



Autumn Term - 1



Parents and Carers.

This half term has flown by! The children have all settled back after the summer holidays and it has been wonderful to see how our new children have settled too. We are looking forward to our next half term, filled with fun and celebration!

Have a lovely half term break and I will see you all on Wednesday 6th November 2024.

Thank you
CASHAM

Staffing

Mrs Austin will be starting her maternity leave this half term. We cannot wait to meet her little bundle of joy!

Play Zones

Our school has been asked to take part in a consultation on one of 5 new Playzones, which Ashfield District Council are planning to install next year. Morven Park has been assigned to us, and after investigating what is currently on site, we worked with Sarah, the wellbeing officer at ADC, to give her our proposals.



Dates to Remember:

Last day of Half Term: 18.10.2024
Half Term: 21.10.24 – 01.11.24
Inset Day: 04.11.24
Inset Day: 05.11.24
Children back to school: 06.11.24
Christmas Holiday: 23.12.24 – 03.01.25

Dates correct at time of print.

Dates for your diary..

Children in Need 15th November
Parents' Evening 20th November
Christmas Fayre 6th December
Christmas Dinner 18th December
& Jumper Day
Full details of each event will follow separately.

What have we been up to...



Thoresby

We have had such a wonderful start to the term in Thoresby. We have been developing our independence skills and thinking about how we can use our skills and knowledge in different ways. We have had a blast looking at our books, being inventive and practicing our writing skills. We have learnt about using money to make different totals and even enjoyed the Mr Jackson shopping experience in class!



Bestwood

This term, Bestwood Class has settled in beautifully, with new friendships blossoming among the group. Our main topic on the Medieval period continues to captivate us, and we've been exploring the fascinating story of the Black Death. We've just started to look at how the plague spread and are eagerly anticipating some of the more gory details after the half-term break!

We've also enjoyed diving into Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The class has developed a solid understanding of the plot and even mastered the art of delivering some classic Shakespearean insults—good-naturedly, of course!

Our Independent Travel Training has been progressing well, with everyone gaining more confidence while out and about in the community.

Looking ahead, we have lots of exciting learning experiences planned for next term. Wishing everyone a fun-filled half term and a spooky Halloween!



Ladybirds

Ladybirds have had a very busy but fun half term and the new children have settled in really well and it's been lovely to see the difference between the start of September and now. We have been matching objects to pictures in maths and sorting natural objects and buttons into categories, e.g. using their colour, size and what type they are. The children enjoyed cutting a range of sandwich toppings using the correct knife in food technology. We also had a go at cutting carrots and cucumbers too. They were fantastic at using their teamwork skills in P.E and we just love making our friends smile. We had fun digging for fossils and we could not believe a dinosaur came into our classroom. Ladybirds did a great job at tidying the footprints up!

Every week, we absolutely love our trip to the cafe. All of us are improving asking what we would like to eat and drink and using our manners. We then pay for what we have brought.

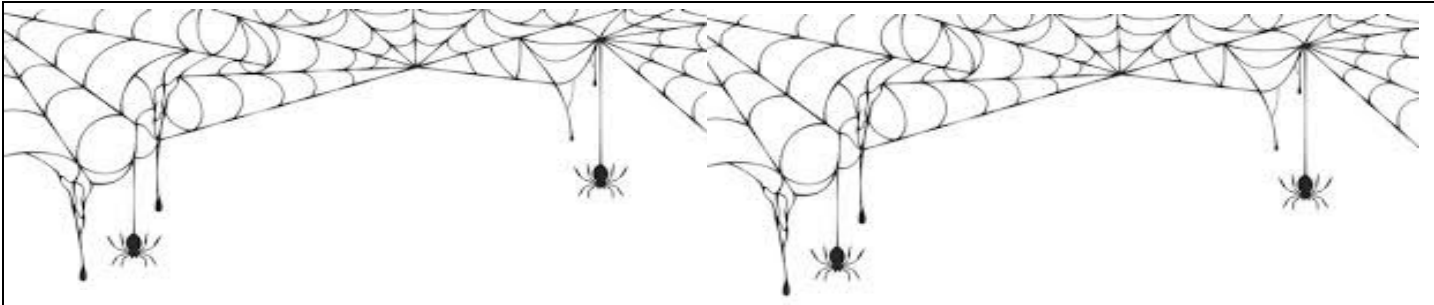
The new teacher for Ladybirds (Miss Elphick) is one lucky teacher and I will miss the children very much but I'm sure I will be very busy with my little baby!! Keep up the good work, Ladybirds!! 🐞



Beetles

Beetles have had a busy half term, getting to know all the staff and children, and learning our new routines. The Beetles have enjoyed showing us all the different things they enjoy, from bubbles to Twirlywoos, and we've been exploring all the different spaces around school such as going down to the science garden and going into the kitchen. We've been using photos and communication aids to share our wants and needs such as asking for 'more' and choosing our snacks.





Welbeck

What a fantastic start to the new school year it's been for Welbeck Class! We've hit the ground running, settling back into routines while diving headfirst into a term full of exciting new topics. In English, we loved the story *Zog*, and a highlight was our thrilling dragon hunt. We even made our very own *Zogs*, bringing these friendly dragons to life right in our classroom!

In Science, we explored the wonders of the human body, learning all about the heart and lungs. The children really enjoyed our science experiment where we discovered how the heart pumps blood.

