

# Spring Newsletter 2024



High Park School  
*Learning for Life*





# Acorn 1



In Acorn 1, we have been planting sunflower seeds and will watch them grow as we water them every week.

We do lots of physical activity during the day. In the studio, we follow action songs and share the space. We are increasingly comfortable following the self-care routines in boys' and girls' groups.

During PSHE sessions, we are learning about our emotions.

We have some exciting new additions to our middle timetable, such as Number Blocks, Alpha Blocks and community singing.





# Acorn 2



In Acorn 2 we have enjoyed participating in daily phonics and using new vocabulary that we have learnt. We are becoming more confident to phonetically sound letters and blend 3 letter words!

This half term we have started to extend the distance of our car park walks, we are now walking in the local community putting our road safety skills into practice.

We have enjoyed lots of different sensory play linked to our maths learning and topic of size and capacity. We have been pouring and filling containers using the key words 'more' and 'less' and comparing sizes of teddys using the key words 'big' and 'small'.





# Acorn 3



The fabulous pupils in Acorn 3 are really developing a love of reading. Our favourite books are those made of photos of ourselves and our classmates, which help us learn about History (remembering what we have done in the past) and Geography (looking at places where we have been).

We are taking our teddies on our car park walks and checking that they stop, look and listen before using the zebra crossing.

Our calm room is currently a wood, draped with fabrics of interesting textures, and we eat our snack in there every morning - sharing a teddy bears' picnic.





# Beech 1

Beech 1 took a trip to the local garden centre to buy supplies for the School Memorial Garden. The pupils took turns shopping for the right seeds, bedding plants and compost. We even had time to visit the aquarium and talk to Elvis the parrot!

Back in school the pupils have turned over the garden, put in the bedding plants, and prepared the Vegetable patch ready for planting.

We have also been making Bottle Rockets to tie in with our book "Look Up!". The pupils all designed and made a rocket and then we launched them in the car park. Some flew nearly as high as the school!





# Beech 2

This term in Beech 2 we have had a big focus on our road safety skills, working towards walking trips in the local area. The children have been working hard on following the visuals to understand the Green Cross Code on their daily walks around the safe space of car park.

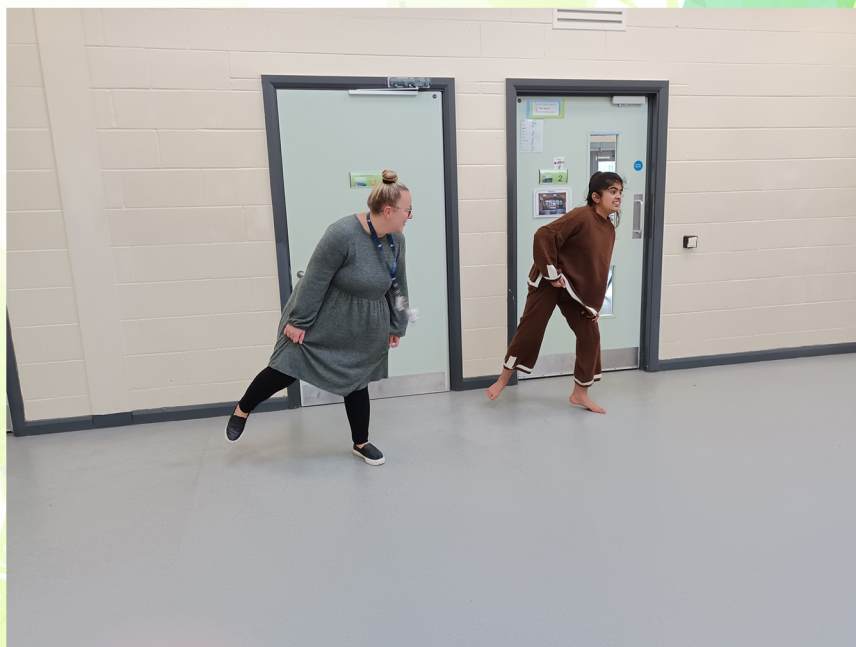
We have been able to 'stop', 'look' and 'listen' to make sure there is no traffic, they can 'wait' until it is 'safe' and then 'go' across the road or zebra crossing. The children have been fantastic and made us proud.





# Beech 3

This term Beech 3 has been developing our Communication and Interaction skills through music and dance. Pupils have either worked 1:1 with Jamie our Dance Therapist (Arty Physical), or with familiar adults to engage in Child led responsive dance. Following similar practice of Intensive Interaction, this supports pupils' development of functional communication skills, helps pupils to anticipate, initiate and increases persistence, in addition to supporting physical development. We have seen an increase in pupil interactions and pupils showing an interest in music and dance. It has been so much fun!





# Ash 1

In Ash 1 we have been practising transitions around school and in the wider community.

