The Link School

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PARENT NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1 2026-27

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been blessed with glorious sunshine and warm weather this term, rather than the mists and mellow fruitfulness more usually associated with the season. Here at The Link, however, we have certainly been fruitful.

Our students have settled in exceptionally well and have navigated some significant changes across the school, particularly within the primary building. We are incredibly proud of how positively they have embraced these developments.

I am delighted to announce the opening of our Legacy provision. It has already proved to be a great success, with students enthusiastically exploring the many opportunities available to them. It was also wonderful to welcome parents into the provision earlier this term for guided tours. Later in this newsletter, you will find news stories and photographs showcasing some of the activities taking place within Legacy.

As many of you will appreciate, opening a new provision is one achievement; ensuring students can access it effectively is another. I am therefore equally pleased to share that we have already secured a new minibus this term, with another due to arrive in November. We are extremely grateful to Variety Golf for their generous contribution towards this project. Their support has significantly increased our transport capacity and saved the school approximately £80,000.

I would also like to thank all parents and carers who responded to the Evidence for Learning consent letters. By the time you receive this newsletter, you should have received your login details and begun using the app to see examples of your child's learning and achievements. If you haven't received your login or are having any issues please contact Kathy on koakley@thelinkschool.co.uk This marks the beginning of an exciting journey. As the platform becomes increasingly embedded within the life of the school, you will gain greater insight into your child's experiences, and we will continue to expand the information and features available to families.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL (CONTINUED)

It was lovely to see so many of you at our coffee mornings and welcome evenings. We are also excited about the continued development of our Parent Teacher Association. We have welcomed several new members this year and are looking forward to expanding both what we do and what we can offer our school community.

We understand that family life can be busy and demanding, so any support, however large or small, is greatly appreciated. Whether you are able to become a full member of the PTA and attend termly meetings, or simply volunteer for an hour at the Winter Fair, every contribution makes a difference.
If you would like to get involved, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Liam Keane at **LKeane@thelinkschool.co.uk.**

This has already been an exciting year and there is much more to come, with several important developments planned across the school. A key part of this is ensuring that our families feel closely connected to school life. The success of our students depends on us working together, listening to one another and, most importantly, listening to the voices of our young people.

I would therefore like to remind you that we are firmly on your side. While life brings many wonderful moments, it can also present challenges that are not always easy to navigate. We are here to help wherever we can, whether that means supporting medical appointments, helping you access information about services and entitlements, providing advocacy, or simply offering advice and guidance when needed. Whatever the situation, we will always do our best to support you and your family.

I hope you enjoy reading about the many achievements and successes featured in this newsletter, and I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break.

Warm regards,

Joe Shepherd

Joe Shepherd
Principal, The Link School

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THE LINK SCHOOL @ LEGACY YOUTH ZONE

The Link school are very lucky to have access to Legacy Youth Zone this academic year, alongside fellow OHCAT schools, Addington Valley Academy (AVA) and Carew Academy.

Already, several groups of students have attended from the Secondary site.

Activities and spaces on offer at Legacy include:

- Roller-skating
- Podcasting
- Art
- Music production
- Wall climbing
- Cooking
- Café
- Sensory room
- Sensory garden
- Hair and beauty studio

There are also state-of-the art indoor sports facilities including a boxing gym, large sports hall, dance studio and a fully-equipped gym.

Students have really enjoyed exploring the large venue and all it has to offer. Legacy provides vast amounts of space as well as excellent facilities and opportunities to interact with students from other, local schools in our Academy Trust.

The facility really does have something to appeal to each and every one of our students. Opportunities for socialising and hands-on learning are in abundance. Needless to say, the students have all been very excited to return to Legacy.

SCHOOL WEBSITE ADDITIONS - CURRICULUM MAPS AND CLASS TIMETABLES

These are now available to view on the school website.

Curriculum Maps - For Curriculum Maps, select your child's site, e.g. 'Secondary' from the menu at the top of the page and then select, 'Curriculum' and 'Class Groups'. Here you can find a Curriculum Map for the class's learning this term. The maps will be updated termly.

