



BSL Ambassador Visit

Pupils and staff alike were delighted when professional chef, food demonstrator and well known TV host, Scott Garthwaite aka 'Punk Chef' visited school. Scott is passionate about championing sign language and food together and is an ambassador for The Trust.



Armistice Day

To inspire their art project for Remembrance Day, in honour and respect of all armed forces members who have died in the line of duty, Miss Flannigan took our Year 7 pupils to visit St George's Minster. Many thanks to Mr Wright for being their tour guide for the morning. In art lessons they have made some wonderful poppies using clay. Primary pupils honoured the occasion too by making their very own poppy wreaths.



Magna

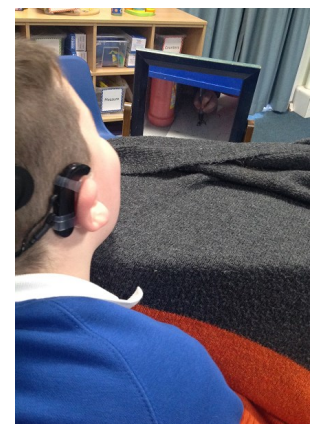
Our primary pupils went to Magna, an interactive science museum. They did a workshop all about solids, liquids and gases - one of the experiments was so large that it hit the roof! They explored each of the 4 elements: earth, air, water and fire. The fire tornado was their favourite part, but the pupils also loved making clouds, learning how boats move downhill and playing with the diggers.



Primary Science



In Primary Science we have been learning all about light. Finley learned about reflections using mirrors. It was very difficult to follow patterns using a mirror. We kept going the wrong way as everything was opposite. After a few trials we were able to understand that we had to draw everything backwards!



Speak Up Project - Enrichment

During enrichment, some of our pupils are taking part in the Speak Up project run by The National Theatre. The project aims to encourage young people to use their voices to gain confidence and discuss things which matter to them. The project started with some warm-up confidence building games and a discussion about what 'Be kind, be yourself, be bold' meant to pupils. In recent weeks pupils have played games that required focus, they had to see how many times they could pass the ball around the group without dropping it. They then worked together to co-create a beautiful mural which will be displayed in school.



Environmental Awareness

As part of ASDAN, Molly, Plamen and Ryan have been learning about 'Environmental Awareness', particularly the three Rs (recycle, reuse and reduce) and wanted to play a role in improving the environment. They are encouraging staff and pupils to put unwanted cardboard, paper etc in the recycle boxes that they have placed in all the classrooms. On a weekly basis the pupils will ensure that this waste is sent for re-cycling. Along with Mrs Taylor-Bunting, they visited a local re-cycle centre to witness re-cycling on a larger scale.



Art, Craft and Design

Recently our Y9 and Y10 Art, Craft and Design pupils visited Doncaster City centre. They had the opportunity to have a sneak preview of the latest exhibition 'The Florish' at The Point. Artwork was just being hung in preparation for this exhibition and we were extremely lucky to see all the work before it opened to the general public. We highly recommend you visit.

At the second gallery, pupils met with professional artist Julie H Winter. Julie showed pupils some of her amazing ARTBOMB work. She had created some wonderful imagery around LGBT and Doncaster Pride. The pupils loved looking at the vibrant colours and learned all about how she was inspired to create her project. The pupils had a fantastic day and were inspired to start thinking about their own creative processes.



PSHE



In PSHE Lacey, Christine, Eleanor and Vhon have been setting goals for the future and thinking about what they might like to do after Year 11. They went on a tour of the Communication Specialist College to see what courses were on offer. They especially enjoyed visiting the mechanics, computing and joinery departments.

MAKING MUSIC

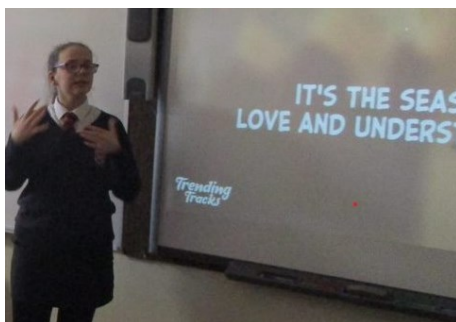
Music teacher, Lucy Sheppard, came to work with some of our pupils to experience creating music using boomwhackers. All of the sizes made different sounds - the longer they were, the deeper the pitch and the shorter they were, the higher the pitch. We used them to follow along with different rhythms then had a go at creating our own composition of 8 beats. It was very difficult, but the staff were all extremely impressed with the sound produced.



