

Autumn 2020 Newsletter



**Bleasdale
School**

Learning Together / Achieving Together

Primary 1

During the Autumn Term, Primary 1 were delighted to meet two new pupils to their class. Lucy and Fletcher have settled in well and think Bleasdale School is great fun!



In October, we had a cultural awareness day for the whole school. We focussed on being thankful for the 'Harvest of Vegetables.' During our Harvest day, we dressed up as farmers, made our own bread and used corn on the cob to print pictures. Farmer Ronnie did a great job pulling his vegetables from the sensory tray!

Term Dates

School re-opens to pupils at 9.00 am on Thursday 7th January, 2021

Half Term Week is Mon 15th – Fri 19th February, 2021

School closes for the Easter Holiday at 3.30 pm on Friday 26th March, 2021



In our 'Let's Investigate' topic, we have looked at 'who can make the best pie?' It was so much fun being able to start our learning outside, collecting lots of different textures and natural objects of different colours to put in our pies. When we came back to class we worked on making choices, showing a preference and used purposeful actions to explore the resources. Melissa thought mud pies were great fun!

In Sensory Maths we have been experiencing language related to number through our number rhymes. During 'Five Speckled Frogs', we all made our own headbands so we could roleplay the rhyme together. Seth thought the squeaky frogs were very amusing and he engaged well with this learning.



Primary 2 have been reading about 'Fantastic Mr Fox and Sensory Poems' as part of their sensory story lessons this term. We have been exploring the life on the farm and how we use different body parts for sensing.

For art, we have been exploring the uses of different brushes for painting. In Maths, we have learnt about 2D and 3D shapes.

Baby News

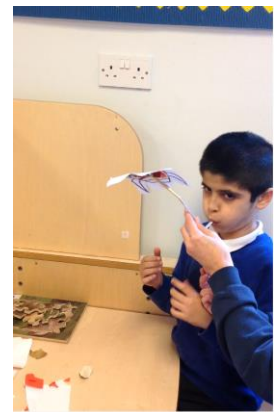
One of our TAs Lizzie and her husband Chris welcomed baby Lucia in the Spring – a sister for Henry. Our Deputy Head Kirsty and her husband Oliver became proud parents to Stanley just before we broke up for the Summer.



For music we have explored 'stringed instruments' and listened to different artists including Eric Clapton. Pupils explored parts of a guitar and ukulele and enjoyed plucking and strumming them.



During science, we have made many different types of rockets that can fly (using devices such as a foot pump, straws and wind) and measured which one could fly to the furthest planet.



We have celebrated the cultural theme day of Diwali. We explored 'Diwali through our senses'. We made different foods such as chapattis and sweet coconut cubes. We made Rangoli patterns too.



For Christmas we recreated the 'Kevin the Carrot' 2020 advert for our Christmas Production. We used the sensory suite and had an amazing experience of living in the snowy conditions of Santa's home.



Secondary have explored the garden and used the items we have found to create numbers as part of our skills for learning. We collected a range of leaves and natural objects to create plaster of paris numbers. We counted out how many cups we needed and used our skills from volume and capacity to decide whether they were full, half full or empty.

In November the pupils raised money for Children in Need by dressing in "something which makes us happy". We raised £56.85 in total. Thank you to everyone who took part.



Our sensory text this term has been 'Robin Hood.' We have explored the story both in the classroom and the garden. We have used the bow and arrow and had sword fights! We also explored a different version of the story called Gobbin Hood which was a little less pleasant!



During our gymnastics sessions, we have worked on balance and travel. We have practised walking along the bench with and without support. We have put together sequences of balances and travelling. We particularly enjoyed our 'Christmas warm up Zumba!'



