



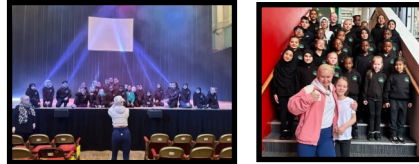
# Newsletter

Spring Term - March 2024

## Forest Park is amazing!

We have had an incredibly busy but exciting term!

Our children have taken part in a variety of sporting activities—starting with some of our KS1 children attending a sports festival at Fenton Manor alongside 17 other schools. Pupils from Y3/4 also went to Fenton Manor to take part in 'Active 60 Sports Festival', as well as the Change for Life Festival. Our Y5 & Y6 pupils took part in the City Netball Tournament. There were 15 schools in total from around Stoke-On-Trent. With only 6 weeks of training the team played tremendously, coming 3rd in their group. Finally, we are so proud of our dance group, who took part in a fantastic performance at the City Dance Extravaganza at the Victoria Hall this week. Pupils from years 2-6 showed resilience and courage performing to an audience of nearly a thousand people.

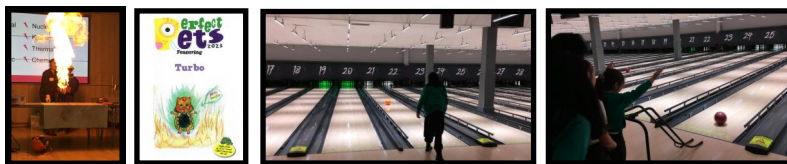


All our children tried their best during every activity, they consistently demonstrated the Sparkle values and were fantastic representatives of the school. We are very proud of them all. This term, we have continued to be treated to some fabulous class assemblies, where pupils have shared their learning from a range of subjects – including science, history and even PE. Well done to the Kingfishers, Kestrels, Dragonflies, Bumblebees, Owls, Robins and Butterflies for their class assemblies and to the whole of Year 4 for their Easter assembly. Thank you to all the parents who attend—we love seeing you.

We were very privileged to have a visit from the Royal Institute of Science. Our Year 4 and 5 pupils enjoyed a science show delivered by the Royal Institute, they found out all about materials. After school, children and their families were treated to a family science show. Feedback after the show included:

'I learnt that energy cannot be created or destroyed, it just moves from one type to another' and 'my favourite part was when I had a helmet and protective gear for my eyes and ears, and we raced to burst the balloon on my head.'

A huge congratulations to some of our Key Stage 2 children who attend Breakfast Club. They have had their illustrations published in a book as part of Perfect Pets books.



The gold SPARKLE award achievers from Year 1 to Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic trip to Tenpin Bowling this week. It was lovely to see the older children supporting the younger children on the journey there and back and throughout their bowling experience. All of the children did Forest Park proud with their impeccable behaviour - well done everyone!

Congratulations also to Mrs Amison, she has been awarded a National Award for Special Educational Needs Award. We are very proud of her!

### Key dates

#### 8th April

School Opens

#### 15th April

Mini beasts Reception

#### 18th April

Y5 EID assembly

#### 25th April

Swallows assembly

#### 13th—17th May

Year 6 SAT's week

#### 14th May

Year 3 Roman Trip

#### 23rd May

Ladybirds assembly

#### 27th — 31st May

HALF TERM

#### 3rd June

School Opens

#### 6th June

Nursery

Apple Tree Town

#### 2nd July

Year 2 Peak Wildlife Park

### Social Media Accounts

We have exciting news and information on our Academy Trust social media pages, have a look.

Instagram: @orchardct

Twitter: @Orchard\_CT

LinkedIn:

[www.linkedin.com/in/orchard-community-trust-aa288322b](http://www.linkedin.com/in/orchard-community-trust-aa288322b)

Facebook: Orchard Community Trust

# Important Information

To keep our children and community safe, we ask you all to please be reminded of the following :

Outdoor equipment and climbing frame is only for use by our pupils during the school day. Please ensure your children do not use at the start/end of the school day. We are not covered by insurance if the children/parents use the equipment before and after school.



