



Doncaster School for the Deaf Newsletter

April 2023



Welcome

A warm welcome to Fatemeh who has joined Year 3 this half term. Fatemeh loves coming to her new school and has enjoyed taking part in all the activities this half term, especially the pancake making!



Shrove Tuesday

For Shrove Tuesday, some of our pupils took part in a pancake flipping competition. They had lots of fun. Pupils chose their own toppings and got stuck in. As you can see from the photographs they thoroughly enjoyed eating them apart from the lemon topping!



Sign Choir

This half term our Sign Choir have enjoyed learning to sign the feel-good song 'Walking on Sunshine' by Katrina and the Waves.



Boccia Competitions

We hosted 2 regional Boccia competitions run by Active Fusion for local schools. We entered 2 secondary teams and they did remarkably well. One of the teams won 2nd place overall! We were so proud of everyone.

Our BTEC pupils and the 'I Can lead' group used their leadership skills throughout both days helping to organise, score and officiate the games. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to be involved in real competitions.

A massive well done to our primary pupils who competed against 10 other schools. The pupils really enjoyed the challenge and made us proud with their lovely manners and determined attitude.

Boccia is totally inclusive and can be played by anyone regardless of age, gender, ability or disability. It is a game of skill and subtlety.



Celebrating Reading

Pupils, staff and parents had a great day celebrating World Book Day. There were some fantastic costumes, including our winner Finn J who came as Harry Potter! We also had a whole crowd of 'Where's Wallys' thanks to our wonderful STA team. Everyone loved getting involved in the book themed activities; including quizzes, design your own scratch bookmark and of course 'Hook a Book', which was back this year by popular demand. Henry, Lacey and Christine even made Bruce Bogtrotter's chocolate cake from 'Matilda'.

Lots of pupils loved showing off their reading skills to their families during our 'Big Read' event in the afternoon and many of our older pupils supported younger pupils during the paired reading.



Finally, the day was finished off perfectly with an assembly to celebrate all things reading, which included book recommendations, poetry readings and an amazing BSL signed story by one of our year 10 pupils. All in all, it was a wonderful day and we can't wait to do it all again next year!

Visit to Cast

A group of our secondary students went for a tour of CAST theatre. It was really interesting to see behind the scenes! We saw the dressing rooms, where the scenery is made and we were able to stand on the stage. We even went up and saw how the lights are controlled - it was very high! Thank you to CAST for having us - it has definitely inspired a few students to consider careers in the theatre.



Deaf Aspirations—Castleford Academy

Some of our older pupils attended a Deaf Aspirations event at Castleford Academy. The event aimed to inspire and inform Deaf young people about college, university and careers. During the evening, they enjoyed watching several presentations delivered by Deaf role models from various professions and representatives from national and local employers as well as local universities and colleges. Our pupils were a credit to the school, they were well behaved, engaging and inquisitive. They all said they found the event interesting.



Opportunities Live

Some of our pupils attended the 'Opportunities Doncaster Live' Careers event at Doncaster Racecourse. They met potential future employers, learned about the different types of careers and industries which exist in the local area and further afield. They enjoyed taking part in hands-on activities giving them an insight into different job roles. Pupils came away from the event feeling motivated and inspired.



Speech & Language Intervention



During an additional Speech and Language intervention session, pupils enjoyed tasting and identifying a variety of foods. They used their signing and spelling skills linking sweet, sour and texture, matching the taste to the food.

Victorian Baking

Primary pupils have been following Victorian recipes to make paupers soup, Victoria Sponge cake, Victorian biscuits and they even made their own butter!



Parent Voice

Following a recent questionnaire completed by parents, we were delighted to receive such fabulous feedback. Here is a small selection of the comments we received.

*Amazing school.
Amazing staff!*

School is very inclusive of children with a range of needs. Specific individual plans for each child, putting the child's needs/ wishes/ feelings at the focus of decisions made. Teachers are good at positively encouraging the children and drawing their confidence and self-worth.

'I have no issues with the school. My son really enjoys going which is lovely.'

H loves school. He is always up and ready to go. He struggles with communication, but his smile always let you know he is happy. The staff are dedicated and supportive to H and our family. I would definitely recommend this school to other parents. I am very proud of all H's achievements. He has come a long way since he first started. Thank you for all your support.

My child is very difficult and like to control things. The school staff are fantastic.'

Fantastic school and fantastic staff. Couldn't ask for anything better. Pupils always seem happy and content, and staff always approachable, also office staff always smiling and always free to listen and chat.'

Celebrating Sign Language Week

As part of Sign Language week, one of our Year 10 pupils signed the classic children's story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' to a group of our nursery children. All of the nursery children loved seeing this story brought to life through BSL.

Some of our pupils also visited Plover School, the primary children there, both Deaf and hearing, were transfixed by our pupils' storytelling during a whole school assembly. We received wonderful feedback from Sean Chandler, Teacher of the Deaf at Plover School following our visit. Well done to everyone involved in this event.



Achievements and Recognition

Many congratulations to Chloe, Molly and Mohammad who have all passed their BSL Level 2 exam. They have worked really hard to achieve this qualification. Well done!



Congratulations to Eleanor on achieving her Bronze award at Guides!



Boccia team celebrating 2nd place in the recent competition.

Pupil of the Week Awards

Congratulations to Oliver on his award. He was chosen for his progress in engagement. Well done, Oliver.



Plamen was chosen for this award for showing a mature attitude whilst overcoming a sports injury.



Well done, Lucy! Mrs Cartlidge presented Lucy with her award for working hard in class and always being happy.



Congratulations to Dariens who was chosen for working hard in class and for being kind to his friends.



Comic Relief

Staff and pupils were given the opportunity to wear something red to school in support of Comic Relief. Everyone looked very colourful. We had one pupil too poorly to attend school on the day but she managed to dress in red regardless and sent us a photograph with her little dog, Tilly. Thank you to all parents/ carers that sent in donations to this worthy charity.



Wilderspin School Museum

Primary and some secondary pupils enjoyed a trip back in time whilst visiting Wilderspin School Museum. They experienced life as a Victorian school child and had great fun exploring the past using real life artefacts.



Cross Country Derby

Our secondary pupils were invited to take part in the annual Deaf Schools Association cross country event.

It was an exciting event with 5 schools in attendance.

Our pupils had trained hard leading up to this event and did the school proud! Their behaviour was immaculate and their support for each other was lovely. Pupils enjoyed competing, being part of the exciting atmosphere, and meeting new friends from other schools.

Event Results: Girls team achieved bronze, boys team achieved silver and the overall boys winner was Ryan!



Congratulations to ALL our pupils who all ran extremely well.



Easter Fun

Pupils enjoyed a range of Easter activities to end the term including an Easter egg hunt and a BSL signed Easter assembly led by Rev Adam Priestley and former specialist teaching assistant, Kim Priestley, who we miss immensely.

We wish everyone a Happy Easter and look forward to seeing pupils back in school on Monday 17th April 2023.



IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 31st March 2023

Monday 17th April 2023

Monday 1st May 2023

Monday 8th May 2023

Friday 26th May 2023

Monday 5th June 2023

Thursday 20th July 2023

Friday 21st July 2023

Wednesday 6th September 2023

School closes for Easter

School re-opens

School closed - May Day

School closed - Coronation of King Charles

Sports Day (am) Parents invited

School closes for half term

School re-opens

Prize Day (pm) Parents invited

School closes for summer

School re-opens