

# School News

## Headteacher's Update

As I complete my first month at the school, I want to thank you for the warm welcome. It has been a pleasure spending time in lessons, around the school during break and lunch, and meeting many of you during recent parents' meetings.

My early impressions are very positive: pupils receive excellent care and benefit from strong opportunities for personal development. A small number of parents have asked about future curriculum pathways; I am currently reviewing the school structure and curriculum, and I will share updates as plans take shape.

I have recently met with our Local Authority Commissioners and Ofsted. We are now awaiting the official outcome of the recent Ofsted monitoring visit, which I will share with you once published.

If we haven't yet met, I hope you will join the next Quiz the Headteacher session—your questions are always welcome. Today's celebration assemblies highlighted pupils' amazing achievements, and it was wonderful to see them supporting one another.

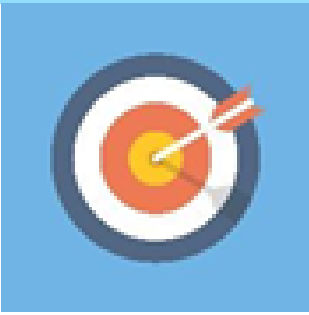
Wishing all families a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

Daniel Lawrence

Headteacher



Well done to Freddie from White Class for his special resilience award. Freddie has been incredibly brave after breaking his leg after Christmas whilst playing in the snow. He has been through so much and was determined to come back to school as soon as he possibly could



## School Attendance

Our overall school attendance this academic year is 85.13%. Our target is 90%.

Class attendance this academic year is:

Blue Class	86.92%
Pink class	94.44%
Purple class	93.73%
Yellow class	64.20%
Green class	95.21%
Orange class	78.40%
Rainbow class	79.33%
Red class	92.33%
Violet class	84.84%
White class	85.10%
Transition 1	60.91%
Transition 2	89.11%
Transition 3	94.10%
Transition 4	87.37%
Transition 5	94.87%

Please ensure that you contact the school by 8.45am on the first day of absence and on every further day of absence, again by 8.45am either by calling 01206 771234 and leaving a message with the reason for absence on the attendance line or by emailing the attendance mail box: **dcattendance@autism-anglia.org.uk**

For any planned absence, an absence request form needs to be completed and sent in in advance via the attendance mail box. The absence request form can be download from our website: [https://www.autism-anglia.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?](https://www.autism-anglia.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=4673b41f-206a-4752-93fd-726184e1da08)

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# Wellbeing

We wanted to share an update on our continued focus on pupil wellbeing. At our school, wellbeing is at the centre of everything we do. When pupils feel safe, understood and supported, they are better able to learn, build relationships and thrive.

- We support pupil wellbeing through:
- Consistent routines and clear expectations
- Safe spaces and sensory breaks
- Emotional check-ins and regulation support
- Opportunities to develop social skills and relationships
- Close communication between home and school

This year, we are assessing pupil wellbeing using Essex's 6 Core Strengths Assessment Tool. This helps us understand each pupil's strengths, identify areas for support, and track progress over time. The tool focuses on key areas including relationships, communication, emotional regulation, resilience, independence and engagement, helping us provide personalised and meaningful support.

We value working closely with families and encourage parents and carers to contact us with any wellbeing concerns. Early communication helps us provide the best possible support.

If you would like to discuss your child's wellbeing, please contact the Wellbeing Team:

[gjones@autism-anglia.org.uk](mailto:gjones@autism-anglia.org.uk)

We wish all families a restful break and look forward to welcoming pupils back next term.

On another note, here is a picture of the team embracing Roald Dahl characters for world book day.



# Forest School



Forest school this term has been packed with some great learning! One of our pupils is kindly painting a forest themed mural in our reading area at Forest school and it looks brilliant. Thanks very much to Mia in Transition 1 Pupils have had lots of exciting things to do when we go offsite - lighting fires with the obligatory toasting of their marshmallows, navigating the spiders web ( well done Frankie ) carving and building dens with branches.



## PE



This term has been very exciting with KS2 attending the Panathon bowling competition. It was so nice to see how Doucecroft's new pupils took the event in their stride and how independent the all of our pupils have become over time. Pupils sat patiently waiting for their names to appear on the screen before picking up a ball and rolling it down the lane. Well done everyone.

