

Summer Term

July 2022



Kate Stradling Principal at Wessex Lodge School

‘An individualised curriculum to improve life outcomes’

CARE | ADAPTABILITY | RESILIENCE | EMPATHY

What a year! When I accepted the role of Headteacher in November, I knew it would be challenging and that we needed to implement many changes and make some difficult decisions, but I did not appreciate how rewarding being the Head of this school would be and continues to be.

Five months into my leadership role and OFSTED came to complete a full inspection. That process was so positive, and we were graded good, which was such a boost and a well-deserved decision for all our wonderful students and our amazing staff.

There has been significant investment in both sites, with learning spaces at the farm (in the guise of cabins) and outdoor works being agreed for the Ark to transform the play area outside.

Over the Summer break there will be further significant changes on both sites, with improvements to the Ark building (new windows, carpets etc) and further cabins for new students at the farm. The farm will be divided into Middle School (The Orchard) and Secondary area (The Farm), as we recognise that our younger students need safer spaces at the farm to learn.

There will be further development of outside areas at the farm with a MUGA and PE field to allow our students more physical activity alongside the fantastic animal care provision we provide.

We have focused on recruitment this year, with the appointment of qualified teaching staff who have specialist skills to work with students with complex needs. We have also focused on quality of education, which was commented on by OFSTED, and all our students are now consistently sitting assessments for CORE. This year we have had the best exam results we have ever had, which is a testament to our staff who work so incredibly hard to improve students' life outcomes and the hard work students put into their learning and progress. Our school is evolving and improving all the time.

We sadly say goodbye to two members of SLT this term, Mark and Leah, two members of staff who have contributed hugely to our school over the last 3 years and we wish them the best of luck in their new endeavours. We also said goodbye to our year 11's who have all been offered college placements and we wish them the best of luck with their future careers.

Wessex Lodge School



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We have appointed a new Deputy Head Ben Coombes who has already proved to be an excellent team player and addition to our team and other key staff leading subjects such as Reading/Phonics, new Thrive and I and E leads, new Art teachers on both sites and our robust CPD programme ensures we have a number of staff who are on courses to improve their professional development.

We have also run our first residential trip this year with the Outdoor Education Team planning and preparing for this trip, allowing our young people to have an amazing experience on the river Wye.

Our farm has undergone some significantly positive improvements, with the appointment of our new farm manger Nikki, who has made improvements to animal welfare and the environment with new fencing, field care and farm building clear up. The farm is looking incredible, and the team deserve the accolade for all their hard work.

In Summer 2 we were awarded the Ambassador Excellent school award, for Leadership, relationship, environment, reparative and right time. This is a huge achievement, and again a testament to our Thrive Team and staff who underpin everything they do with the Thrive therapeutic approach.

We are ready for the new academic year in September and looking forward to welcoming our new and existing students onto site and continuing striving to be an outstanding school. I hope you all have a wonderful Summer!

Kate Stradling
Principal

Wessex Lodge School

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WLS BEST TEAM IN THE WORLD



Our Ofsted celebratory staff trip!



Farm School Site News

What an amazing Year the farm has had this year. There has been much physical and emotional development and progress made by all the students at the farm as well as site development that better enhances the education we offer. After gaining the school's fabulous OFSTED results back at Easter, the students and staff have continued to drive progress and development forward. This summer term emphasises these success. I am really proud of all our young people at the farm and how they have grown, and thank the farm staff and parents/carers for their devotion and persistence in keeping the individuals in mind.

Exams

This term, students in Year's 10, 11 & 12 undertook and gained some amazing exam results in Functional skills Maths and English and for the first time in the school history we had groups of students sharing the same exam room (up to 4 in a room) and partaking jointly in the English speaking and listening exams. Previous cohorts of students have only accessed this 1:1. This reflects the huge steps students have made within their social develops and abilities to control anxiety, worry and fear, as well as their ability to converse and share with peers. It is therefore no wonder why this year we a very high number of leavers successfully moving onto and gaining placements in a variety of College's and none going NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training). It is of course with great sadness that these students are leaving us for their new and exciting opportunities and we as a school wish them well. Of our leavers we wish Felix, Lewis, Cameron, Kaden, Gwydion and Jayden the best of luck at college and congratulate them on securing placements - Brilliant. We also wish Bell and Maya good luck for their new schools as they now move to new locations. We celebrated all these success with our young people with a Farm wide assembly and leavers meal where we wished these students well.

Site & Staff

The farm site has been further developed throughout this summer term with works taking place to improve the quality and condition of the farm, its animals and grasslands. Nicola the farm manger has led and made these changes. The farm is now a safer, more organised, and cleaner environment and the animals are fitter for their health plans which they have been following since February. Site work has included movement of the Haystack, safety fencing installed around the hay bales/ silage bails and slurry pits areas. The 12-acre field has been cut and harvested for new hay, field rotation and hedge trim and pruning. The horses, Shetlands and goats have lost weight and we have had the arrival of our new Highland Cow. Other work has included the carpark resurfaced, a new DT (woodwork/ textiles) workshop with new glass fronting and new fixed machinery. Finally new fencing has been erected including around the carpark cabins for safety, new football grass pitch laid next to the round pen area behind the barns, and we have increased WiFi coverage around the farm site. Over the summer further developmental work is set to take place giving the farm a new feel in September. Further developmental work to improve facilities and site for our young people include:

- installing a new electronic entry gate on the drive reducing traffic speed and safety for our students,
- Car park extension,
- 2 more wooden class
- room cabins to increase teaching spaces,
- Fencing work enclosing zones for different student needs,
- A new DT kitchen with 4 individual workstations (4x cooker, 4x hobs, 4x fridges and 4x sinks) for independent home cooking lessons in a brand new room
- New Fibre optic cabling improving ICT facilities across the whole site.

In addition to the site developments we have also expanded the farm team this term, expanding our curriculum and delivery for our young people. Staff have settled in and built effective relationships with many of our young people and despite students finding changes and new people difficult, they have all overcome this and warmly welcomed; Beth Hart (Maths), Will O'Rourke (History/ Geography & RE), Tracey Brawn (LSW), Sarah Walton (Thrive Lead), Jemma Latham (I&E Lead), Lucy Febrey (LSW), RT-Rhianne Tyson (ART), Dominique Lab-run (Thrive) and Ben Combes (Deputy Headteacher). Next September will see new students arrive replacing those who have moved on. We offer them a warm welcome too. Many of these students will have already had transition days or started a transition plan to the farm allowing successful integration and building of relationships. Of these students we welcome- Aaron , Maia, Matt, Kai, Anthony, Tarlia, Shantayah, Elliott, Flo and Adara. To support new students, we also have extended our farm teaching team allowing us to offer more subjects and support for students. Finally joining us in the Autumn term of 2022 on the staff team will be; Mark Jessop (cover teacher), Barrie Davis (Food DT teacher) and Joanna (ESW) and Lucy (I and E ESW).