Class Timetables - Individual class timetables can be found in the 'Parents' section of the website. You can simply select your child's class to see a copy of their weekly timetable.
Class Timetables - The Link School | Quality education for children and young people

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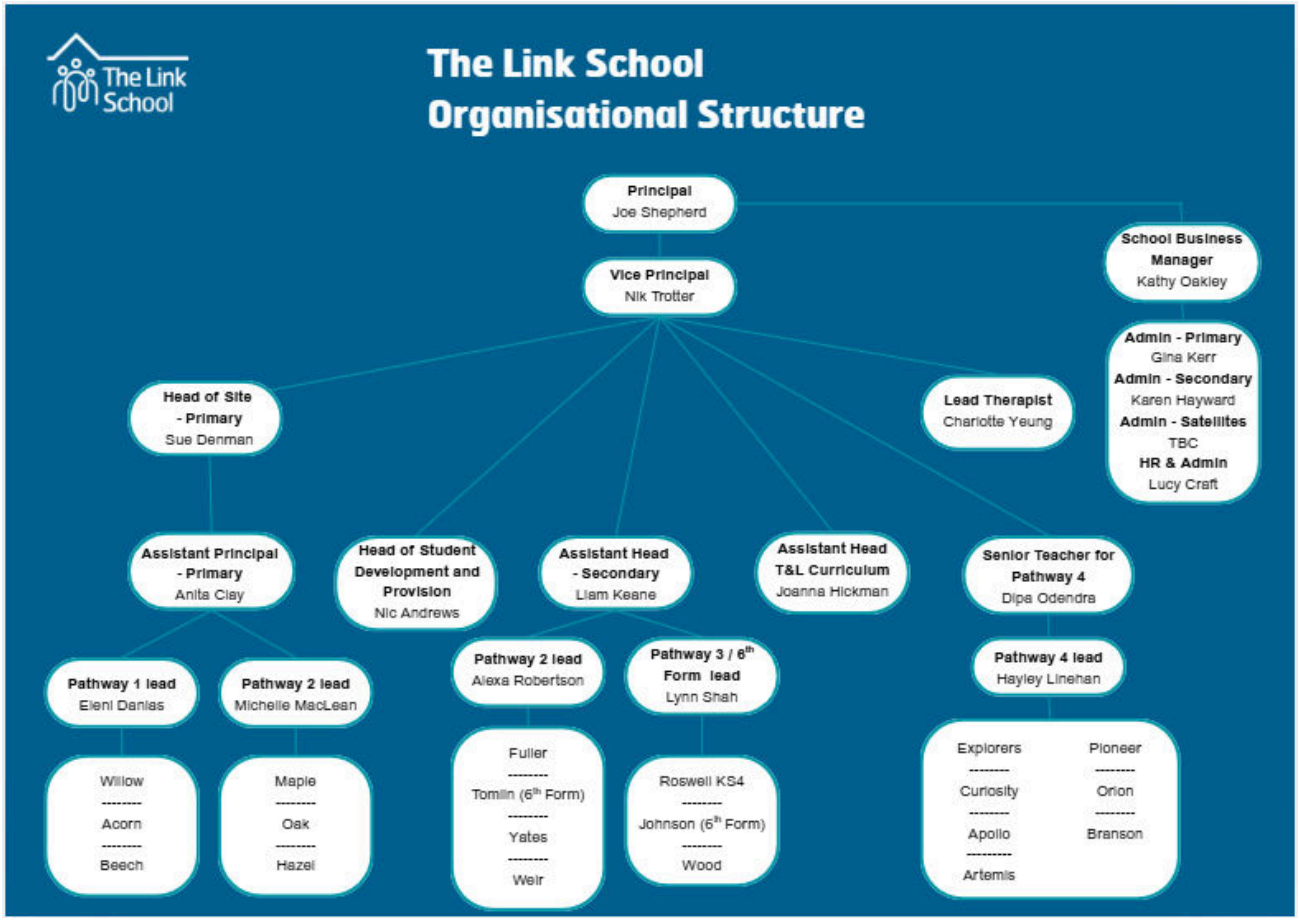
MIDDLE LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS @ THE LINK

There were recent staff appointments to create a new layer of middle leadership across The Link School sites. Our new Pathway Leads already play a pivotal role in our day-to-day operations, bringing with them valuable experience and insight across our four pathways. We are sure they will be instrumental in developing and shaping our 'one school' vision.

We have appointed five Pathway Leads. They are:

- Eleni Danias – Pathway 1/ Early Years Lead (Primary)
- Michelle Maclean – Pathway 2 Lead (Primary)
- Alexa Robertson – Pathway 2 Lead (Secondary)
- Lynn Shah – Pathway 3 / 6th Form (Secondary)
- Hayley Linehan – Pathway 4 (Across sites)

It may interest you to see how staffing is now structured across the school:



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THERAPY TEAM NEWS

Parent Workshop - When Children Won't Eat - Free 2 hour webinar

The SOS approach to feeding is a transdisciplinary approach to treating children with feeding difficulties. There is an understanding that parents and caregivers of children who struggle to eat, often face a challenging and confusing journey, as feeding difficulties can be influenced by a range of factors including sensory processing, oral motor skills, anxiety, medical issues, and developmental experiences.
SOS have developed a free parent / carer workshop which can be accessed through their website, to support parents and carers in understanding feeding difficulties and they offer evidence-based advice and strategies.