Crossing the road—there is a pelican crossing outside of school. Please use this when crossing Waterloo Road. Too many parents with their young children are dodging cars.



**PLEASE use the pelican crossing.**



## Important Information

**Parking—The top of the drive is not to be used for parking. It causes an obstruction and people cannot access the school in an emergency. Double yellow lines means NO PARKING. We have asked the council to help us stop this, so parking tickets will be issued for parents who continue to park irresponsibly. Please help us by parking your car further out and walking to school.**



**Double red lines – These are outside the school gates on Waterloo Road and mean you must not stop on these lines. It is extremely dangerous for your children and for other road users if you do stop on these lines.**

**Please also ensure your children are not jumping out of the car whilst you stop at the lights.**

**Let us please keep our children and families safe.**

# Thank You

# Message from our Chair of Governors

## Dear Parents and Carers

There have been a lot of changes this term at Forest Park. We were very sad to receive the resignation of Miss Irving who has led the school so successfully for the last 8 years. However, we were delighted to appoint Ms. Vorajee as her successor. She has worked alongside Miss Irving, leading the changes in curriculum which contributed greatly to the successful Ofsted last term and everything she does is for the benefit of the Forest Park community. I have no doubt that Forest Park will continue to sparkle under her leadership and look forward to working with her in September. She will be supported by Mr Thomas who replaces her as deputy head. He is just as firm in the belief that the children come first and his mission is to give them every opportunity to be the best they can be, promoting independence, confidence and teamwork. These new appointments will ensure our school goes from strength to strength.

As you know we receive regular visits to check the health and safety risks arising from the premises and the activities within. During a recent audit, we had very positive feedback from our Health, Safety and Wellbeing Advisor. I would like to give a big thank you Mr Brookes our site supervisor and his team and to Mrs Bridgeman our school Business Manager who play a big part in making sure our school is a safe and secure place to be and work.

Finally, the end of March and beginning of April is a special time for many of us as we will be celebrating Easter and the holy month of Ramadan has begun. I wish you and your families a Happy Easter and a peaceful Ramadan.

**Jan Peterson**  
**Chair of Governors**



## Change of the length of school day at Forest Park Primary School

This is to inform you of some proposed changes to the times of our school day from **September 2024**. This is in line with the Government's White Paper of March 2022 and DfE's "Minimum expectation on length of the school week" information note, which state that schools should be open a minimum of 32.5 hours per week.

To ensure that we comply with this expectation, we are proposing to extend the school day by 20 minutes. This change will result in the children finishing school at **3.15pm**. The start time of 8.40am will remain the same.

The current and proposed times are shown below:

Proposed new school day from September 2024	
Start time	8.45am
Finish time	3.15pm

Current school day	
Start time	8.45am
Finish time	2.55pm

If you have any feedback please email [consultation@forestpark.org.uk](mailto:consultation@forestpark.org.uk)

Thank-you

## Curriculum News

Nursery have been talking about the season 'winter'. They went outside and explored the snow. The children enjoyed throwing snowballs at their teachers! Inside, they explored ice. They froze toys in ice and painted ice cubes. The children were excited to see the ice melt. This half term they have been working on their crawling skills as part of gross motor development. The children were crawling on their tummy under a row of low hoops. Some children even went on their back! Outside, they have made challenging obstacle courses to help them balance, take turns and problem solve. They have really enjoyed working together. They have had the opportunity to work with clay as part of 'Pottery week'. The potter, Emma Bridgewater, inspired them. First, they explored the clay through touch, and then they rolled the clay with a rolling pin. They then cut out a poppy shape with the cookie cutter. Finally, they decorated poppies. Some children stuck balls on their poppy and some made dents or holes using tools.



The children in Early Years have been finding out about different careers. They have particularly enjoyed a visit from the Police and the Fire Service. The children were very excited to sit in the Police car and turn the lights and sirens on. They learnt that to get help they need to ring 999. The Fire Service let the children hold the hose and spray water. The jet was very powerful! Many of the children would like to work in the emergency services when they grow up.



