



Lancasterian

Inspiring each other and growing together to achieve our best

Inspire – Grow – Achieve



Autumn Newsletter

December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

It is that time of year again, our first term of the year is done and Christmas is here. We have had an amazing term with all the Lancasterian Family, new and old, pupils, staff and families, showing how they demonstrate our ethos of **Inspiring** each other to **Grow** and **Achieve** the best they can.

This term we have extended our enrichment curriculum to the whole school now and added a number of new activities. In the high school we have resurrected the radio and the radio club are doing a podcast for the school every few weeks. They are currently working on a drama podcast. The primary school are now being included in the weekly cycling club and also have a cookery club and wheelchair dancing. Our Rose Café is still going well and regularly providing toasties and amazing cakes, baked by our own pupils, to the pupils, staff and visitors.

Our new teacher, Matt Jenkins has also started 2 after school clubs. A wheelchair football club and a multi-sports club. He is keen for us to start to join in with the various sports competitions and events around the greater Manchester area.

The whole school were involved this year in our Christmas productions. The high school amazed everyone and definitely gave some of the famous comedians a run for their money. The primary pupils as always rose to the occasion and performed brilliantly, it was great to showcase how confident all the pupils are. Thank you to all the parents who came to support the pupils in their performances.

Thank you for supporting with the Christmas fair and our very first after school disco. The pupils love to be able to share these events with their families and it is a lovely opportunity for the pupils to socialise with others. Look out for our next disco, perhaps one about love!

As always our Lancasterian family has been growing and changing. Jo Chambers from our outreach service has already gone on her maternity leave, we are waiting to hear about the wonderful arrival very soon. Melinda Hartley from Lavender class is also expecting her first child and will be going on maternity leave after the first week in January. We all wish her the best for her new addition and I am sure everyone will welcome the new teacher, Laura Gove, who will be taking over in Lavender next term.

Livvy Walker and Chris Panter are also leaving us for pastures new. Livvy is moving to be nearer her family and Chris has a wonderful new opportunity to extend his skills developing the inclusion provision in a mainstream high school. While we are sorry to see them go, we do wish them well in their new jobs/roles, I am sure they will be fantastic.

We are welcoming back Sumrina Shiekh in Birch Class. She has returned from her sabbatical in Australia and we can't wait to hear all about her adventures.

I am looking forward to next term and seeing what new ways our staff and pupils can work together to **Inspire, Grow and Achieve**.

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.

Alison

Alison Randall



Christmas Celebrations

Towards the end of this term we have had many exciting events in preparation and celebration of Christmas.

On 5th December we held our annual **Christmas fair** where we had lots of stall, games, food and even Santa in his grotto! The fair was well attended and we raised lots of money for our school fund.

On 10th December some classes attended a **magic show** and disco in the school hall. This was organized and funded by our community partner Siemens.

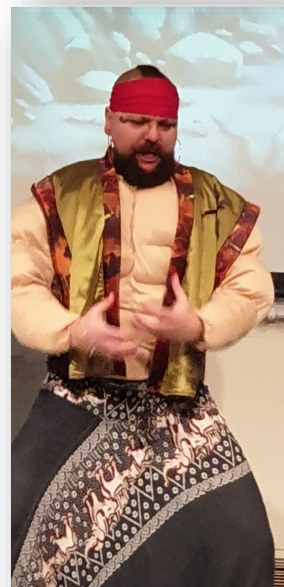
On the 11th and 12th December we had our Primary and High School **Christmas concerts**. The pupils and staff worked very hard to put on an amazing performance which showcased all of our wonderful pupils.

On 19th December we had our **Christmas party** day including the annual staff **pantomime**. This year it was Aladdin and the staff who participated gave the whole school an outstanding performance. All of the pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed it.

Aladdin



Oh no it isn't



Lavender class

We have all settled into Lavender Class with a smile on our faces. We love coming to school.



We have been reading 'The Colour Monster'. We sorted out colours and spoke about different moods.

