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Key dates:

- ❖ Christmas dinner Thursday 20th December
- ❖ Christmas fayre & family afternoon Thursday 20th December 1.30pm - end of day
- ❖ Half day closing Friday 21st December (school finishes for pupils at 12.10)

Message from the Headteacher

Another busy term for our young people with lots of exciting activities taking place.

Thank you to all parents, carers and extended family who supported the settling in parents evening before the half term. We are always keen to be able to join our community together though this can be a challenge as our families are spread so far afield. It was lovely to meet the families of our new starters and for everyone to have the opportunity to see the school, our new facilities and to meet other families and children.

Over the half term break we have had the playground adjacent to the Communicate classes re-surfaced and an old covered structure removed. This has given the children more space to play. We will be adding resources and marking to the outside spaces to support free-flow outside learning, break and lunch time play. We will also be installing a mobility strip around the external part of the building to support independent navigation for our visually impaired young people.

As we move towards Christmas we will be involving all the children in our preparations- putting up the tree (each child has a bauble to add to the tree) and also preparing for our Christmas family afternoon, where families (and friends!) will be invited to school to take part in Christmas activities with our children and class teams (festive jumpers optional!). During this event we will also have a winter Christmas fayre- selling cakes, bric-a-brac, Santa’s grotto etc. If any parents/families would like to support us with running a stall please contact us via the school office. All proceeds will go towards learning resources and subsidising trips out for the young people.

A reminder- as the weather gets colder, to send your child in with appropriate clothing (hat, scarf, coat).

Trish Turner

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School News

Autumn 1 Theme:

This half term the topic theme is “Myself”. All students are learning about themselves and teachers have incorporated this theme into all of their planning and lessons. The themes really allow us to be creative with the curriculum so that our students learn and experience a lot of new things.

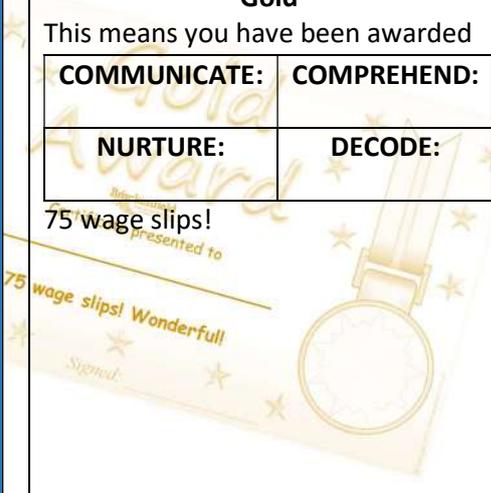
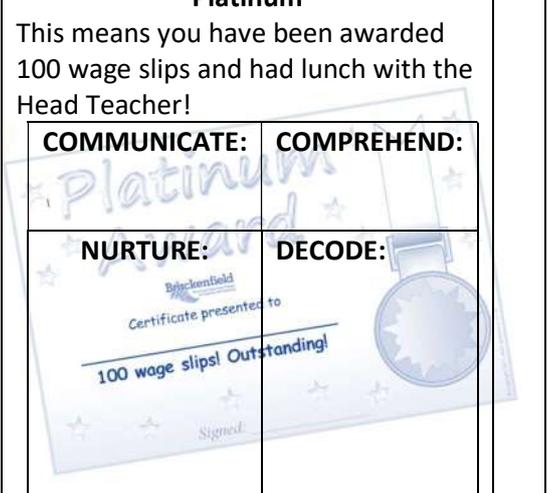
Derbyshire School Leavers Skills Festival

Year 11 attended the Derbyshire School Leavers Skills Festival on Tuesday 25th September at Queens Park Leisure Centre. Students and their parents visited the festival and were able to talk to Post 16 work place providers and other agencies to gather facts about the opportunities available to the students' post 16. There were an array of activities and providers and some really helpful advice was sought and given to our young adults.