Toileting

Being able to use the toilet is an important milestone that supports bladder and bowel health as well as independence. However, many of our children struggle to make that transition due to a number of reasons and the toilet training journey can be complex and stressful for many parents and carers. ERIC is the number one bladder and bowel charity in the UK, and it offers various resources for parents and carers such as videos handouts, a helpline and free parent training. Most of our children can be toilet trained and it's better to start early. If you are considering toilet training or are in the process, then please check out the information below and keep an eye out on the website for free parent webinars.

Potty training children with additional needs - ERIC
Helpline
You can call us on Freephone 0808 801 0343. The Helpline is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am-1pm.

Let's Go Potty

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THERAPY TEAM NEWS

Meet our new Speech and Language Therapist – Thuli Mlahlwa!

Thuli started working with us at the Secondary Site in April. Thuli is from South Africa and is enjoying supporting our students' speech and language needs while experiencing life in London for the first time!

Rithish and Ruby from Fuller class at the Secondary Site, interviewed Thuli so we can find out more about her…

Rithish & Ruby: Do you know where South Africa is and can you tell us more about it?

Thuli: Yes, I do know where South Africa is. South Africa is full of different cultures just like here. There are lots of different languages to learn. It is full of nature, beautiful walks and lots of animals!

Rithish & Ruby: Do you like London?

Thuli: I do love it! I like the people, the place and my job. I have been making friends and meeting new people.

Rithish & Ruby: What is the best thing about working at The Link?

Thuli: The best thing about working at the Link is getting to know all the people here – getting to know the students and the routines of the school. Everyone is easy to talk to and friendly.

Rithish & Ruby: What is your favourite restaurant?

Thuli: Nandos! It's a South African restaurant and the chicken is really good!

Rithish & Ruby: What's your favourite sport?

Thuli: I love rugby. I am watching rugby more and I am getting to understand all the rules.

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PRIMARY SITE NEWS

Art and Engagement

In Art and Engagement this term the children were invited to experiment with mark-making using a variety of materials and natural resources. From mark-making with corn husks to making trains with boxes, these open-ended, process orientated activities encouraged the children to be curious, take risks and express themselves freely.

Throughout the term, the children were encouraged to use their senses in exploring and experimenting with natural materials, like sunflowers, leaves, lavender, poppy seedheads, incorporating some of them to create beautiful autumnal sculptures using clay.

Next term we will continue to focus on creative mark-making, role-playing, music-making and movement related to topics covered in classes.

Primary Library Council

We have some exciting news at the Primary – we are starting a library! We have secured ourselves a fantastic team to help make the library and promote reading across the school. Our library council is Malcolm, Oliver, Milan, Marianne, Adam and Omar.

We have had our first meeting, and we have decided what rug we shall get to make it look nice and what display we will use to show off our books.

Starting next half term, we are having a whole school reading incentive for all children to take part individually and as part of a team. This is where we need you to support us -

- If children read or engage with a book at home, then their name is put into a prize draw for a book token. Parents let the class teacher know the book. Each time they engage with reading then their name is entered, so the more books that they engage with, the more entries they get. We have some children in the primary who are reading chapter books – in the council, we decided a chapter book is worth 2 entries.
- Also, a competition between the classes - How many books can each class read over a half term? The class with the most gets a new book or book token. The numbers could come from the above idea.

(continued)
We will be sorting reading scheme books to send home, and these books can count towards their reading engagement.

Please feel free to send your teachers pictures of your child reading. This could be them reading their favourite book or in their favourite place to read or a new book that they found funny.

ACORN CLASS NEWS

Acorn Class is led by **Eleni (Teacher)** and supported by **Karen, Maria, Martha, Jess and Garcianne (SSAs)**. We also work closely with **Fatimah (Speech and Language Therapist)** and **Jo (Occupational Therapist)** to support pupils' communication, independence and development.

What We Have Been Learning This Half Term
This year we have welcomed 4 new students into Acorn class, so we have spent time settling into the new school year, learning classroom routines, expectations and building positive relationships with peers and staff. All the students in Acorn class are doing extremely well; the team and I are very proud of them.

Our Topic this term is 'Transport' and as part of our topic the children in Acorn Class will be learning about a range of different transport what sounds they make and where we may find or see them e.g. in the sky, on water, on land, etc. We will incorporate related stories, and rhymes and provide focus activities throughout the day within continuous provision which will include the different forms of transport. These activities will be supported with tactile and sensory materials and offer opportunities to develop autonomy, have an understanding of the world around them and express their preferences while using their interests to extend their learning.

