

Summer 2021 Newsletter



**Bleasdale
School**

Learning Together / Achieving Together

Primary 1

Primary 1 have welcomed 2 new pupils to class. Bradley and Uche have joined Bleasdale this term and are already settling into class well.



Our story 'Gingerbread Man' was great fun to share together and the pupils explored the sensory based activities of making gingerbread playdough, listening to the sounds of the different characters and making textured gingerbread men with sandpaper, glitter, cinnamon and ginger spices.





As part of our 'Plants You Find in the Garden' topic in Our World we have been planting seeds in our outdoor potting shed we created for role play. We have been watering our pansies that we potted every day this term and have loved growing our own cress heads and making 'Superworm Grassheads.'



During Creativity we have enjoyed learning about 'Superbugs'. We liked our 'Superworm' story and have created different bugs this term. We have also looked for bugs on our bug hunt in the garden.



Primary 2

This term, the pupils in Primary 2 have explored two non – fiction texts: 'All About Summer' and 'Holidays'. The learning included some really interesting facts including how many seeds there are on a typical strawberry! In Functional Skills the learning activities helped the pupils' understanding of position and direction. They turned left and right as they moved through obstacle courses and even travelled through tunnels and under sensory objects. In 'Our World', everyone learnt about different types of transport. With support, the pupils explored their teacher's car and even sounded the horn! They also explored the school minibus and compared these vehicles to different types of transport including trains and aeroplanes. During 'Let's Investigate,' the pupils experimented with different ways to keep a jacket potato warm. They explored different materials and used them to try to preserve heat in the potatoes after they had been microwaved. After this, they used the thermometer to find out the temperature of the potatoes after different time periods. As part of their learning in Religious Education, the pupils explored different artefacts relating to Buddhism and listened to the story of the 'Buddha.' They also experienced meditation activities.

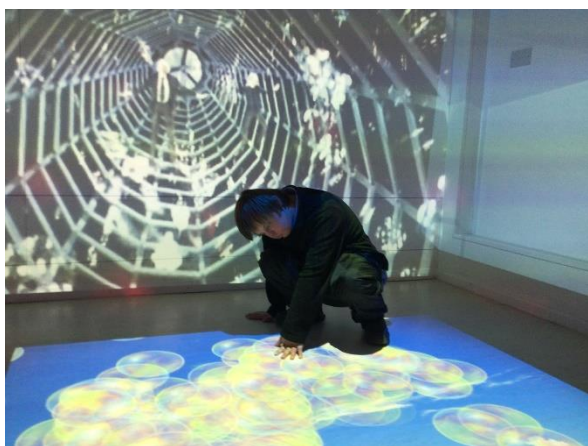


As part of their learning in 'Creativity: Design and Make', the pupils found and sorted different types of recycling, then used these to make new useful items including upcycled flower vases and toys. In 'Creativity: Art and Design', they explored different types of Chinese artwork and created a Chinese zodiac story board about the 'Ox' and their own interpretation of the famous artwork 'The Willow Tree.' In music, the pupils practised making quiet and loud sounds on a range of different instruments including the drum and cymbal set. They then composed their own musical piece called 'The Thunderstorm' which started with the sounds of quiet raindrops but quickly turned into a loud crescendo of thunder storm sounds! The pupils used instruments including rain makers and drums. In Physical Education, the pupils explored and took part in Summer treasure hunts which included physical exercises when each piece of 'treasure' was found. This unlocked an ultimate prize: fun choosing time using the outdoor play equipment! Everyone in Primary 2 would like to wish you all a happy and safe Summer and we will look forward to school starting again in September.

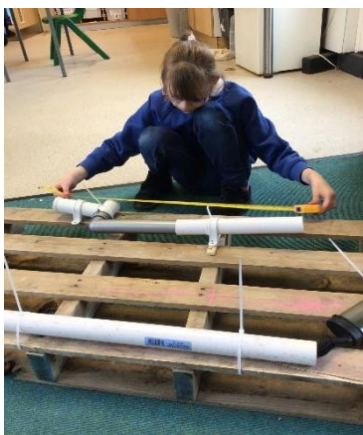


Secondary

Every Wednesday the secondary pupils enhance their sensory learning by exploring the school's Immersive Suite. This has helped bring to life the story of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. Magical confectionary carpets, sensory light lollipop trees and sound responsive light displays were just some of the devices that the pupils could activate and explore.