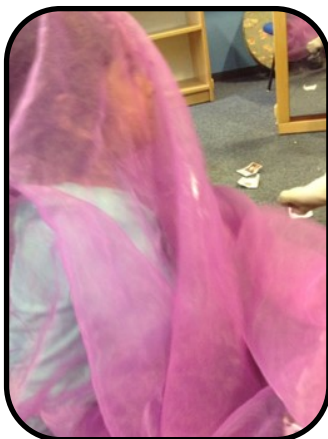


We love enrichment on Friday afternoons. We play lots of fun ball games.

We enjoyed celebrating different festivals. We had fun doing activities around Halloween, Bonfire Night, Children in Need, Diwali and



We have loved engaging in lots of sensory exploration. We love to learn through experiencing new things.



Blossom Class

In Blossom Class we have been learning about Ourselves. We've been looking at the different body parts we have, what emotions look like, and our different senses using sensory play.



In Maths we have been learning about numbers to 10, one more and one less. We have done this through nursery rhymes. We have also been learning about 2d shapes and have become very good at matching them.

We have been developing our gymnastics skills in P.E, we have been climbing up the climbing frames, moving through tunnels and moving on and over different objects. We also have been enjoying ball games and have been working on our catching, throwing and kicking skills.



We have loved our music sessions with Ro on a Friday morning. We have been looking at different rhythms and exploring different instruments.



Sunflower Class

This term our theme has been 'Ourselves' and we have focused on making things happen with our body, investigating the world around us and finding out about each other.

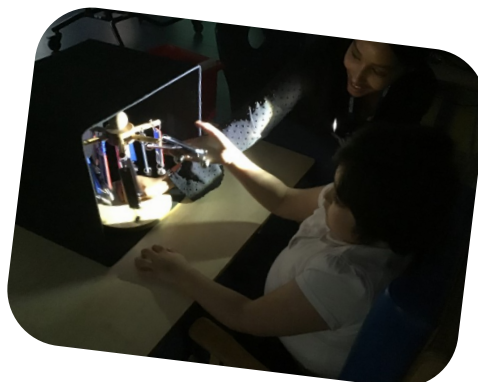


We've loved being creative and have had lots of messy play and tactile exploration with things like warm mashed potato, spice paintings for Diwali, painting on bubble wrap and mirrors under the lights.



We have been using switch toys and musical activities to practise learning about cause and effect.

We went on an Autumn adventure in drama to explore lots of different objects, sounds, scents and things to look at.

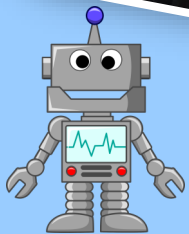
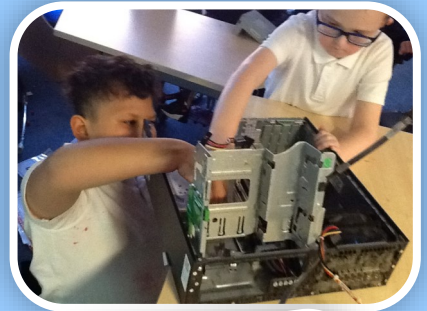


Our sensory story 'Cocoon' was about a caterpillar who falls asleep and wakes up a beautiful butterfly- we loved the stars under the umbrella.

Jasmine class

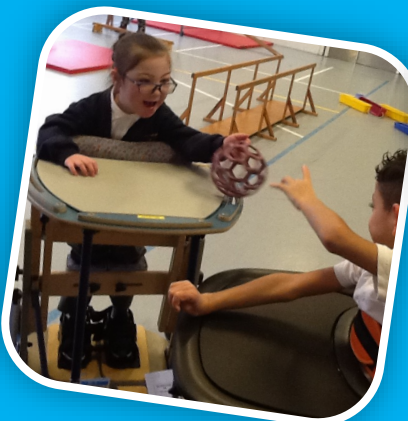
This term Jasmine Class have had a lot of fun learning new things.

In computing we started with Robots and Bee Bots, we enjoyed getting the robots to dance and race, and teaching the Bee Bots how to draw. We then took computers apart to see what was inside- and found all the motherboards.



