

Wessex Lodge School

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Spring Newsletter 2024

It has been a very busy and eventful Spring term. Coming out of Winter is always a lovely time for our school, students and staff, when the days start getting lighter and the daffodils and bulbs start flowering, it has been a very wet Spring with flooding, resulting in the farm site having to be closed on two occasions. This is always a last resort, but staff managed to offer online work and homes and students were very understanding. The sites are both looking very good, with lots of work undertaken by our maintenance team; thanks to Chris and Sam who work tirelessly to manage all the maintenance and health and safety matters across sites.

Last week we sent out an email updating parents, homes, stakeholders/LAs and transport to announce our exciting news about a new school site for Wessex Lodge School. We are really excited about this site opening this September. This will enable us to have impact on more students and improve life outcomes. The site will be hugely complimentary to our existing school, and we look forward to welcoming new students and parents to our school community. This is an exciting expansion for our school, and we already have students referred to us for the primary school, which is an indication of the need in Wiltshire and Somerset and surrounding Local Authorities for additional spaces for students in specialist provision.

We had a wonderful world book day celebration with students having an opportunity to participate in some interesting activities, including meeting our local author Dominique and staff and students dressing up.

We have already had some pass exam results for Functional Skills exams (Maths and English) for our year 11 students, which is excellent for students who will be moving onto next steps such as College or apprenticeships. We have developed excellent links with local colleges, and we have a number of students on pre-16 programmes which is a great opportunity to test out college courses for when they leave our school.

Our staff have worked really hard to build a broad and exciting curriculum for our students and we have seen an increase in attendance and engagement, and an increase in SMSC and academic progress for most of our students, as we would expect at this time of year. All students will receive their End of Term reports before we break up for Easter break next week.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy Easter filled with peace and lots of chocolate.

Kate Stradling
Head Teacher

Wessex Lodge School



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Newmead News

As I write this it feels that, with everything that has gone on, January was such a long time ago. We have been through floods, ice, illness and so just wait for the plague of locusts! The students have been so resilient and shown increasing adaptability to change and maturity to increasing expectations. We welcomed new staff to the team, Millie, Joast, Dexter, Debbie and Harry. Millie joins us to help keep the site clean, a never-ending task and to serve lunches. Debbie joins us to help look after animals and ensure that we continue to provide high levels of care to all animals on the farm. Joast and Dexter work in the Orchard classes predominantly with Dexter bringing music to the increasing opportunities we offer. Joast is going to be the lead teacher in Oak class and has already started to work with Will to hand over. Harry is part of the outdoor Ed team and is already planning Duke of Edinburgh provision for the coming year.

As well as improvements to the site with buildings being reroofed, guttering replaced as well as the front area concreted there is much to celebrate. We are seeing some great outcomes from the DT workshop, some well-deserved results in academic exams, home cooking skills continues to produce some incredible results with more and more students engaging and producing everything from cookies to curries. Our outdoor Ed programme has seen greater engagement as students have been learning map reading and navigation skills ending with some successful treasure hunts and Geocaching. The Forest school area in site continues to grow with our new yurt fully installed, insulated, and tied down to survive the Maiden Bradley 'westerlies'. In recent days we have seen the construction of a new cabin for the Forest school area which will provide another learning and exploration space for students.

Perhaps the greatest progress continues to be seen in the small day to day interactions where we see our students engaging with each other and forming friendships. To balance our desire to provide individual TT's and outcomes for each student requires some real skill and dedication. I would like to thank all the staff who daily give of their best to help students develop and grow. It is heartwarming to see the interactions between students and staff. It was great to have that reinforced in recent weeks by stakeholders and visitors all of whom commented on the connections between adults and the young people. I would like to thank the staff all publicly for their dedication each day in striving to give the best days they can to the students.

From all at the Farm site we wish you a Happy Easter and look forward to seeing the students on the 15th April.

Ben Coombes

Deputy Head Teacher – Newmead Farm

Upcoming events:

Following the success of last year's summer Fete we will be holding a similar event this year. As with all events in this part of the world we like to build the suspense by holding back the line-up of events. However, a little birdy is saying this year will include some musical performances. The event will be for charity, so we are looking for donations for the raffle and tombola. If you, family, friends or business are willing to offer prizes please do get in contact with Kat by email at katrinac@enhancedlearningservices.co.uk. Further information will be available as plans are finalised. We will very much hope you will all be able to attend.

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Ark News

It has been a successful term at the Ark, we have seen great progress from students within their academics, friendships, resilience, and overall work ethic. As a site, we have had maintenance work done on our garden to freshen it up and to add to our already lovely outdoor space. The students are looking forward to using the swing again, which will soon have the added safety of fresh resin. We have been fortunate to acquire a number of fresh fruit trees which the students have helped plant and water - many of our young people have expressed their excitement to watch the trees grow and use the fruit for their Home Cooking Skills lessons.

This term we have had visits from the local PCSO, various local authorities and the schools' governors as well as many prospective parents. All have said that the school is a fantastic place, and everyone is always amazed by the relationships between staff and students and the work ethic of all our students. Enrichment opportunities have increased given the (slight) change in weather. We welcome back swimming, forest school and outdoor education, and next term our young people will be able to access the local green spaces for their PE lessons. We were able to collapse our timetable for World Book Day where both of our sites merged to complete a range of activities and to share a love of reading by dressing up as their favourite superheroes. One of our young people quoted "I didn't want to dress up as any superhero because all of my teachers here are my heroes".

