



Doncaster School for the Deaf Newsletter

February 2024

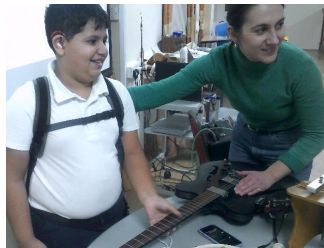


Welcome back

It was lovely to welcome pupils back to school after the Christmas break. They enjoyed telling us all about their celebrations over the Christmas period.

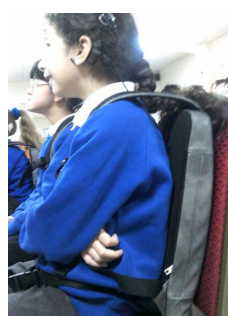
Although it has been a short half term, it's been a very interesting one.

Sound X



Pupils had the fantastic opportunity of attending a 'Sound X' demonstration workshop to try out the Sound X vibration backpacks with Flore. The backpacks translate sounds into vibrations, analysing for rhythm, melodies, and emotions.

The workshop was a huge success and, as you can see from the photographs, we witnessed an array of emotions and reactions. Pupil comments included "It paints a picture on my back" and "It makes me feel relaxed".

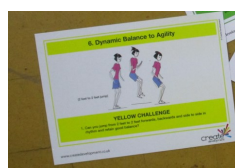


Using our Imagination with “Create Development” PE scheme

Primary pupils have been developing fundamental skills using stories and linking movements to the Moon Adventure story from Create Development. They have enjoyed working independently using their imagination and inventing their own actions to communicate their ideas. They then shared their ideas and worked co-operatively in pairs creating the next part of the story.

Inclusivity and leadership are focussed on during the lessons with freedom of expression being paramount. Within each story the pupils had opportunities to experience team work and a growth mindset of “we can”. Over the weeks the pupils have developed their travelling, balance and jumping skills.

The pupils and staff have really enjoyed the opportunity to develop their movement skills using an open ended medium and had lots of fun at the same time.



School Council

School Council had their first meeting of 2024.

They discussed their individual strengths and raised issues from around the school, such as the possibility of getting some new equipment and games for the primary break area. They are looking forward to meeting again next month.



Unfortunately, Oliver, who is also a school council member, was absent on the day of the meeting/photograph taken.

Exams

Year 11 pupils are working hard in preparation for their upcoming GCSE exams which will take place throughout the summer term. They have been attending twilight Art and Photography sessions as well as preparing for mock GCSE Maths and English exams which will be held after the half term.



Communication Strategies

A communication therapy programme is now underway with some pupils, aiming to provide them with the toolkits and communication strategies to use when in the community. The programme teaches about breakdowns in communication, Deaf rights and gives students the opportunities to interact with hearing people in the community to develop independence when communicating.

This course has been created with the knowledge and understanding of what potential life challenges our pupils may face. The modules look at different challenges and ensure that pupils will be equipped with knowledge to enable them to be more independent and confident.

Pupils have had deep discussions around real life scenarios and how they would respond. They have made a great start and are enjoying every minute of the course.



Pupil of the Week Award



Seren was chosen for the award for her good work and engaging well in lessons. Well done, Seren.

Congratulations to Finley for his amazing reading and maths work.



Well done to Nieve for working hard in class and using her voice. She has been amazing!

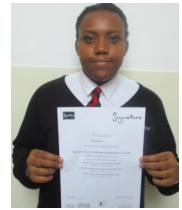
Lucy was chosen for the award for being polite, helpful and spectacular in Maths. Well done, Lucy.



Well done to Emily and Deontay. Both pupils have worked really hard in class and concentrated well.

Achievements and Recognition

Many congratulations to Veronica on achieving the Signature BSL Level 2 award.

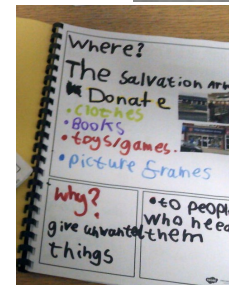


Christine and Henry have recently completed the AQA 'Helping the Local Community' award.

They researched and discussed the local community. Using information gained from the internet they created a scrapbook to help them with their project. Christine and Henry chose to support the local Salvation Army charity shop by donating unwanted clothing from home. They also researched the location of the nearest foodbank and delivered store cupboard food (again from home) to the foodbank at Doncaster Dome. During their research they found information about Barnardo's Toy Appeal and they decided to collect toys to donate to this appeal too!

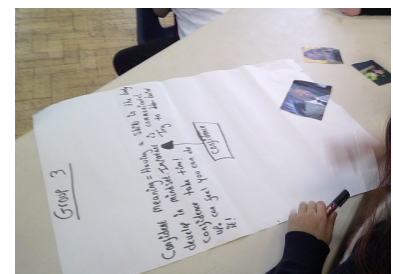


They visited Oaklands Care Home, a local respite centre for children, where Christine and Henry delivered a short BSL session (using visual BSL resources they had created beforehand) where they taught staff simple BSL signs and the BSL alphabet supported by Miss Peace.