## Curriculum News

In February, **Reception** were very lucky to have the theatre company come to our school for a performance of Goldilocks and the Three Bears! This was a story they had been learning about so enjoyed seeing this performance and joining in with drama activities with the visiting actors.

In addition to this, the children also enjoyed baking their own bread rolls just like the Little Red Hen in our traditional tales story. Once the children had tasted the bread rolls, they were then able to use their experience to support them in writing about how to bake bread.



This term, Reception have also been involved in careers week. They learnt all about different jobs and even had special visits from our local PCSO and firefighting team. The children got to have a turn in the police car and pressing the sirens as well as dressing up as police officers themselves. The children also got to experience firing the water hose from the fire engine!

# Curriculum News

**Year 1** As part of their learning in science the children have been grouping and classifying animals. To support the learning about reptiles, Mrs Martin brought in Dash the Tortoise.



In Geography lessons Year 1 have been learning all about the United Kingdom. They have looked at a variety of maps and labelled the four countries, their capital cities and flags. Children have also enjoyed making London Landmarks using Lego, cubes and wooden blocks.



In art the children have looked at the art Kandinsky. They have enjoyed exploring pattern and colour using a range of mediums. In history they have been learning about the great fire of London. Children have thoroughly enjoyed finding out what happened and why which was supported by their visit to Ford Green Hall. They were memorized by the character Samuel Pepys.



## Curriculum News

This past half term in **Year 2 PHSE**, the children have been actively engaged in learning about the importance of hygiene. Through interactive discussions, they explored the significance of habits such as brushing teeth twice a day for a minimum of two minutes, taking regular showers or baths and maintaining hand hygiene.

To reinforce these lessons, each pupil received their own toothbrush, toothpaste, and a tooth brushing chart to monitor their dental care routine over the next month.



Moreover, students participated in a captivating science experiment delving into the critical role of handwashing. Using glitter as a representation of germs, they discovered the necessity of thorough handwashing with soap to effectively eliminate them.

In Design and Technology, our young innovators are currently immersed in the exciting process of designing and constructing a cart fit for a pirate's treasure. Through experimentation with fixed and free-moving axles, they are eagerly preparing to bring their cart designs to life next week. Stay tuned for updates on their creative endeavours!





## Curriculum News

**Year 3** learned about Clarice Cliff and her importance to the area and then designed and made their own tile, with a poppy theme to help create a more permanent external display. In English they have been writing letters to the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, to persuade him to take action to help combat climate change. As part of that, the classes wrote and performed a news report, in groups, on the story of the Northern Bottle nosed Whale that got stuck in the river Thames.



The classes have also enjoyed their programming unit in computing. Being able to explore Scratch, programme sprites to move and create their own sequence. They have been exploring North America, looking at the different countries and famous physical and human geographical landmarks across this vast and varied continent.

Year 3 enjoyed a trip to Stafford Castle at the end of last half term and learnt all about how during the Bronze Age and Iron Age they built castles at the top of hills to deter enemies. They also learnt how to mint a coin and each child had a go at making their own.

This half term they took part in scootability. The children learnt how to ride scooters safely and practised using their skills on the playground. They have also been designing and making their own 3D boxes in DT. The children have enjoyed creating their own nets, applying their design and constructing the boxes to hold a gift for mothers day.

**Year 4** visited Manchester Museum to launch their Ancient Egypt topic, where they took a tour of the fossil exhibition, the natural history section and Golden Mummies of Egypt exhibit. They took part in a workshop with a museum curator where the children had the opportunity to handle real and replica Ancient Egyptian artefacts and find out about their uses. The children were a credit to the school and learnt so much on their visit.



As part of our science topic on teeth a member of the Hands-on-Science team made Plaster of Paris teeth casts with the children and taught them about the different types of teeth and their uses. They looked at a variety of animal skulls and identified whether the animals were prey or predator, herbivore, omnivore or carnivore from the types of teeth and position of the eyes in the skull. In addition, the children have been conducting their own scientific investigation into which liquids damage teeth the most using eggshells and a variety of liquids. The children will let you know the results.