We are delighted with the continuation of support from our clinical team, and our young people who have timetabled sessions and are able to access time they find it beneficial and have expressed how much they enjoy their sessions. At the start of the academic year we began to work alongside, and implement a TIP (Trauma Informed Practice) approach within our provision, and we are beginning to see the positive impacts it is having on our young people and staff members.

I would also like to add my thanks to all the staff for their hard work and support at the Ark (and farm!) site this term. The last couple of weeks have been slightly challenging in different contexts (the students have been brilliant!) and everyone has pulled together to show what an amazing team we have here at Wessex Lodge.

Before the end of term, our students will be attending their 'end of term enrichment activity' which they access by accumulating a number of points for an academic term; per lesson, day, week etc. for their engagement, quality of work, and embracing/ following school values. We wish students and families a Happy Easter and we hope not too much chocolate is consumed over the holidays. We look forward to welcoming our young people back for the start of summer term.

Ant West
Head of Education

Dragonflies

Since the start of the year Dragonflies have settled back well and have worked well as a class.

In **English** this term we have been looking at the story Ratburger written by David Walliams, we have been reading the book and looking at the language he has used and the storyline. The students have enjoyed listening to the story but also listening to other authors and have group discussions.

Maths, we have been focusing on adding and subtractions this term Dragonflies have had a lot of resilience when it came to this topic.

In **Humanities** dragonflies have shown interest in Peace in other religions and how others go to pray. This half term we have been learning about the Tudors, we have been talking about Henry the VIII wives and creating Tudor houses out of nature.

Lilly has really enjoyed equine this term at the Farm especially when she was able to groom the Shetlands and make them look spectacular.

Jayden and Harry spent hours this term taking apart the computer tower and learning how each part works... but then had the challenge of putting it back together. In which they made another computer work!

Dragonflies made a great piece of art and everyone in the school got involved to create one piece for the window wanderland.

Chloe May



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WILDCATS

It was an amazing term for the Wildcats. Pete, Bailey, Alex and Hussein warmly welcomed Laurie, who settled in well. They all embraced each other's differences and formed strong bonds. They all love dragons and Laurie crafted beautiful costumes for her classmates.

It was delightful to witness their enthusiasm and dedication during learning and all the activities in which they participated.

All students actively participated in swimming sessions, showing commendable progress. Their cooking sessions with Andrea were also a hit, allowing them to acquire valuable culinary skills.

In Wildcats, on Friday, we have Art lessons. It is a calming and relaxing session where the children can sit and express themselves freely.

Wildcats loved going to the Farm on Fridays where they interact with the animals, use the gym and play badminton. It is a nurturing and relaxing afternoon at the end of the week that promotes calm and playfulness.

We recently had World Book Day. Wildcats headed over to the farm for a treasure hunt and a science experiment with rockets. The whole class worked as a team and had a really fun time.

On International Women's Day, the Boulder Rooms in Frome generously provided free opportunities for our female students. Alex particularly enjoyed climbing and had a fantastic time.

Well done!

Rossana



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In **Gecko's Class** we have had an outstandingly positive term. The class have shown that they can embrace differences and encourage everyone to learn from one another. Together, we have all created a fun and safe classroom community. The class have challenged themselves in their core learning and their confidence and progression reflects all their hard work. In other areas of their learning, the class have taken a keen interest in computer building, sensory play, and DT. We look forward to making and sharing new memories in the summer term! ~ Lauren



Butterflies

Since the start of the year, Butterflies have a new tutor. We have all been getting to know each other over the course of the last 8 weeks.

In **English** this term, we have been looking at descriptive writing. We have written several short pieces of descriptive writing about pets or landscapes to show off our incredible writing skills to our new tutor.

In maths, we have been focusing on decimals, place value and a bit of algebra too. We have shown resilience and determination to make some great progress with our maths.

We have taken a real interest in Geography this term and we have been enjoying learning as many countries of the world as we can. We are beginning to learn atlas skills so we can use various types of maps to find out all sorts of geographical information.

Val has started attending college this term to learn animal care. He is working really hard every Monday, getting stuck in with all sorts of jobs relating to caring for animals from cows to reptiles.



Jake has started having regular DT lessons at the farm. He has used various tools including a lathe to make a brilliant rolling pin. Jake has found DT to be a subject he really enjoys, and we look forward to seeing what his next project is.

Jake, Jacob and Abbie have been doing some excellent cooking this term. They have made all sorts of wonderful dishes such as apple crumble, macaroni cheese and stir fry.



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HOME COOKING SKILLS- THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT THIS TERM.....



As we wrap up another fulfilling term here at Wessex Lodge School, we are excited to share some highlights from our kitchen adventures focusing on health, safety, and culinary skills.

Throughout this term, our students have dived into the world of kitchen health and safety, honing their knife skills with enthusiasm and dedication. Through engaging recipes, our students have had the opportunity to explore the crucial concepts of cross-contamination, knife safety, and culinary techniques.