One of our main focuses this term has been building strong friendships. From sharing and teamwork to showing kindness and respect for one another, it's been wonderful to see everyone supporting each other. Hello Yellow Day was a huge hit!

The children enjoyed a cozy movie afternoon watching *Inside Out 2* while munching on popcorn. We even had our very own Pikachu join the fun. We also had a spook-tacular time getting into the Halloween spirit! The children loved making special cards for their friends and family, and Carving pumpkins. It's been a busy, fun-filled start to the year, and we're thrilled with all the learning and laughter that has taken place!



Sherwood

Sherwood class took their red level TITAN test on Monday 14th October. This involves pairs of students walking from school to Morrisons in Kirkby over a set route with staff supervising their progress at intervals along the route. The whole class has been rehearsing the route this half term, their road safety knowledge has become more consistent and they can all purchase a small item from the shop independently. The task can initially be daunting for pupils but this is an exciting first step towards achieving a more independent lifestyle.

Well done to all of Sherwood - next step amber.



Bumblebees

Bumblebees have had a fantastic first half term back to school! We have transitioned beautifully around the school, and engaged in a range of activities. In English we have been identifying our family members and picking out words to describe them. We have LOVED exploring pumpkins this week and being messy!



Grasshoppers

Grasshoppers have loved exploring the topic 'Jump into the Jurassic!' looking at different types of dinosaurs and fossils. We have also found out about the famous fossil explorer Mary Anning. We dug up and used brushes on our own fossils and also made our own using salt dough and mini dinosaurs.

We have also been reading 'The dinosaur that pooped a planet' and 'Harry and his bucketful of dinosaurs' for English which we really enjoyed. Grasshoppers have also been enjoying their art sessions with Rachel the artist as well as weekly visits to Forest school!



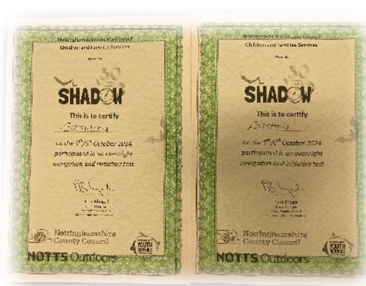
Kelham

This half-term, Kelham took part in the National Citizens Service Course at Portland College. It was a great chance to work on transferrable skills like problem-solving and teamwork and develop communication.

Kelham also carefully considered World Mental Health Day and this year's focus, which was supporting colleagues at work. Kelham delivered flowers and supportive quotes to staff around the school.

Finally, a massive well done to Post 16 Students Ethan and Szymon, who represented the school in the night orienteering event run by Notts Outdoors called Shadow. Shadow has been running for 50 years, and 2024 was the fiftieth anniversary. The challenge involved navigating Sherwood Forest at night, having been given a grid reference. A challenge must be completed at each grid reference, and teams score points. Supported by Mrs. Swain, Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Gregory, Ethan, and Szymon worked hard to map, read and work out the challenges.

The Bracken Hill team finished in 27th out of 70 teams, giving us second place in the Links Trophy. This is amazing for the school's first-ever entry. We really hope to enter a bigger team next year.



Newstead

The Autumn term in Newstead class has flown by, we have enjoyed our book *Zog* in our English lessons, the young people have acted out the story, got to know the characters, gained our own gold stars for achieving targets and created a story map.

Newstead have had great fun in the community on a Monday afternoon getting out and about. We have practised life skills of walking sensibly, crossing roads, asking for items in the café and sitting sensible to eat when out in the community.



Creswell

We have had a fabulous first half term back in Creswell class! We have developed a lot of new friendships and it has been lovely to see everyone finding their feet and confidence. We have been focusing on our road safety this term and we have done an excellent job at stop, look and listening. We have enjoyed following instructions in English and completing everyday tasks and in Maths we have really enjoyed exploring and handling our 3D shapes. We have enjoyed completing our obstacle courses by balancing and jumping on the equipment. We hope you all have a wonderful half term!



Butterflies

We've had a really good half term and we have been working really hard!

We have really enjoyed our topic of 'Into the Jurassic' where we have been learning about dinosaurs, fossils and fossil hunters. We even did our own TV report on the subject. We have also enjoyed our DT where we have learnt about axels and wheels and had our own 'Bracken Hill Wacky Races'.



Rufford

Rufford Class have gained insights into the construction sector, from town planning to bricklaying, and we are looking forward to trying our hands at woodwork next half term. We are really enjoying our work on our class book, "The Barnabus Project", and we love the main character's catchphrase: "Nothing is impossible"



Wollaton

We have had a very busy half term. Our year 12 students have been on the Trailblazers scheme. They have been walking, bouldering, caving and weaselling in Derbyshire.

During September all Post 16 students went to Portland College to take part in the National Citizen Service. They enjoyed archery, climbing, orienteering and problem solving.

We have been busy baking Screaming Shortbread for our Halloween Enterprise.



Wishing everyone a
spooktacular half term!

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School Holidays
 Public Holidays
 Administration Day

Autumn Term
 2 September - 18 October 7 weeks
 4 November - 20 December 7 weeks

 INSET Days

Spring Term
 6 January - 14 February 6 weeks
 24 February - 4 April 6 weeks

Summer Term
 22 April - 23 May 4 weeks 3 days
 2 June - 29 July 8 weeks 2 days