Social and emotional

Over this summer term, staff have really focused on student interactions and the social development. This has been facilitated using the Badminton court and football pitch through which student have shared, competed, challenged, and interacted in teams and groups. In addition to combined farm lessons, Outdoor Adventure, PE, and core lessons (Maths/ English/ Science/ PSHE). We have seen the fruits of this work being successful with many students extend their window of tolerance and being able to deal with the changes faced with or involved in social situations. To support students, staff run 'How to be a teenager' (PSHE session on Wednesday mornings which reinforces social aspects of relationships and interactions). The Thrive REPAIR-RELATE-RUPTURE CYCLE has been key in helping students understand and respond to this. Staff have been using the shine the light process to help them reflect, which is becoming more effective.

Students have also had to deal with losses in life this term (staff, peers and animals.) These losses can trigger similar feelings of trauma in children which can impact upon their resilience level and result in low self-esteem and negative mindset. All staff, especially tutors, Thrive practitioners and the intervention team are very mindful of this and will monitor and offer support to all students as needed in the coming terms.

It is key to help young people by telling them the story. To support this, we recently sent home a social story that explained the changes in staff, we ask that you put this on the fridge or go through this with your child several times including just before they return in September to remind them. Staff that are leaving include Leah Roberts (Leah is off to work in a new school undertaking a different role as Family Thrive liaison, She will be sorely missed), Dan Harper (changing roles to work for the YMCA with 16-25 year olds as a mentor, we wish him well and will miss him off the outreach programme) Harriet Rose (off to train in her PGCE teaching qualification at Bath's University) We wish you all good luck! It is with great sadness I say goodbye as I am moving on to a new school closer to home.

Summary

When reflecting on the school, the farm, its students, and the development over my last 3.5 years of employment, it fills me with such a sense of pride the achievements the team have made. The schools' curriculum and delivery of education has gone from strength to strength allowing more students to access more awards and developing interests in new areas. We now offer a broader, more bespoke programme that covers more National Curriculum subjects. As a result, many more students now leave the school with more qualification compared with when I started. We now meet our school aim:

'An individualised education to improve life outcomes'.

This is demonstrated by more students going onto level 1 and 2 college courses (key reflector that socially developments have been massively improved). Therapeutically, students are helped and leave being better able to manage their emotional responses and appear to be more confident young people. The sites have benefited from new facilities with further developments set to extend our provision further. The school has increased staff that help expand delivery and allows the schools to better focus on meeting individual needs.

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The school staff work hard, are dedicated to students and work relentlessly to meet their needs. It is their passion and genuine care that make Wessex Lodge so special and supportive. A key element within the process of success is the parental/ carer support. This is so vitally important for our young people and shows the adults work together. Your support is vital to helping students grow and progress. The atmosphere at the school is unique and highly supportive, I will miss this, students and staff. I have no doubt that the continuity and persistence of focus on the students will be upheld by Ben Coombes (my predecessor) who has already successfully started his role with Wessex at the Farm as lead, and under the continued leadership of the Principal Kate Stradling. I am therefore wish you all a kind farewell and good luck for the forth coming year and your futures.

Kind Regards

Mark Thompson

(Deputy Headteacher & Farm Lead)

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Ethan White – Head of education



Wow, what a year we have all had. Our four pillars have held us firm and strong during the year where we have all had to react to changing learning environments as we have moved towards the end of the pandemic.

During the term we have had many academic achievements across the school, such as students heading out on our first ever expedition, a significant increase in our curriculum supported by the appointment of new members of staff, our best ever set of standardised testing across the year, students achieving level 1 and 2 qualifications with the support of colleges and provisions in the wider community and the many other achievements by our young people. Whether it be in the classroom, on the farm, in the local town or out and about in the community we have witnessed our young people learning core subjects and life skills all the while developing their own personal skills so they can Thrive. With our individualised approach to learning we have seen students make

huge progress throughout the year and this term.

We are especially proud of our older students who sat exams this term. They have been part of a journey that has produced the school's best exam results ever. They should be extraordinarily proud of their efforts. It would not be fair if at this point we did not thank the whole staff team from the Admin team, to the ESW's, the outreach staff, the site crews, the academic team and Tutors, governors and of course all of our parents, for not only their own input but the way they have worked as one team to help provide for the platform for all students across the school to progress during the term.

Throughout the term we have welcomed new students to our school. We hope they have enjoyed their induction; we have enjoyed meeting them. Whilst maintaining our individualised approach to learning we will be the biggest we have been next year. We have alongside new students, new staff and new site developments in the pipeline over the coming months. All of these will enhance the education we can offer.

We would like to thank the leaving pupils for all their efforts and contributions to our school and wish them all the best for the future. I am unbelievably proud to be a small part of this amazing team. I look forward to catching up with you all in the new academic year.

A Wessex Lodge Welcome...

Ben Coombes – Deputy Head



I have been involved in education for 35 years in a variety of roles with 15 years of senior management experience across a wide range of different provisions.

My most recent role was working for Somerset County Council in their SEMH and MMH young people's provision.

I am excited about joining the team at Wessex lodge and working with the all the young people.

In my spare time I can be seen on my bike trundling through the lanes or walking my dog Tarka. I enjoy reading, especially autobiographies in between trying to do some DIY, not very well.

Jemma Latham – Inclusion and engagement Lead



Hello everyone, I will be the *new* Inclusion and Engagement Lead.

I am excited to be joining the Wessex Lodge School family; the school and students have impressed me over my first few weeks and made me feel very welcome.

I have over ten years of experience of working with children, young people and their families in different roles and area's I am looking forward to bringing those skills and knowledge I have gained to my role.

In my spare time I'm an avid football supporter and I also enjoy spending time away with family and friends in my caravan.

I look forward to working the students and their families, getting to know you all and ensuring the inclusion and engagement into the great school.

A Wessex Lodge Welcome...



Sarah Walton – Thrive

Hello, I am Sarah and I will be joining the Thrive team at Wessex Lodge. In my previous job roles, I have worked in early years and Family support. I trained as a Thrive practitioner six years ago and have used this approach to better understand and support young people's social and emotional needs in educational and home settings.

In my time away from work I enjoy spending time with family/friends, cycling and going on long walks with our family dog.

I am very much looking forward to getting to know the young people, parents and staff at The Ark and The Farm.



Bethany Vowles – English Teacher

Hello! My name is Beth and I'm joining Wessex Lodge School as an English teacher.

