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Recognition for outdoor learning

It has been wonderful to be awarded another gold award for our outdoor learning. This time it is the Green Tree School award which encourages schools to get out of the classroom and to use the outdoor space for learning opportunities. We have a head start having got rid of our traditional classrooms and having so many outdoor learning spaces. The outdoor hub is a great learning space offering some of the more traditional types of learning activities but in a different environment. Literacy and numeracy are much more engaging when using real objects or linking your maths to measuring and weighing in the paddocks. Exploring patterns in the real world or using new tools or fun materials outdoors is at the very heart of our curriculum and got us our Gold Award. Well done to Linzi and Emily for driving the team forward to achieve this. Great recognition once again of the amazing things the staff do each day to ensure learning is relevant and fun.





Above pictures taken during visit to Winchester Science Museum



Space – this term's theme

We have enjoyed exploring our science-based theme this term with plenty of rockets, planets, stars and aliens. A lovely trip to the science museum in Winchester to explore space but also enjoy some experiments. In art we have entered a national art competition and one student has entered their space composition, which is fabulous work. Our theme has concluded with a visit of the mobile planetarium to school and all children having an experience to see the stars, the constellations and match the real pictures created by the stars a lovely sensory time.



Chumble Market

Our Occupational Therapy has introduced a monthly 'Chumble Market' to our curriculum. Thanks to our site team who have created our market stall we are able to host a different themed eating experience each month. Last month it was dry foods, some familiar and others new to taste and enjoy. This month it was green and crunchy – and was a super success and much better than expected with children trying a vast array of different tastes and textures. The pickle gherkins were a success with many, but the seaweed slice was not a favourite even with the staff.

These programmes continue to work with our juice bar work and OT food sessions to widen the diet of our children many who find different smells or strong flavours difficult or who find the texture of food difficult to cope with. Having fun at our market café experience is one way to explore foods in a playful way – away from the dining room – relaxed and comfortable.



Community Events & National Days



We had our Autism Awareness T-shirts again this year which are sponsoring our Duke of Edinburgh award theme.



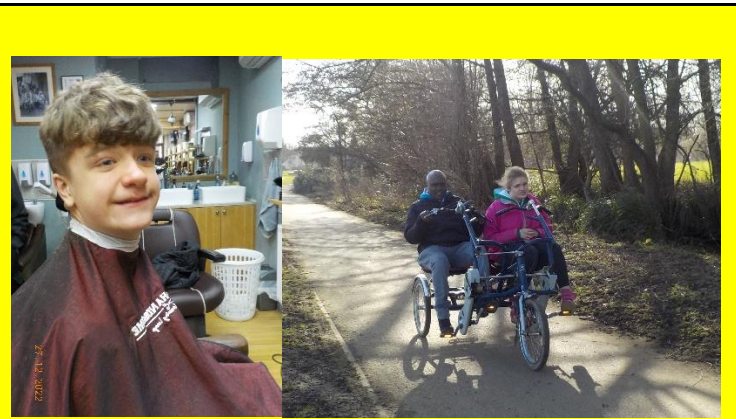
We have entered the national art competition and here is one of the abstract art paintings.



We had plenty of fun on Red Nose Day and joined in with facepainting – giving ourselves red noses. The Red Nose challenge competitions we redesigned and using Lego bricks, the students built towers – the tallest in one minute. We also used the Red Nose cookie recipe, and the catering team baked them.



There has been plenty of new opportunities to visit the community. Train travel is a favourite for many of our students and these trips develop independence skills well. Our local Wellington Country Park is now fully open again and we are getting involved in many activities. Main House students now have annual term time passes.



Our weekly regular community trips include Cycles 4 All, Camp Mohawk and Atmosphere, as well as plenty of visits to local walks, field and lane walks, and trips to the garden centre. We have had great success recently with students visiting the hairdressers in town. Having practiced with our school-based hairdresser this is a great step forward. Similarly with our school shop the skills needed to shop in the community are well practiced, making a trip to the supermarket successful. Using a basket and a shopping list are essential skills.



Trip to the beach



Learning to cook, providing plenty of opportunities to use a variety of cooking utensils and follow a recipe.

Monday 1st May From

Parent Picnic Day

No longer a picnic but we provide a barbeque lunch. Bring family and friends to enjoy this lovely occasion. There will be an inflatable obstacle course and the ice cream van will arrive.

Please let us know numbers for this day asap.

12.30-3.30pm Hope you can attend.

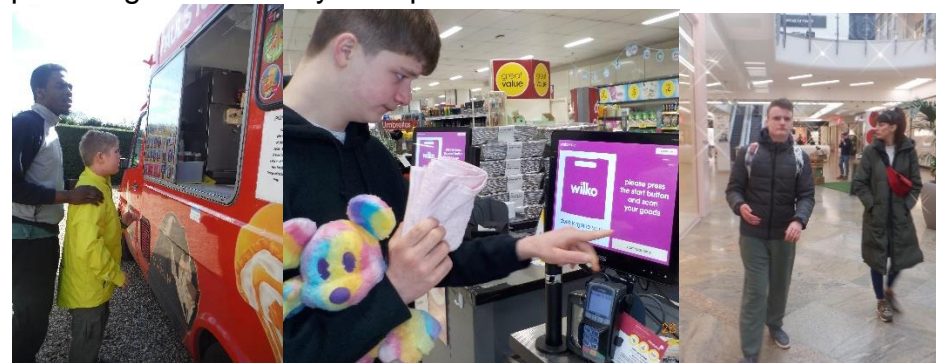
Weekends



The weekend curriculum focuses more on our leisure and well-being aspect of our PLLUSS curriculum, and I am delighted that the team have been able to take the children to many new locations across the region.



Relaxing and sensory activities, shopping and plenty of arts and craft activities all related to the weekend theme fill the calendar providing a rich variety of experiences for all.



The Easter weekend saw the children enjoying a great Easter egg hunt with chocolate eggs provided by Sherfield School. We added a special treat into the Easter weekend with the arrival of the ice cream van, luckily the weather was kind and the children all enjoyed ice cream in the grounds. Shopping trips to the indoor shopping centre in town and to the supermarket, have been experienced by some of our young people this term.