The aim is to make it as functional and meaningful to the pupils with lots of opportunities to generalise their skills to different environments and solidify and develop their language through shared attention, gesture, signs, symbols, and verbal communication. Listening and comprehension skills in a range of contexts will also be a key area of learning.

An Experience from This Half Term
This term, pupils have enjoyed becoming familiar with the Acorn environment and have also enjoyed and engaged in lots of different activities such as: 'Silly Soup' (phonics), Attention Autism, Interactive Music and Rhyme Time. We are also learning new skills to promote and develop independence across academic learning, and self help all while having lots of fun!

What We Will Be Learning Next Half Term
We will continue our topic 'Transport' and will also be focusing on Relationships and Health which will be embedded in daily activities as well as explicitly taught with relationship building techniques and social interaction games. We will also be looking at relationships of family and friends, respectful relationships in class, across the school and beginning to incorporate the 'Zones of Regulation' in our daily routines.

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WILLOW CLASS NEWS

Willow Class is led by **Hanna (Teacher)** and supported by **Kel, Rachael, Claire C, Linda and Danuta (SSAs)**. We also work closely with **Fatimah (Speech and Language Therapist)** and **Clare T (Occupational Therapist)** to support our pupils' communication, independence and development.
What We Have Been Learning This Half Term.

Our topic for the Autumn Term is **"Transport"**, and we have had lots of fun exploring the different ways we can travel! Pupils have enjoyed learning about different types of transport through songs, stories, creative activities and imaginative play.

In Art, pupils decorated their own plane wings before putting them on and taking off around the classroom! We also worked together to decorate a large cardboard bus, which became a fantastic opportunity for pupils to role-play as passengers and practise sharing and taking turns with their friends. Transport has also been woven into our cutting and sticking, mark making and fine motor activities, giving pupils lots of opportunities to develop their skills while enjoying our topic.

An Experience from This Half Term
One of the highlights of our transport topic has been our imaginative role-play activities. The cardboard bus and flying plane activities have given pupils the opportunity to bring their learning to life, while developing their creativity, communication and social skills.

We have loved seeing pupils joining in, taking on different roles and sharing these experiences with their peers. Some pupils have also enjoyed travelling by minibus to their weekly horse-riding sessions, giving them the opportunity to experience transport within the wider community.

What We Will Be Learning Next Half Term
Next half term, we will continue with our **"Transport"** topic and explore it through a variety of fun, practical and engaging activities. We will continue to build on pupils' communication, social and independence skills while providing plenty of opportunities for creativity, sensory exploration and learning through play.

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MAPLE CLASS NEWS

Maple Class is led by **Michelle (Teacher)** and supported by **Caroline, Cerys and Amali/Sue (SSAs)**. We also work closely with **Fatimah (Speech and Language Therapist)** and **Jo (Occupational Therapist)** to support pupils' communication, independence and development.

What We Have Been Learning This Half Term

This half term our topic has been **"Paint Me a Picture"**. We have been learning about ourselves, including what makes us unique and the things we like. Pupils have explored different colours, textures and materials through a range of creative and sensory activities. We have also spent time settling into the new school year, learning classroom routines, expectations and building positive relationships with peers and staff.

An Experience from This Half Term

This term, pupils have enjoyed weekly visits to different local parks. These trips have provided opportunities to develop social interaction skills, build friendships and experience new environments within the community.

What We Will Be Learning Next Half Term

Next half term our topic will be **"How Are You?"**. Pupils will be learning about feelings, emotions and wellbeing. We will explore different ways to communicate how we feel and continue to develop our social and communication skills through a range of practical and engaging activities.

HAZEL CLASS NEWS

Hazel Class is led by Siobhan (Teacher) and supported by Lianne, Dan, Janice, Imrana and Sue (SSAs). We also work closely with Lucinda (Speech and Language Therapist) and Clare (Occupational Therapist) to support pupils' communication, independence and development.

What We Have Been Learning This Half Term

This half term our topic has been "Paint Me a Picture". We have been learning about different artists and styles of art such as stop motion animation, Van Gogh and self-portraits. In literacy, we have been learning the story “Luna loves Art” and will change parts of the story to fit individual interests. For instance, ‘Luna loves horses’ or ‘Luna loves the past’ or’Luna loves Art’, but using different pieces of art that they like.

(Continued)

An Experience from This Half Term

This half term, we have been to the library to borrow books that children are interested in and based on topic. In small groups, we are starting to take the 410 bus to Lidl to buy our ingredients that we need for cooking in the week. We are learning to only get the things that are on our shopping list, even though there might be things that we like. Also, we have been swimming this half term at Waddon, which we have really enjoyed.

What We Will Be Learning Next Half Term

Next half term our topic will be "How Are You?". Pupils will be learning about feelings, emotions and wellbeing. We will explore different ways to communicate how we feel and continue to develop our social and communication skills through a range of practical and engaging activities.