Careers

Club Doncaster have been delivering weekly careers workshops to some pupils throughout the half term. They have discussed topics such as e safety, what confidence looks like in different scenarios and the importance of money management. Pupils have enjoyed the variety of challenges and brain-storming activities during these workshops.



After School Club

Pupils have had a great time this half term. They have taken part in an online multiple choice Kahoot quiz (which helps to improve their vocabulary), tried their skills at a variety of sporting activities, enjoyed making Valentine crafts, and even held their own X Factor style talent session! Thank you to Mr Nelson and the support staff for organising such a broad range of activities.

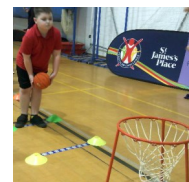


Primary Panathlon Multi-Skills

This half term, we had the pleasure of hosting the Doncaster Schools Panathlon event. The primary pupils involved enjoyed taking part in a variety of activities including parachute popcorn, bowling, boccia and curling.

Every pupil tried their best and really enjoyed the event. We came 5th overall.

Many thanks to the Panathlon charity for giving our primary pupils the opportunity to take part in competitive sport. Everyone had a great time!



PRIMARY NEWS

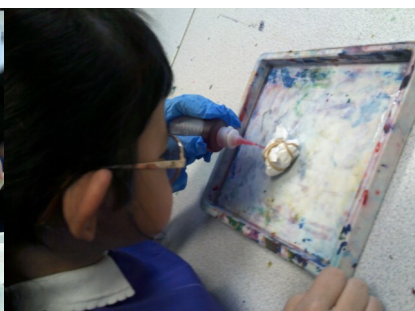
Pupils have been looking at instructions and recipes. They watched a recipe video of award winning Deaf chef, Scott Garthwaite, aka Punk Chef making banoffee tacos, and then used this to make their own strawberry and chocolate tacos! The most important part was remembering the steps in order and writing the recipe so pupils can make them again!



Some of our primary pupils visited Doncaster Minster as part of their RE work. They have been looking at different places of worship and the things found inside them. Pupils were able to spot pews, a lectern, the altar, and the font at the minster, as well as some very well-hidden creatures carved into the wood and stonework. Later in the term, pupils visited a local mosque to compare the art and architecture of the 2 buildings.

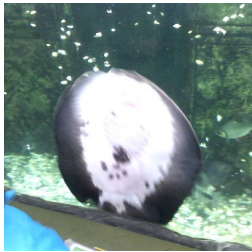


In Art, pupils are practicing different tie-dye methods to use to create their pencil cases - we are going to have some beautiful colourful pencil cases!



TROPICAL WORLD

Some Year 7 and 8 pupils went on a trip to Tropical World in Leeds. They saw lots of exciting animals. One of their favourites was definitely the stingray who kept swimming up the side of the glass where they were standing, and they got to see it's face! Pupils did some work on descriptions of animals and had to find animals that met different criteria, from colour or texture to patterns on their bodies. In lessons, pupils are going to create some shape poems about these animals. Everyone's behaviour was incredible, and they were a real credit to the school.



Enterprise

Can you help?

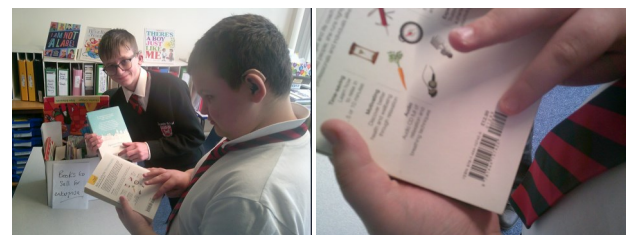
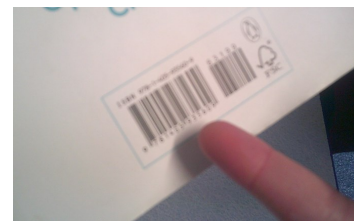
We need any of your old books, DVDs or computer games for our enterprise project.

Can you please bring in any items with a bar code or ISBN number as in the photographs. We are going to recycle them and sell them to raise money for charity.

There will be a box left in the hall on a table as you come into school. Please leave them there for us to collect.

Thank you.

Ben and Simas.



Work Experience

Veronica and Lacey have enjoyed their time working alongside the Rachel Clarke Dance Company.

They had the opportunity to work alongside professional dancers, choreographers, an animation artist and a sound engineer who used contact floor microphones to pick up the sounds of them dancing using BSL and dance combined. On their final day, pupils were able to show case some of the dance elements they had been working on with the rest of the school.



Over the half term break Lili and Emily are both on work placement at Cast Theatre. They are really looking forward to it!

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 8th February 2024

Friday 9th February 2024

Monday 19th February 2024

Thursday 28th March 2024

Monday 15th April 2024

Monday 6th May 2024

Tuesday 7th May 2024

Friday 24th May 2024

Monday 3rd June 2024

School closes for half term

Training day. School closed to pupils

School re-opens

School closes for Easter holidays

School re-opens

Bank holiday. School closed

School re-opens

School closes for half term

School re-opens