



# Sandgate *Spring Half Term* Newsletter

A letter from our Head Teacher, Dan.



Dear All

We have had a great half term at Sandgate School and are now moving towards February half term, it is day light (just) when staff arrive and just daylight when we leave. The snow drops are out, and the crocuses are emerging. Spring is on the way!

One of the jobs that I have every half term is to review the educational visits that have been happening, the purpose of this is to ensure that the curriculum is being backed up by rich real-world experiences. As the weather improves, we always see a greater number of trips going out of school.

I am always impressed by the efforts of school staff, the planning of a trip is an extra task, however the team are always motivated to go the extra mile for the students. I want all lessons to be engaging however putting our learning into context outside of the classroom I see as something that all of our students love, for school it has an extra benefit of our students being able to show us that they can perform in the world outside of school.

Preparation for life after Sandgate does not only mean at 19 years old, it also means preparation for the weekend and preparation for 3:30pm each day. The marriage of the personal curriculum (based on EHCP outcomes) and the academic learning at school should prepare our students for everything life can throw at them. So, I would like to extend my thanks to a dedicated group of staff and to a group of students always willing to get stuck in.

Thank you for all the efforts you put in as parents to get your children ready in the morning and prepped for a day of hard work.

Have a great holiday, please take some photos of what you are up to and send them in. Fingers crossed for some sunshine!

Regards

Daniel Hinton

## Parent & Toddler Group



The Sandgate toddler group runs on a Friday from the Methodist Church on Sandylands.

We would like parents and carers to come along with their child for a brew, a biscuit and a chat!

There are 2 sessions -

- **Morning** 9.30am - 11.45am
- **Afternoon** 1.00 pm- 2.45pm.

## Parent Support Group Meetings



Please feel free to pop by the **Sandgate Methodist Church** for a chat and a cuppa at **11.45-12.45pm Friday 10th March**.

We are also looking for parents to get involved in our **mental health working party**. If you are interested please contact either **Rachel Canwell** ([rcanwell@sandgateschool.org.uk](mailto:rcanwell@sandgateschool.org.uk)) or **Julia McDonald** ([jmcdonald@sandgateschool.org.uk](mailto:jmcdonald@sandgateschool.org.uk))

*Class Updates...*



Catbells Class









We have had an exciting start to the Spring Term exploring our Theme 'Food Glorious Food' through our sensory story 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea'

We have been looking at how food is grown. We planted, watered and grew our own cress heads. We enjoyed smelling and even tasting our cress.

We have been learning to tip, pour and mix in Fun with Food sessions and have made some wonderful stuffed peppers and a fruit salad.

We have had a lovely visit to Outside In. It was so fun to explore, climb and slide. We are getting so good at feeling happy and safe when we go out for visits in our local area.



For Chinese New Year, we printed some cards with red paint and enjoyed looking at Chinese New Year stories. Our favourite was Maisy's Chinese New Year.

Bessyboot







So far this term, Bessyboot have enjoyed lots of sensory exploration, communication work and personal development. We have loved the snowy weather, added new sessions to our routines and have even squeezed in a trip to Bowfell's Bistro! Later this term we look forward to visiting South Lakes Safari Zoo as part of our Famous Five topic, where we are looking at David Attenborough and the natural world.

