

# NEWS ROUND UP



**NEWSLETTER 7  
APRIL/MAY 2022**

**Headstart**  
Positive Learning for Life

## News From The Farm



So... the chicken coop at Crouch is finally done!! There are still 2 more coops/pens to finish that will house other animals. Can you guess what they will be?

We have built a new wash station and an outdoor learning area which will eventually have benches and tables.

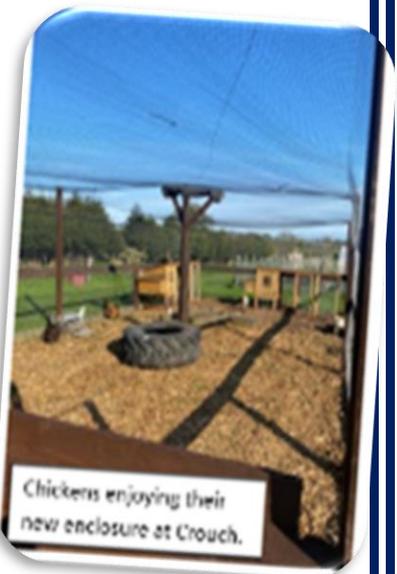
We also welcome to Oakfield 10 new rescue chickens: Madras, Tikka, Masala, Korma, Nugget, Goujon, Fillet, Jalfrezi, Wings and Roast and to Crouch, Gary the Cockerel.

Unfortunately, we have also had to say a couple of sad goodbyes. Cupid has left us for pastures new and in turn Catherine has had to join Dino and Bambam at Crouch for the time being. The 2 quails have been rehomed and Malteser the chicken has gone to live with some other chickens on a farm in Golden Cross.

If anyone has any ideas for land-based that they would like to discuss with me then please feel free to come speak with me.



New chickens enjoying their enclosure at Oakfield



Chickens enjoying their new enclosure at Crouch.



Cupid



New wash station at Crouch

**Post 16**



**Land-based Studies  
Term 5**



**Students from Oakfield have enjoyed feeding 7 orphaned lambs at a local farm.**



**Post 16 and link students have been working together to dig a bigger pond for the ducks, re-line it and peg down the new liner ready for slabs.**



**The new football goals have arrived at Oakfield, just in time for the summer sunshine.**



## Key Stage 4

### Careers

This term, students from Key stage 4 have been out in the local area visiting shops and other businesses to gain experience and to recognise the variety of job opportunities there are in different workplaces. Students were able to distinguish different job roles in different workplaces and allowed them to have an idea of what they may like to pursue as a career when the opportunity arises. Students also had the opportunity to visit a careers fair recently to gather information about different job roles and career paths.



### BTEC Vocational – Handling Money

This term, students in Key stage 4 have been given the opportunity to work on their independent skills by going out into local shops and purchasing items. This allowed them to enhance their interaction skills as well as using money and checking for the correct change when buying certain items.

Students conducted themselves well in public and have progressed well.

There has also been elements of theoretical work within this BTEC and students have worked brilliantly through this work pack.



### Sensory Circuit

This term, students from Key stage 4 have taken part in Sensory circuits which have been set up every morning. These circuits have a variety of activities to help regulate the student's sensory needs. A circuit runs in three sections which are based on theories of sensory processing and sensory integration. The three sections of sensory circuits are; Alerting, Organising and Calming. Students who took part in the sensory circuits really enjoyed doing them and saw the benefits of taking part.



## Upper Key Stage 4



Although Key stage 4 have been working hard for their exams and using a lot of their time revising, they have also been helping coach some sporting activities to the students in the link. They have been attending 'Defiant Sports' on Friday mornings where they have helped the students use the gym equipment, play pool and engage in lots of fun activities. It has been commented by all the staff involved that the boys have been brilliant role models to the younger children!

### Contacts

✉ [info@defiantsports.org.uk](mailto:info@defiantsports.org.uk)

☎ 07887755856

📍 Defiant Sports, Sovereign Harbour Retail Park, Eastbourne, BN23 6JH



# HEADSTART SCHOOL

## \*LIBRARY NEWS\*



Many pupils have been celebrating completing levels in Lexia this past term.

Lexia, a computer-based program, enables students of all ages and abilities to master essential reading skills and have fun doing it!

The pupils really enjoy having their achievement of completing a level announced over the school walkie-talkies so that the whole school can celebrate their success with them.

In other news this term...

The library has had a delivery of many new books that support the 'Read Write Inc.' literacy program.

Read write Inc. teaches children reading accuracy, fluency and comprehension. It also focuses on developing spelling and writing skills that support young people in writing their own compositions.



## The Link Crouch



Every Thursday, we have been lucky to have had the opportunity to visit Wheels 4 All, an outdoor cycling activity centre. The children have enjoyed showing off their cycling skills and trying lots of different bikes!

We have spent Friday mornings at Defiant Sports in Eastbourne. The centre gives the children the chance to try out a range of different activities, including snooker, table football and ping-pong.



In History, the children have been learning about significant people. Our focus was famous explorers and in one lesson, we considered what equipment they would need to carry if they were to embark on an expedition to the Arctic.

