



Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope that this newsletter finds you all well. We have come back to school in January excited for 2024.

The plans for the development of the new hall area, storage and new outdoor storage and classrooms are going ahead. We hope to have planning permission soon and then we will plan the building work. We know that any disruptions will be worth it in the long run. The new extension will house a new toilet, new changing room with toilet, new hall space, storage for all our specially adapted equipment, storage for our PE equipment and a hall that can be properly used for PE lessons. The plans for outside are to move the existing fence at the side of the yard to take in our parking spaces, to remove all the small beds and trees to enlarge the yard. We will be adding an outside classroom area, wheelchair friendly swing, new bike storage and new canopies. When we have the plans finalised I will make them available to you all.

We are busy planning for September 2024, we will be saying farewell to two pupils and welcoming at least two new pupils although the number is yet to be confirmed for new starts. Our staff team will also be changing, Mrs Helen Rutherford will be leaving us in July. Helen has been a member of The Grove team for 32 years, I know that you will all join me in wishing her a very happy retirement. We are all going to miss her so much, her commitment and dedication to the children has been amazing. I will let you know when I have finalised the staff teams for September 2024, although I do not foresee many changes.

I look forward to the months ahead and the exciting developments of our little school, and thank you all for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Penny Derries





**This term we are learning about 'Living things and their Environment'. In Willow class we have been finding out about the Jungle environment and the animals that live there. We had great fun creating our own interpretation of the animal through the medium of art.**

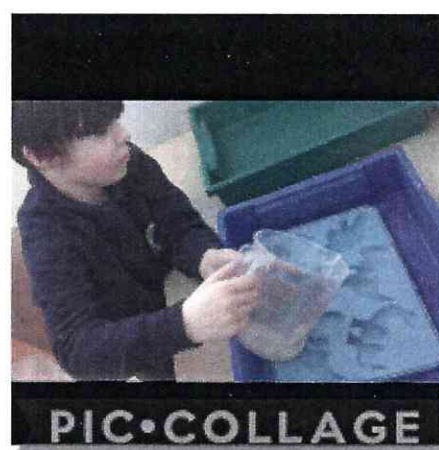




## Elm Class

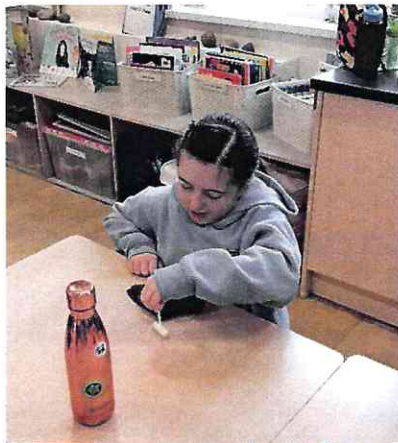
There has been lots of lovely learning activities in Elm class. We have focussed on developing our hand functions and fine motor skills to encourage pre-writing and letter formation skills.

Throughout the day we engage in different sensory based activities incorporating life skills learning too. What a busy time we are having.



PIC•COLLAGE

# Beech Class

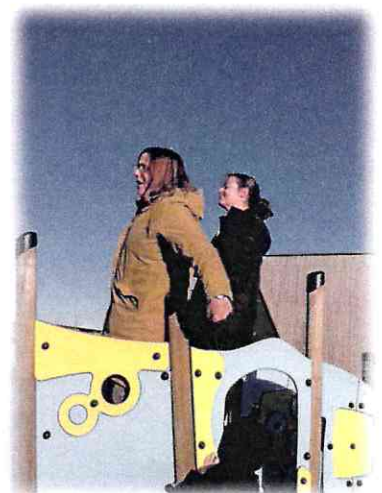


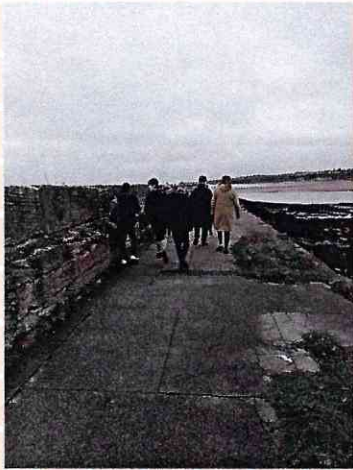
Each week Beech Class have a Food Exploration activity. During Food Exploration we have five foods, we meet each foods one at a time and interact with the food at a level that feels most comfortable to each of us as individuals. This may simply be tolerating the food being on the table near us, it may be touching it with a piece of equipment, it may be playing with the food, it may be picking up the food and taking it to our faces and finally it may be putting the food in our mouth but not necessarily to eat. The food we explore will be different every week and will be a range of savoury and sweet as well as a range of textures. The aim is to build a tolerance to being around a variety of foods in a fun way without any pressure to eat the food. Often we will pretend food is a moustache, play table football with it or see how many can stack on top of each other. We are seeing some big steps of progress in these sessions which will hopefully translate into everyday feelings about food.

## Sycamore Class News, February 2024

We have started exploring this term's theme, 'Living Things and Their Environment', by learning about life under the ocean waves. We enjoyed stories such as 'Look out for the Big Bad Fish', 'Hooray for Fish', and the beautifully illustrated pop-up book 'Ocean'. We were inspired by the song, 'Hole in the Bottom of the Sea', to create a sea themed art display. We have participated in online quizzes and games with an ocean creature theme.

In role play P.E games, we practiced our balancing skills so we wouldn't fall in the ocean and be eaten by the sharks. Some of us have enjoyed getting in the swimming pool to swim like fish, and others have used the foot spa whilst listening to relaxing ocean inspired music. We enjoyed a trip to the park, and climbed up high to see the waves crashing on the shore. We've made sea creatures using playdough and had lots of sensory play, such as catching fish in the tuff tray. There has been lots of interesting things to learn and do!





This half term Oak class have enjoyed exploring our local environment on a Friday morning. We have been undertaking brisk walks over different terrains and gradients whilst also observing the local plants, animals and their habitats.



So far we have explored a woodland, coastal and urban environment. Each week our walks are getting progressively longer and the terrain slightly more challenging.



PIC•COLLAGE



February 2024  
Cherry Class are participating in outdoor learning activities with Brian O'Brien, the Park Ranger, at Berwick Holiday Park each Monday. We really enjoyed making an 'A' frame wooden shelter following a demonstration from Brian. We worked as a team, safely and carefully, taking turns to drag the wood over and place it correctly to interlock it. We think we did an amazing job! Brian also showed us how to light a fire in the wild. We all had to practise as it was really tricky but we all lit a fire successfully using Fire Steel sets. Brian then showed us how to dig a hole and build a camp fire. We all had great fun toasting marshmallows on the fire to make S'mores, which were absolutely delicious!