As an English teacher one of my favourite things to do is read books but I also enjoy going on long walks and hikes with my dog, a black Labrador named Sam.

At any sign of sun, I am usually wild swimming or paddleboarding with my friends and I love spending time outside, especially camping.

I really enjoy trying new things and having new experiences and so I'm looking forward to the adventure of joining Wessex Lodge School in September.



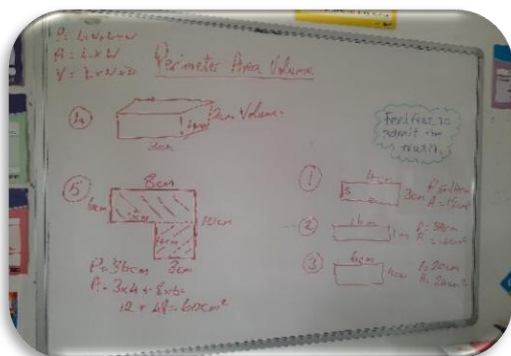
Hello everyone,

I have now been in post for 3 months, seems like only yesterday when I started here at The Ark.

In my short time here, I can honestly say that this is a wonderful place, the staff care so much for the youngsters in their care and that is shown back in the appreciation from their students. There are great plans being implemented over the summer break and we trust that the young people will enjoy these changes.

It has been my pleasure to teach Maths and English to some of the students and though not everyone has been fully accepting of the change of teacher we are all getting along well. Whilst we have concentrated on consolidating the work done so far we have worked on some of the more, shall I say interesting, areas of maths and English, and whilst not everyone has made a lot of progress all have made some.

As an example, we have recently been involving different students in our classes. We have spent time working on Algebra, Area, Perimeter and Volume. In outdoor Education at the end of the term I took groups of children over to Blue Circle Bowls Club in Westbury to try their hand at Lawn Bowls. They did amazingly well considering many have never seen bowls before and no-one had actually given it a go. I am pleased to say that the bowling club have invited us back to have another go from April next year.



Next year I hope to establish a GCSE Maths and English course which allows us to study for and gain Functional Skills awards as we go through the 2-year course. So far this year one student has sat external examinations and passed gaining his Entry level 3 qualification in Mathematics and English. I look forward to more results in the coming year.

Due to increasing pupil numbers, we have been forced to change the rooms for 2 of our groups, Tigers and Panthers are switching rooms. Students have been fully informed of the changes happening around the school and we plan to have changed the rooms around before the end of the term.

We are also having a lot of site work being done over the break and this includes new play area and new football area outside the office. I am hopeful that over the summer break a whole slew of works to the site will be taking place. We hope to be replacing all the windows, have a new domestic kitchen fitted for the staff and students to use, as well as redecorating the rooms. There is hope that Lizzie will move from her small office to what is currently the Library, the Library will move down to Lizzies room, and the front office will have a wall put up to generate an area of private space where management and staff can, if needed have discussions in private.

A new shed has been purchased and holds the PE equipment and resources for the classrooms, we also have a new set of goal posts for the youngsters to use for football.

I am really looking forward to working with all the students and staff here at The Ark next year.
The future looks rosy, fun, and filled with adventure!

Philip Redding – Maths Lead



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Meet the



Sarah



Becky



Lizzie



Nique



Kat



Rebecca

students



Kingsleigh
Nathan
Ethan



Thrive has moved from strength to strength within the school, within this summer term, the school became recognised and gaining the Thrive Ambassador Award (5 subcategory awards). This award makes us a flag ship school for new joining schools or those established now moving towards awards in Thrive. There are only a small number of schools in the UK who have this status and we are proud to join them. The achievement of this award is collective with all staff moving us forward and employing the therapeutic approaches, however this whole drive and innovative has been lead and driven by Leah Roberts and the Thrive team- amazing work and well done. Thankyou from our students who benefit the most. In essences, Thrive is embedded in all aspects of the school life and community, with all staff embracing and using the techniques and practices daily. This too has positively impacted upon our young people, and has helped them recognise emotions and feelings, learn control techniques, expand windows of tolerance, techniques to deal with Loss and conflict and by rebuild missing gaps in development stages. Through this process they are better equipped to remain in the middle of the developmental highway. This again is most evident in our leavers students who have mastered the social and emotional skill to be more resilient but also in many of our young people who are making quicker growth toward Pathway 2 (ready to learn). At the farm, through lots of work has been undertaken with students to get them to recognise their own success with reparative Thrive and the work by staff daily around their emotional and social needs. Well done to all the team and students who now embrace Thrive and helped to embed it.

If you are interested in how we use Thrive within our practices daily, please visit our School website and look at our Inclusion and Engagement policy.- <https://www.wessexlodeschool.co.uk/information>

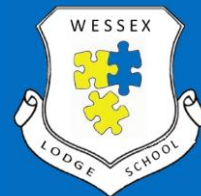
PRIDE DAY



PSHE:

Students have been learning all about different types of relationships and changes they will face this term in PSHE in our topics of learning "Relationships" and "changing me". Students also enjoyed participating in our Pride celebration today and were pleased to have the opportunity to get to know more about the LGBTQ+ community and history of LGBTQ+ rights. Students were welcoming to our LGBTQ+ community speakers and enjoyed celebrating Pride by exploring what Pride means to them. What a fantastic term to end the academic year on! - *Lauren O'Mahony – Tiger Class Teacher*

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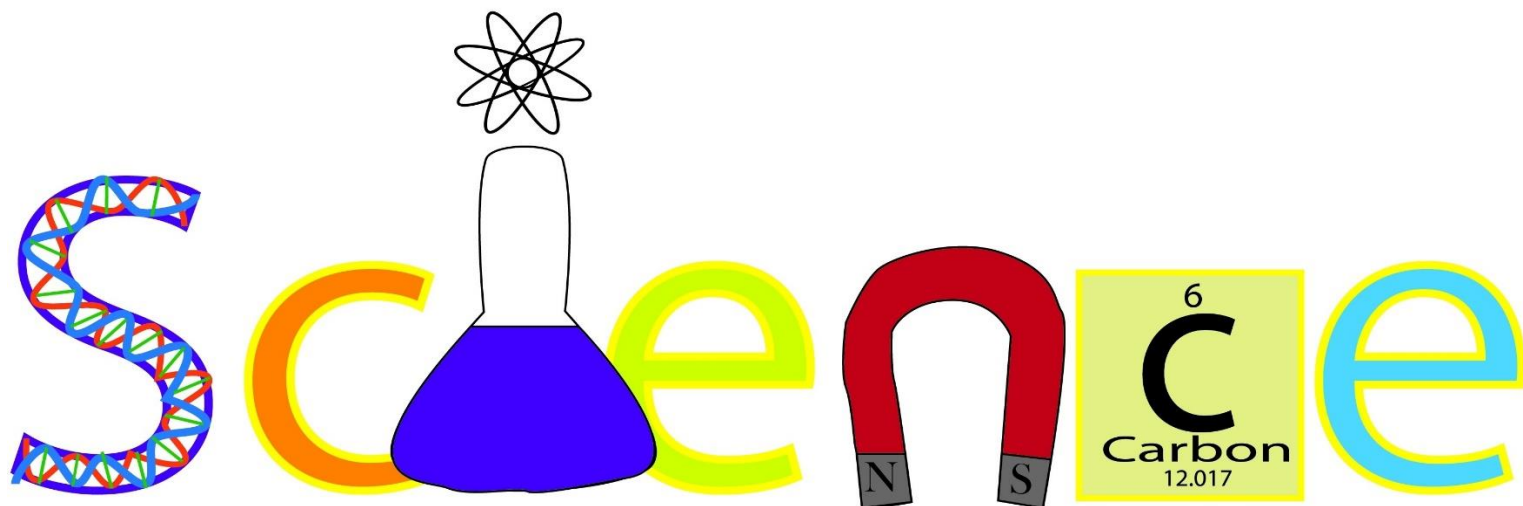
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Ft. The Little Lion- King of the Lodge