The Doucecroft football team had a league match this week. They played really well and never gave up but they just could not get the ball in the back off the net. Jacob did score a fantastic goal ,Billy and Arthur showed some amazing defending skills, Josuha and Joseph both took turns playing in goal and outfield with amazing work seen from both boys. We saw some lovely fancy footwork by Eli and Bailey really tried his best to score a goal. Kai came along to support and watch the game but ended up playing and it was nice to see him running up and down the pitch.

Well done to you all. As a school we are so proud of you as you never give up.

Hopefully now the weather is getting better and we can see some sun, we will be able to do more outdoor PE next term.



The next block of Drawing For Talking has now started and the learners are engaging well. The sessions are designed to offer the learners a safe space where they can process any internal emotions in a non confrontational way, supporting them in regulation and being able to access their learning.

Primary

# Purple Class

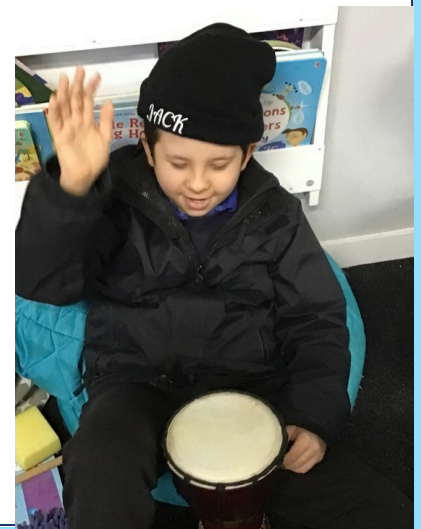


As usual, Purple class have had a busy term. The Hungry Caterpillar has inspired lots of activities including snacktime. We've role played going to the shops and delved into the dressing up box. We've been curious, exploring using all our senses. We've visited the local woods, seen Spring flowers, listened to birds and walked in the gloopy mud.

Purple class are now responding to cue songs to tidy up and to sit in a circle ready to learn.

Individual highlights are William and Dominic interacting together in a game of chase with big smiles all round. Henry is sitting at the table longer to do work tasks. Hugo is regulating better with staff support. Charlie has been enjoying swimming in the main pool and Jack has made progress with independent maths activities.

We look forward to what next term brings!



Primary

# Yellow Class



Yellow class have been working hard on our listening and reading this term. We have increased our focus and resilience and can now listen to a whole book together as a class. Individually, we are now reading books with words in them that we can read ourselves using the sounds we have learned in phonics. Freya's favourite stories are We Are Going On A Bear Hunt and We Are Going On A Present Hunt. Rocco C loves The Very Hungry Caterpillar and The Gruffalo and Rocco M loves The Gruffalo and The Tiger Who Came To Tea.

Story time is our favourite time of day.

After Easter, we are going to be taking books home so we can practice our amazing reading skills with our families.

In maths, we have been comparing and measuring sizes, looking at tall and long and short and small, heavy and light. We have loved exploring our measure station and applying all we have learned to sort and measure different things in class.

We love taking our learning outside and playing with all of the fun toys and activities from the play shed at break times. Yellow class are definitely looking forward to the better weather in the summer term and doing more learning outside.



# Rainbow Class

Primary



Rainbow class have been writing some incredibly descriptive pieces about food this half term from our topic 'field to fork'. At play times it has been great to see them inventing new games and playing with others around the school at the park. For world book day the learners creatively found different places to read 'King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table': a book we have enjoyed reading together on Friday afternoons. It has been great to welcome a new learner to Rainbow class. They have settled in nicely making friends across the key stage. Have a fun Easter break



## Primary

# Blue Class

We have had a very busy term and really enjoyed the story *The Tiger Who Came To Tea*.

We made sandwiches to replace all those eaten by the tiger and loved rolling the paint to make the tiger's stripes. We've also been learning new skills and are enjoying visiting the Play Shed after lunch and we always look forward to spending time with all our favourite animals.



# White Class

## Trips in White Class

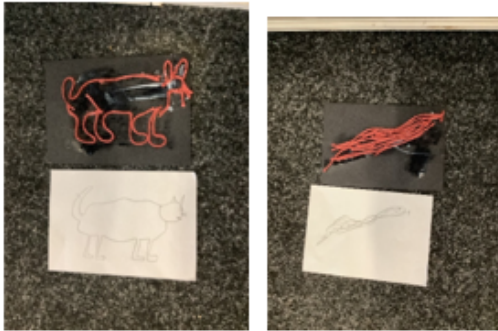
White Class have been learning about Charity Shops. Learners have learnt about what charity shops are and how they support the local community. This links with our learning in citizenship. We have also visited a local charity shop. Have a look at our photos.