BEECH CLASS NEWS

Beech Class is led by **Emily** (Teacher) and supported by **Sarah, Puneet, Tamires and Beverley** (SSAs). We work closely with **Siobhan** (Speech and Language Therapist) and **Jo** (Occupational Therapist) to support pupils' communication, independence and development.

This half term our topic has been "Transport". We have been incorporating our topic into Attention Autism sessions which have been very popular with pupils. We have also included lots of topic themed resources within the continuous provision. Core boards and fringe vocabulary are available for all pupils to communicate their thoughts, opinions and choices.

This half term, pupils have enjoyed weekly visits to different local parks. These trips have provided opportunities to develop social interaction skills, practice turn taking and experience new environments.

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OAK CLASS NEWS

Oak Class is led by **Kacey-May** (Teacher) and supported by **Jenny, Lisa, Debbie, Ruthi** and **Uzma/Sue** (SSAs). We also work closely with **Rachel** (Speech and Language Therapist) and Clare (Occupational Therapist) to support pupils' communication, independence and development.

What We Have Been Learning This Half Term
This half term, our topic has been “Paint Me a Picture.” We have been exploring what makes us special and unique, learning more about our likes, interests and the things that make us who we are. Pupils have had lots of opportunities to explore colour, texture and different materials through a variety of creative and sensory experiences. We have also been focusing on settling into our new school year, becoming familiar with classroom routines and expectations, and developing positive relationships with both our peers and the adults around us.

An Experience from This Half Term
This half term, pupils have been working on developing positive relationships with one another. They have been learning the importance of being part of a group, taking turns, waiting patiently for their turn, and listening to and responding to others. Through shared activities and experiences, pupils have been building connections with their peers, developing confidence in social situations, and learning how to work and play together as part of a group.

What We Will Be Learning Next Half Term
Next half term, our topic will be “How Are You?” We will be exploring different feelings and emotions, helping pupils to recognise, understand and communicate how they are feeling. Through a range of practical, sensory and engaging activities, pupils will have opportunities to develop their emotional wellbeing, social skills and confidence in communicating with others.
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SECONDARY SITE

YATES CLASS NEWS

Yates class enjoyed their first breakfast club together! The students worked as a team to prepare breakfast, set the table and enjoy their meal together. It was a lovely opportunity to practise independence, communication and social skills while having lots of fun.

Yates class enjoyed taking part in their yoga lesson. The students practised different poses, stretches and breathing exercises while working on their balance, focus and body awareness. It was a lovely, calming session and everyone did a fantastic job.
By **Alexa, Saloua, Aleksandra, Shannon, Uzma and Lucia** (the Yates class team)

WEIR CLASS NEWS

We have had a fantastic start to the new academic year, and all pupils have settled into class very well. It has been wonderful to see them grow in confidence, build positive relationships and engage enthusiastically with their learning.

Our theme this term is **"Around the World,"** which provides pupils with exciting opportunities to explore key facts about countries, cultures, traditions and communities through a range of engaging cross-curricular activities. Pupils are developing their knowledge and understanding of the wider world while building important communication, social and practical skills.

As part of our learning beyond the classroom, pupils have been enjoying visits to the local community and Legacy, where they participate in a variety of activities, including snooker, basketball, fitness, art, music and cooking.

(Continued)
It has been a very positive start to the year, and we are looking forward to continuing this exciting learning journey together. From **Akmal, Magda, Linda, Morgan** (the Weir Team)

FULLER CLASS NEWS

It has been a fantastic start to the school year in Fuller Class! Our form tutors are **Katrina and Cristina**, who share responsibility for supporting our pupils during tutor time. We are also very lucky to have our wonderful Special Support Assistants (SSAs), Dawn, Carl and Saima, who support the pupils throughout the school day.

This half term, we have been developing some really important life skills. We have been learning about road safety and how to plan journeys using the bus. The pupils have been practising thinking about where they need to go, which bus they need and how to travel safely.

We have also started learning about keeping healthy. We have been exploring what makes a suitable and balanced packed lunch and thinking about making healthy food choices. We even put our learning into practice by going shopping for fruit and making our own delicious fruit kebabs!

One of our biggest highlights this half term was leading a whole-school assembly to celebrate National Teaching Assistants' Day. Fuller Class worked together to create a special video featuring clips from staff and pupils across the school, all sharing their messages of thanks to our amazing SSAs. The pupils did a fantastic job and were incredibly proud to share their assembly with the whole school.

It was a wonderful opportunity for Fuller Class to show their creativity, confidence and gratitude, while celebrating the important role our SSAs play in school every day.