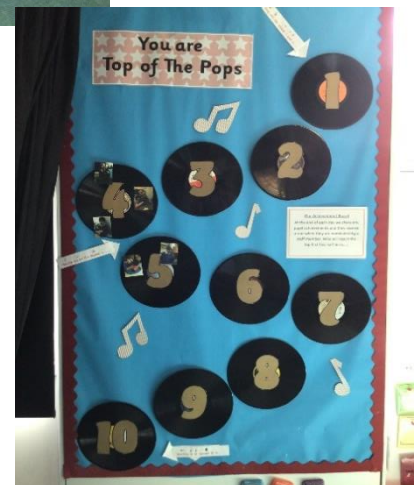
In Design and Technology we have been upcycling this term and improving our 'Secondary Sensory Garden.' The pupils have been busy improving their joinery skills to include sanding, sawing and hammering. A recently felled tree, some donated pallets and tyres meant that the pupils were able to design and create a table, some personalised stools, weather vanes and spinning discs.



In Numeracy this term, the pupils have been busy carrying out a range of chores to help them learn about the value of money. To earn a monetary reward, pupils have been setting their dining table for lunch, hoovering and sticking classwork in their topic books. The lessons have helped the pupils to count their wages and choose the different values of money they prefer. The twenty pound notes were very popular!



Every day we celebrate the class achievements. Secondary pupils have been working their way up the 'Top of The Pops' reward charts. We all reflect on the daily special educational achievements and these are celebrated by moving up the 'Top of The Pops' chart.



In Music every Friday afternoon, the pupils have explored and chosen their preferred instruments and have been learning to play these to different beats, rhythms and volumes. The drums can be very loud! We have transferred some of the skills learnt into composing a class rap to produce a Stormzy-esque performance.



14-16 Department



Students in the 14-16 Department have had a great Summer Term! Since returning to school all the students have been busy renewing friendships and enjoying being back in class. The students' reading focus for this term has been Sensory Poems, experiencing texts including 'Alien Teachers', 'Aunts from Pakistan' and 'The Seaside and All its Familiar Features,' all explored through a range of fun sensory materials. In Functional Skills, the pupils have explored 'Giant Games' like Tetris, Noughts and Crosses, Dominoes and other team related games. They have also continued to develop their skills in shape, number and money too, applying their learning to practical real-life situations and to the different games we have played.

Through Let's Investigate lessons we have explored 'filtering' and students have had opportunity to complete tests and use different equipment. They have enjoyed experiencing different solids and liquids, finding ways to clean the mucky fluids we have used.

DT and Art have followed a similar theme, exploring Mexican art and celebrations like 'The Day of the Dead'. Students have learned about the bright and colourful culture of Mexico and in particular the artist Frida Kahlo

and how we can include nature as an art resource. Students have enjoyed decorating items including masks, bunting, sombreros and maracas, using different media and collecting natural materials from our garden.



This term, the students have explored 'Tempo' in music. To do this they have enjoyed listening and responding to the different songs of The Beatles and have used a variety of instruments to copy a sound or beat. As a collective, the students have managed to accompany staff in singing 'Love Me Do' and 'Yellow Submarine'.

14-16 Class have not been able to get out into the world that much but that didn't stop us bringing the world to our classroom. Students have explored the familiar sights and sounds of the city, the countryside and the coastal regions through different sensory resources in specific zones. Students recognised familiar features and learned some of the differences between the locations. They visited Lancaster, Morecambe and Silverdale.

For this term's Cultural Awareness Day, the students experienced Buddhism through a wide range of different activities. These ranged from preparing food offerings to practising yoga and relaxation in the

'Zen' room before practising chants and music through a range of specific instruments. Students shared Buddhist artefacts and gained an appreciation that Buddhism is about well-being and peace of mind.

16-19 Department

16 – 19 have achieved the RSPB Gold Award as they continued to explore and enhance the outdoor environment with full physical support from staff. They have also spent time looking after the vegetable plot and enjoyed harvesting and eating some of their produce.