In our kitchen, collaboration and independence have been at the forefront. Students have been actively participating in group cooking sessions, fostering teamwork and communication skills while preparing delicious meals. Simultaneously, they have been encouraged to take initiative and work independently, building confidence and self-reliance in the kitchen.

In line with our commitment to holistic education, we have emphasized the importance of budget-friendly home-cooked meals. Our students have discovered the satisfaction of creating nutritious dishes without breaking the bank, empowering them to make informed choices about their food and budget management.

We are immensely proud of the progress our students have made this term, both in the kitchen and beyond. Their dedication, resilience, and willingness to learn have been truly inspiring to witness.

Warm regards,

Paola Villalobos Jacks & Andrea Stuart-Young
Home Cooking Skills



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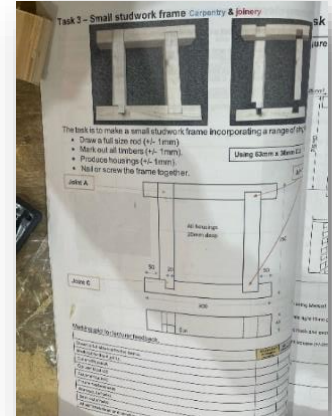
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“Round the corners of the world I turn, more and more about the world I learn”

Leo has been doing carpentry at **Wiltshire College** and he started working on framework, the work he accomplished has included independently following a design/blueprint, using maths to figure out what measurements were needed for the wood, using a carpenter's square to mark off measurements accurately and a saw to cut them to size. He has learnt how to control a saw by sawing gradually and not the whole way through.

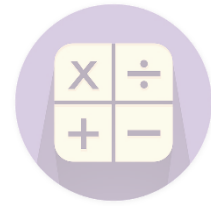


Val started **Lackham college** this term doing Animal care. Val has adapted really well to this and has put in a 100% each time he goes. He has been working independently and with the other students on the course. This has been a massive step for Val and has massively pushed him out of his comfort zone.

We are all very proud of Val for taking this next step.



Maths



As we are now in spring hopefully the worst of the weather is behind us. That is certainly one reason to celebrate. Another reason to celebrate is our maths assessments. For many of our learners this is the third time they have taken a Starr Assessment. There has been some amazing academic progress but also personal progress to celebrate. Learners have asked for paper to work out answers, completed the assessment in one sitting, answered every question and not left the classroom even when the questions were difficult. All fantastic reasons to celebrate our learner's progress and engagement with their maths lessons.

We also have lots of year 10 and 11 learners who are working very hard towards their GCSE and Functional Skills qualifications. We wish them all the best for their exams in the summer term.



On 6th February 5 students took part in a Level 2 Student First Aid course and each were awarded Certificates, it was run by our Futures Advisor Oli Masters.

The day was a massive success, with all students walking away with a qualification.

We would like to run more First Aid courses in the future and any interested students should contact our Careers Lead Laura Gregg.



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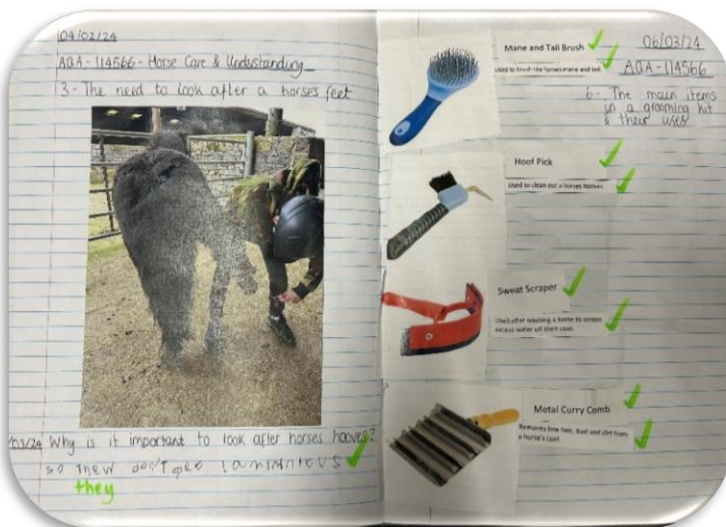
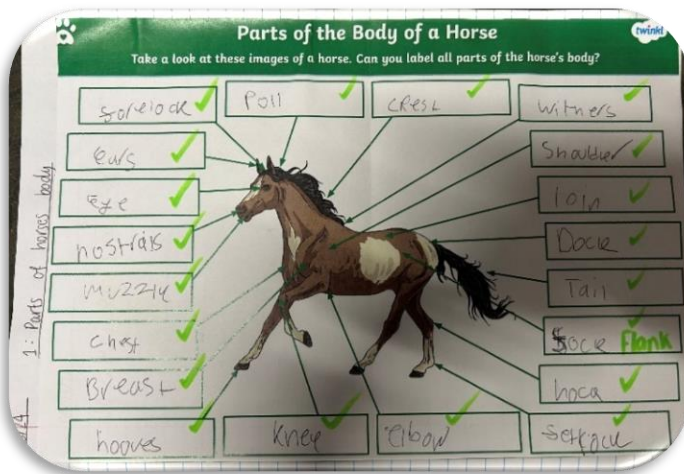
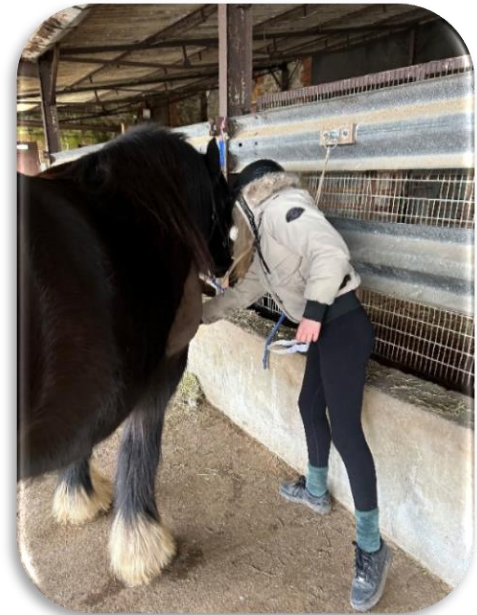
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This term in *Equine* the students have been working on gaining their AQA certificate in Horse Care & Understanding. Some of the topics in this unit have involved showing knowledge of parts of the horse and understanding the types of brushes in a grooming kit. The students have demonstrated their knowledge both practically and in theory work in their books. It has been a brilliant term, and everyone has worked hard. The students should be very proud of the work they have been producing and demonstrating.