At both sites, dogs are used to help students explore/ play and regulate. Students like to stroke, groom and walk them. When students trigger and their presentations change, cuddling and stroking the dog help many to regulate. At the Ark Zeus has been at hand. Zeus posed with students in his lion Mane, this was used to cheer students up and as part of Drama play. At the farm students have had Bes and Luna. Whilst they don't dress up students love playing ball with them and walking them, and sometimes just sitting with them to regulate.





This term in Chemistry we have been working on understanding “Atoms, Elements, and Compounds”. We did some work understanding the subatomic particles that make up atoms. We were able to understand how to read and use the periodic table of elements. We also started understanding what a compound is and some of their properties.

In Biology this term we have been working to understand all about microscopes. From understanding how to correctly use one, to being able to create our own slide with specimens we have found outside, where we were able to look at the cells through the microscope. We have also been looking at the calculations around the magnification of images and being able to calculate the actual size of the microscopic cells.



James Rigby – Science Lead

(Picture created by Student)

Student Voice

**"What does
Wessex Lodge
School mean to
you?"**

LETTER FROM OUR STUDENT

I believe that Wessex Lodge School is an amazing school for disabled children such as me. The environment is very spacious and welcoming, along with the many funny friends and kind individuals willing to help me. One thing I enjoy about Wessex Lodge School is how the staff and teachers care for the well being of their students. I enjoy all the like wise children and how kind they are to me and their fellow classmates. I am sure that I have made new friends and have met the most caring teachers I'll ever meet. Another thing I enjoy and find interesting is how the teachers give their students rewards and actually care about the effort that has been put into work, they are very good at reminding me how important I am and how much I'm worth.

29.6.2022

Offsite Education



This term our Offsite team with their students have visited many interesting places that introduce students to new places or experiences.



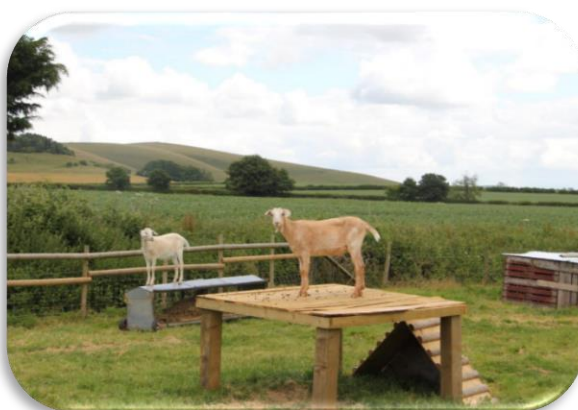
Staff use this as a learning opportunity alongside core lessons to help raise attainment and achievement for young people.

Staff have taken students to places such as Weston-Super-Mare beach to look at how the tides work and nearby Brean Down to see the old-World War 2 fort. Rock formations and fossil hunting were the order of the day at Kilve beach. Students have been to historic towns such as Wells to see historic buildings and the Cathedral as well as the beautiful Bishops Palace.

Students have been having IT lessons and using their knowledge in a real life context as well as playing all sorts of Mathematical and English games.

Some of our students have been working towards their Functional Skills qualifications this year so for these students who can access learning more time has been spent on getting them ready for their exams.

- **Fenella Perriman, Offsite Lead**



Maths

Congratulations to all our students who took exams this term. We are delighted with our high pass rate. On the farm this summer term we have been learning about data handling. We have been gathering real life data and using it to make tally charts, bar graphs, pie charts and scatter graphs. We have also used IT to create graphs. Another topic we have been studying is 2D and 3D shape. We have used our beautiful setting to start to create a shape maths trail. Here are a few photos you might recognise and answer the questions.



What shape is this log?



How many different shapes can you see?



How many parallel lines can you see?

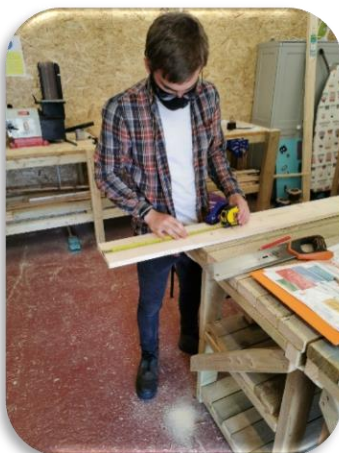


How many squares can you see?



Where can you see this on the farm?

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



The DT workshop has finished its renovation and is now (in my opinion) one of the best rooms in the school! We have been kitted out with new machinery, which the students have been enjoying learning how to use- they have shown me how sensible and trustworthy they can be, and there have been some brilliant makes in the workshop.



Some of the students are working to a design specification, which has pushed them to design, prototype and make a final product that follows the set requirements. The confidence and creativity that I have seen grow in DT over just 2 terms have been wonderful.

- **Harriot Rose – DT Teacher**



WILDCATS

Lilly, Pete and Bailey were able to spend more time together and to get to know each other better. Wildcats went on their second trip to Noah's Zoo in Bristol as a reward for their Spring and Summer terms in school. They had lots of fun and interacted well with each other.

Lilly started horse riding and she loved it! She went once a week with Abbie. She learnt the basics and how to trot. Sarah, the instructor, took them down the lane for walks and Lilly loved being outside in the fresh air with Ivy.

Pete has been enjoying his Music lessons with Tom and he has even bought a guitar!

Bailey and Pete went to the farm each week to see the donkeys who were happy to spend some time with them ☺.