## Curriculum News

**Year 4** also had an amazing opportunity to take part in a 'Faith Trail', visiting a Church, Mosque and Gurdwara, all in one day. At each place of worship, the children were given an information talk and tour. They were able to ask questions and learnt a lot from each religious leader. The children were praised at each place of worship for their wonderful behaviour and fantastic listening skills. We are very proud of them!

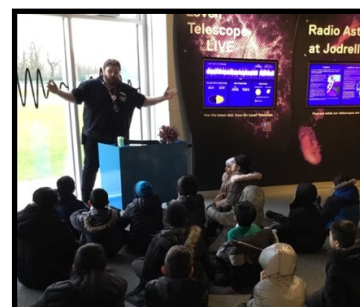
Year 4 were thrilled to take part in a Science Show with the Royal Institution in February, exploring the different types of energy and being amazed with lots of flashes and big explosions during live experiments.



**Year 5** have been rocking in the weekly TT Rockstar competition, the scores have been higher than ever, thank you to all the parents who have been supporting the children with this. At the beginning of the term, Year 5 took part in Pottery Week, using the influence of Burleigh, each child designed and created their own ceramic tile. The children impressed us with their knowledge of the Potteries, which we had been studying in the previous term. The Swans have really enjoyed forest schools with Miss Irving, learning many useful skills, including how to build a den!

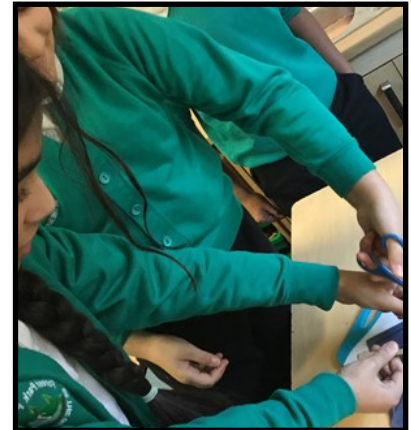


In Design and Technology, the children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring and using pulleys to make toy cars with motors for the Reception children. All of the children have shown great enthusiasm whilst studying Macbeth. We have used role play to deepen our understanding of the characters. As a result, the children have produced diary entries that have blown us away! Well done year 5! We took part in the Recorder Festival at Victoria Hall with several schools across the city and our year 4 children watching in the audience! It was wonderful to see the children being able to show off their hard work over several weeks to a live audience. We went on a trip to Jodrell Bank where we deepened our knowledge of space. The highlight for everyone was exploring the depths of space in the immersive planetarium experience.

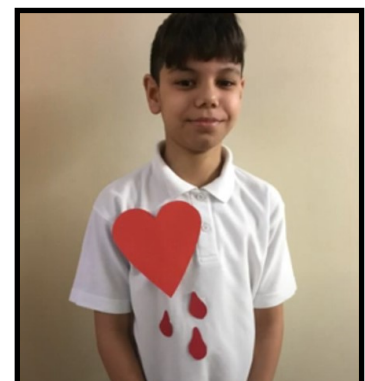
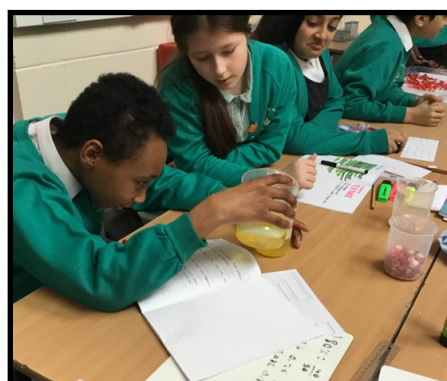
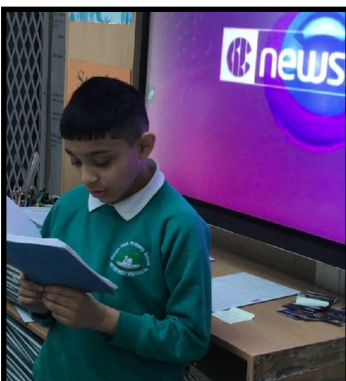