Laura James



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On the rainy days in *Equine* we have had, a few students have been working on creating displays to go up in our farm classroom. They are amazing pieces of Art, and we cannot wait to have them up on display. Also joined in class by our resident Ponies 😊



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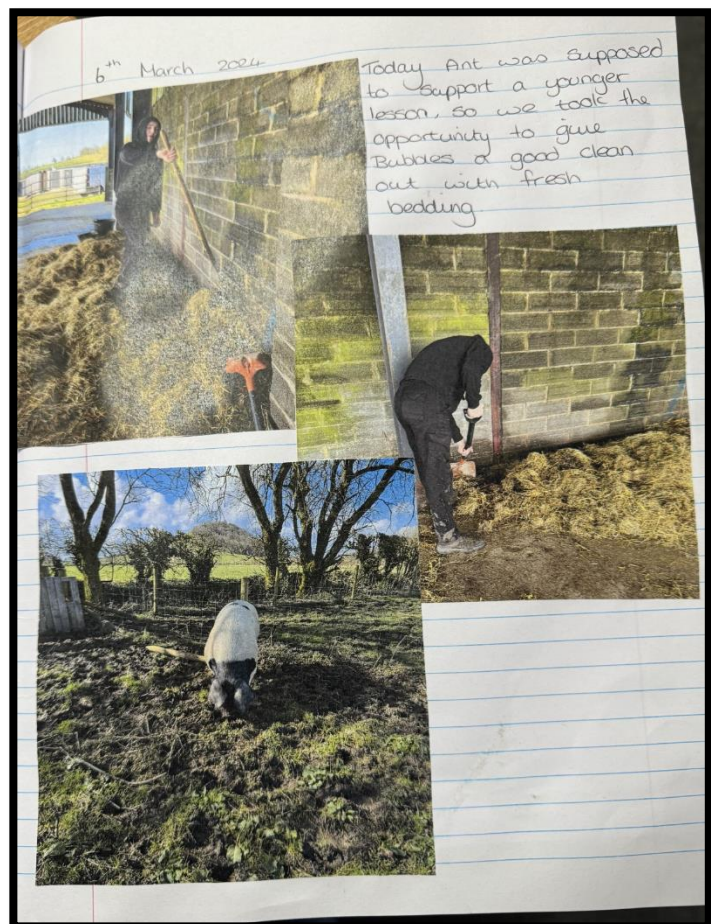
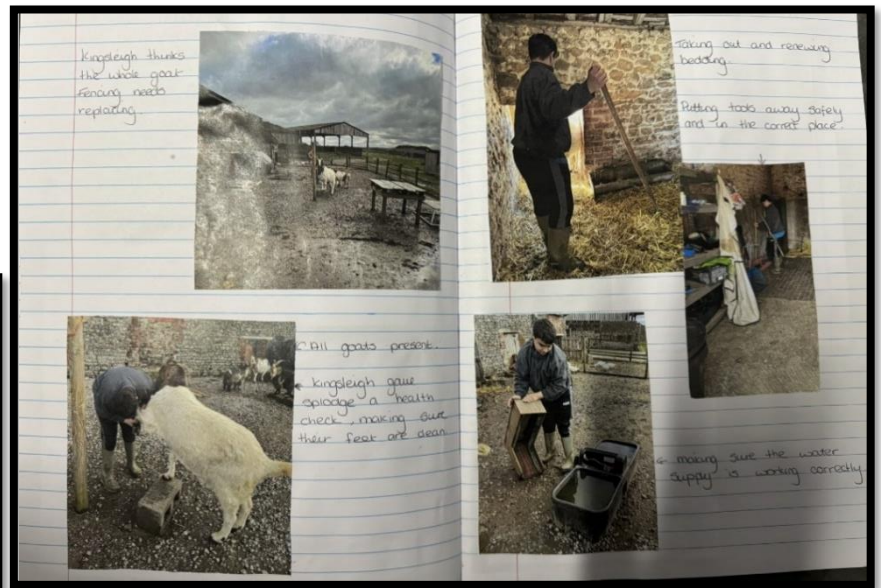
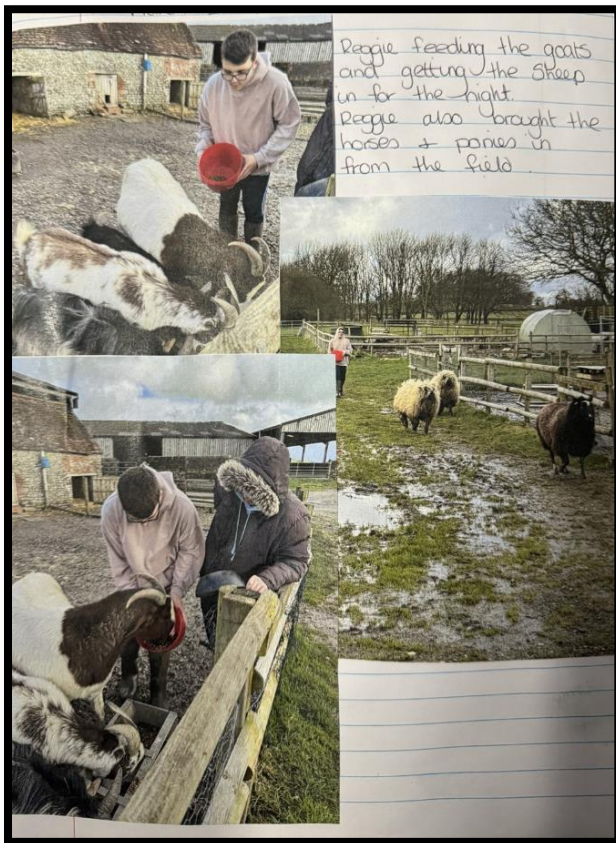
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This term the children have been doing various AQAs relating to animal care and wellbeing, they have all been very hands on with their tasks with a lot of fun along the way.