Bailey, Pete and Lilly spent more time together during Drama, PE and Cooking lessons and they learnt to respect one another. A fantastic year!

Rosanna Sotgiu - Teacher



SOUTH AFRICA





To Kate

Can you come with us to horse riding please on a Wednesday and we will treat you to a ice cream.

From Leon and Val and Harri, Skai and Becks



FOXES

This year in foxes we have looked at various topics in English, we have looked at poetry and non-fiction writing as well life skills writing. For History we have also studied crime and punishment throughout the ages and the boys have loved this! Some of the students have gone swimming, fishing as well horse-riding.

We have welcomed some new people into our class... we have welcomed our new student Harri and staff members Bex and Kim and the boys have done really well in making these people feel welcome 😊
Overall, we have had a really good year and we are immensely proud of the boys!
Keep up the good work.

Skai Watts – Class Teacher



PANTHERS

In Panthers this term, we have been learning about adventure both in and out of the classroom. We have covered the book 'Holes' by Louis Sachar, and all students have shown great enthusiasm both with the book, the comprehension, and the film which the students were shown as a reward for their hard work. During Maths, all of Panther's class have been working extremely hard looking at Geometry. We have been learning about translations, coordinates, and lines of symmetry. The students enjoyed using mirrors as a resource and had lots of fun reflecting and translating different items.



Some students in Panthers class have shown great interest in a new sport too – golf! We have been able to practice and show our skills at Orchardleigh Golf Club. The technique and patience needed for this sport are really high level, so to see my students engaged, having fun and taking on board instructions has been fantastic to see – stick with it and you will reap the rewards!

making memories with the meercats. It was a brilliant day all round!

I'd also like to say a huge thank you to the students and staff at Wessex Lodge (especially my class as they are the best!) for being so welcoming. I have worked in numerous schools during my teaching career, and I can honestly say I have never worked somewhere with such a kind, friendly and caring team. Lastly a big thank you to my partner in crime Niki! You have been amazing for me and the students!

Panthers, it has been a pleasure being with you this term, I wish you all a safe, adventurous, and exciting summer holiday and I will see

you in September!

- **Ant West – Class Teacher**



DIRE WOLVES

This term has been amazing! We've had highs, very few lows and even more highs. All the students have really stepped up their ability in not just the work they produce but the social skills and resilience that we have seen from them.

As a class, we have welcomed new student Harrison into the pack, and he has settled incredibly well making amazing friends already in the short amount of time he has been with us.

Tucker has been a man on a mission to continuously impress everyone and keep breaking through every benchmark that he sets himself. This term he has been going fishing as reward for all his efforts and this has helped him make a fantastic friendship with another student who also has a keen interest in fishing. This alone has shown how much Tucks has matured this term and how easy he can adapt to make new friendships and relationships with other students and staff members.

Leo has had a fantastic term with managing his transition over to farm where he can have access to subjects which suit his interests and gives him the chance to make new friendships. How Leo has handled this move has really highlighted how much of a mature young man he is becoming and I'm excited to see how much he can continue to improve and progress. He will be missed in our class but will always remain a member of Direwolves.

As a class we've gone through a lot of changes with students coming and going as well as staff members, but every student has handled this so well and really shown how much they can adapt to challenges they may face but also how much they can support each other when times get tough.

I'm excited to see how much they can all achieve in the new academic year and all the success we will have as a class.

- **Andy Smith – Class Teacher**



TIGERS

Tigers have had an exciting summer term with new staff and students joining the class and lots of fun and adventure being had. Tigers have worked hard throughout the term and enjoyed taking part in various activities as a team.

In their core learning they have enjoyed participating in story writing and have also been learning about time and measurement in math!

Tigers have shown great resilience and adaptability throughout the term and been welcoming new members of The Ark! Super work Tiger class! (Also, see Pride Day for our PHSE subject...)

- **Lauren O'Mahony – Class Teacher**

One day there was a boy called charie who was just having a normal sports day at school. when the race came around he figured out he had super speed and won the race when the other people were still at the start. so Charlie took advantage of this and won thousands of pounds in races and joined the Olympics and made his team win and everyone wanted to see him at the Olympics the tickets sold out in minutes. He was making millions of this super power when the next week started he had another super power week after week year after year he kept getting super powers like super speed, high jump, invisibility, flying and many more. Now he was a millionaire with mansions super cars even though he did not need the cars on the weeks that he had super speed flying or teleportation one week he could not control his powers so he turns invisible at any moment. Then he got a letter from Hollywood so he left the Olympics and got in a plane and went to Hollywood.

This piece of work was completed by a new student to the Ark, great achievement, well done JB!

English

This has been a busy term for English! We have said goodbye to our year 11's and seen them pass their exams, WELL DONE! We will all miss them, and the English department wish them every happiness on their new journeys. Well done again year 11!

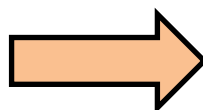
In English we have been embedding all the wonderful English terms that build skills ready for the future. As you read student reports you may see the acronym **AFOREST** but what does it mean?



A FOREST

A	ALLITERATION
F	FACTS
O	OPINIONS
R	REPETITION/ RHETORICAL QUESTION
E	EMOTIVE WORDS
S	STATISTICS
T	TRIPLES (RULE OF THREE)

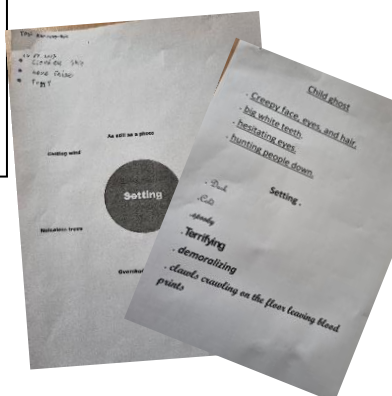
Students have been learning how to persuade using **AFOREST**. Persuasion is found in advertising and a variety of speeches and students have been using AFOREST for their Speaking and Listening exams that is a part of their functional skills.



Here is a famous persuasive speech example that we have looked at. Such a great example of **AFOREST**!

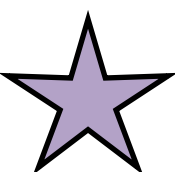
[I Have a Dream speech by Martin Luther King Jr HD \(subtitled\) - YouTube](#)

For those students who were not studying for exams we were learning about how to create a Gothic setting ready for creating a short story.



Here are some other things we have learned this term:

Compound sentences, alliteration, simile, metaphor, exclamatory sentences, sibilance, pathetic fallacy, rhetorical question, FANBOYS, conjunctions, personification, homophones, anecdote and the list goes on!



Can you solve this terms riddle?

A box without hinges, key or lid, yet golden treasure inside is hid...