## Art in White Class

White Class have been learning about South America during topic lessons. Learners have been learning about the art of the Aztecs. We produced animal designs and then covered these in string. We then used this to produce prints of our designs. Have a look at the designs and the prints we made.

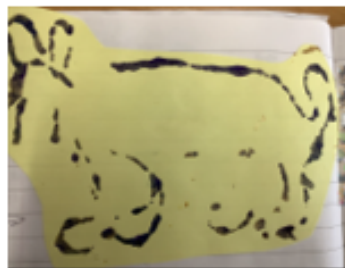
Our original paper designs and the printing block we made.



Making the printing block was quite tricky



We put paint on the block and used this for printing.



We managed to produce prints from our blocks

To compliment our work on Aztec Art, White Class have also studied Spanish art from a similar period. We looked at the work of El Greco. We admired his use of light, colour and how his figures are quite elongated. We had a go at producing our own art in the same style. What do you think? Some of them feature some unusual characters.

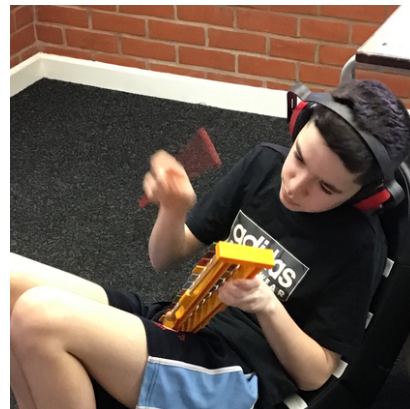


# Violet Class

Spring time brings growth in our gardens and nature and it has definitely been a term of growth for Violet class. In the classroom pupils have mastered algebra and coordinates in maths and yes they even had fun doing this by playing battleships and finding food to feed to feed a hungry bug using their skills with coordinates. In English they have learnt about Shackleton's expedition to the arctic, which inspired lots of letter writing. Pupils wrote letters persuading Shackleton to include them in the expedition and letters home from the arctic. Topic introduced pupils to the Aztecs, their art and culture and the discovery of South and Central America. Violet class produced some fantastic aztec inspired artworks. In life skills pupils have been planning meals, budgeting, shopping and cooking them. Violet class staff have been very impressed and happy to help with the eating! Outside, Violet class have been busy. They have been gardening, playing cricket, rounders and football, they have enjoyed horseriding and forest school. A brilliant term!



## Red Class



This week Red class enjoyed a group session of music therapy with Anita. We have been working on our zones of regulation and using different ways to express our feelings such as painting in art. Red class learners have made great progress in swimming recently and we are especially had fun on our leisure world trip before half term!

India has been expressing her creative side by doing dot-to-dot and communicating with staff what she has drawn. Mason has shown great attention in fine motor activities. Calvin enjoyed singing in our music therapy session and played different instruments. Lucky has made good progress at swimming with the support of staff. Lennon has been having great interactions with staff and has enjoyed our maths sessions on the board as well as independently. Zaiven had a great trip out to the park and has adapted back into the routine well.



# Orange Class

Orange class this term completed some amazing learning. In Topic we have been learning about Aztecs and how their day to day life looked.

We also looked at different sports they played and were able to give Aztek football a try. In lifeskills we have been looking at budgeting and different ways to save. The pupils have also been able to try new recipes and make lots of tasty snacks. In English we have been learning about Ernest Shackleton and the journey he went on. Orange class pupils have written letters explaining why they should be a part of the expedition and what key skills they could bring to the team. Beat the street has also been very popular in Orange class with all pupils taking part and collecting as many points as they can. Staff are extremely proud of all orange class pupils this term!!



# Green Class

This term, our pupils have been busy embarking on an exciting journey of discovery as they explored the fascinating world of explorers. They learned all about what explorers do, and the important tools they use, such as compasses and binoculars. The children especially enjoyed practicing using some of these tools!

In Art, the pupils worked creatively to make their very own Explorer Badge. They designed and produced artwork inspired by exploration, showing great imagination and effort.

During English lessons, the children's creativity truly shone as they invented their own magical creatures hidden inside mysterious eggs. They described what their creatures might look like, where they live, and how they behave. This activity was brought to life with sensory "feeling eggs," where the children used their sense of touch to guess what might be inside, sparking curiosity and excitement.



