

NEWS ROUND UP

**NEWSLETTER 3
NOVEMBER**



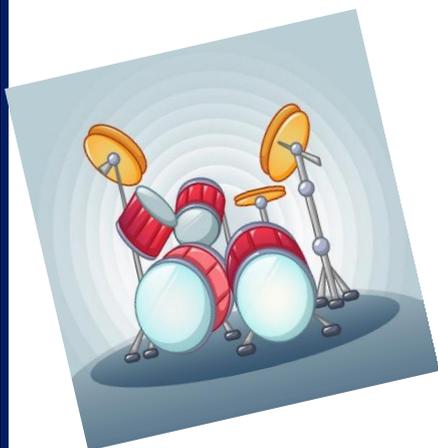
Music Department



The students are really starting to explore what instruments they prefer to play. The drums have been a big hit allowing students to de-stress by taking some frustrations out on the kit.

DJ-ing has also become popular with some of our students.

We are beginning to plan the Christmas show. Many of the students want to show off their new skills and perform in the show.



News From The Farm

The countdown to Christmas is on! Ponies are super fluffy and enjoying the longer grass now the sugar content is lower. It doesn't stop them hanging around the gate trying to convince everyone they need extra feeding though – don't believe them when they tell you that they're hungry!

We started making Christmassy stuff in Forest School last week – it's never too early! After our assembly on Hanukkah this week, we're keen to try out making latkes on the fire. Seems like a good excuse to use up the last of the Headstart grown potatoes. There's been plenty of shelter building and role playing games – it's amazing how many uses a boring old stick might have if you're feeling creative.

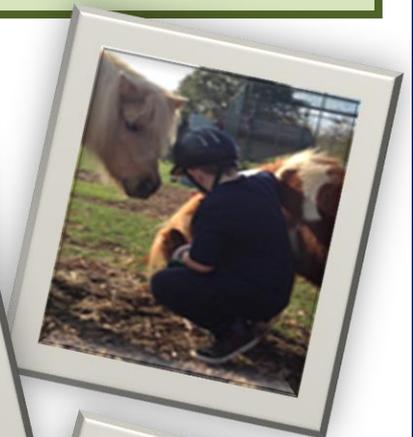
We're keeping an eye on the Bird 'flu situation and so far the chickens are still out free ranging during the day. If this changes we'll have to think of some fun chicken toys to keep them entertained over winter.

The sheep and alpacas are being chief lawnmowers as always – win win for all! Cilla enjoyed all the leftover pumpkins after Halloween – thanks for that if you were one of the people who brought one in.

The guinea pigs have a cover over their run now for the winter to help keep them warm. Did you know the collective noun for a group of guinea pigs is called a herd?

Students at Oakfield are working on their Farm Animal unit for BTEC. The goats have had a foot trim this term and the ducks are still laying plenty of eggs. I highly recommend duck eggs for cake baking and if you do bake one I'd be more than happy to sample it.

Anyway, I think I can hear the goats calling for their breakfast so better be off. Please don't forget your warm weather and waterproof clothes for forest school and landbased...



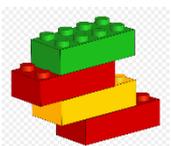
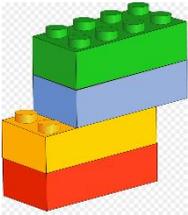
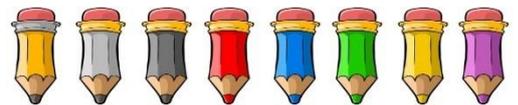
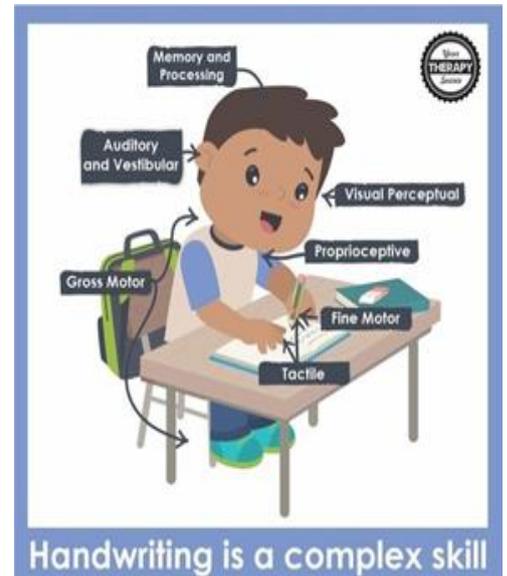
Occupational Therapy

Let's Talk About Handwriting!

WHAT ARE FINE MOTOR SKILLS?

Fine motor skills are the refined movements and actions of the hands, fingers, and wrists that enable precision and dexterity of movement and are necessary for all activities. It is our fine motor skills that enable us to complete our tasks of every-day living. Handwriting is a complex skill as shown in the picture above. Fine motor skill development is essential to pencil grasp and handwriting control. There is so much we can do to support handwriting development through a fine motor skills development programme. Headstart schools occupational therapist is working hard to ensure all of the children in our care have input into the development of handwriting through implementing fine motor skills development across the school.