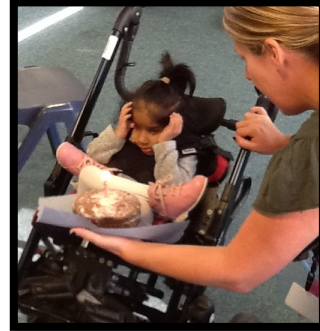
In science we have explored different materials and had fun with playdough. We looked at different ways we can move which we practiced in PE.

In music we have explored instruments and learnt how to play the drums.



Rose class

This term has been full of nice stories that we have shared all together. We have explored our world throughout the first theme 'Ourselves'.



We have met new friends and started in a new class, we have learnt more about our own likes and dislikes.

We have loved messy play, tactile exploration and playing games with balls and parachutes.



We have celebrated a variety of festivities such as Roald Dahl Day, Diwali, Bonfire night, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas.

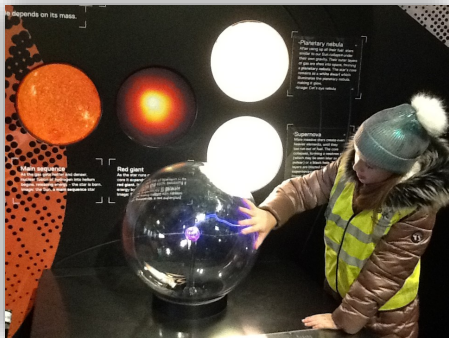
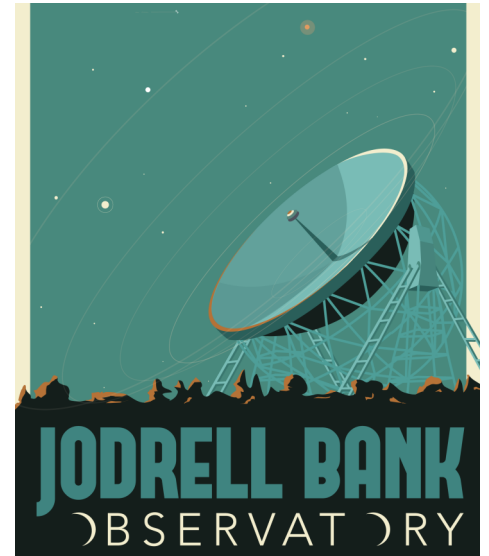


We enjoy exploring Autumn through a drama story and feeling different textures typical from this Season.



Acorns Class

Acorns have had a fantastic first term and the children have responded really well to our formal approach to the school day. We have been encouraging independence and responsibility and the children have embraced this. The children have really enjoyed our English and maths lessons and particularly relished our study into space, with the highlight being our trip to **Jodrell Bank** in November. This was a brilliant day and the children made the most of the activities and workshops we attended, they were a credit to the school.



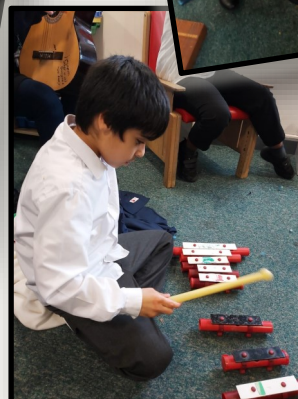
Bluebells class

This term Bluebells class have been accessing our community every Thursday afternoon by visiting a local café. We have been practicing safe travel, making choices using visuals and following a visual schedule to pay for our choices. We then sit and eat our choices together in the café.



We have been learning about lists. We have used lists to find the resources required for different tasks and followed instructions to complete them. We have also made our own lists of things we like, resources we used and a shopping list. We used our shopping list to go and buy the snack items we needed at the Co-op. This required us to practice road safety, recognise packages, pay for and pack our goods. The shop was very busy and noisy. We all did very well!

We have been being very creative this term. We have explored the world of sculptures before making our own from recycled materials. We have also enjoyed experiencing different types of music and exploring musical instruments and concepts.