# T1

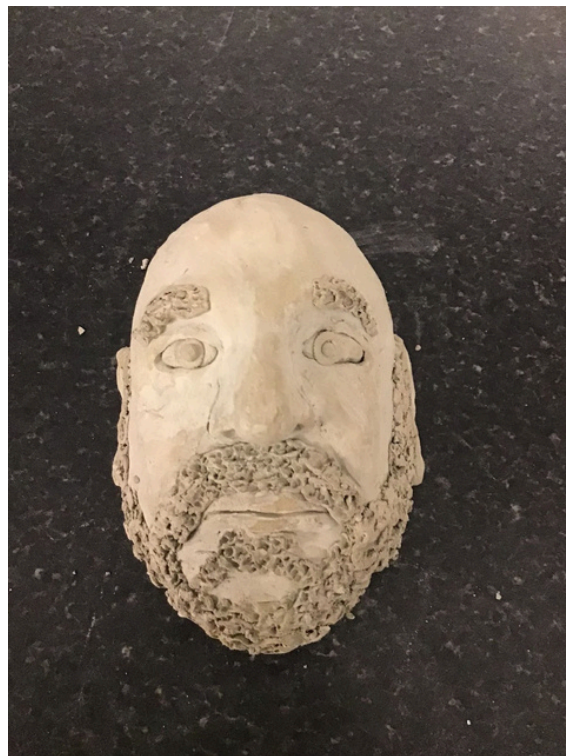
## T1 Spring Term

It's been a creative term in T1 with many of our learners dabbling in the world of Art. Cody and Mia have been doing their Arts Award, which culminated in them organising an Art competition for the school. This resulted in many amazing entries that showed the artistic talents of the learners.

We have also had Henry make some lifelike sculptures of various staff members and then selling them to raise money for charity. Everyone has been delighted with their sculptures, with many commenting on Henry's eye for detail and creativity.

Staff members are also pleased with the regularity of engagement amongst learners in both structured and unstructured time, which has led to some positive relationships forming between all the learners in T1.

We all hope you have a Happy Easter and we cannot wait to see what T1 gets up to in the Summer Term!!



# T2



It's been busy in T2 this term. Our pupils have been taking part in some exciting learning opportunities. In life skills the pupils worked together to plan and cook a 3-course meal for everyone in Transition. The meal went down as a success with pupils and staff all getting to try the menu.

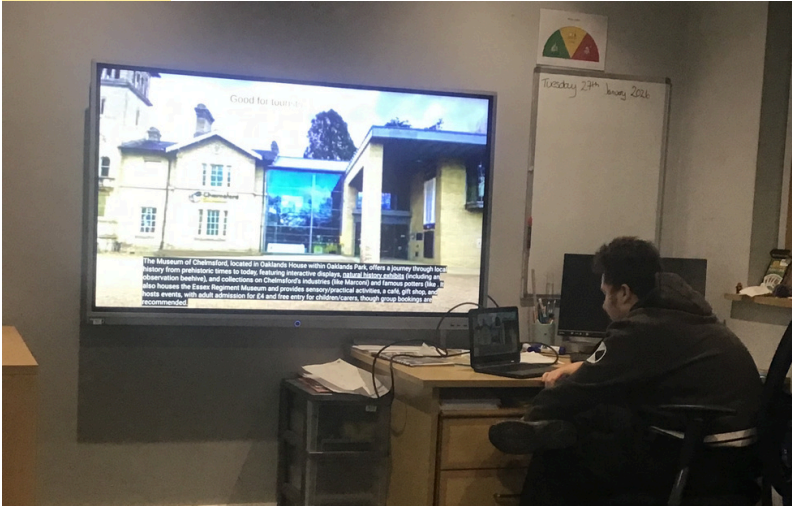
World book day was lots of fun! Pupils came up with some creative stories as part of a game we played, and staff really enjoyed listening to them. They also made some characters from different types of clay and took part in a quiz.

In art the learners have created some amazing work. We are really proud of the photography, resin art, and particularly the stop motion animation. The pupils should be very proud too!! Some learners have started looking at local attractions as part of their BTECH options, we look forward to visiting some of these places soon.

Lots of fun has been had during their visits to forest school and Underdog. Pupils enjoyed a trip to Colchester Zoo where they took part in an educational workshop about endangered species.