~Jo Sherred

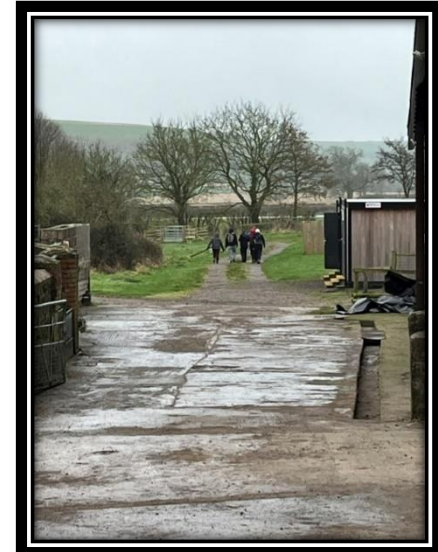


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The pupils in outdoor education lessons this term have been learning and developing their map reading skills. These include understanding and using grid references on a map. Using a map to navigate from one point to another. Taking a bearing using a compass so that they could navigate in terrain with no features or in poor weather conditions. These skills have been put to the test in several activities. This included a treasure hunt around the farm site using a map to find various control points with clues. An orienteering course around the farmland to find ten control points using grid references. Then we did some geocaching firstly onsite using grid references and then offsite using the geocaching app. The use of technology in navigating was explored using GPS (global positioning Satellites) equipment as well as ordnance survey locate app.

This culminated in the groups planning a route from the Farm to Trout Pond Wood. This included considering what equipment to take with them which included extra equipment and shelters if there was an emergency. Safety procedures and the countryside code were also considered in the planning.

These walks were all undertaken in groups with supervision at a distance giving them independence to make decisions on their own about their safety and their navigation. It was a great experience for them. Nobody got lost and more importantly a lot of great work was done towards the future participation in an expedition for a **Bronze** Duke of Edinburgh Award. – **Stuart Hamilton PE & Outdoor Ed Lead**

Introducing our new Outdoor Education Instructor, Harrison Brown.

"A constant love of everything outdoors. Ex British military. A qualified mountain leader, Paddle sports instructor, Rock climbing instructor and climbing coach. Willing to help facilitate education, growth or just have fun wherever that may be"....

Physical Education

PE at the Farm:

Pupils across all key stages at our institution have actively participated in a range of activities aimed at enhancing their physical development. These activities include basketball, volleyball, hockey, and rugby, each contributing to the pupils' overall skill set. Swimming has also been incorporated as part of our physical education programme to further strengthen the pupils' abilities in water-based activities.

We have been fortunate to utilize the excellent facilities available at the Leighton Sports Centre in Westbury, as well as the YMCA in Frome. These venues have provided a suitable environment in which our pupils have had the opportunity to explore and develop their skills across these diverse activities.

The inclusion of basketball has allowed pupils to improve their hand-eye coordination, agility, and teamwork. Through volleyball, they have learned the importance of communication, spatial awareness, and strategic thinking. Furthermore, hockey has fostered skills in quick decision-making, coordination, and endurance. Lastly, rugby has served as an avenue for pupils to develop physical strength, teamwork, and leadership qualities.