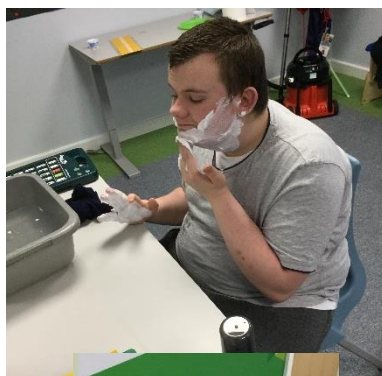
In 'Let's Investigate' we have worked outdoor exploring which materials dissolve and which don't. We had lots of fun and made a lot of mess. We worked out that some things need warm water to dissolve. We explored making bath bombs and our latest creation was a candy cane bath bomb.

As part of our creativity sessions, we have used a range of painting skills including blowing, spraying, dripping and swirling.

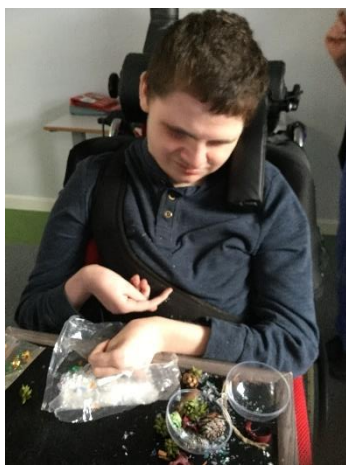
We made use of water sprays, colander bike pumps and string to create our art work.



What a busy Autumn Term the pupils in the 14-16 Department have had! Our reading focus for this term was ballet texts. The pupils enjoyed listening to the stories 'Billy Elliott' and 'Cinderella the Ballet.' They have explored sensory objects to help them learn the order of each story. In Functional Skills, the pupils have learnt about and handled money. They have explored different coins and notes that are used in the United Kingdom and taken part in shopping role plays. To help with their counting skills, the pupils have played dominoes and sensory Uno and have begun learning about addition and subtraction.



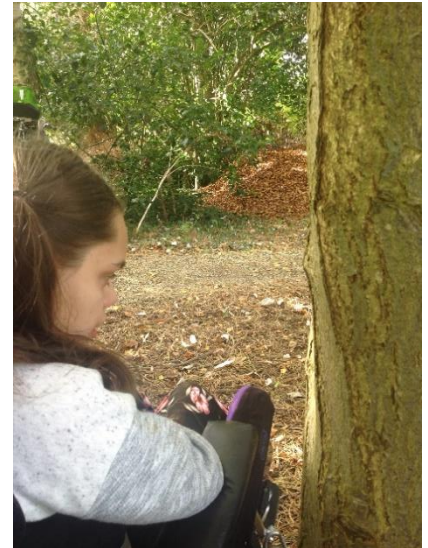
This term in Vocational Skills, our theme has been 'The Role of the Crafter.' Everybody made beautiful clay wind chimes and personalised jewellery. The pupils' household skills are really coming along! They have practised their vacuuming, dusting and ironing skills so we have had a very tidy classroom! Every Tuesday afternoon, the 14-16 classroom has been transformed into a relaxing spa and we have learnt about the importance of personal hygiene and chosen ways to relax. In Meal Preparation, the pupils have practised a range of cooking skills, including peeling, chopping and mashing. They have made cottage pie, Eton mess and hearty Winter soups and delicious apple crumble when the weather got colder.



The pupils' horticultural activity this term has been to take part in the 'RSPB Challenge.' They have completely transformed the school vegetable plot and started a compost heap so their school is ecologically friendly. When Winter set in, the pupils made bird feeders to look after local wildlife in the school grounds. In PSHE, the pupils have learnt about the importance of respecting personal space. They have taken part in shopping and queueing role plays where they had to stay one metre apart from each other. Community Leisure has focussed on Yoga and Tai Chi. The pupils have learnt a range of movements and performed these in a sequence. They have also listened to traditional Tai Chi music.