- Jane Gray – English Teacher

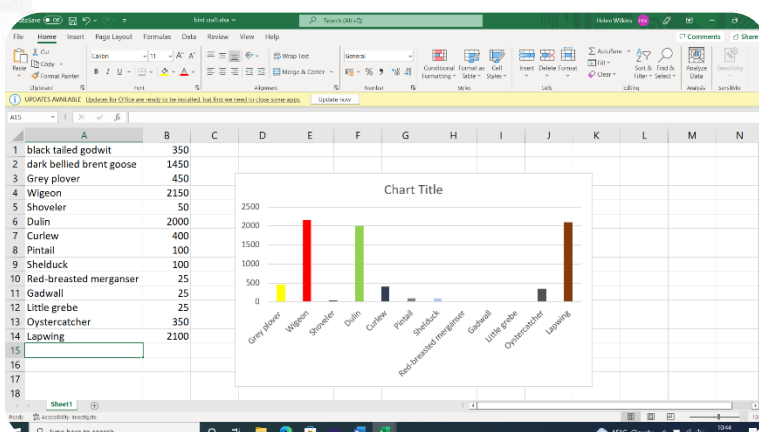
SUMMER NEWSLETTER – ICT

- Helen Wilkins

County	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total	Average
Avon	782	551	427	350	298	278	2686	447.667
Bedfordshire	750	327	310	306	315	318	2326	387.667
Berkshire	600	183	162	158	152	161	1416	236
Buckinghamshire	571	436	321	309	316	278	2231	371.833
Cambridgeshire	632	231	246	248	222	235	1814	302.333
Cheshire	380	270	253	231	185	187	1506	251
Cleveland	420	185	182	163	201	178	1329	221.5

This term we have been practising our touch typing skills- some of our students have “fiery fingers” they are getting so fast. Some students have been learning how to use word processing software.

Other students have been learning to use spreadsheets. Using a spreadsheet to add a bar graph Adding formula to a spreadsheet so far we have used autosum, product and mean average.



Next term all students will be able to work towards a bronze iDEA award. Some students have started their awards and are really enjoying the challenges and activities.

EFL (Equine-Facilitated Learning)

This term the students and horses have all worked very hard; we have had some very hot days and some very pesky horse flies, so we have given our equines lots of baths this term.

Bathing the horses requires lots of patience as they don't always stand still and it's hard work getting the poo stains off! As well as bathing the horses, we have been exercising the horses in the round pen. This involves free lunging them and the students using their voice and body language to control the speed and direction of the horse.

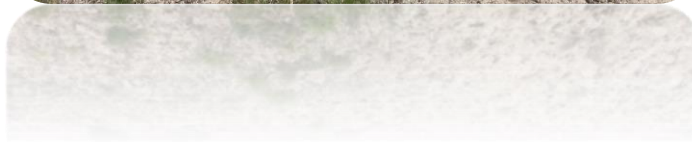
I have been very impressed with all the students being able to listen and follow instructions in our equine lessons.

We have some very exciting news in equine this term – Isla has been sent off to stud, to hopefully, be covered (get pregnant). Once we know Isla is successfully pregnant, she will return to the farm to graze happily until her baby is due (spring next year). This will be a very exciting addition to our equines!

- Laura James



EFL Continued...



Land Based Studies Newsletter

This term has been very busy down on the farm. Our older students have worked really hard to complete their care plans for their chosen animals. This included collecting information on the animals, their feeding habits their natural behaviours as well as documenting how to do visual health checks. Those students then put their care plans into action by undertaking all the tasks they had written about.

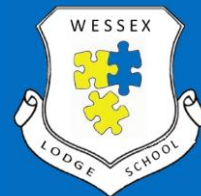


Land based studies has provided a wide range of learning experiences for our students as well as providing a great therapeutic space. They have been able to create goat enrichment equipment, feed, clean and spend time with the animals. We have welcomed new sheep on to the farm as well as a very impressive highland cow Mac. The children have continued to help with the routine care and grooming of the animals on the farm that range from rabbits to horses and lots in between.

Nigel Benjamin – Class teacher



Wessex Lodge School



Outcomes
First
Group.

ACORN
Better days, Better lives

Hello everyone!

Just thought I would introduce you all to the fantastic animals we have at the farm...

Firstly and most importantly we have Orla & Isla our two Irish cob mares, both girls have not been in work for many years so it is my plan to amend this....Orla is exercised several times a week now and has had her tack on and being out in hand walking, Isla suffered an injury last winter which means she cannot be ridden so she is currently at Stud and fingers crossed in the spring we might have a new arrival.

Bertie and Carmella our two mini Shetlands continue to be cheeky but love to be groomed, bathed and taken for a walk, as does Vixen and Minnie the two mini donkeys.

We have five goats Spodge, Billy, Leo, Leon and Larry, three of which are so mischievous that they love to escape and enjoy the game of chase us back into the paddock!!!!

Eric the kune kune pig continues to enjoy his paddock next to the goats, he snores the day away under his tree.....go give him a belly rub he will be your friend forever.

We currently have 9 sheep, 5 boys [withers] old faithful's Zimmer and Barry, Bill and Ben the young silvernose and Vincent the valais blacknose [who is actually my boy but lives at the farm] then there's the girl's..... two zwarbles Wendy and Betty, two greyfaced dartmoors Damson and Mouse.

All the sheep think they are dogs and would be quite happy to follow you all day.... especially if food is involved.



Wessex Lodge School



Outcomes
First
Group.

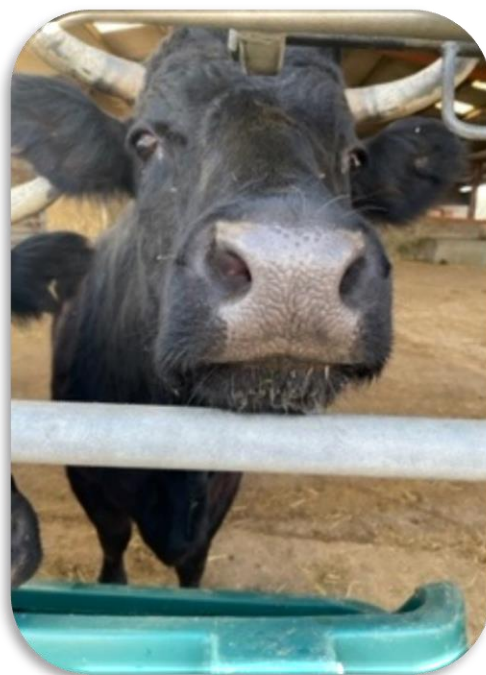
ACORN
Better days, Better lives

Now the cattle.....3 Dexter girls called Kerry, Cally and Blossom And of course the famous Mac our new Highland steer, although they all have horns they are all incredibly friendly and love some fuss.....and treats of course. Barney and Max our two lop eared rabbits....and of course all the various chickens we have who produce the most fab eggs.