Next half term, we will continue to develop our independence and life skills, building on the learning we have started this term. We will continue to explore healthy lifestyles, as well as developing our ability to make choices, solve problems and manage everyday situations.

We are incredibly proud of how well Fuller Class have settled into the new school year and are looking forward to all the learning and adventures still to come!

From **Katrina, Cristina, Dawn, Carl, Saima** and everyone in Fuller Class.

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ROWSELL CLASS NEWS

Rowsell class have made a fantastic start this half term. They are developing positive and effective relationship with their class and other students across the school.

Rowsell class have made an excellent start with their learning and are demonstrating excellent focus and engagement during lessons.

Finally, they are making the most of their Legacy trips and having lots of fun!

From the Rowsell team: **Jo S, Renata, Barbie, Franca and Amy**

Renata's Music Update

The Link is starting the new academic Year with a beat! 🎵🥁

A big shout-out to Weir, Fuller, Rowsell, Wood, Johnson, Tomlin, and Yates classes! They are starting off the new academic year with fantastic rhythm.

Our students have been exploring the fundamentals of music and body percussion. They are discovering how claps, taps, and stamps can come together to create amazing sounds.

Our older year groups took on some brilliant musical challenges:
• Performing spooky classics like Thriller and Ghostbusters 🧟👻
• Trying out their vocal skills with a taste of beatboxing 🎤📣
It has been a brilliant start to the year. The classrooms are filled with creativity, rhythm, and plenty of musical energy! 🎶👏

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WOOD CLASS NEWS

Wood Class have had an amazing start to the new academic year! Teacher **Zofia** has been part of Wood Class for the past three years, alongside **Becky, Nidhi and Amy,** our dedicated SSAs. This year, we have also welcomed four new students from Rowsell, and it has been lovely to see everyone settling in, building new friendships and becoming part of the Wood Class community. This term, our Life Skills lessons have focused on exploring and trialling the fantastic facilities at Legacy. Students have already taken part in a range of exciting and practical activities...

Music Room: Students have enjoyed experimenting with different instruments, playing the drums and singing together.

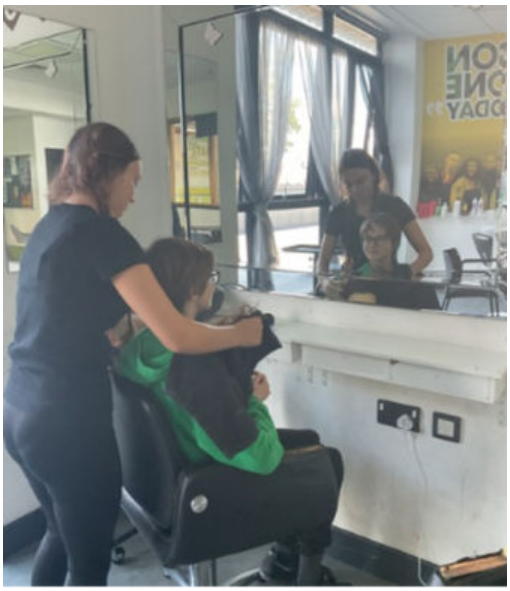
Cooking: We have been developing our independence in the kitchen, including making delicious chicken wraps completely from scratch. Students have enjoyed preparing the ingredients, following instructions and working together.

Hair Salon: Last week, we visited the hair salon at Legacy, where students had the opportunity to have their hair washed and to practise washing someone else's hair. This was a fantastic experience for developing personal care, communication and independence skills, while also learning about the importance of self-care.

We are looking forward to continuing our Life Skills journey throughout the year and making the most of everything Legacy has to offer.

Next term, we will also be exploring different places of worship and communities. We are excited to visit Baitul Futuh Mosque, meet Buddhist monks in Wimbledon and visit churches in South London. These visits will give students the opportunity to learn about different faiths, cultures and communities while developing their confidence in the wider community.

It has been a fantastic start to the year, and we are incredibly proud of how well Wood Class have settled in. We can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings! 🌟



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TOMLIN CLASS NEWS

Tomlin Class have settled into their new sixth form classroom opposite the ICT suite and have welcomed their new classmates both from lower down in the school and from another school. We have started to get used to our new timetables and visiting the Legacy site with its exciting equipment and facilities.

Everyone is keen to start their new options offered in the sixth form whether that be ICT, Sports or Creative Arts. The new minibus has been a big hit and has meant we have been able to visit more places in the local area to support our learning and understanding of our chosen Options.

We are excited for the year ahead for the friendships we will make and the opportunities in front of us.

JOHNSON CLASS NEWS

The Sixth form have had an exciting start to the new academic year. The new year 12s have settled in well to the routine and are enjoying the changes.