Elm Class

Elm class have had a fantastic first term in Lancasterian. We were a brand-new class for 2019-20, with many children transitioning to high school and some new pupils to the school. They have all settled in amazingly well to the class; making new friends, working hard and having lots of fun!



We have been learning about lots of different types of information including following instructions. We followed instructions to make a jam sandwich and did lots of work on road safety, which we practiced when we went out to the local shops. We have also been learning how to use a scale to measure out the correct amount of ingredients. We made some delicious cakes and biscuits for our Children in Need cake sale.



In science we have been learning all about the environment and how we can save energy. We came up with lots of great ideas for how to save energy such as using energy from the sun, wind and water. We went to the museum of science and industry to see their sun exhibit. We were able to learn lots about the sun and how it can be used to create renewable energy to help protect our environment. We had a fantastic time at the exhibit; exploring the museum and participating in lots of fun experiments.



Willow Class

Willow pupils have been busy this term exploring the theme of “ourselves” during our Communication, Cognition, My Body and My world sessions.

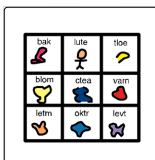
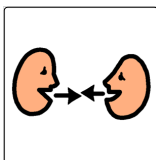
Me and My World.

We visited a working farm in our local community. We had the opportunity to interact with workers at the farm, members of the public and got to meet some furry friends; Alpaca's, rabbits, birds, guinea pigs and the farm dog.



Communication

We have been working hard in our communication sessions, turn taking, sharing our news between home and school, making choices on who to greet in class, and we have been encouraged to interact positively with all of the members of our Class.



My Body

We have been working hard to move our bodies, to have postural changes and to stretch with support in My body sessions.



Birch class

Birch class have had a very busy and fun packed term. We have worked hard together and had fun along the way.

My Digestive System



In science this half term we learned all about the digestive system through a variety of interesting and sometimes messy experiments!



In maths we began to learn about multiplication and division. Finding half of different amounts using chocolate buttons was lots of fun!



We had a brilliant trip into Manchester City Centre. We went shopping in the Arndale before visiting the Christmas markets for a yummy hot chocolate! We then went to Central library. We loved singing songs and listening to stories; however, the highlight was meeting Big Blue Bear!

Maple Class

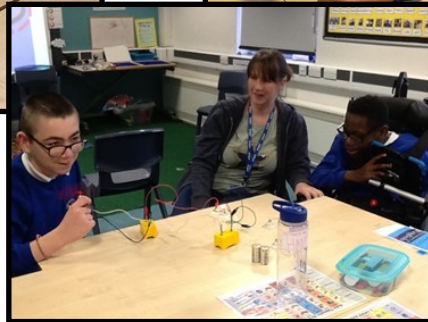
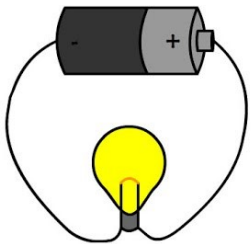
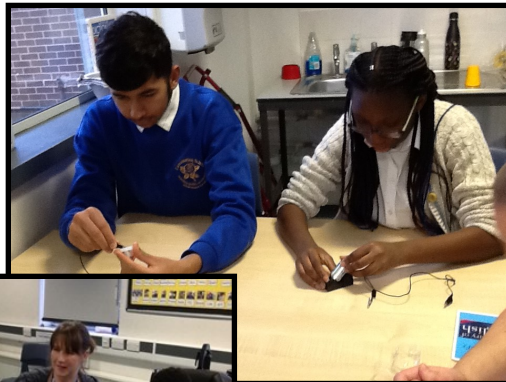
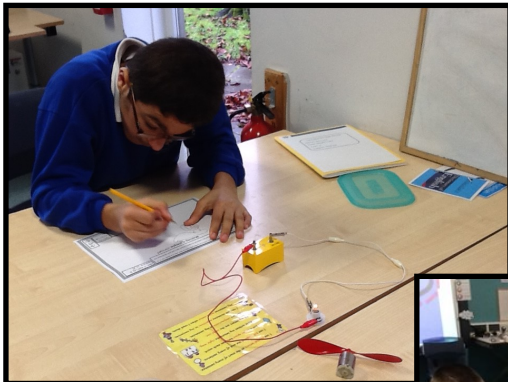
What a great start to the new school year!