Here are some suggestions of what you can do at home.



BUILDING FINE MOTOR SKILLS

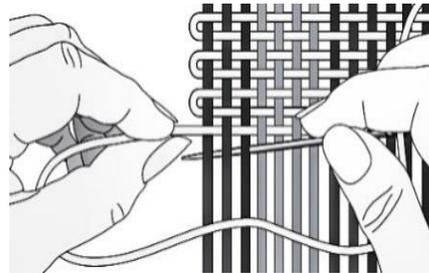
- MANIPULATING PLAY DOUGH
- THREADING OBJECTS
- GETTING DRESSED UP WITH BUTTON/ZIPS
- COLOURING OR PAINTING BETWEEN LINES
- USING CLOTHES PEGS
- STRETCHING RUBBER BANDS OR LOOM BANDS
- USING POP BEADS
- SQUEEZING SMALL GLUE BOTTLES
- PULLING OBJECTS OFF STICKY PAPER
- PICKING UP MARBLES
- PAINTING WITH COTTON BUDS
- TIGHTENING NUTS ONTO BOLTS
- USING TWEEZERS OR TONGS TO PICK UP OBJECTS
- BENDING PIPE CLEANERS OR WIRE
- USING STAMPS ON PAPER OR PLAY DOUGH
- TEARING PAPER
- USING LEGO
- HAND SEWING
- USING SCISSORS
- TRANSFERRING WATER BEADS
- USING STICKERS
- PUSH PINS THROUGH PAPER
- SQUEEZING PAINT PIPETTES
- USING HOLE PUNCHES

ideas for play



Post 16

Post 16 enjoyed discussion and finding solutions to bullying scenarios during Anti bullying week. They worked well as a group making displays and supporting each-other.



Fine motor skills focuses on hand control and co-ordination, Post 16 have enjoyed weaving this term.

KS2 and KS3



Hands On History

Last week Headstart School welcomed back Hands on History to work with pupils in KS2 and KS3. This term we are learning all about the Ancient Egyptians and we couldn't wait to have a go at embalming and preparing a Pharaoh for his journey to the afterlife.

The children also had the opportunity to handle furs and artefacts some of which were over 2000 years old. We learnt about Egyptian Gods, dressed up as Egyptian soldiers and lit a fire Egyptian style too.

It was wonderful to see so many of the children so engaged and developing such an interest and passion for history. Well done to everyone who joined in and helped to make this workshop such a success.



Liz and Celia's Class

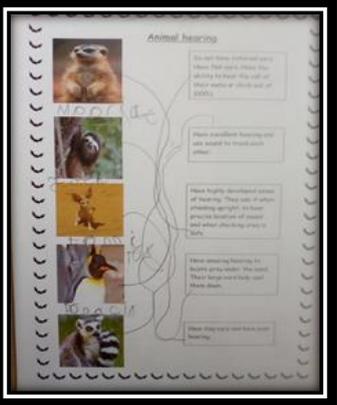


On Tuesday 23rd November, we went to Drusillas for the day. It was a cold, beautiful sunny day and we had a great time. The pupils enjoyed seeing the animals and taking part in the Zoo-Olympics; pulling like a carthorse, running as fast as a cheetah, hanging like a monkey!

The trip linked with our Science topic of sound. We looked at the different types of ears and how different animals hear differently. We saw snakes who feel vibrations through their skin, meerkats who stand up straight listening out for danger with their highly developed sense of hearing, penguins who have flat ears and have the ability to hear their chicks out of 1000's and fennec foxes who have large ears to hear prey under the sand and to help them cool down. Some of the pupils had a go at seeing how loud they could be and which animal they were as loud as!

After lunch, the pupils played well together in the large playground and zip wire. They took turns and helped each other out. At the end of the afternoon we went on the Safari Train ride for a last look around the zoo.

A lovely day out, thank you Liz for organising!



KS4



Key Stage 4 have been working hard completing their GCSE mock exams. Despite this challenging experience students have remained calm and focussed throughout. Many of the students have chosen to pet the animals during their reward time before or after an exam helping them manage their exam anxieties. This experience has been excellent preparation for future assessments and the students have shown maturity beyond their years in this respect.



MST Class



This term the children have been learning about Celebrations. We have looked at different celebrations in different cultures and Celebrations in our own culture. We have celebrated Bobby Bears Birthday, Diwali, Remembrance Day and preparing for Christmas. We have also been learning how to prepare our own food and develop our independence skills. We have been developing our writing skills through using different genres and in Maths we have been developing our skills in measure, patterns, days and months of the year. We have also been experimenting with changing states in Science and continuing our Beach school learning.



The Link Oakfield



Children in need

Student within the Link this term made Pudsey biscuits for children in Need. Students worked together to buy ingredients from the shop, bake and decorate biscuits, to be able to share with staff peers and taken home for family and carers.



