

Newsletter

Spring 2023



The Bridge Trust

The Bridge Easton School

Pride
Passion
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Professionalism
Positivity



I am struggling to believe I am sat reflecting on the end of our first term at The Bridge Easton, to say time has flown by does not come close. In many ways it feels like we welcomed our children for their first day only yesterday, yet when I walk around and watch the day-to-day life of our school it feels like we have been here for years. Thinking back, it is now hard to recall that first day, we had a few tears, lots of apprehension, shyness, fear, and frustration, this was all to be expected and staff were ready with plenty of cuddles, patience, warmth, and smiles. The children are now settled and content, they skip, hop, and jump into school, pleased to see their class, openly welcoming that same warmth, patience, and care from the adults around them.

I wished to give you an overview of our journey together so far, however this snapshot will not do justice to the amazing interactions, learning and opportunities that take place day in day out.

When I look back to early January when our school was just an empty shell it's hard to believe how far we have come in such a short period of time. Each classroom has taken on its own character and personality, shaped by the teaching team and the children within it. The primary corridor is a place buzzing with activity, love, and energy. Despite us approaching the end of term and dealing with a significant number of bugs and colds, everyone continues to smile, care, and do their best for each other. Below you will find a summary of each class's term, accompanied by a few pictures.

As a staff body we are ending the term working together on the values we wish to promote within our school. All staff have had the opportunity to reflect on and shape what we consider to be the most important elements of our educational offer, the key traits, and characteristics we wish every young person to leave us with. As an adult team we will have agreed on an initial five values by the end of term. As we start the summer term, we will introduce these to our children who will then help us decide on our final three values. Once we have settled on these, we will share more widely, explaining our reasoning for why we believe these to be imperative to our children's progress and development.

Whilst we are very grateful for our new building offering us many opportunities and facilities, it also presents us with challenges. As many of you have acknowledged we need to continue to expand and enhance our resources and equipment, for both indoors and outdoors. I must thank all of those across Norfolk who very kindly donated toys, games, clothes etc in January, these have been put to good use and are very much appreciated by our children. We continue to welcome further donations if you know of people wishing to have a clear out! Outside equipment is an invaluable addition to the learning experience we offer our children, at present we are busy exploring funding opportunities to support with the purchase of swings, trim trails and climbing frames. We welcome any support or advice with this. We will be holding a fundraising meeting in the summer term, please do support us in any way you feel able.

It was lovely to welcome families to our first coffee morning last week. We understand that being a parent / carer of a child in a complex needs school can be quite isolating and lonely. The meeting enabled families to connect and to share what support they would like from school moving forward. We plan to meet once every half term, with the time varying across the week to allow as many of our families to join us as possible. The group is non-judgemental, supportive, welcoming, and very understanding. Summer term one will see us discussing sleep! Something many of our children and consequently our families find challenging. More details to follow, if you have any questions, please do contact Lisa Wright, our Family Support Officer.

We have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming families into school this week, visiting classes, taking part in an Easter activity, hearing a story, or joining in with a song or two! We hope to be able to make this a regular invitation as a positive relationship between home and school is most definitely in every child's best interest.

So, looking ahead to the summer term, Jemma, our Occupational Therapist, will continue to work across the school, exploring and developing our sensory offer and provision. Olivia and Leanne, NHS Speech and Language Therapists, will be joining us to complete an initial audit of need and provision, I welcome their feedback and ideas. For SLT and our teaching team, work will continue on our curriculum, investigating both content and progress measures to maximise the relevance and appropriateness for our young people.

We look forward to welcoming current children back to school on Tuesday 18th April. The first week will also be spent meeting our new families with these new children due to join us from Monday 24th April.

Finally, I will end by wishing everyone a safe, happy, and fun Easter break.

Heidi Philpott
Headteacher

Apple Class

It has been a busy half term in Apple Class. We have enjoyed lots of activities linked to our theme of 'all about us'. We have learnt about our bodies, homes, pets and our families. A highlight was looking at pictures of our own families. There has been lots of lovely sensory and craft activities, which the children have enjoyed exploring and taking part in.

The children have been fantastic in our Box Time sessions and we have now moved on to stage 2. The children certainly enjoy watching any messy activity, which this term has included splatting eggs (Humpty Dumpty), paint filled eggs to make chicks and splatting shaving foam chicks.

We have ended the term with lots of Easter activities. Chicks, bunnies and eggs galore!

Well done Apple Class on a fantastic half term!