## Curriculum News

**Year 6** researched Royal Stafford pottery and used their designs as inspiration for their own project. As part of this project, and using the knowledge from our history topic, year 6 created their own memorial tile to represent and remember a soldier who died in World War 1. The tiles will be used to create a memorial here at Forest Park. Year 6 have been involved in discussions about the different relationships that we form within the community, within the school and within the home. They are beginning to understand their responsibilities and what it means to form healthy relations with others. We were delighted to welcome Mr Ahmed back into the class to discuss the importance of being a positive member of the community. The class discussed the fact that everybody is different and that we should be respectful of an individual's choices. We also learnt strategies to deal with certain situations that may arise including those that present difficult choices. In January, we were joined by 'Hands on Science' who came in to talk about the circulatory system. The children loved the experience to get to see real animal hearts up close and to explore the different sections whilst having expert guidance to learn interesting facts about this fascinating topic.



In their science topic this term, year 6 have been learning all about the Circulatory System. They created a 'blood solution' using Cheerios cereal, marshmallows, rice and food colouring to represent and further understand the different components of blood. From this, the children were able to grasp important vocabulary such as platelets and plasma, alongside understanding their vital function within the blood. The children used percentages to measure out the components, which was great maths practise too! Keeping with the theme of the heart and the Circulatory System, Kingfishers hosted their class assembly. The assembly boasted a variety of information to showcase the Childrens' learning with exciting facts and insightful idioms. Moreover, linking to their English topic of Pig Heart Boy, the class held a 'tennis match debate' to determine whether Cameron (a fictional character from the class read) should accept a heart from a pig. Kingfishers' overarching decision was for Cameron to accept a pig heart, because this would give Cameron a chance of life. After considering the debate, in English, the children created a news report which further explained the story of Cameron and his pig heart. They first presented their reports orally to the class, and afterwards created a written piece. For this piece of work, the children were focussing on writing dialogue and summarising events. Finally, in DT this term the children have been using CAD. (Computer-aided design) This technology enables the children to a build a 3D model for a future product. They have begun to design an item, using CAD, that can be used by a soldier in WW1, for example a backpack. Once the 3D models are complete, the children will practise their sewing skills to make their chosen design.





We are very sad to be losing two of our wonderful staff this term.

Miss Cox has decided she will not be returning to teaching after her maternity leave so she can spend more time with her family. She has been at Forest Park since 2006 as an excellent class teacher and assistant Headteacher.

We wish her all the best in her new role at the Virtual School.



Mrs Patten is leaving to return to her previous career as a social worker. Since she arrived at Forest Park, Mrs Patten has been a huge part of our Family Support team, making a difference to the lives of many children and their families.

We wish her all the very best in her new adventure.

## Attendance at Forest Park Primary School

**What does your child's attendance equate to?**  
A text message will be sent to you at the end of term informing you of your child's current attendance.

100%	Zero days missed	Perfection!
99%	Two days of absence	Excellent!
97%	Five days of absence	Good
95%	Nine days of absence across the year: one week and four days of learning missed.	Satisfactory
90%	Nineteen days of absence across the year; three weeks and four days of learning missed	Poor
85%	Twenty-eight days of absence across the year: five weeks and three days of learning missed.	Very Poor
80%	Thirty-eight days of absence across the year: seven weeks and 3 days of learning missed.	Unacceptable
75%	Forty-six days of absence across the year: nine weeks and one day of learning missed.	Unacceptable

If you need help or support with your child's attendance and/or punctuality, please speak to Miss Bloor.

Attendance Spring 2024		
Class	%	😊😐😞
Poppies	84.70%	😞
Daisies	84.70%	😞
Buttercups	89.58%	😞
Clovers	89.38%	😞
Butterflies	86.36%	😞
Ladybirds	94.26%	😊
Robins	95.35%	😊
Owls	95.73%	😊
Bumblebees	95.00%	😊
Foxes	91.11%	😊
Dragonflies	93.92%	😊
Swallows	93.39%	😊
Kestrels	96.56%	😊
Swans	94.63%	😊
Hedgehogs	93.49%	😊
Kingfishers	93.09%	😊
<b>WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>92.09%</b>	😊