Students have been learning about Diwali this term and have been creating their own rangoli patterns out of natural items found when at forest school and other natural items (with some additions)



Post 16



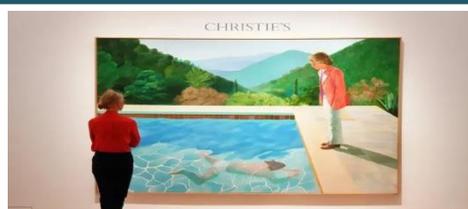
In English, students have been working on lyrics for their own songs and have been working together and sharing ideas. The ideas are to allow them to express ideas and thoughts in a way that they enjoy. Music crosses over so many areas and allows us all communicate with one another. Allowing the students to have the freedom to demonstrate telling a story using words that are creative and imaginative helps them to express feelings and emotions in a way that is more familiar to them.

We will also add some basic sounds to help develop their lyrics which will help with their production of this work and hopefully record them.

In Media, Students are producing a simple game that can be played online. The games will be simple and can be educational or just for fun so maybe a puzzle. Students have created some initial drawings and ideas and working on developing them with Photoshop. Once at a stage that they are happy with backgrounds and characters will be added and some simple sound effects produced.

The work will be added to PowerPoints and notes and referencing of how the game works and what referencing they have used to help create their ideas.

In A level Art our student has been gathering research for his coursework. He has looked at different artists Gilbert and George, Peter Blake and David Hockney and has shown how they are going to inspire his own creative artwork. All work is being developed on PowerPoint and then creatively into sketchbooks and final paintings. The student has shown his commitment and says how inspirational it is to look at the work by these Artist.



Careers



Class Based Careers Lessons

Both KS4 and Post 16 have been focusing on the way we communicate about ourselves in personal statements, application forms and CVs. Both groups have been working on completing paper based and online application forms and learning how to write about themselves positively for an outside audience.

Work Experience

There are many benefits to work experience including a unique insight into the world of work, personal growth and helping young people work out what they do and don't enjoy. Therefore, work experience for our young people is always at the forefront of our minds. Unfortunately, due to the uncertainties that surround the ever-changing landscape of Covid many potential work experience placement providers are reluctant to allow schools the opportunities they have previously.

However, we are still busy behind the scenes talking to potential placements and looking to Spring 2022 as target date for a group of students to be off site enjoying the unique opportunities available in our local community.

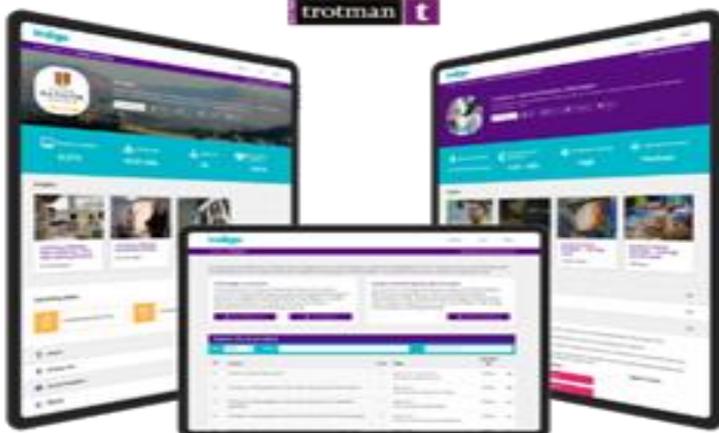


New Careers Package

Over the summer break Headstart bought into a new Careers package called Indigo. Indigo has a large database of lesson ready activities for teachers to use including lesson plans and has the ability to help users compare careers side-by-side to support discussion in class and work experience placement choice. It also supports students to learn about the professional world via major employer profiles. We look forward to exploring it more and embedding it in our weekly Careers and work related learning lessons.

indigo

trotman 



Message from Scott

I was a little nervous before I started writing my first message to the community, so I decided to read the newsletter and talk to staff and reflect on everything I witness every day in school.

In the short amount of time I have been here, staff and students have shown me the breadth and depth of what Headstart offers and the passion which runs throughout the school.

I have seen students learning and playing all sorts of musical instruments and proud to show me what they are capable of. The animals give students a therapeutic and academic area to thrive and build relationships.

Across the school, students have been engaging with reading instruction (More on this to follow in later newsletters) and handwriting, to ensure they are developing skills they will need for their entire life. Bullying and Banter have also been topics of discussion, and students and staff have been working hard to make every interaction between us to be positive and purposeful.

I have witnessed the range of academic provision Headstart offers, from students studying hard towards their GCSE examinations to other students engrossed in experiential learning with visits from 'Hands on History' and trips to Drusilla's, along with horse-riding, paddle boarding and wall-climbing to name but a few of the experiences students have enjoyed this term.

With Winter setting in and more news and guidance coming from the government regarding Covid-19, I would like to thank all staff and students for adhering to the guidance and working hard to keep the school safe and students learning.

I wish you all a relaxing break, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you next year.

Scott