## T3



A busy term for T3 this time round. The pupils have been working hard to finish their B-Tec courses, which has included Nail-Art, Shooting a Short Film, Tourism and Forest School. The Pupils continue to work hard on their work skills at underdog and Hawk Farm. The learners have made bath bombs and bouncy balls in science and visited the zoo as part of their work on endangered animals. The Pupils have been working hard in Maths and English doing very well on their exams. The class finished their group read of super sleuth which they really enjoyed and also done personal reading which has included books about star wars and ones written by Roald Dahl. We have also been taking part in weekly PE sessions which has included Minigolf, Walking and a local Gym. In lifeskills we have been working on cooking and shopping, the Pupils have all enjoyed the walk to Sainsbury's and picking out their recipes.

Hope everyone has a great Easter break from all in T3.



## T4

In T4, we have been focusing on developing the pupils' travel training skills. As part of this, the group completed a practical journey by train from Colchester to Witham. They used the ticket machines to purchase or collect tickets, checked train timetables, and identified the correct platform and departure times.

Once on board, they were encouraged to be observant and aware of their surroundings—paying attention to each stop, listening for announcements, and recognising key landmarks along the route. When they arrived in Witham, the pupils practised following directions and orienting themselves in an unfamiliar environment. They did well engaging in hands-on experiences in building independence, confidence, and problem-solving skills while travelling on public transport.

T4 have also been thoroughly enjoying their off-site enrichment activities, particularly mini golf and the driving range. These outings have given pupils the chance to practise a range of physical and social skills in a fun, engaging environment. During mini golf sessions, pupils worked on hand-eye coordination, turn-taking, patience, and perseverance, as they navigated different courses and challenges. They supported each other, celebrated successes, and demonstrated great teamwork.



# T5



As we come to the end of a busy and exciting term, pupils have enjoyed a wide range of enriching experiences across the curriculum. In Skills for Life, pupils explored cooking through a variety of themes including Mexican dishes, pizzas, air fryer recipes and sweet treats, developing confidence and independence in the kitchen. Visits to Hawk Farm provided valuable hands-on learning, while new BTEC units such as Demonstrating Nail Art Design, Food Preparation and Cooking, Animal Care and Feeding, and Outdoor Pursuits have broadened practical skills and career awareness.

Pupils have also been applying maths in real-life contexts through engaging What3Words coordinate challenges. In PE, activities like rounders, golf and Beat the Streets have encouraged teamwork and fitness. In English, pupils have been reading Jurassic Park while building skills to apply reading and writing in real-world scenarios.

A highlight of the term was the zoo trip, which inspired thoughtful science work on endangered animals. Overall, it has been a fantastic term of growth, exploration and achievement.







Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to announce the launch of a Choir Club at Doucecroft School. The club will give pupils the opportunity to enjoy singing together and perform a range of current and much-loved hit songs in a fun and supportive environment.

Choir Club will take place in the Music Room at the following times:

Tuesday lunchtimes – Primary pupils

Friday lunchtimes – Secondary and Transition pupils

Time: 12:30 – 1:00

The club will be led by Louisa, Kelly and Mikey. No experience is needed – everyone is welcome, and pupils can simply come along and join in.

We hope many pupils will enjoy taking part and discovering the joy of singing together.

Kind regards,

Kelly, Louisa and Mikey

Doucecroft School

## Key Dates

- Monday 30th March- Easter holidays start.
- Monday 13th April- Non-pupil day
- Tuesday 14th April- Back to school- 10:30 start
- 
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April - Mini Marathon-Start time 1pm



## Parental Permissions

We would like to gain parental permissions for use of photos using a new system, please click on the link

<https://forms.office.com/e/rEcOm7qRGgm>

or scan the QR code to complete the form

Doucecroft School: Parent  
Photography & Video Consent  
Form 25/26



### Gate closing times

Please be aware that the gates will be open until **10:45** on a Monday and 9am Tuesday to Friday. Learners arriving later will come in via Reception.

### Reporting absence

If your child is absent, please contact the school either by emailing [dcattendance@autism-anglia.org.uk](mailto:dcattendance@autism-anglia.org.uk)

Or calling 01206 771234 and select option 1, where you will be able to leave a voicemail. Please do this before 9am ,daily with a reason for the absence.

Please do not email class teachers as they will be teaching and might not be able to look at their emails.

If you need to request absence then please complete the "student absence request form" that is available on the school's website and return to the attendance email

<https://www.autism-anglia.org.uk/leave-of-absence>