And if you're quiet you might spot Polly the cat and her kittens!!!!

Come along and see them all.

Nicky Penny-Dix – Farm Manager





OLGA'S ARRANGEMENTS



Art

This term on the farm the new Art teacher has been getting to know students by creating a title page for their folders titled 'Who am I', the students have designed their name in a way they think describes them and chosen various images of TV shows, books, movies etc, that they love. We've also been walking and exploring around the yard taking rubbings of various textures that we have found. As well as looking at collage techniques, creating animals with tissue paper and mark making techniques.

Art and Photography 2022-2023

In the new school year, we'll be looking at developing our drawing skills, looking at a culture of choice, 3D art ranging from Origami to ceramics, learning how to draw the human body, Street art and a run through photography project where you'll be introduced to all the elements of photography and get to choose which techniques you wish to learn in depth. There will be several chances to learn offsite in various exciting places such as museums, exploring Bristol's Street Art and photography shoots on location.

We will also be introducing the option to do photography as a subject, in which you will learn in depth how to use the different settings on a DSLR, compositional skills, lighting techniques, Photoshop editing, Portraiture photography, landscape photography and a mixed media topic, in which students will get to choose their own theme. Trips out will be almost a weekly occurrence to find new and exciting places to photograph.

Rhianne Tyson – Art Teacher

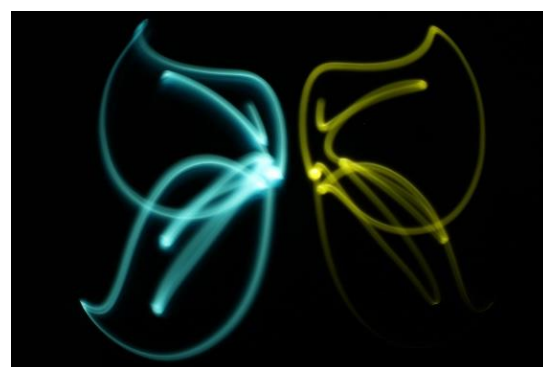
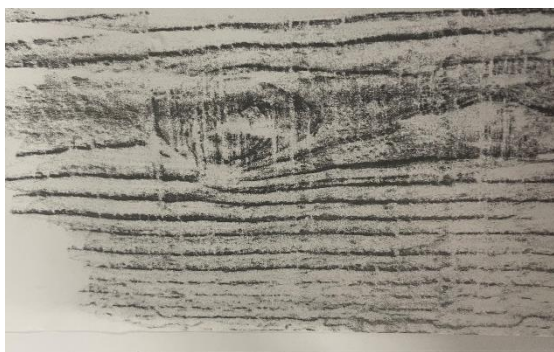




Photo by Dan Williams

The BIG catch!

Jacks Big Carp – weighing in at 38lbs and was one of 18 carp caught in a single day by Jack at the Two Counties Carp Lakes during an **Educational Outreach Day**.

Jack said, “it was bigger than any fish caught by Nigel and was almost as big as him”!

Well done, Jack.



HORTICULTURE

The students have been busy planting the Pumpkin Plants from pots into the Pumpkin Patch and constant watering and weeding has been ongoing. TRP and KS have been busy helping build the new Sunshade Shelter which has allowed for cool shade on the hottest of the Sunny Days during June.

All Horticulture students have been mowing grass and looking after the Top Fruit which is giving plenty of opportunities for break snacks with LP enjoying Red currents, Blackberries and especially Raspberries!

- **Dan Williams – Tutor of Horticulture**





As my time at Wessex Lodge School comes to an end, I want to take the opportunity to reflect on the journey and celebrate the successes. I started at Wessex in September 2018 and set up the Art department, which soon became a therapeutic tool as well as an enrichment subject for many young people needing a creative outlet.

My passion for therapeutic art soon took a turn towards working alongside young people to support Social and Emotional development. I found the Thrive training and subsequent Approach transformational, using creative play as a foundation for meeting needs of young people. It gave me the platform for understanding the impact of life experiences and for supporting learning at the right time for them; based on their ability to regulate and engage with the risky

business of learning.

In the time since, I have become a licenced Family Thrive leader and a Thrive Lead Trainer. This has enabled me to support some of our most vulnerable families, so we can join up our working practises and to embed the Thrive Approach in our school.

I am incredibly proud to be leaving a legacy for Wessex Lodge; having met all 5 areas of Excellence in Thrive Approach and, moving forward, as a Thrive Ambassador School. This means other schools can visit to support development of their own approach and we can showcase the good practise. I know that Kate, Ethan, Ben, Sarah, Becky, Dominique, Lizzie, Kat and Becca will all take Thrive in our school to the next level and fly the flag for the magic of Thrive.

