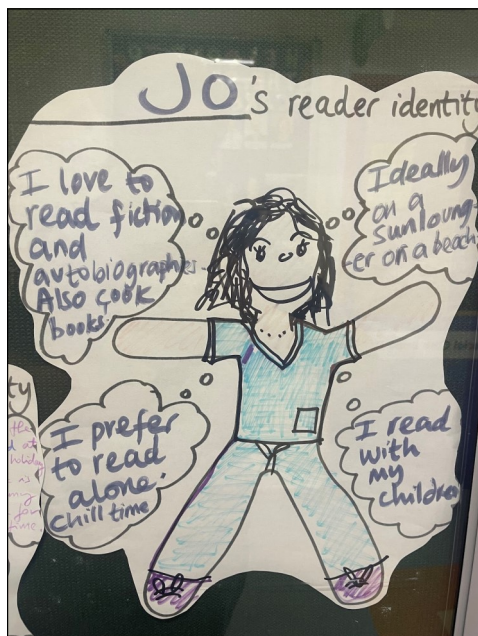


## World Book Day 2024-the first Thursday in March

This year's theme was all around 'Reading for Pleasure'. Evidence shows there are 6 building elements which support a child to read for pleasure.

1. Being read to regularly
2. Having books at home and at school
3. Having a choice in what to read
4. Finding time to read
5. Having trusted help to find a book
6. Making reading FUN!

These are all at the heart of reading at DHSSS, and this year we explored individual reader identities- whether pupils or staff. Photos show the reader identities of North Devon teacher Jo, and pupil, Harry.





Pictured below is our 'World Book Day' display board, and well stocked book trolley aimed at all ages and stages from the charity Read for Good. Including both books featured in our brand new, monthly, DHSSS Reading Recommendations- check it out overleaf.



March, 2024



## READING RECOMMENDATIONS

### Devon Hospitals' Short Stay School.



'World Book Day' is the first Thursday in March, this years theme was around 'Reading for pleasure', therefore I recommend you read ANYTHING! But, especially... **Oi FROG!** By Kes Gray and Jim Field

An absolutely hilarious rhyming tale about a frog who discovers that all animals have their special places to sit! Cats sit on mats, hares sit on chairs, mules sit on stools and, obviously gophers sit on sofas, but Frog does not want to sit on a log!

A brilliant book to engage young children with rhyming and predicting. Guess what puffs might sit on? Or who sits on carrots?!

'Neurodiversity Celebration Week' is in March, so with that in mind I recommend **'A KIND OF SPARK', By Elle McNicol.**

"People aren't like books. A familiar book is always the same, always comforting and full of the same words and pictures. A familiar person can be new and challenging, no matter how many times you try to read them."

Elle McNicol's debut book is a sensitive exploration of what it means to be labelled as different and then treated as an outsider.

The protagonist, eleven year old, Addie, is a neurodivergent girl who campaigns for a memorial when she learns that her small Scottish town used to burn witches simply because they were different.



**Poem of the month: 'Still I Rise'** by feminist, civil rights activist and poet, Maya Angelou chosen to celebrate the annual 'International Women's Day' which occurs every March.

## Maya Angelou "Still I Rise"

You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may trod me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?  
Why are you beset with gloom?  
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells  
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?  
Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,  
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?  
Don't you take it awful hard  
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines  
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your  
hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.

**BorrowBox.**  
Your library in one app.

Did you know that if you belong to any Devon Library, you can borrow ebooks and audiobooks for free using the BorrowBox app? Download the app onto any device and you can immediately download books, articles and magazines to read wherever it suits you!

## Online Safety: Keep your child safe from cyber-flashing

### What is it?

Cyber-flashing is when someone intentionally sends an explicit picture, uninvited, to a device (such as a phone or tablet) via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. It's sexual harassment. Cyber-flashing is most likely to happen on public transport or in crowded places.

The file-sharing app AirDrop for iPhone and iPads is most commonly associated with cyber-flashing, but there are lots of different file-sharing apps out there. With AirDrop, it can be easy for anyone to send you unsolicited images. The automatic preview feature means you also see images without actually opening them.

Under the **Online Safety Act 2023**, it's now illegal for anyone to send or show a photo or film of any person's genitals to cause alarm, distress or humiliation, or for the purpose of their own sexual gratification. Offenders can face up to 2 years in prison.

### Three steps to keep your child safe:

#### 1. Restrict who can send files to your child's phone

Most file-sharing apps allow users to restrict who can send files to them by Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. Find out which apps your child uses, then make sure your child knows how to use these settings.

For AirDrop on **iPhones**:

Open '**Control Centre**' (swipe down from the upper-right corner or up from the bottom of the screen, depending on the model)

Press firmly on the **network settings card** (this is in the shape of a square) in the upper-left corner. This will open more connectivity controls.

Tap and hold the **AirDrop** icon

Select '**Contacts Only**', or '**Receiving Off**' (to stop receiving AirDrop requests)

Or, do this by going to Settings > General > AirDrop.

Some of the other most popular file-transfer apps include:

- Google Drive
- Dropbox
- Microsoft OneDrive
- AirDroid
- Zappy

cont'd/...

Make sure your child knows to only accept files from people they know.

## 2. Turn off Bluetooth when not using it

Otherwise, it's easy for strangers nearby to send images to your child's phone.

To do this on **iPhone**, open 'Control Centre' (see above), then tap the Bluetooth icon (it looks like a 'B'). The icon dims when it's off.

On **Android**, swipe down from the top (you might need to do this twice or scroll across). Then tap the Bluetooth 'B' icon to turn it off. It'll be grey when Bluetooth is off.

## 3. Make sure your child knows what to do if it happens to them

If your child doesn't feel in immediate danger, they should take a screenshot and report the incident to the police using the non-emergency numbers:

If it happens on public transport, text 61016 or call 0800 40 50 40

If it happens anywhere else, call 101

If your child feels scared or in immediate danger, they should call 999.

They should also move to a safe place – and find someone in authority to talk to, such as platform staff, a security guard or a shop manager.

If it happens in school, your child should talk to a trusted adult immediately. If it has happened outside of school, you or your child can still ask the school for support.

### Dates for your diary

Term ends Thursday 27th March 2024.

Summer term starts Monday 15th April 2024.

Half Term Monday 27th May- Friday 31st May inclusive.

End of Term Friday 19th July 2024.

Other events or changes will be published on our website. The school website also provides information about the school and what the children have been doing so please take a look. You can also find our email address there if you want to get in touch.

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