Wage Slip Award Winners- Summer Term

Bronze		Silver	
This means you have been awarded 25 wage slips!		This means you have been awarded 50 wage slips!	
COMMUNICATE:	COMPREHEND:	COMMUNICATE:	COMPREHEND:
Meyra	Leah	Kacper	Dean
Freya	Fraser	Nathan	Arim
Willow	Joss	Brandon	
Codie	Alex	Holly	
Kelsey	Elliot		
Kourtney	Ilaria		
Aimee	Kyle		
Kacper	Raymond		
Brandon	Matthew P		
Ellie	Malachy		
Josh	Harry		
Arun	Megan		
Nathan	Chloe		
Tiffany	Arim		
Holly	Seth		
	Myles		
	Amelia		
NURTURE:	DECODE:		
5 wage slips! Well done!	Slena		
	Chris		

	Sinead	
Gold		Platinum
This means you have been awarded		This means you have been awarded
COMMUNICATE:	COMPREHEND:	100 wage slips and had lunch with the Head Teacher!
NURTURE:	DECODE:	COMMUNICATE:
75 wage slips!		COMPREHEND:
 <p>75 wage slips! Wonderful!</p>		 <p>100 wage slips! Outstanding!</p>

Coming Soon:

At Brackenfield School we all now know that:

Wage Slips = Rewards

The "Pop" up reward shop will be making a comeback in December 2018 with lots of lovely rewards and "goodies". Once again students will be able to cash in their wage slips and reward themselves. **Start collecting and saving everyone!**



Communicate:

Yew Class

Have been joined by four new students this term who have settled in really well and are sharing laughter and excitement both with their peers and the staff. We have all enjoyed contributing to our autumn art displays, from sharing play with leaves to sticking and painting.



Students have been learning to interact and play communicate with each other, communicate to staff and learning to enjoy lessons such as PE, art, music and reading. OF COURSE everybody is loving the new sensory space!

Acorns Class

A fantastic first half term for all Acorns class, they have settled really well into their new classroom. As part of Ourselves topic we have been identifying parts of our bodies particularly our ears, eyes, noses and mouth. We have extended this topic into sensory art by making portraits and faces out of craft materials and playdough. We have also been learning about autumn and the changes it brings to the world around us. They particularly loved making hedgehogs. Everyone in Acorns Class has enjoyed exploring all the new resources both inside and out.



Willow Class

Willow have had a brilliant first term back at school. We have been learning about ourselves and have been focusing on what foods we like. To support independent living we have been creating shopping lists, visiting shops to buy food, making a variety of dishes and then eating them (some more successful than others).

We have also been doing lots of activities where turn taking is involved and learning from each other how to share turns and support our peers when they struggle with certain tasks. All the students in Willow have been really good at this and have been fantastic role models for each other.



Comprehend:

Elm Class

Elm have had a fabulous first half term back! Pupils have welcomed new starters and have formed positive friendships within the class. As part of Ourselves topic we have learnt about our senses, friendships, keeping healthy and events from our past.



In Science lessons pupils carried out different experiments to explore each sense. They particularly enjoyed tasting sweet, sour, salty and bitter foods. During English lessons we have read a range of different stories linked to the world around us. We have used our senses to write Autumn Sense poems. In Community Participation we have been learning about The Great Fire of London. Pupils sequenced events that occurred and created newspaper articles to share key facts and information. They created their own Pudding Lane making houses out of cardboard boxes and using tissue paper for the flames. It has been amazing to see pupils get so involved in their learning and enjoyed these lessons!

Conkers Class



Conkers class had a fantastic, eventful half term. There are new friendships developing in our classroom, and all the students settled well in the new environment. The class is becoming a team, who respect each other and enjoy each other's company. They gained experiences in road safety, looking after themselves and helping others. We visited local parks, shops, libraries and of course the pumpkin farm to learn about our community. Enjoyed a special English

lesson in the Hungry Caterpillar coffee shop Long Eaton. We continued improving our Maths and English skills, and had magnificent Science experiments.



