

May 2022



Welcome  
to the  
Doncaster  
School for  
the Deaf  
Newsletter

## New term, new opportunities

Pupils have had another super interesting and inspiring half term. Here's some of the activities they have been involved in.....

## Doncaster/Norwegian BSL Link

Mrs Taylor-Bunting made links with a Deaf Centre in Norway. She arranged a video link with their Deaf mainstream pupils who were attending the centre for 6 weeks as part of an initiative to embrace their identity and reduce loneliness.

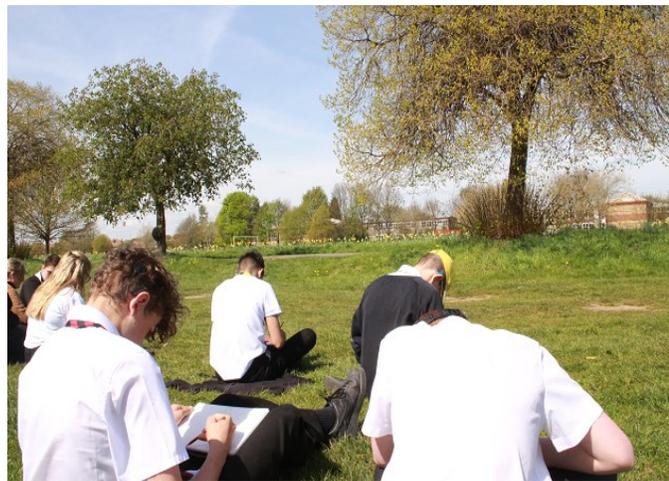
During the video link, our pupils shared basic BSL signs with the Norwegian children. Our pupils represented the school really well, Mrs Taylor-Bunting was so proud of them all.



# Visit to Sandall Beat Wood



Earlier this term, Miss Flannigan took our GCSE Photography pupils to the local wood as part of their 'Nature' project influenced by James Brunt and Walter Mason. Pupils were able to take lots of photographs in the lovely sunshine followed by a picnic and time spent drawing trees.



# Oh we do like to be beside the seaside!

Some of our secondary pupils visited Cleethorpes to inspire their English writing skills and to view coastal geography first hand. Despite it being a damp day, pupils enjoyed taking a ride on a narrow gauge train, watching a flotilla of model boats in the lake, contrasted with the huge car ferries riding the tide into Grimsby docks and choosing postcards to write on when they returned to school. Hopefully, on our next visit, the sun will shine and we will be able to walk along the beach and enjoy some beach games together.



# Deaf Awareness Week

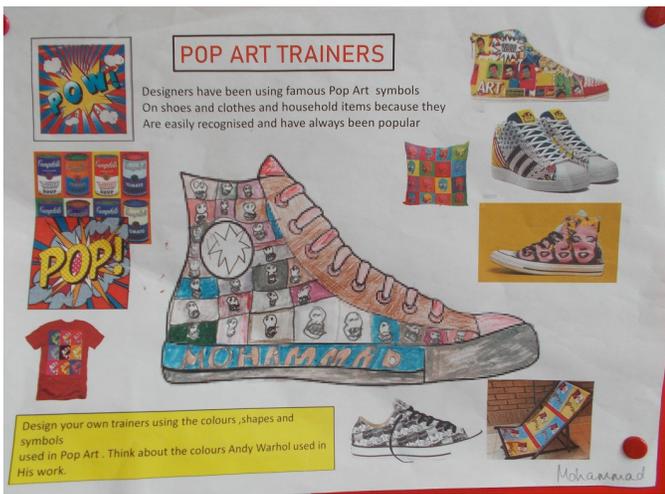


As part of Deaf Awareness Week, BBC Yorkshire weather presenter, Keeley Donovan, wanted to learn how to sign one of her forecasts. Keeley visited our school to learn the appropriate signs and admitted that her rehearsal in front of the pupils was more nerve racking than being on television!

Her visit to school was broadcast on TV that same day!

# Budding Artists

Key Stage 3 have been looking at the Pop Art of Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol. They have really expressed themselves in creating 3D Wall Art and hand painted their designs onto shoulder bags.