It has been delightful to witness the teams working collaboratively within their groups. In some instances, certain pupils have displayed exceptional leadership qualities, taking the initiative to lead warm-up sessions. This level of engagement and enthusiasm demonstrates the positive impact such activities can have on our pupils' personal and social development.

By investing in these physical activities and promoting skill enhancement across key stages, we firmly believe that we are equipping our pupils with important life skills. Not only are they building physical strength and coordination, but they are also developing qualities such as teamwork, leadership, communication, and resilience – attributes that will undoubtedly benefit them both inside and outside the classroom.

In conclusion, our provision of basketball, volleyball, hockey, rugby, and swimming has enabled our pupils to explore new skills and develop existing ones. We are proud to witness their growth and commend the efforts of both the pupils and the instructors who have made these opportunities possible.

- Stuart Hamilton PE and Outdoor Ed Lead

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PE At the Ark:

PE this term has had so many positives across the two sites this term with each student showing amazing progress whether that is in teamwork, ability or even being able to access PE for the first time.

At the beginning of term our focus with The Orchard was basketball, as this is the first time they've had a group PE session it of course came with challenges and learning curves but each week they were able to dust themselves off, forget any incidents from the previous week and continue to engage in the lesson. These lessons also highlighted some of the natural leaders we have at the school, by being able to support each other and help coach some of the other students who may be at a different level. Being able to rely on these students has made it possible for these students to access PE for the first time which has increased social skills, confidence and benefiting their physical and mental health.

At The Ark PE has continued to be very settled with the students learning new skills during our volleyball lessons. Whilst the students found this very challenging it's a testament to how far they've come by being able to stick at the challenge and improve each week. This term we have been able to split the group up and allowed some of the leaders to step up and support me more in a coaching role which has been amazing to see. This has actually helped some of our less confident students engage in PE as it allowed me to work closer with them and integrate them into our main PE group.

Next term I am looking forward to the return of our British sun and being able to take the group outside for summer sports.

- Andy Smith

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We had a **Super World Book Day** this year!

Staff and students dressed up to show off their secret superpowers and we had some super villains as well.

We had a brilliant range of activities on offer for students.

Ian stepped up at the last minute to take over 'Bottle Rockets'. Students followed instructions to build their own and also used a kit to create some very high-flying rockets! For those students who worked very hard at the bumping the rockets even went higher than the house. I'm not sure staff were expecting to have to hunt through the bushes and trees for the rockets that escaped but they found them all.

Laura created an engaging Careers session where students looked into the jobs that superheroes have had in different comics. Students also used a job to design their own superhero and created lots of different characters.

Dominique ran a session as our author, engaging our students in how they could make a book more appealing to different age ranges. This consideration of target audiences and reading ages was brilliant, and she had great support for how to make her own book, *'This is Precious'* appealing to teenagers as well.



Super biscuits were decorated by students. Paola and Andrea giving students superhero themed inspiration and celebrating them in their creativity. I was very disappointed by how few biscuits made their way down to my English cabin!

Lots of students did very well on their Treasure Hunt, working as a team to solve the riddles and solve the clues around the site. It was wonderful to have students from the Ark coming over to take part in this activity as well.

The costume parade at the end of the day was brilliant. We had two winners, a staff and student. The staff winner had to be Jemma as 'Captain Underpants' though Laura as 'Super doctor' had to get a special mention. Helen was our only super villain, coming as Catwoman. Our student winner was Logan as our friendly school Spiderman.

Thank you to all staff, students, and homes who supported today. It was wonderful to see how many students were engaged throughout the day and how many of them.



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There have been lots of exciting changes to Education at Wessex Lodge School over the last few months. We are working on the acquisition of Wessex Lodge Primary and the additional students we are excited to welcome to our school in September. In order to prepare for this change we are introducing a new phonics program, Rocket Phonics by Rising Stars which we will be implementing and giving training on before the new academic year in September. The Education Management Team have been busy preparing their subjects for the future of the school which has included their three-year Curriculum Action Plans and consistent Wessex Lodge School assessment and progress language so that we can record and celebrate all progress made across the school.

Each term our students complete STAR Assessments in Reading and Numeracy. The levels of engagement this term have been the highest we've ever had and we're very proud to say that the majority of students have made progress in the reading and maths skills. This attests to the hard work of our students in addition to the dedication of our staff.

Subject deep dives have been continuing throughout the academic year, with all subjects being seen and reviewed. It has been really exciting to see work produced by the students and to go into lessons. Seeing what experiences our students have across the school in all of their lessons has been a privilege and we look forward to what they are able to build/write/cook/draw next!

Bethany Vowles
Head of Education

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After another half term getting to know your young people, we've had the pleasure of having some 1:1 session's with specific individuals and been supporting each child with the ongoing universal level of support offered as part of the

clinical team general offer.

One of the reoccurring themes we have identified is difficulties with sleep and so we thought it might be helpful to share a few tips to support sleep.