The team is led by Lynn who is also the Careers Lead, Exams Officer and Science Teacher at the Link. She is supported in Johnson class by the fabulous Conchi and Deepti. Karen is the class teacher for Tomlin and is supported by the amazing David, Tracy and Kinza.

Both classes are supported by Lilian who works tirelessly to ensure college visits to Nescot run smoothly.

Indeed, the students are really enjoying their college visits on Fridays. They have chosen to take construction or animal care taster lessons. They are also enjoying buying their own food and socialising at lunchtime. Some are also benefiting from the independence offered by travelling on the train.

This year has also seen a major change to the Sixth form curriculum; we are excited to be able to offer our students subject choices. The options are BTEC cooking, BTEC Sport, BTEC ICT, ASDAN Life Skills and creative arts. Creative Arts offers further options with some students taking GCSE Art, others enjoying art classes and a small group are taking a LAMDA drama qualification.

We are excited that all the options are accredited which will lead to more qualifications for our young people. Many aspects of these accreditations will be undertaken at Legacy Youth Zone. Students in Johnson have already made use of their cooking room and enjoyed making and eating pitta pizza as part of their ASDAN life skills course.

(Continued)
As part of their community work and leisure lessons, ‘CWL’, the Sixth form have started their Duke of Edinburgh Award. They will complete four parts, physical activity, developing a skill, taking part in an expedition and volunteering. If they completed a Bronze Award last year they will work towards the silver award this year.

Students will focus on supporting the community for the volunteering component and they have already organised a highly successful Macmillian coffee morning where they raised £96. This was also a wonderful opportunity for the students to practise skills such as communication and money skills. They are also planning a food bank drive very soon. More information on the DofE award will follow.

In CWL we also plan to visit places of worship in the community, cycle at David Weir Leisure Centre, trips to London and more.

It looks like it will be another fantastic year for our students.

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ORION CLASS NEWS

Around the World with Orion Class! 🌎🍜

Orion Class have been exploring different foods from around the world, discovering new flavours, ingredients and dishes from different cultures. As part of our learning, we put on our chef hats and got busy in the kitchen, preparing our very own chicken stir fried noodles!

The children enjoyed learning about the ingredients, practising their cooking skills and working together to create a delicious dish. It was a fantastic hands-on experience that encouraged curiosity, teamwork and a little culinary adventure. 👩‍🍳👨‍🍳

BRANSON CLASS NEWS

It has been a great start of the year for Branson class, with students settling well into their new classroom and getting involved in a range of practical learning experiences.

A big focus this half term has been on developing independence and essential life skills. Students have been accessing the local community, travelling on public transport and learning how to navigate journeys safely and confidently. These experiences have helped students develop their communication, road safety, decision-making skills and independent skills.

Branson have also been busy in the kitchen making some delicious autumn bakes. Students have practised following recipes, measuring ingredients, food hygiene and using kitchen equipment safely.

We are also very proud of Rocco Chapman who competed and won his first amateur boxing tournament. This is a fantastic achievement and a great reflection of his hard work, discipline and dedication to the sport.

A brilliant first half term for Branson Class – well done everyone.

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SATELLITE AND COTTAGE NEWS

All classes at the Satellite site have loved welcoming Carmen back for our DJ-therapy sessions. Hearing the different mixes the students have been creating has certainly created an exciting vibe!

We have also welcomed our new PE teacher Charlie on Wednesday afternoons, to teach the students a range of sports and games, including tag rugby, basketball, football, bowling, cricket and sack races!

EXPLORERS CLASS NEWS

Welcome to Explorers class. Our class team consists of Hayley, who is the class teacher, and a wonderful team of SSA's – Evie, Shagufa, Hamna and Skye.

This term we have welcomed five new pupils into the class, who are all settling in brilliantly, and we are very proud of how well they are doing. We have started learning about keeping ourselves safe online in computing; what happened during the Great Fire of London in history; Animals and living things in science, and what makes us unique in PSHE.

We have enjoyed learning about one another and what we enjoy doing which includes playing outside, completing puzzles, drawing and colouring and playing with the imaginary-world toys.

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CURIOSITY CLASS NEWS

Welcome to Curiosity class. Our class team consists of Ben, who has joined us recently and is the class teacher, and a wonderful team of SSAs – Tanya, Chisom, Nathan and Rhona.

So far, the children have settled positively into their new class team and are engaging well with all the activities provided. We too have started learning about keeping ourselves safe online in computing; what happened during the Great Fire of London in history; Animals and living things in science, and what makes us unique in PSHE.

We have had some fun creating laser beam assault courses out of string and watching our daily updates on Newsround, as well as playing board and card games.