Pupils have been working hard on digital bunting for the Jubilee. They sourced photos of the Queen from 1952 to 2022 and designed a border before creating the bunting.

# How's that!

We were lucky enough to be offered some free cricket coaching where Nick Gaywood from the Root Academy and James Ward from Complete Coaching Solutions taught our pupils some exciting new cricket skills. They brought two bowling machines and other colourful equipment with them. Pupils were delighted to experience such top class coaching. The session was packed with new drills and skills and offered a wonderful learning opportunity. We are looking forward to a few more sessions with James to consolidate pupils' learning.



# Pupil Update



We are pleased to welcome Vhon to our school. Vhon has joined Year 9 this half term and is settling in really well.

# St George's Day Celebration

As part of the Selby District St George's Parade, Eleanor, one of our pupils, signed the Guide Laws in Selby Abbey in front of hundreds of people.

Eleanor has also been invited to visit her sister's new school, 'Read School'. The school offers BSL levels 1 and 2 as optional subjects to their pupils.



# Enrichment and Careers



Julie Beckett, a Deaf veterinary nurse visited school as part of an enrichment lesson. Secondary pupils enjoyed learning about her journey to becoming a veterinary nurse and loved the hands-on session where they were able to step into the role wearing uniform and practiced putting casts on stuffed animals. One of our pupils who has aspirations to become a vet was really excited to see such an inspiring Deaf role model and this has inspired her even more about her future career.



# Enrichment and Careers

Enrichment this half term have been very diverse including a belly dancing session led by Eleanor Gaywood and inspiring presentations from Deaf actor and presenter, Adam Bassett and Deaf spiritualist Kari Bella.



# Communication Specialist College



Some of our Year 9 and Year 10 pupils have been visiting college this half term. They visited all the different departments, asking both staff and students questions to help them understand what they will be able to study at college. Looking around the college whilst in Years 9 & 10 helps pupils to start to plan what they might want to do in the future. Plamen and Ryan were mostly interested in the motor vehicle and painting & decorating departments. They may change their minds in the future but that is okay. College staff commented on how well behaved our pupils had been during their visits.

# Achievements



Mrs Gaywood was delighted to present our primary pupils with their 'Swim England' School Swimming and Water Safety certificates. Pupils have worked really hard on their water confidence /ability and their awards are well deserved.



Congratulations to Lacey who has achieved her Level 1 in British Sign Language this half term. Veronica, Chloe and A Jay are also working towards this award and have all recently passed BSL Unit 101. Well done !

# Pupil of the Week Award

A big shout out to pupils that were awarded with a 'Pupil of the Week' award over this half term. Well done guys!



Simas and Keira both received their awards for working really hard and being a good friend to others.



Having a good attitude to learning was one of the reasons both Isabel and Chloe were voted 'pupil of the week'.

# Pupil of the Week Award

Mohammad has regularly attended homework club and hands his work in on time. He is always polite to staff and a good friend to others. Ben coped well with a stressful week doing SATs and concentrated well. Both awards well deserved, congratulations!



Isabel (for the second time this half term!), and Veronica attained pupil of the week for working hard and being a good friend to others.



# PARA FOOTBALL TALENT DAY



Keira, Mohammad and A Jay took part in the regional England Para Football Talent Day at Sheffield St George's Park. They all did amazingly well and had the opportunity to meet Claire Stancliffe, Captain of the GB Deaf Womens' Football team. Claire was on hand to offer advice and guidance to our pupils.

## SMILE Classes

Lacey has been working hard in SMILE sessions this year to learn how to communicate with new people and non-signers. Lacey went to her local corner shop on her own to buy some coffee. She remembered the strategies she had learned in SMILE classes, she let the shop keeper know she was Deaf and asked the shop keeper to write down their message so they were both able to understand each other. Lacey's confidence to communicate with new people is growing and her mum said the coffee was delicious too! Fantastic work, Lacey!



# Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



Staff and pupils celebrated the Queen's Jubilee in style. Dressed in red, white and blue, they were treated to a jubilee street party fit for a Queen! The quad was turned into a Platinum Jubilee zone, decorated with balloons and bunting made mostly by the pupils. They enjoyed making their own party hats to wear for the occasion too and wore them with pride whilst tucking into their party food.