We have been visiting Shipley Library, Asda in Keighley, Tong Garden Centre and going swimming every week. We also walk together around the local area to practise road safety. This is giving us lots of practise at transitions and following simple instructions to stay safe, allowing us to get lots of exercise which helps with our self-regulation.





# Ash 2

In Ash 2 during food technology we have been focussing on independence and safely being able to use a hob. This is helping us to be able to prepare snacks and meals for ourselves. We enjoyed pancake day especially, we made pancakes and had them with lemon juice and sugar!





# Ash 3

In Ash 3 we have been learning how to clean our tables after dinner. Some pupils are also able to help to put away the chairs and tables, with support from adults. This will begin to develop their independence skills and help them to understand about cleaning up their own mess. It has helped us enjoy a clean and clear space in Ash middle in the afternoons.





# Oak 1

We have been working really hard to prepare our students for going out of school on educational visits on the mini-bus. This has been a big piece of work creating transition photograph books and other visual/photograph supports to enable the students to understand where they are going and get used to going out of school for different purposes - swimming, walking, going out on visits on the minibus to a variety of new locations. We started off slowly getting on the bus and then getting off. Then we built this up gradually to getting off the bus for a look around and now we are working on getting off the bus to access a walk or a shopping trip by the end of the Summer.





# Oak 2



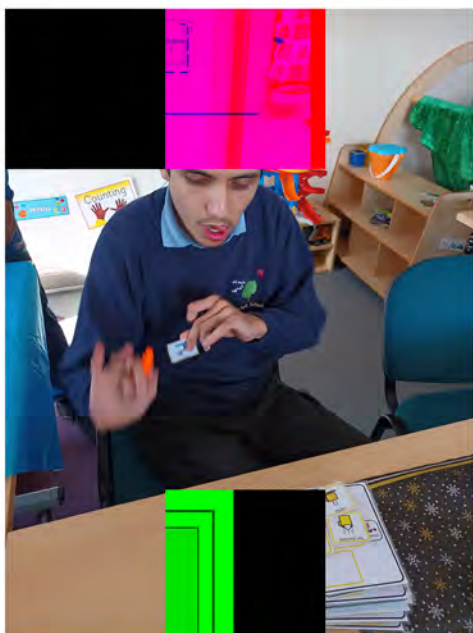
Oak 2 have been preparing to access a café in the local community, by first practicing exchanging money for items on a menu in school and hosting a café session for the rest of school on a Friday morning. They then went to Higher Ground Café in Saltaire, bringing some spending money, and had a lovely morning with their friends whilst eating and drinking things that they queued for, ordered and paid for independently.





# Vocation 1

We have been working on transferring our café skills to a new environment in the tree house. This has consisted of showing new visuals, engaging in new transition to the new environment. When in the café we have been using new visual menus which is different to the normal choose boards to make our choices, giving independence to exchange coin with items of food. This helps as a class to be included in the post 16 community within base and other environments. For our school leavers in class we are working towards work experience in the Café and have been wiping and clearing tables.





# Vocation 2

We have been helping to prepare the Life Skills flat by setting up the equipment and items that have been purchased and donated to Post 16 to create a replica home environment. The Life Skills flat is where students practice everyday skills to take care of and maintain the home. Raza decided that the room needed painting and was keen to get involved in decorating with Abdul.





# Royal Armouries

On the 27th of February students from Ash and Oak base went to the Royal Armouries to see the Knife Angel Monument. We travelled there in our minibuses, some students visited for the morning, some for the afternoon, and some students stayed for the whole school day!

While we were there some of the students were lucky enough to take part in a lesson about ancient weapons! We enjoyed looking at the suits of armor and the lifesize models of battle horses.

We had a great time and can't wait to go again!





## New School Menu

The new school menu is included with this newsletter, with lots of exciting new dishes available every 2 weeks!  
All of our meat is now Halal.

## Fundraising

We have raised £165.50 for school by selling raffle tickets for the chocolate hampers, and we also raised as a school £107.68 for Red Nose Day. A huge Thank You to everyone who donated!

## Easter Holiday Activities

This Easter break we are looking forward to lots of Holiday Days out, with a Private screening at Cineworld, 10 Pin Bowling, a ride on a Steam Train, swimming sessions and a private session at Jumparooz.

## Message from the Principal

It has been another exciting term at High Park and our pupils have achieved so much. The range of activities both in and out of school is a true indication of our commitment to learning for life. We have so much to celebrate and be proud of and the dedication of our amazing team of staff has enabled us to extend the learning experiences of our young people; the trip to the Royal Armouries Leeds and the Musica Spectacular at St Georges Hall to name a few.

After such a busy term, I hope that you all have a happy, restful spring break and we look forward to welcoming pupils back on Monday 15th April.

*Bridie Dorning*

## Summer Term 1 Dates

Return Monday 15th April

Closed onday 6th May - May Bank Holiday

Last day Friday 24th May