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Over the Autumn Term the rate of progress with the building work has been amazing. We have been posting regular updates on our website and on a display in the foyer but one of the biggest improvements has been with the original building. Due to the massive support and fundraising efforts from the school and our many supporters we have been able to commission the whole building to have much needed redecoration, new flooring and new internal doors

All of these works will match those of the extension. As well as this, we will be having a new multimedia / sensory room, stage lighting and an overhead hoist in the hall as well as additional lighting in two of our new classrooms. The cost of all this work will be just short of £170,000 which has all been raised over the last two years. I think everyone involved needs a huge pat on the back for this.

Just a reminder that our last day before February half term will be Friday 9th February and we will return Monday 23rd February; this is in order for us move successfully back to Cotgrave.





Class 2 have had a busy but fun first term. We spent the first few weeks getting to know each other as some new faces joined the class. Then we got really stuck into our topic of "how things work". Class 2 have thoroughly enjoyed messy activities including exploring and using cornflour and making cakes. We have enjoyed trips to the park, local shops, the Pantomime and time at other schools engaging in a variety of activities such as bush-craft and games.



Class 3 have been learning about the safe use of kitchen equipment this term. We planned what to make and wrote a list each week before walking to Asda to collect the ingredients. According to some, the walk to Asda 'took forever' and they thought it would be a good idea if we called for a taxi instead (we didn't!). We made a variety of smoothies for the first few weeks, followed by fruit kebabs and then progressed to making different types of soup. Needless to say the smoothies were the most popular. Class 3 then had a great idea to make and sell smoothies at the Christmas fair, and consequently raised nearly £30 for the school. Well done to the Class 3 smoothie team!



This Term Class 4 have enjoyed getting to know some new friends. We have worked hard on sharing and turn-taking skills and had a lot of fun along the way! Our topic work around The Planets has been popular, and we have particularly enjoyed the messy Discovery sessions on a Friday afternoon, immersing ourselves in a multi-sensory exploration of each planet. We have studied 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes, and used this as an inspiration to create short pieces of music with sounds from the story. We have continued to work on our independence skills, making simple drinks and snacks. We have visited ASDA Café, West Bridgford Library, and are now starting to go out into the community using public transport.



On Sunday 17th December a number of pupils (and their parents!) from Class 5 and 6 took part in the 2km Junior Park Run at Rushcliffe Country Park. It was a cold morning and an early start but it was great to see how enthusiastic everyone was. Every pupil who ran tried their absolute best to make it to the finish line. This was a brilliant achievement to mark the end of their work on Healthy Living and we hope to do it again when the weather gets warmer. Well done everyone!



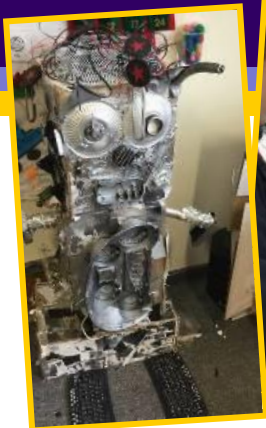
Class 1

We have been enjoying investigating, looking at how things work and change. In Art, this has involved us exploring colour, shape and mixing colours to see how they change.

One of our favourite things was Tape Resistant Painting and pattern formation. We used tape to make shapes, painted around them and then peeled off the tape to create something magical as we revealed the shapes left. Exploring colours using hands and sensory tools to paint and reveal patterns has been good fun as well. We loved 'catching colour' using wools and threads covered in paint which we threw at sticky material to catch the colours and to create a visual image of how wools crossed and changed colours.

We also loved going to watch the Pantomime 'Wizard of Oz' here in school. The whole class loved joining in with the singing and dancing too. It's been a wonderful term.





This term class 7 have enjoyed the story "The Iron Man". We even made our own Iron Man by dismantling old electrical equipment, exploring and sticking the bits together.

We have learnt about the Earth and beyond learning about the planets, the Moon and the Sun through sensory activities. Class 7 have been out in the community going to ASDA and West Bridgford to buy items for snack (and a few treats!). We have also been on weekly trips to Rushcliffe Country Park.



