



Red Kite Special Academy Newsletter

Friday 24th October

Dear Families,

I can't believe we are at the end of our first term already and it's certainly been a busy one! This term we have been focusing on establishing routines, building relationships and making sure our pupils, both existing and new, are settled into their class. It's been lovely to see pupils engaging purposefully in their learning and the school feels positive and full of joy.

We enjoyed celebrating feeling happy as part of **Hello Yellow World Mental Health Day** on Friday 10th October. Pupils took part in a range of activities across the day including a bubbleathon in departments.

We held our first Parents Evening on Wednesday 15th October. It was lovely to see parents in school and have the opportunity to share your children and young people's achievements with you.

We had an unexpected start to this week with one of our boilers breaking down and leaking water everywhere which resulted in having to close our school for the day. This wasn't helped by the glitches with technology too on Monday which affected Class Dojo working and how we were able to communicate with you all.

We held our first Family Learning Week of the year this week and this has been a great success.

On Tuesday we saw families enjoying craft sessions with a spooky Halloween theme.

On Wednesday we saw families engaging in play based activities in Primary and in Secondary, families enjoyed playing board games with a focus on turn taking skills and coping with winning and losing!

On Thursday we saw families being joyous in Jason's musical workshops.

Also on Thursday we held our curriculum events for families in Primary and Secondary (KS3). It was great to share with families our vision for the curriculum and how this is implemented.

We ended the week with our Halloween Disco last night. We saw lots of great costumes and the moves on the dance floor were sensational!

Feedback from Department Leads on Term 1

Meadows - Debbie

The Meadows Department has had a great start to the year. We have had lots of new pupils and some new members of staff and everyone has settled in very well. All the classes have been learning about **Magnificent Me** and taken part in lots of activities about who they are, who their loved ones are and how we belong to both our home and school communities. Classes have spent a lot of time embedding new routines and setting new individual targets for the pupils.

Our highlight of the term would have to be Hello Yellow, World Mental Health Day, when we all came together to celebrate our joyfulness with a bubble-a-thon. The pupils all enjoyed being together and we were very grateful to Alfe for providing lots of bubble machines so we could all experience a frenzy of bubbles.

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Woods - Michael

This term Snowdrops have been exploring 'All about me'. Within the theme they learned about themselves, personalities and likes and dislikes and about the history and geography of the local area. The pupils really enjoyed learning historical facts about Corby and researching their own. In outdoor learning they have collected foliage and other natural autumnal items and made beautiful autumn wreaths. Snowdrops have also made dens, took part in local bird spotting and created Halloween pumpkins.

In Foxes this term pupils have been very busy. They have been going off-site for swimming lessons and have gained certificates, which has enabled them to grow in confidence in the water. Pupils have also been reading *The Twits* in English and have dived into the characters and have shown great creativity in doing so. Foxes have worked on their number skills, focusing on addition and subtraction in maths. Foxes have also opened a tuck shop twice a week in RK Cafe and have been doing **Friday Specials** for staff which has included sausage rolls, chicken curry, chilli and many more. This has given the class numerous opportunities to develop in a number of areas.

Owls have had a very productive first term. Some highlights have been taking their first Maths assessment of the year which the whole class passed! In English Owls have been looking at charities and hosted our first charity bake sale at the end of this term to raise money for 'Dogs for Good' which the class chose. The class have also started their internal work experience across the school.

Woods - Kim

What a busy and exciting first term we have had in the Woods department! It has been lovely welcoming everyone back after their summer holidays and also getting to know all of those who have joined our Secondary Woods department this year. All pupils seem to have settled in well and are building some positive and supportive relationships with peers and adults around them.

This term, our focus in our English sessions has been around the story of Futuristic Fairy Tales: *Goldilocks in Space* by Peter Bentley. In these sessions, we have explored a range of sensory and writing activities as well as created props, acted out the story, and even used the sensory room to bring the tale to life.

This term's theme, 'Me, Myself and I,' has provided pupils with valuable opportunities to explore their own identities. They have engaged in a range of creative activities, including examining and sharing family photographs, producing self-portraits in different artistic media and using mirrors and photography to observe and express a variety of facial expressions.

As a department, we have engaged in a series of cookery sessions focused on creating crumbles. These sessions provided wonderful opportunities to taste, smell, prepare and explore a variety of ingredients using all of our senses.

Science was particularly exciting this term for our young people as we carried out lots of hands-on experiments using magnets!

Lookout - Jess

The Lookout Department has had a fantastic term one! Our Options lessons have been successful with Swimming, Technology, Music and Cookery and staff in all of these Options have been very impressed with students' engagement and most importantly, their enjoyment! All three classes have been out in some form whether that's to visit a café, the local shop or the foodbank! Falcons also

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had their Coffee afternoon with families, Ospreys have been visiting the main school with their snack cart and Kestrels prepared a Halloween brunch for students from Falcons!

Our Cookery curriculum this term has been centred on using the microwave and using packets and mixes. Kestrels have made packet sauces in the microwave for tuna pasta, macaroni cheese and beef/bean chilli, made a microwave pizza, pie and a lemon curd cake! Ospreys have been microwaving everything from curry to pasta sauce to beans and spaghetti and Falcons have also made pizzas, muffins and cupcakes!

Sinead, Ania and I have been busy writing your young person's annual reviews and it has been lovely to have this time with you talking about the achievements of your young person and what their steps into adulthood may look like, and we are looking forward to having the rest of the meetings in Term Two! Enjoy your October half term and see you for Term Two!

Holiday Consultation

Following our consultation with staff and parents about considering changes to the current school holiday structure this has been reviewed by The Board of Directors. They have agreed to retain the current holiday structure in line with the majority preference.

Transition Event in Term 2

On **Wednesday 5th November** we will be holding our annual **Transition Event from 2-4pm** for families with Pupils in Years 10 and upwards. We have invited local settings of both Post 16 and Post 18 provisions so that families can hear about what they offer and then speak to the representatives with their young person to find out more.

We have brought this event forward this year to give families more time to plan for the right setting for their young people as they leave Red Kite, and hope that this will play a part in that important process.

Post 16 Placements

The local authority has confirmed with us that Post 16 consultations will be sent out to providers at the end of this month. We're still awaiting the deadline for post 18.

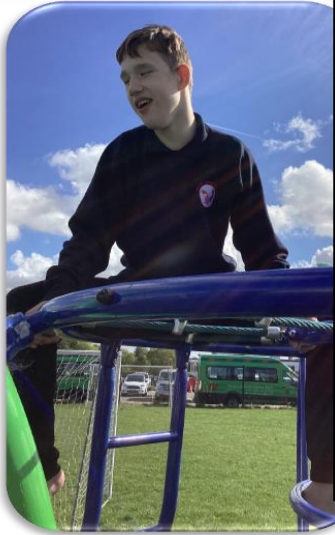
Wishing you all a lovely half term break.

Warmest wishes

Karen

Karen Smith

Headteacher



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