Ash Class

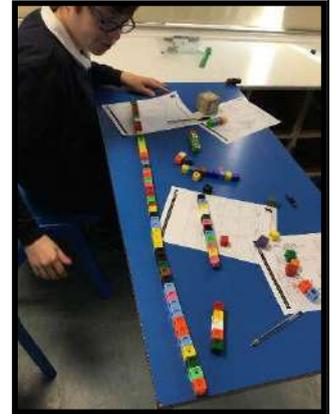
It has been a productive first half term for the students of Ash, who have all started to complete units towards their Aims Award Qualifications. In English, students have been developing their ability to identify and read sources of information such as text books, and dictionaries.



Maths lessons have seen students improve their core addition and subtraction skills, some to even adding seven digit numbers! To coincide with this half terms topic of 'Ourselves', Science lessons have seen students in Ash class use a range of equipment to take measurements such as rulers, tape measures, cubes, and non-contact thermometers. These were used to measure lengths and temperatures of classrooms, outdoor areas, and even other students!



Art lessons have turned historical, with Ash looking at famous historical portraits of the English monarch King Henry VIII, and attempting to recreate a similar designed piece of art.



Students have enjoyed appreciating and critiquing a wide variety of music, ranging from classical orchestral to modern pop, and everything

in-between. Students have also had the opportunity to play an assortment of instruments such the Ukulele, and the keyboard.

Decode:

Rowan Class

Rowan class were delighted to take part in a visit to Trent College where pupils used a range of facilities at the school. Pupils really enjoyed the printing in the art room, badge and keyring making in the library area, PE in the sports hall and experiments in the science laboratory. Highlights included making chromatography trolls, seeing all the animals in the science room and the excellent dinner served in the canteen. Our thanks to the staff and students at Trent college for making us so welcome!

We were also very fortunate to be given the opportunity this term to visit a fair free of charge. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the rides and had a really fantastic day.

In lessons we have been exploring the communities we belong to and the different jobs people do.

We have also spent time learning about food groups and choosing recipes we would like to cook. In maths the students have enjoyed showing what they have learnt through activities on Education City and have earned certificates for these. They also worked brilliantly as a class to put together an assembly on Epilepsy Awareness.



Oak class

This term the class have been really getting to grips with the AIMS qualification and beginning to build up our credits towards the Award. Science has been full of excitement; creating, observing and recording a range of chemical reactions and displaying a good knowledge of the pH scale, including neutralising acids and making our own Universal Indicator from red cabbage!

The students have recently moved on to an Electricity topic and have been successfully making and recognising Series and Parallel Circuits. PE has focused on individual sport playing, and it has been very pleasing to see how well the students have progressed at badminton, culminating in a mini-championship. In Art, the class has been concentrating on colour and the particular use of cold and warm colours and the use of a complimentary colour to create some very vivid and geometrical designs.

This term the class started doing construction at Derby College, and after a number of weeks developing their skills with the saw and chisel, are about to embark on a project to build a bird box.

Beech Class

This term we have introduced Big Write books. The class have produced some lovely stories using their incredible imaginations.

During Independent living lessons we have been discussion parenting and looking at what a baby requires. We will soon be having a little visitor to the class! I'm sure you will hear about it shortly.

During science lessons Beech class have learnt about the differences between plant and animal cells. At the same time we have used our practical skills to make slides of

plant and animal cells using onions and our own cheek cells. We then observed these under a microscope.



We have also discussed variation, recorded observations and drawn graphs of our results.



We are now researching engaging scientific experiments that we can carry out that make us think and evaluate our work as young scientists. Kicking this off with Lava

lamps. We made sparkly colourful lava lamps in science and then researched how and what makes them work. David's Forest one particularly stood out!



Next term we will be visiting some new places and looking at different types of transport.

Staffing:

Goodbyes:

We would like to say a fond farewell to Mrs Martin who after 13 years at Brackenfield has retired to spend more time with her grandchildren.

Welcome:

As our pupil numbers have expanded we would also like to welcome these new additions to our team:

Mrs Reason- Specialist Teaching and Learning Assistant Communicate pathway

Mrs Brown- Specialist Teaching and Learning Assistant Decode pathway

Mrs Blake- Mid-day supervisor

Mrs Wheatcroft- Relief Mid-day supervisor