Pear Class

Pear Class have had a very busy half term. We have loved our daily Attention Autism sessions and we are now working on Stage 2! Confetti balloons and our light up helicopter are our favourites.

We have really enjoyed learning "All About Ourselves and our Community". Pear Class have enjoyed sensory play pretending to be firefighters and learning all about our bodies.

In Maths we have been focusing on number awareness and we particularly have enjoyed our five Splatty Pies song. We sing along and splat our foam 'pies'- it's lots of fun!

In our Cooking sessions we have worked on our independence and lots of sensory exploration. It's been very messy but some tasty results in the end.

As always, we have loved our visits from Ralph.



Hazel Class

What a fantastic half term it has been for everyone in Hazel Class. We have had a lot of fun getting to know each other as part of our topic 'All About Us'. We enjoyed our Box Time sessions, where we have worked on focusing and building attention to an adult led agenda. We particularly enjoyed our Sensory Story sessions, our favorites included: Elmer, The Cat in the Hat, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Goldilocks and The Three Bears.

Hazel Class wish you a Happy Easter!



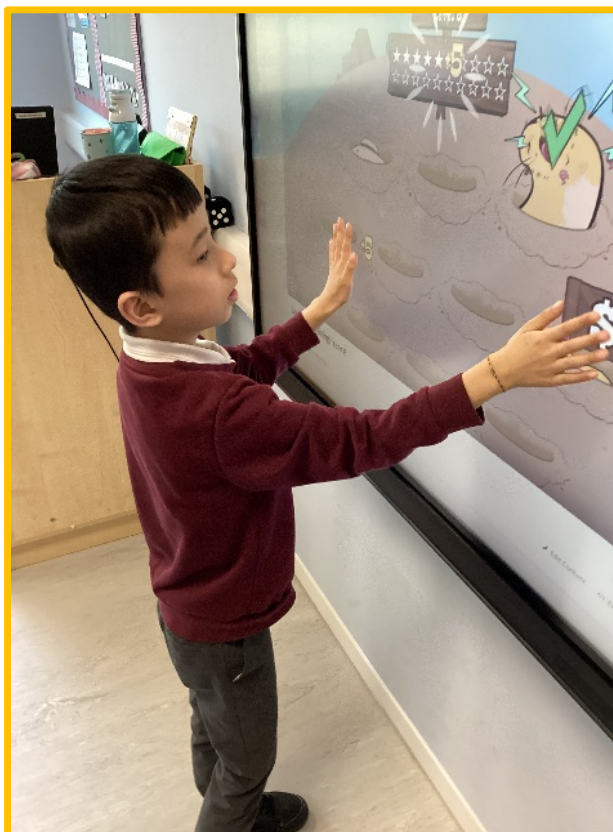
Holly Class



This half term in Holly class we have continued looking at our topic "All about us".

We have looked at the physical and emotional characteristics we hold and how we can start to regulate our emotions. We have also become more confident in our new school environment and our daily routines. They have started to learn different signs that can support their communication with adults and peers as well as building on their phonics knowledge and implementing this in their reading and writing.

Holly class lessons are now developing, and the children are taking more of an active role in their learning which is lovely to see. On Red Nose Day the children really enjoyed buying cakes, joining in with a variety of activities that were being held around school including splat the teacher. It has been a great first half term, watching the children flourish and become so confident.



Willow Class

This half term, Willow Class have been very busy indeed. It is hard to believe that we have only been together as a class since January. The students quickly settled into our class routines. The joy, laughter, and acceptance the students show each other has made Willow class a joy to be around.

We have had great successes in our cooking lessons. Making Scones, mini-Pitta Pizza's and chocolate Muffins for the Red Nose Day bake sale. The students also took lead in creating posters and display information for this event in English, counting the profits in Math's and selling the cakes at the day itself. In Art we have used a range of mediums to create independent and collaborative pieces. A favorite must be our exploring collages of abstract art.

We have looked at poetry, created our own non-sense poems, wrote book reviews and created instructions during English this term. In Mathematics, all students have worked hard to develop their knowledge of place value, addition, subtraction and even stretched themselves by gaining a good foundation of understanding fractions. In science we have looked at the States of Matter, how things grow and Seeded potatoes during our living things topics. We have explored life skills, communication and emotional literacy through a range of play and class-based experiences.

As a class team, we are incredibly proud of each of our students for being their true authentic selves and sharing who they are with us. We are blown away, that every day they come into school and give learning and ideas a try. I know that the Willow student's will be as kind and welcoming to our new teacher Cat following the easter break and look forward to seeing them at playtime and lunch time each day.