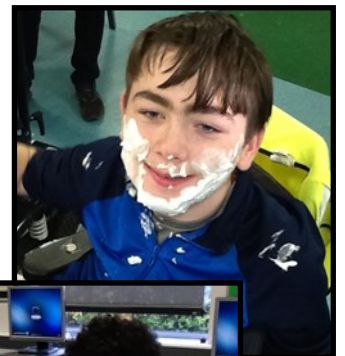
In English we learnt how to write in the first person through dairies and autobiographies and enjoyed thinking about our own history and happy memories. Then we moved on to explore the story of 'A Christmas Carol', for our topic on 'Older Literature'. We investigated and described the character Scrooge, we wrote letters to and from him and enjoyed pretending to be him during hot-seating activities.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Last half-term in science we learnt about 'what are bodies were made of', where we used our muscles, drew round our skeletons and discussed microscopic cells. During our most recent topic of electricity we have been busy making circuits and using switches to control them.



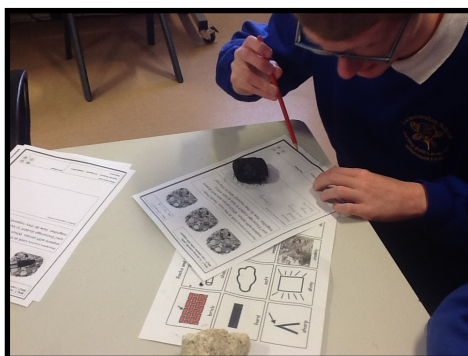
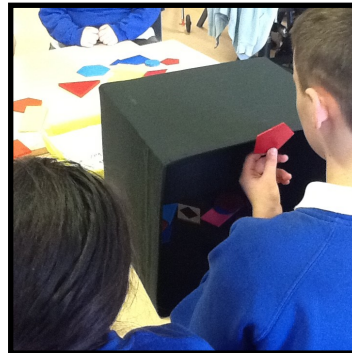
During this term we also enjoyed our Occupational Therapist workshops where we have been gaining skills in independence and enjoying getting messy.



Beech News

Beech class have had a terrific term, working hard and having fun on our super trips out.

In Maths, we learned about the properties of shape by playing games using our 'black boxes', testing each other's knowledge by giving them clues to guess the shape.



In Science we have learned about rocks and how we can test their strength. We tried to crush them and dissolve them in vinegar. Try vinegar and chalk at home, it makes a great chemical reaction!

Beech class always love their trips out. So far we have had fun at Adventure farm where we met Christmas animals and Santa himself! We visited Manchester cathedral to explore a place of worship; a lovely man called Amos gave us a guided tour and told us about the 1000 year history of the building. We also enjoyed the new Frozen movie at the Trafford Centre, just the thing to get us ready for Christmas.



We really enjoyed having families in the classroom with us for the Macmillan Tea Party and again to help us bake mince pies for the Christmas fair. We are looking forward to inviting everyone to come in for lots of events in the new year.

Out and about with Oak Class

Oak class have been continuing to research the R.E unit question: If God is everywhere? Why go to a place of worship? We have visited a number of places of worship and have asked a range of questions at each place we have visited. We learnt that going to place of worship seems to benefit the community. People are able to learn about their religion, make new friends, engage in leisure activities and feel closer to God in a purpose built building. We found it very useful to have the opportunity to go out and meet a range of people and develop our understanding and respect of them and their beliefs.



As part of our Duke of Edinburgh award we chose to focus on Volunteering. We made Christmas cards and sensory toys and took them to Francis House for them to sell.



We have also visited a range of local supermarkets where we have been developing our life skills. We have each had the opportunity to find and locate items of choice as well as items on a shopping list. We have then had to find our way to the till, pay, pack our shopping and check our change.