In maths, the children have been completing activities linked to the stories that we have been reading in our English sessions. Our focus this term has been addition and subtraction and the children have completed some fantastic learning using physical resources to help them.



We have enjoyed weekly visits to the beach and have been incredibly lucky with the weather! The children have enjoyed exploring the coastline, searching through rockpools and skimming stones. We were even lucky enough to speak to some local fishermen who showed us their most recent catch.



# Occupational Therapy

We have been working very hard on our social and communication skills which involves recognising and responding appropriately to social cues. Taking turns, waiting patiently, and learning to encourage our friends to try some new activities that may be a bit tricky at times.

We use lots of fun games and activities to encourage teamwork but also to address additional difficulties such as coordination, cognition, processing, and fine and gross motor skills.

Part of managing social interactions is being able to manage our emotions and responses to environmental, sensory and physical challenges that can impact on how we feel and how we behave. We have been working hard this term to think about our feelings and what we can do to understand how we feel and how we can help ourselves manage our feelings. This is an area of development that we will continue to work on within school.



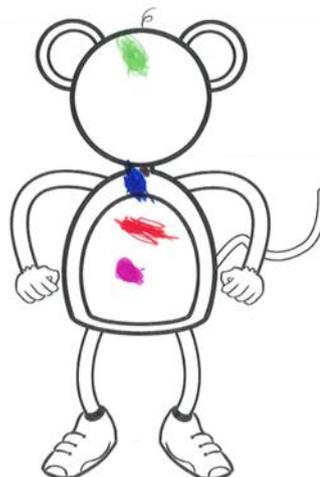
Where Do I Feel?

We can recognize emotions by feeling them in our body. Color in where you feel each emotion.



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## The Link - Oakfield

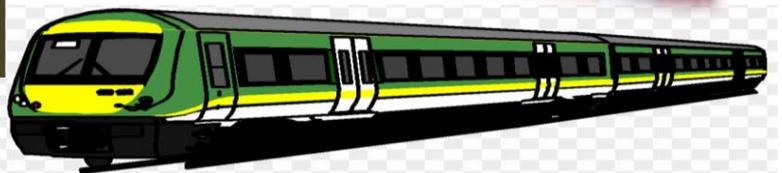


### Life Cycles

This term students have been exploring life cycles of different animals. Students are currently observing the changes within the life cycle of a butterfly, and we have several caterpillars which have recently developed into chrysalises. Also, another young person, at the start of the year, made a bird box. This Spring we have had a pair of blue tits create a nest and they now have three chicks which we can hear from the classroom. Students regularly comment on seeing the chicks as the parents come to feed.

### Active Travel

Students within The Link have been working with Active Travel, focusing on developing their knowledge of train travel. Students have been identifying key information on train tickets, being safe when travelling by train and being able to plan a journey. After the three workshops students will be going on a train journey they have planned and be able to put the knowledge into practice.





## Music Department



This month we have been finalising our BTEC submissions, dancing to our favourite songs and developing our pitch and rhythm copyback skills.

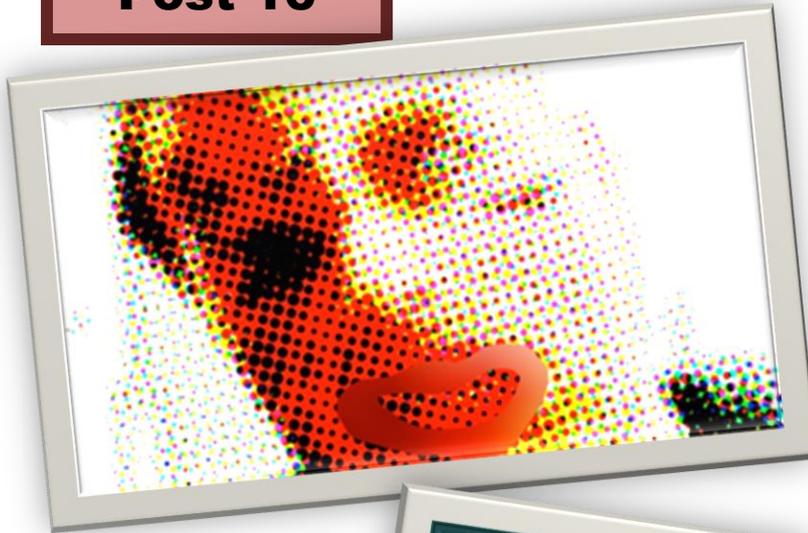
'The Link' have been working their way through their 'listen and appraise' modules and have been exposed to some amazing world music, which they have really enjoyed. The favourite by far was Mas Que Nada by Sergio Mendes Featuring Black Eyed Peas.

KS2 and 3 have been developing as class bands, working together to come up with rhythms, melodies and harmonies. There has also been a lot of dancing, singing and nature music sessions.

KS4 and BTEC students have been working towards finalising their performances and their songs to be assessed during next term.