It was a very exciting day. An ITV film crew came to record the occasion and most of our pupils signed a BSL message to the Queen to thank and congratulate her on 70 years of service. A special thank you to Ms Laverack for interpreting throughout ITV's visit.

# Water Polo Fun



To reward our primary pupils for working so hard in swimming lessons we organised a fun session. Mrs Gaywood borrowed some hats and goals so they could play a game of water polo. Pupils really enjoyed trying to score goals against the staff.

# Sports Day

On the last day before the half term break, parents and carers came along to support their children in our Sports Day. Despite the cool and breezy weather, a good time was had by all. Pupils took part in a range of sporting events throughout the morning.



# SPORTS DAY



## English Reading Workshop

Lots of parents and carers came along to our reading workshop after Sports Day. We discussed a range of strategies to help families support their children and it was a great opportunity for parents and teachers to ask questions and share their ideas.

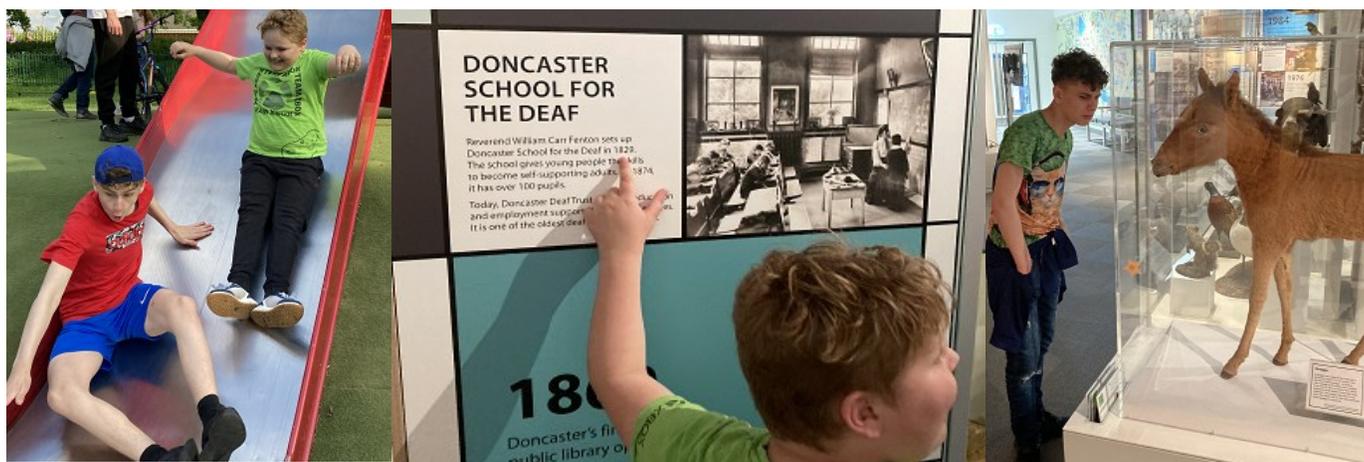
Here are a few tips when reading to your child:

*'If your child is tired or doesn't really feel like reading, lighten the load by taking it in turns to read a page each.'*

*'Try not to ask too many questions when your child is reading. Instead, make your own comments and observations and aim for about four comments to every one question. E.g. Oh no, baby bear is sad. Look he's crying because his chair is broken. I think they might find Goldilocks soon.'*

# Our Residential Pupils

It has been a busy half term for our residential pupils. They've had lots of trips to the park, went ice-skating at the Dome, visited the new museum in Doncaster town centre and also went to the Yorkshire Air Museum where they sat in real plane cockpits!



## IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday 27th May 2022**

**School closes for half term**

**Monday 6th June 2022**

**School re-opens**

**Thursday 23rd June 2022**

**Rounders event (Deaf Schools)**

**Thursday 21st July 2022 (pm)**

**Prize Day. Parents invited.**

**Friday 22nd July 2022**

**School closes for Summer**