SIGN CHOIR

On Tuesday lunchtimes, some pupils and staff get together to join in our Sign Choir. They have been learning 3 Christmas songs to perform with our primary pupils at Lakeside Village later this term in conjunction with Plover Primary School and are looking forward to learning other songs in January. Keira and Molly have worked so hard to learn to lead each song to support the primary pupils, using the staff to help them keep time.

Many thanks to Ms Harding, Miss Williams, Ms Sung, Miss Thornton, Mrs Betteridge and Mrs Hopton who have given up their lunchtimes this half term to enable the sign choir to take place.



Carol Signing at Lakeside Village

All their hard work paid off! Pupils signed several Christmas carols to a delighted audience and represented the school with pride. Deaf musician, Sean Chandler, came along too to support them.



Sean has been working with our pupils this half term. They have enjoyed several brass music sessions with him where they were able to have a try at different instruments and have visited him at Plover Primary School where they joined in music sessions with other pupils.



Conisbrough Castle visit

We had a fantastic time exploring Conisbrough Castle. Pupils loved the 'meet the medievals' workshop where they looked at artefacts linked with people who worked and lived in the castle. Dressing up as the workers was great fun!



Families and Relationships

In PSHE, Witek, Henry and Lucy have been looking at different types of relationships and families. To compare their own families to others, they created a visual representation of these families using sticks, stones and leaves that they found outside.



The NDCS Roadshow

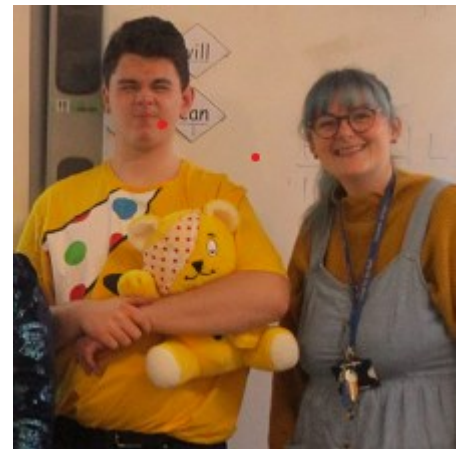
Our Primary pupils enjoyed a lovely day visiting the NDCS Listening Bus at Plover Primary School. They learnt about Deaf identity and had great fun trying different technology that could help them in everyday life.



Children in Need 2022

Staff and pupils alike had a lovely day supporting this year's Children in Need appeal. They came to school wearing Pudsey clothes or something 'spotty' as the theme this year was 'The Great Spotacular'.

We raised a total of £79.50 for this worthy charity which helps to support disadvantaged children and young people.



Pupil of the Week Award



Mrs Priestley presented David and Vhon with their awards. David has produced excellent work in class, especially with his reading and Vhon is always a good role model to others.



Isabel and Keira received their awards for always being helpful and kind to both staff and pupils.

Simas works hard in class and is always kind to others. Mohammad helps support the younger pupils at lunchtime. Brian Green, Associate School Governor, presented both boys with their awards when he joined all the pupils for lunch.



Lacey was chosen for being a polite pupil around school and being kind to her friends. Autumn was chosen for working hard in class.

Oliver S and Lili received their awards for being kind and helpful to others.

Well done, guys!



Pupil of the Week Award



Both Ralfs and Plamen were chosen for the award for being good role models to their peers and always being polite.

Achievements and Recognition

Many congratulations to Oliver S. on passing his Functional Skills ICT Level 1 exam.



Oliver H, Finley O, Ben and Vova have recently completed a mini Flat Stan First Aid workshop. They learned how to deal with bleeds and burns and how to perform CPR. On completion of the course they were presented with their certificates. Well done, guys!