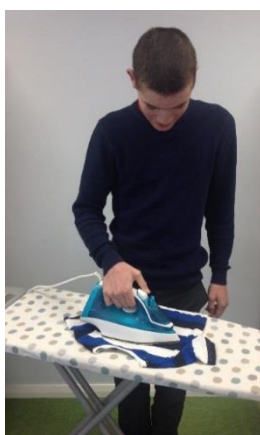


16 – 19 have started working towards the RSPB Wild Challenge. Each week, they take part in a challenge in our garden. So far, they have undertaken a survey, made a hedgehog house, sensory cocktails, shook a tree and made a compost heap. Before they go into the garden, they look at the weather, make their own forecast then decide what to wear so they are prepared. This term they have worked towards their bronze award.



16 – 19 have been very busy in Enterprise making a range of new products to sell. This term they have made Autumn wreaths, seed bombs, lavender bags, dog treats and sensory Christmas tree kits. These have been popular and we have sold out of some items and had limited availability of others. The pupils' favourite activity was using a drill with support.

In Daily Living Skills, the students have been exploring how to use an iron. They use Switch -It-Jigsaw to explore the process of ironing and have been learning to hold and move a cold iron. Some of us follow instructions to set up the ironing board and then use the iron on cool settings to iron t-shirts. Students have been learning to peel, chop and mash potatoes in meal preparation and have prepared sausage and mash for their dinner each week. They have also experienced how to make cakes, 'Angel Delight' and gravy. They have used their switches to operate the whisk, tin opener and blender. Each member of the team has a special job so we can eat our dinner on time.



The residential facility welcomed pupils back on 7th September. We are also happy to say we have welcomed a pupil from the Secondary class to join our residential group.



Pupils have enjoyed playing a sensory 'Cluedo' game. This has been adapted and linked to familiar rooms within the residential and school buildings and the characters are staff the pupils know such as staff from the laundry and Elisa in the school office.

During the first half term, Sensory Drama was based on the film 'Aquaman'. Each week, pupils re-enacted a scene and took turns in choosing the character they wanted to play such as the wicked 'King Orm.' During the second half term, pupils experienced the weather through a poem called 'A Winter's Tale.'



On the 5th November, we had a virtual Bonfire Night experience in the



Immersive Suite. Pupils were immersed in a 360 degree firework display with smells of bonfire night food of fried onions and tomato sauce. They also activated equipment using their switches to make their own firework displays. After a bonfire



themed tea which pupils helped to prepare the night before, we went outside to watch a neighbouring firework display and had sparklers too. A great night was had by all in the circumstances!



We have also taken part in a session called 'All About Me', which incorporated our favourite music. Each week, pupils took turns to listen to each other's music and played instruments to keep the beat.

Every Wednesday after school we have enjoyed a group pool session. Pupils warm up together before working on their targets. They then finish with a game.



Staff changes – we now have two Assistant Heads in school who are both also Class Teachers. Naushad Surve is the Class Teacher for Primary 2 and Alan Sharples works in the 14-16 class. Annie Du Preez joined us after Easter as the Class Teacher for Primary 1 and we currently have Debs Parkin working as a Supply Teacher alongside Ellie Shepherd in Secondary. We also have a number of new Teaching Assistants: Chloe McDade in Primary 1; David Hanmer and Lauren Wells in Primary 2; Cameron Smith in Secondary. Tim Jenner has joined us as a Team Leader in the Residential Team along with Steve Hartley who is an RESW.

Wedding Bells

Our Teaching Assistant Grace was finally able to get married this month having had to postpone her wedding from earlier in the year. We wish her and her husband Ben a wonderful life together.



Ofsted have a section for parents called Parent View. Parents can access this at any time to tell Ofsted what they think of their child's school. Please go to the Ofsted website to register.



We have also set up our own school Facebook page which is updated on a weekly basis. Here you will find lots of photos and details of what the pupils have been doing in class together with useful information for parents and ideas for activities which can be done at home. Please take a look if you have the chance.



The pupils, staff and Governors all wish you a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