Class 6 have had a busy Autumn term, looking at our theme of Healthy Living. We have really enjoyed exploring a range of sporting activities, with Tai Chi being a favourite. Our PE sessions with Lee working on our basketball skills have uncovered some real talent in the class – well done to Cameron and Rebecca!

We have also enjoyed our cookery sessions at South Notts Academy. We have benefitted from using the facilities to make a range of foods, including sausage rolls, muffins, cheese twists and Christmas cake. The skills we have learned will go towards achieving a Sainsbury's Mini Chef award.



Class 8 have been travelling to Space this term. Our Discovery sessions took us to different planets, the Sun and the Moon. We thought about the attributes of these planets and re-created this in the classroom; we discovered that Neptune was extremely windy and stormy. The Sun and Mars were pleasingly hot. There has been some great eye gaze use to describe these attributes and some excellent communication to say what people thought of these too.

Our two new pupils Emma and Isabelle have settled in so well and made such excellent progress already. Emma and Josie were really pleased to renew their friendship!

We celebrated Christmas together with a visit to White Post Farm. We met and fed lots of different animals, met Father Christmas and took part in the nativity play.



Hello and a Merry Christmas from all the staff and students in Class 9. It is hard to pick out the best bits of this term, as there has been so many! This term we have had a really active curriculum which involves us getting out an about as much as we can. Sometimes it seems we are out of school more than we are in it! Our work with South Notts. Academy needs a special mention: For our trips to Floralands we pick up two students and a teaching assistant from South Notts. Academy. Now we link with them three times a week as they join us for cooking on Mondays and for swimming on Wednesdays. We also visit Cotgrave Candleby School to work at the farm there. We work with Lee, our P.E. coach on Friday mornings. Lee has been focussing on basketball, and the skills developed and shown by the class have been amazing, even surprising Lee! Other students have been going out and about exploring West Bridgford, Nottingham and Loughborough. The purpose is to explore a range of local facilities, but their visits always seem to end up with cake and coffee.



Diary Dates & Info

Merry Christmas

The senior leaders and the governors have now completed the School Improvement Plan and this can be found on the school website.

Our four main whole school priorities are:

- Improving the writing of EHC outcomes and tracking and assessment
- Pupils' emotional health and wellbeing
- Further development of staff and governors' understanding of roles and responsibilities to ensure a positive impact on pupils' learning.
- To evaluate the new curriculum against the intended outcomes



In November, a group of children from class 2 and 3 were given the opportunity to attend the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters 2017 at Loughborough University. The children were able to watch a tennis game which happened to be the world number 1 David Wagner against world number 2 Andy Lapthorne. The children embraced the atmosphere and enjoyed the experience of watching a game court side.



Diary Dates

09 th Jan	First day of Spring Term
10 th Jan	Beauty and the Beast – Theatre Royal
17 th Jan	Cinderella – Playhouse Theatre
11 th Feb	FOALS Broadway Cinema Screening
09 th Feb	Last day of half term
26 th Feb	Return from half term holiday

BACK TO COTGRAVE

01 st Mar	World Book Day
29 th Mar	Last Day Spring Term
16 th Apr	First day of Summer Term



Sad farewells...

It is with much sadness that we have had to say goodbye to some staff; Carol Bidmead, Teresa Morgan, Donna Argill, Lindsay Donaldson, Jodie Bloom, Rachel Savage and Katy Spence-Gray. Some of these staff members have been here for over 15 years.

We would like to thank them all for their commitment throughout their time at Ash Lea School and we wish them the very best of luck for their futures.

Fundraising

£239.17 – Children in Need & Cash For Kids

£46.50 - Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to everyone who donated food for The Friary

Our current fundraising total is **£ £73,928.86!**

Thank you to everyone who has donated

Please visit our **Creating a Better Environment** fundraising page if you would like to donate or set up your own fundraising event. Thank you.

mydonate.bt.com/events/creatingabetterenviroment

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