Kourtney, Hadiqa, Emily and Oliver S have all successfully completed the Sports Leaders Level 1 qualification for Introducing Sport and Physical Activity Volunteering. The aim is for the young people to gain confidence and develop life skills to help boost their self-esteem. They have all worked extremely hard to achieve this award including coaching primary pupils, and supporting teachers in classroom. Mrs Taylor-Bunting and Mrs Gaywood are extremely proud of them all.

School Council

The School Council have had a busy half term. They have met with the Trust's fund raising team to give their opinion on the purchase of some outdoor gym equipment. They have also met with one of the school governors, Brian Green. Brian was interested to know their views on improving the school. The council were rewarded for all their hard work with a trip to the local bowling alley.



Lunch at Burger King



Pupils enjoyed lunch at the local Burger King. They have been focussing really hard after school on their artwork in preparation for their upcoming exams next year. Staff are really proud of their efforts.

Doncaster Elite Football Academy

We were delighted to have Josh and Nicola from Doncaster Elite Football Academy in school to deliver a coaching session to some of our pupils. Pupils enjoyed showing off their football skills. Josh was very impressed with their enthusiasm and talent. We are looking forward to their next visit.



Charlie and the Chocolate Factory



At the beginning of December, primary concluded their English topic by going to see a BSL interpreted version of the musical 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' at Leeds Playhouse. They have been reading this Roald Dahl novel in class and loved seeing it come to life on stage.

Countdown to Christmas

The countdown to Christmas began when staff and pupils gathered at the front of The Trust building for the annual Christmas light switch on. Pupils enjoyed their hot chocolate whilst watching the arrival of Father Christmas and his helpers.



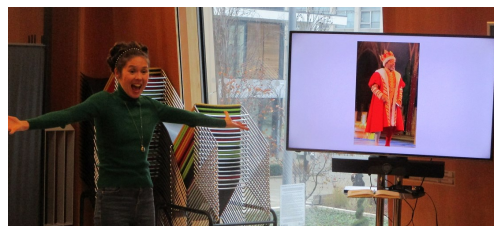
A Christmas Carol

Some of our secondary pupils went to Hull Truck Theatre to see their performance of 'A Christmas Carol'. The show had BSL embedded throughout, with many of the characters integrating BSL into their performance, as well as a BSL interpreter. The show really brought Charles Dickens' book to life which was fantastic for our pupils who are reading it for the GCSE. All of the pupils and staff loved getting the full theatre experience, they even had an ice cream at the interval! They then had the chance to meet actor Adam Bassett after the show and chat to him about his role. It was a magical, festive treat to end the term.



Panto Workshop

Primary pupils enjoyed an exciting afternoon taking part in a panto workshop at The Cast Theatre. They were filmed signing the sign names of some of the characters from the panto. This footage will be shown on screens in the box office at the theatre to support deaf audience members when they arrive.



Book Advent Calendar

The school's 'Book' advent calendar has proved very popular again this Christmas. Every lunchtime a different pupil had the opportunity to open one of the drawers of the advent calendar to reveal a book title (and a chocolate). The books were then placed in the school library to encourage pupils to visit the library and read for pleasure.



Christmas Jumper Day

Staff and pupils alike joined in the festive spirit and came to school wearing their Christmas jumpers! They teamed them with silly hats at lunchtime when they all sat together to enjoy their Christmas dinner. Although Christine was poorly this day she joined in the fun by wearing her Christmas jumper at home resting by the fireplace.



Sleeping Beauty

Pupils enjoyed a visit to Cast Theatre to watch the pantomime Sleeping Beauty. Everyone was very excited waiting for the show to begin. BSL was used throughout the performance and the cast encouraged the whole audience to join in. Deaf actress, Zoe McWhinney, played the role of Sleeping Beauty. Pupils were delighted to meet her and Deaf actor, Brooklyn Melvin, (Nixie the Pixie) after the show.



Time to Party



Farewell & Good luck

We would like to wish STA, Mrs Priestley, lots of luck for the future. She is sadly leaving us this term. Mrs Priestley has worked at the school for nearly 4 years and will be missed by everyone who had the pleasure of working with her.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 16th December 2022

School closes for Christmas

Tuesday 3rd January 2023

School re-opens

Friday 10th February 2023

School closes for half term

Tuesday 21st February 2023

School re-opens