## Post 16



### Art and Media

This term has been a very busy for our A level student who is now at the end of the course. His art has been developed to final conclusions with research and development produced as a PowerPoint, plus sketchbooks work showing explorative drawings and paintings. He has also looked at performance art and has made some short films plus photography. The examples that you see here are just some of the pieces produced by him using traditional and digital techniques.

The same student has also completed his Media course and again developed several projects and exams showing his understanding for the media industry and how the many different sectors work.

### General Studies

This subject has focussed on our planet and the world that we live in. We have looked over the past few terms to see how we, as a planet, fit into our solar system. This has then been extended into looking at our planet and understanding how our planet is unique, with its various people and diverse cultures and languages.

This is extended into our own country and looking at the diversity of our own population and the many different cultures that have made our country what it is today. This also includes the understanding of where places are and the geography of our landscape.



CULTURAL DIVERSITY

## Celia/Luke's Class

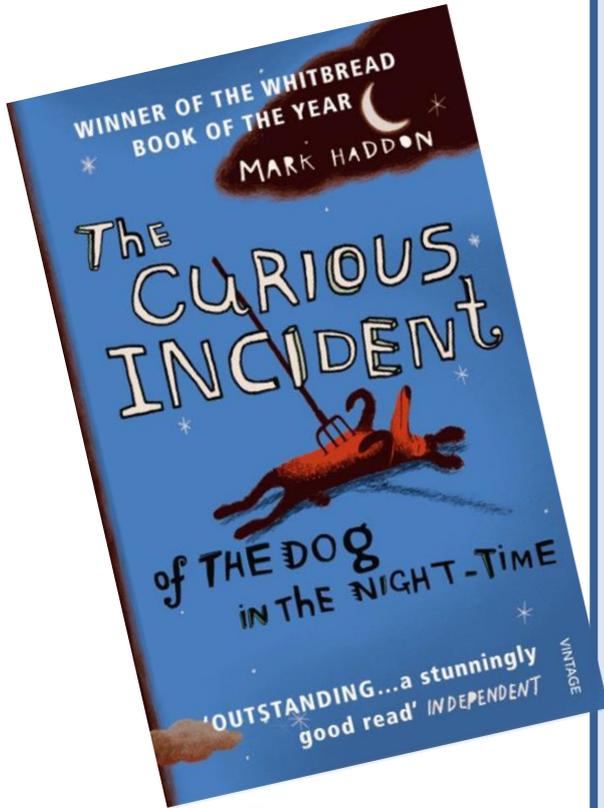


In our art we have looked at early photography and used cameras to take photos of our choice. We have looked at taking photos that focus on lighting, tone, shape and texture.

We have also created our own 2D planets which links with our Science topic of Space, using a range of media.



**KS 3**



We have had a fantastic term in our newly formed KS3 class. We have started really working well together and becoming better and better friends. Every individual has brought something new and unique to our dynamic. We have been so impressed with our improved sportsmanship in our active games. Their writing has been marvellous, even saying at times that they wanted to carry on when they could have finished! We have worked hard in our maths and science, and we have been particularly impressed with reading. We have been looking at the play "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time", taking it in turns to read the different character parts.

We have also been getting used to our new reward system. Every Friday we get a chance to do a really fun activity - as long as we have had a good enough week! So far, we have been swimming, gymming, played computer games, walked dogs, taken part in sports, and even more. It has been a fantastic motivator and encouraged us to work harder and harder. Long may it continue.



**Dear Everyone,**

**Another month has passed us by quickly!**

**Thank you to staff and students for their hard work throughout the term. It is incredible to see what can be accomplished in a small window of time.**

**The land-based areas at both sites are starting to take shape, with lots of new ideas and developments on the way. This space offers students an amazing opportunity and is one of the school's unique strengths. Students and animals have a special connection, and it is a joy to see our students interacting with and caring for the animals on both sites.**

**From the segments in this newsletter, it is clear that the focus on reading throughout the school is starting to reap its rewards. Students access a wide range of texts, learn phonics, explore comprehension activities, and complete independent reading activities. Well done to all involved, and congratulations to all those students making excellent progress and starting to unlock a new part of their education. It is worth remembering that Headstart does cater to a wide range of students. For some, communication using Makaton or PECS is where they are making the most progress and starting to interact with peers and staff on a higher level. Well done to everyone and all the teachers, guided by Cheryl, Emma, and Jane.**

**On a final note, with the weather being so pleasant and warm, students are more engaged in activities outside of the classroom, leading to more interaction with a wider social group. With the addition of the new play park and reward activities on a Friday, students have made massive progress in experiencing structured environments to improve their social skills and interact with a broader group of peers. Students are finding this out about themselves and others they may not have known and learning essential skills to utilize when socially interacting with others in school and the larger community.**

**I would also like to take this opportunity to say a massive well done to any students sitting exams this month and a thank you to Beth, who will be leaving us to pastures new. Thank you, Beth, for all your hard work at Headstart. You will be greatly missed by staff and students.**

**Please have a great break, and I look forward to seeing what the next term brings.**

**Scott Fasciolo-Barnes**