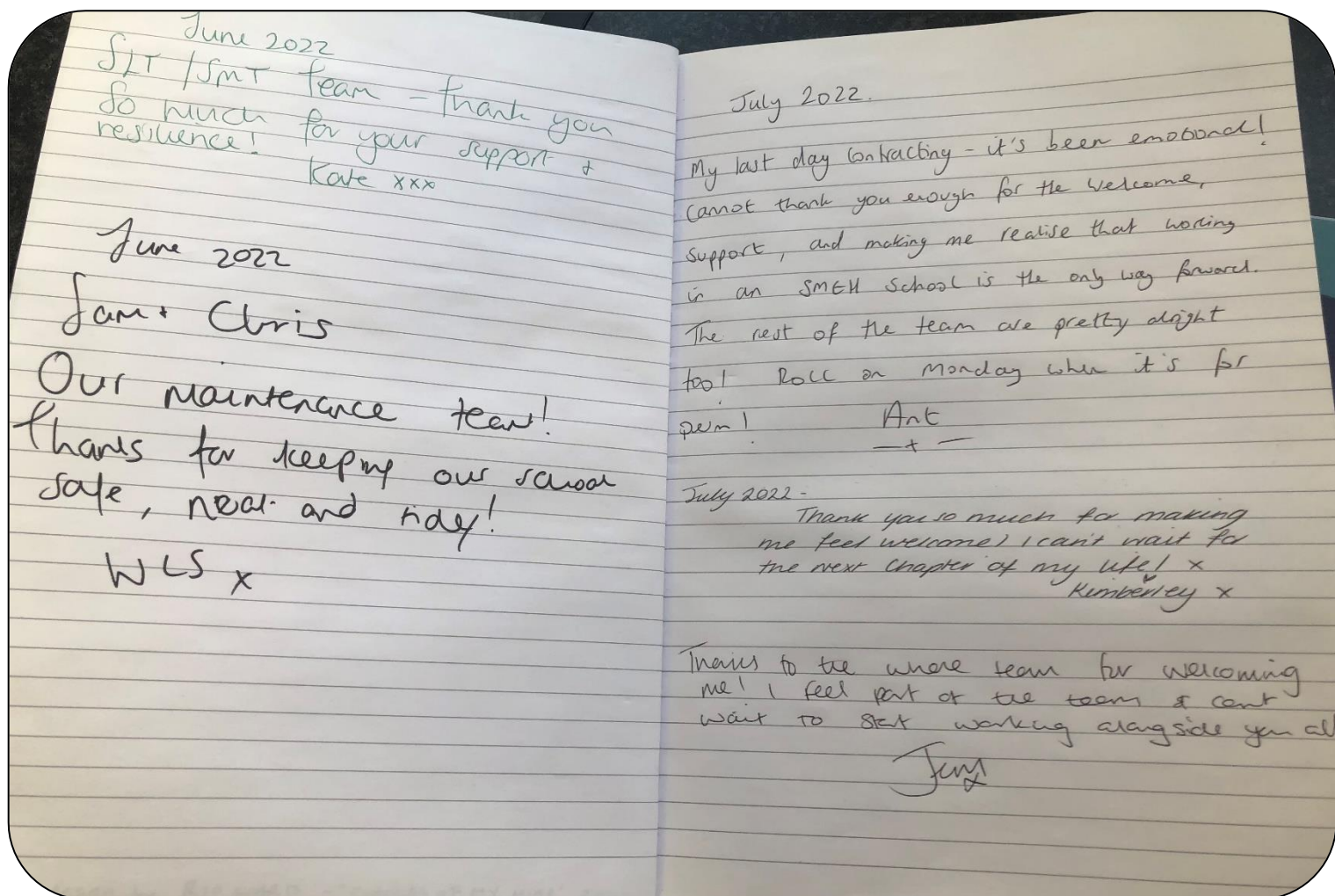
Thank you for allowing me to be part of your individual journeys and for entrusting the development and education of your child to this amazing team.

Leah Roberts

Farewell and thank you



Staff Compliments 2022



Parent Compliments 2022

Hi Andy,

I'm well Thankyou, hope you're well too.

That's really good to hear, I'm so happy he's happy and settled and making new friends. Everyone is always asking me how he's doing now and the change is amazing! He really is happy, and I've seen huge changes with him at home too. Nothing like he used to be, just always smiling and more affectionate towards everyone, even playing more with his siblings.

So a huge Thankyou to all of you there for making him feel so welcome and helping him settle.

Thanks again, Leanne.

Hi Lauren,

Thank you for the lovely email, it the first email in a long time that has painted a positive picture of Jake. He has been really happy after his sessions and doesn't appear at all overwhelmed or anxious which is totally unexpected.

Thanks for putting the effort in to make Jakes first sessions really positive and enabling him to start building positive attachments and relationships.

Have a great weekend.

Emily and Martin

Summer Party

Wessex Lodge School Summer Party

Tuesday 26th July 10:00am To 1:00pm Triskele Farm

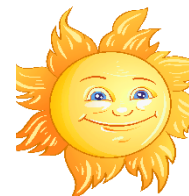
Join us for inflatable fun, carnival games and a BBQ

Ark Timetable
9:30-9:50 tutorial & safety briefing
10:15 arrive at the farm
10:20- 11:40 Inflatables and games
11:45 - 12:15 Lunch
12:15 return to the Ark
12:40 - 1:00 get ready to go home

Farm Timetable
9:30 - 10:00 tutorial/Farm tasks
10:00 - 10:15 Safety briefing
10:20 - 11:40 Inflatables and games
11:45 - 12:15 Lunch
12:15 - 12:50 Inflatables and games
12:50 - 1:00 get ready to go home

ALL FUN AND GAMES AT
OUR SUMMER
PARTY...INCLUDES
"SPLAT THE RAT"
CREATED BY HARRIOT DT





Schools out for Summer

Look after your wellbeing this summer - choose one, two or three activities to complete each week and tick them off as you go! Share your favourite activities on social media and tag @ThriveApproach in your post.

1. Nature week

Explore your garden or local park and see what you can find - sticks, leaves, feathers. Arrange your items on the ground to create a picture.

Make a cake for the birds. Make a small hole in the bottom of a yoghurt pot, thread some string through and tie a knot on the inside. Leave enough string so that you can hang the pot up. Cut some soft lard into pieces and mix with seeds, raisins and cheese. Fill the pots and put them in the fridge. Once set, hang where birds can enjoy, and you can watch them!

Plan a day out with your friends or family. Go for a walk, bike ride, swim or picnic and enjoy being outside in the fresh air.

Thrive's 6 weeks of summer

3. Mindfulness week

Put a blanket down outside and watch the clouds. Notice how they move and change shape, what do they look like? Take some deep breaths and pretend you're blowing the clouds along.

Go for a mindful walk in your local area. Notice the colours, sounds and smells around you. How does your body feel when you walk slowly or when you go up a hill?

Find a meditation or body scan video to help relax your mind and body. How does it make you feel?

2. Art Week

Create splatter painting! Dip your paint brush or spoon into the paint then flick your wrist to splatter the paint across the paper. Continue splattering with different colours and movements to create your masterpiece.

Make a fan for a hot day. Decorate one side of a paper plate then fold it in half so the blank side is on the inside. Staple the outer edges together and tape a lolly stick to the middle as a handle - your fan is ready to use!

Try continuous line drawing - the aim is to not take your pencil off the paper. It doesn't matter if it makes the drawing look scribbly or messy - that's part of the fun!

4. Gratitude week

Use the Thrive Gratitude Treasure Hunt to explore your surroundings and find things you're grateful for.

Make a jar of joy! Take note of joyful days, moments or feelings, write them down and put them in your jar. At the end of the year, open it up and remember all of the things that made you smile!

Say thank you to someone you care about by making them a surprise breakfast one morning.

5. Self-care week

Download the Thrive self-care bingo and see how many activities you can cross off in a week. Challenge your friends and family to do the same.

Plan a home spa day. Make your own natural facemasks, have a bubble bath or do your own pedicure. Do anything that makes you feel relaxed and special.

Research yoga and the benefits it can have on your mind and body. Try different poses and build your own sequence to practice.

6. Food week

Find a local market and see what food is on offer - is there something you've never tried before?

Have a picnic outside with your friends or family. Ask everyone to bring their favourite food to share with the group.

Get creative in the kitchen and cook a meal or snacks from a different country.

Yay, you've completed Thrive's 6 weeks of summer! Celebrate by downloading your certificate from thriveapproach.com/resources