- **Consistent routine around bedtime** – provides cues to the body for what comes next.
- **Bathing before bed** – for those who enjoy a bath, the act of cooling down post bath releases natural melatonin that helps sleep.
- **Identifying the peak and trough patterns in circadian rhythms and work alongside this** – we ordinarily wake at a peak and in approx. 90 minutes reach our next peak that continues throughout the day, thus if there is a peak then we know 45 minutes later there would be a dip. From this pattern we can identify the best time to go to bed: approx. 10-15 minutes before the dip, although be mindful to give additional time to calm and regulate ahead of attending bed to coincide with a dip.
- **Reducing sensory stimuli within the bedroom:** visual - black out blinds, auditory - white noise (e.g. a desk fan on nearby or specific white noise sounds via an app to create a constant level of auditory stimuli that supports an individual to habituate to the sound whilst overriding other subtle auditory stimuli that may ordinarily alert the sensory system), tactile - textures of bedding aligned with your young persons tactile preferences, olfactory - be mindful of the calming or alerting impact of smells during bedtime routine and that can be smelt from the bed.
- **Reduce time in bed trying to sleep:** after a duration of 20-30 minutes attempting to sleep – in bed with no stimuli –leaving the bed and bedroom to complete a calming activity ahead of returning again after a similar duration, supports the brain-body connection and associations with the purpose of the bed being for sleep.
- **Weighted blankets** – for those utilising weighted blankets best practice guidance is not to exceed 10% of an individuals body weight and to use to support transition into sleep, not exceeding 20 minutes, ahead of removing to prevent habituation.

We love talking all things sleep, and frankly just all things so please do reach out if you ever have anything for your young person that you wish to discuss.

For further info on sleep (as part of the Royal College Of Occupational Therapist Lift Up Your Everyday campaign) please visit rcot.co.uk/sleep.

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ASDAN

In ASDAN studies this year, Spring has seemed a long time coming! Some students stayed warm in the cabin and focussed on research.

Nathan has been completing a spy themed media review and compared the comedy 'Spy Next Door' with a far from funny SpyOps documentary that looked at the real-life rescue of a soviet double agent from Moscow. Nathan gave the documentary series the higher rating because it was so interesting.



Work with students offsite has had a travel theme and Leon planned and undertook his first train journey, being mindful of safety rules around trains and learning to read timetables and book tickets.

TROWBRIDGE (TRO)												
Mondays to Fridays												
operator	GW	GW	GW	SW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW
depart	08:12	08:42	07:07	07:29	07:44	08:08	08:52	08:58	10:26			
arrive	09:40	07:08	07:24	07:51	08:06	08:24	08:58	09:20	10:48			
operator	GW	SW	GW	GW	SW	GW	GW	GW	SW	GW	GW	GW
depart	10:54	11:52	12:53	14:52	15:31	15:26	15:52	15:01	15:56			
arrive	11:10	12:58	13:09	14:58	15:07	15:46	17:08	18:24	20:19			
operator	GW	GW	GW	SW	GW							
depart	20:18	20:58	21:35	22:46	22:52							
arrive	20:50	21:22	21:51	23:42	23:42							
Saturdays and Sundays												
operator	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	SW	GW	GW			

Braving the weather we have also had trips out to the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Bovington Tank Museum and Haynes Motor Museum. A travel extravaganza! ~Jaki How



This term in forest school we have braved all weather from rain, sun, snow and even a bit more rain for the fun of it. Whilst the students found it challenging at times its moments like this where their resilience is put to the test and for it closer to achieving the potential we all know they have.

This term we have focussed on tool and fire safety followed by den building. The students enjoyed learning new skills and working with students with whom they would not usually work. A huge positive this term has been seeing the students' social skills increase massively during our lessons from having their own time together and playing in the woods. This has helped create new friendships for them to take back to school.

Our forest school lessons have also helped students engage in school for the first time in years as they are away from the pressure of school environment and other obstacles they may have. Being able to learn in a completely different way to suit the students' needs is what the school is all about and the success it brings is clear for everyone to see.

As we move into the warmer months and hopefully seeing less rain, we will be making our camp more summer friendly with rope swings and seeing what wildlife we share it with. – Andy Smith

Wessex Lodge School

Outcomes
First
Group.

ACORN
Better days, Better lives

CARE | ADAPTABILITY | RESILIENCE | EMPATHY



Our school has been awarded the **Bronze** accreditation status for Outcomes First Groups Trauma Informed Practice. This focus has been bolstered by our already existing Thrive approach where they work collaboratively, giving staff access to further strategies, information, and guidance to provide additional connections and support for our young people.

What is Trauma the Informed Practice?

Dr. Leanne Johnson has developed the 3 Cs Model of Trauma Informed Practice – Connect, Co-Regulate and Co-Reflect. It is a comprehensive approach based on the current evidence base, emphasising the importance of relationships that young people require in trauma recovery. The Trauma Informed Practice approach encourages schools to standardise their practice through the lens of Connect, Co-Regulate and Co-Reflect. This is achieved by our already embedded Thrive strategies and our 3 B's that support therapeutic boundary setting.

Trauma Informed Practice The 3 C's



Connection

Connect helps reach out to young people so they feel 'seen' and kept in mind.