APOLLO CLASS NEWS

Welcome to Apollo class. Our class team consists of Siobhan, who is the class teacher, and a wonderful team of SSAs – Farhana, Dickson and Rianna.

So far, the children have settled positively into their class routine again and are engaging well with all the activities provided. We have started learning about space in science, Ancient Egypt in History, belonging in RE and mark making and asking ourselves, ‘
“Can anyone be an artist?”

We love playing board games, being outside and having some time on our iPads.

ARTEMIS CLASS NEWS

Artemis have welcomed the new school year, with plenty of energy and enthusiasm! Claire, Ruth, Hannah and Elsie have introduced our topic this term of “Festivals & Celebrations”.

We have begun by exploring “Rosh Hashanah”, and the Jewish traditions and customs surrounding this important New Year Celebrations. The students recreated The Shofar horn from clay and discussed the story behind its use. We have also studied how Harvest Festivals are celebrated globally, from Thanksgiving to Sukkot. We then produced some beautiful still life drawing of fruits, seeds and grains.

(Continued)
We have been discussing the importance of The United Nations, its role and its relevance today in trying to keep peace in the world. We linked it with the current conference happening in New York, especially the Trump/Burnham meeting. The students as a class, discussed how liberty, education, equality, cooperation, safety and dialogue are essential and a right for all. We then thought about how we could adapt these values and skills to our friends and school day.

In food tech, we have created burgers, pizzas and chicken stir-fry. All made from scratch and delicious!

We have welcomed new students and used all of our VIVA skills to help them settle and feel part of Artemis.

PIONEER CLASS NEWS

Welcome to Pioneer class. Our class team consists of Wing, who is the class teacher, and a wonderful team of SSAs – Marta, Kim, Agneta and Johanna.

This term, the pupils have been learning a little algebra and working on angles in Maths. In our topic lessons, we have started learning about Earth and Space and exploring different parts of the solar system. Each day, we also have time for simple exercise and independent reading. We will also visit Beddington Park for PE sessions.

We have enjoyed two cooking sessions this term, making cookies and pancakes. These have been a fun way for the pupils to take part in practical activities together.
Next term, we will continue our Earth and Space topic and build on what we have learned so far.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Site
Friday 20th November, time TBC	Awards Night	Secondary
Wednesday 25th November	Parents' Evening	All sites
Saturday 5th December	Christmas Fair	Secondary
United Reformed Church Wallington, Date: TBC	Carol Service	All sites
Thursday 17th December	School Christmas Lunch for students	Secondary
Wednesday 11th November	Acorn, Willow and Beech Parents Welcome Afternoon 2:15 - 3pm	Primary
Wednesday 18th November	Maple, Oak and Hazel Parents Welcome Afternon 2:15 - 3pm	Primary
Friday 18th December	Break up for Christmas Holidays 1pm	All Sites

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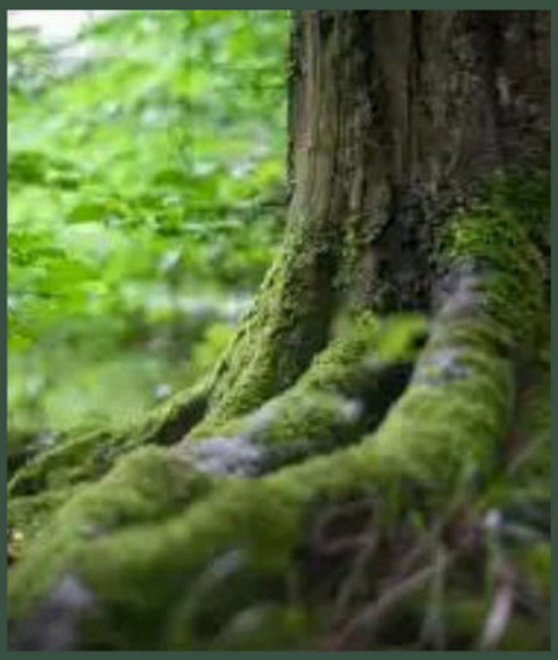
WOODLAND ADVENTURE DAYS



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HALLOWEEN HALF DAYS

30TH OCTOBER 2026

PRIVATE WOODLAND IN COULSDON

10AM - 12.30PM
5-12YRS
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1.30PM - 4PM
8-14YRS
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Orchard Hill College

Wallington Festival and Christmas shopping event

Friday 27th November 2026
Between 4:30 - 7:30 PM

Orchard Hill College, Old Town Hall,
Woodcote Road, Wallington, SM6 ONB

If you are interested in holding a stall at the shopping event, please contact:
csillett@orchardhill.ac.uk

Event highlights include:

- Santa's Grotto
- Wallington Light Switch-on
- Music & Singing
- Festive variety of stalls
- Refreshments
- And much more!