In Vocational Studies the students have explored different PPE equipment, then been supported to investigate how to make a brick wall and tile. They have accepted support to make cement to stick their bricks together. They explored tile adhesive to make their mosaic 'Welcome to FE sign'.

During Enterprise sessions 16 -19 have been supported to work as a team on the production line. The newest product they have added to their online shop is 'light bottles'. First they spent time cleaning and preparing the bottles. After making choices of colour they used a sponge to stencil. Once the paint was dry they added the lights. These have been a very popular line, although you can still place an order that will be ready in September.





During Leisure sessions 16 – 19 have been taking part in adapted team games. Everyone has enjoyed working together to score runs and rounders in the outdoors. In the hall they have practised the different skills required to take part in team games.

Residential Pupils

Throughout this term pupils have accessed some new sessions like “Sound Bingo” as well as the regular Aerobics, Games, Swimming, Rebound and Life Skills sessions. In Sound Bingo pupils had to connect the animal noises they heard to the animal pictures they had. Pupils also made their own Bleasdale version of “Guess Who”. Using pictures of residential staff and pupils they had to work out who it was by hair colour, if they are male or female, etc.



Pupils have really enjoyed playing the game along with the staff.

In Life Skills this term, the pupils have made their own puddings such as lemon cakes and banana and chocolate sponge cakes. With a bit of cream they didn't last very long at all!



We have also celebrated Leon's 18th Birthday this term with a pool party and fun games including “How Many Hats Can You Get on Your Head” - thanks for that one Becky! All the students from FE were invited to stay for the party and enjoyed a big chocolate cake made by our chef Paul.

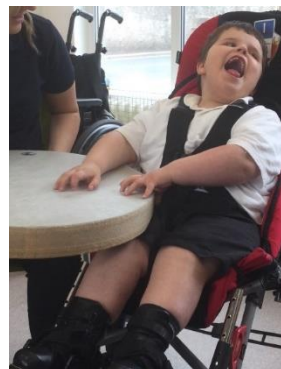
We have to say goodbye to Matthew this year. After many years as a residential pupil it's time for him to move on to pastures new. We all wish him well and will hopefully see him at some of our school events in the future.



Visiting Musician in School

Every Friday we are lucky to have Sylvie Heath from the Lancashire Music Service in school to lead our music lessons. We have converted one of our rooms into a dedicated Music Room and Sylvie teaches across the whole curriculum with the support of school staff, for example the 14-16 students have worked with Sylvie to explore different textures of sound and how sounds in the natural world can be used to make music and pupils in the Primary 2 Class have been learning about quiet and loud sounds and music 'volume' in their music lessons. They have been working with Sylvie to explore how different instruments can make quiet and loud sounds and created then performed a tropical rainforest thunderstorm that started with quiet raindrops and finished with a crescendo of thunder!

Here is a selection of photos from these sessions.



Staff News

This term we have been joined by the following new staff: Ellie Bennett, Mat Cook and Laura Greaves (all new TAs); Katy White and Emily Quinney (RESWs). Emma Nash and Kirstie Pelling have been working with us on supply in the Residential Building and Colin Pearson has been working as a Supply Teacher in various classes within Day School.

The following staff have moved on this term: Sarah Helliwell (HLTA) and Suzanne Campbell (Care Assistant) have left us for new posts elsewhere; Georgina Carr (TA), Annie Du Preez (Teacher in Primary 1) and Debs Parkin (Secondary Teacher) will leave Bleasdale at the end of the school year; Karen Hodgson who was our Care Manager for the last 4 years but had worked at Bleasdale for over 30 years left in June for a new job as a training manager in domiciliary care; Val Tomlinson is retiring as School Business Manager after 26 years working for Lancashire County Council in total.

Term Dates

Staff Training Day – Wednesday 1st September, 2021

Pupils return to school at 9.00 am on Thursday 2nd September, 2021

Half Term – Monday 25th to Friday 29th October, 2021 inclusive

Staff Training Day – Monday 1st November, 2021

School closes to pupils at 1.00 pm on Friday 17th December, 2021

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 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 hope you have a lovely Summer break and look forward to seeing everyone again in September.