PACE
Safe and Trusting Relationships
Meet and Greet
Nurturing Rituals
Random Acts of Kindness
Unexpected Praise
Relationship Repair



Co-Regulate

Co-Regulate develops and supports a sense of safety in the young person and their environment.

Therapeutic Anchor Points
Consistency, Predictability, Structure, Boundaries, Repetition
Safety in the Environment
Brainstem Calming
Grounding Skills
Emotions Coaching
My Emotions Plan



Co-Reflect

Co-Reflect is to support with therapeutic boundaries to develop safe and effective ways of being.

The Two Hands Approach
Non-Shaming
Natural and Logical Consequences
Learning New and Safe Ways of Being
Reflective Time
Inclusive Boundaries

Our 3 B's



BE SAFE

In the Classroom
Around Others

On the Farm
In the Community

BE RESPECTFUL

Of Ourselves
Of Property

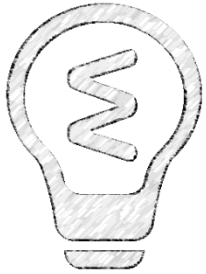
Of Others
Of the Environment

BE KIND

To Ourselves
To Animals

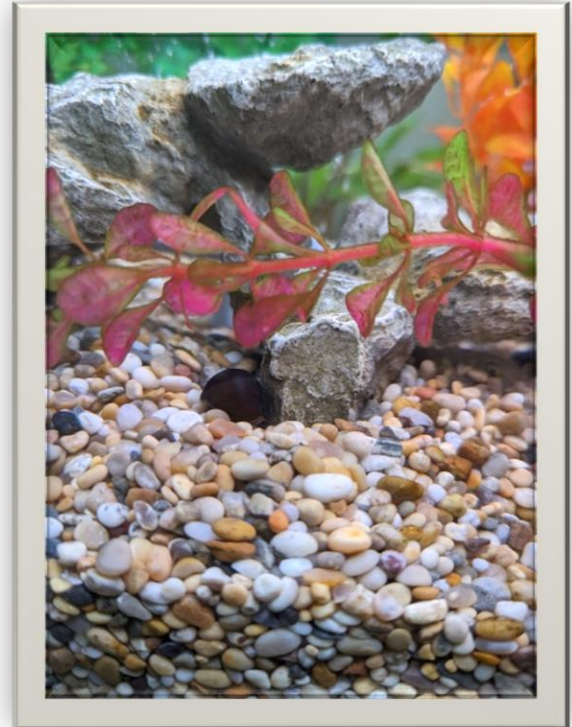
To Each Other
Celebrate Wins





THE WONDER OF SCIENCE

This term in science we have been continuing to build up the fish tank. With the newest addition being "Flash" the snail (see attached picture). For those working towards their GCSE's we have been working on conservation of energy and understanding the electro-magnetic spectrum. At the ark we have been looking at electricity and circuits, understanding how voltage affect the brightness of bulbs. We have also been looking at sound and understand how we hear things. Testing how distance affect the loudness of a sound.



Design & Technology

The DT workshop has had huge improvements and is now a much more complete facility. New machinery has been purchased and tooling acquired.

The children have been using this to produce some excellent work including rolling pins, Xbox controller stand and display plinths.

The facility is planned to keep growing and challenge and test the student practical skills.



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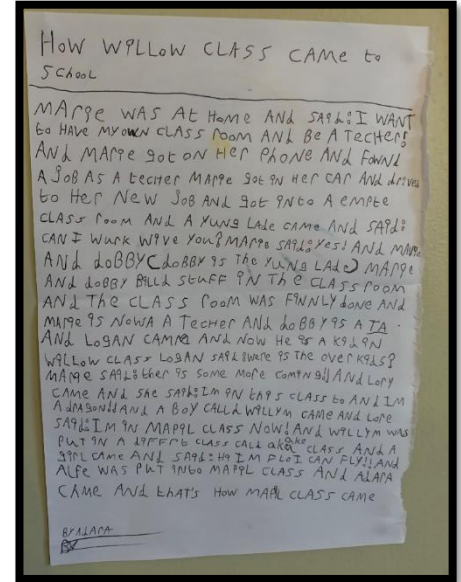


Orchard News

This term we have been developing their communication and interaction skills by spending time in the community.

So far, we have visited the Bristol Museum, The Fleet Air Arm, the Royal Signals Museum and the Tank Museum as well as having a walk around Weston Sea Front. Individually the boys have been off doing core offsite then exploring and fishing.

Work by Willow Class:



ART

This term students have looked at colour theory and Impressionism. They have learned what the primary, secondary, and tertiary colours are, as well as how each is made. In the impressionism project they've learned to use colour theory to create colour schemes of accurate colours and then creating some landscape images.

In the second half term, students have been looking at Hundertwasser, an Austrian artist who spent his childhood hiding in plain sight from the Nazi's. His work is childish, playful, and expressive. Students have created a range of drawings using continuous line, where they don't take their pencil off the page. Blind drawings where they can't look at the paper they're drawing on and opposite hand drawings. These tasks force students to think outside the box and put them under pressure, pushing them to their window of tolerance to create fun and playful pieces where the outcome isn't the focus.



COLOUR THEORY