## Wetherlam

















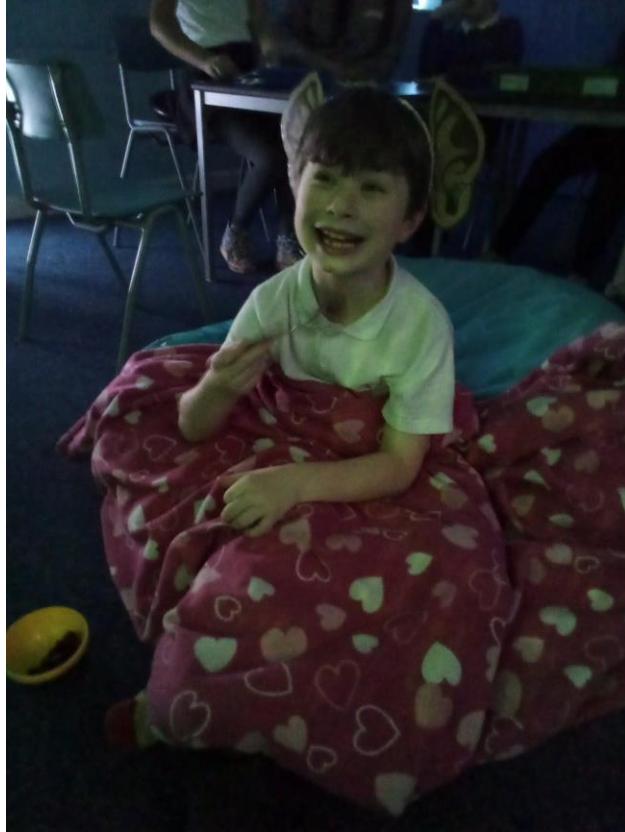
This term Wetherlam have had a great time learning about space and the Royal Family. We have continued walking to the shops each week to buy our food ingredients and have made the different elements of an afternoon tea. Wetherlam invited in their families and served them an afternoon tea on Valentines day - what a treat! Wetherlam have started swimming lessons this term and all the children are doing really well, becoming more confident and independent in the water - they love the sessions.

## Grassmoor













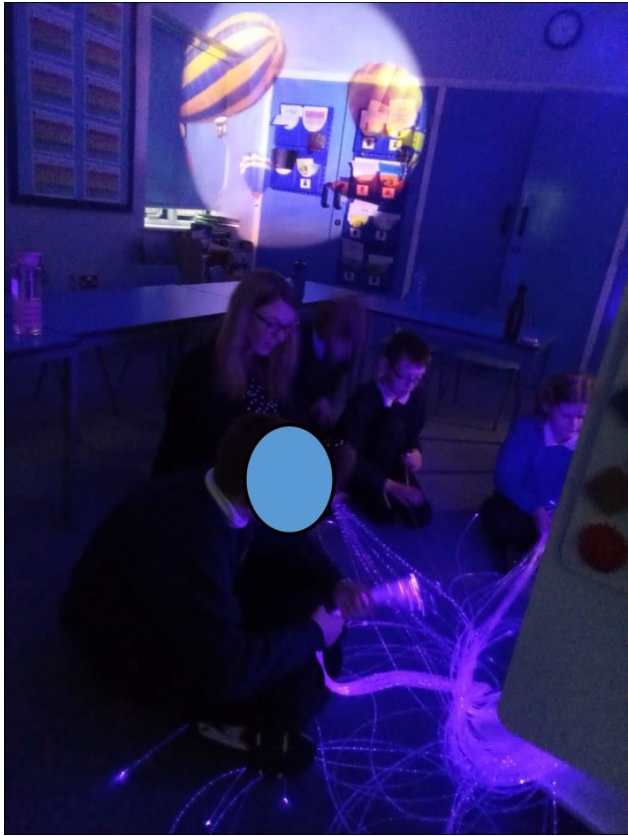


Grassmoor's theme this half term has been 'the famous 5'. We have enjoyed looking at explorers of both land and space and not forgetting the Queen too within our BFG themed Sensory story. At the end of the ½ term to put our new explorer skills to the test, we enjoyed a trip to Dalton Safari zoo 😊

## Blencathra









Blencathra have been studying the topic of From Out of the Shadows. In science, we have experimenting to see how se have change the size of shadows, observed the changes of shadows outside and explored light in dark spaces. In Literacy, we have enjoyed studying The Dark by Lemony Snicket. In PE, the children have excelled at learning to play Netball!

## Glaramara











This half term Glaramara have been looking at Space! We have been learning about the planets and stars and then attempting to create our own constellations and our own planetary productions. In Art we looked at the patterns of Van Goghs work in Starry Night and in Food Tech we made moon cycle cupcakes. Along with all our other usual fun and hard work!

Robinson







We have had an enjoyable half term in Robinson class.

We have had a visit from the police to help us have a sensory experience related to internet safety.

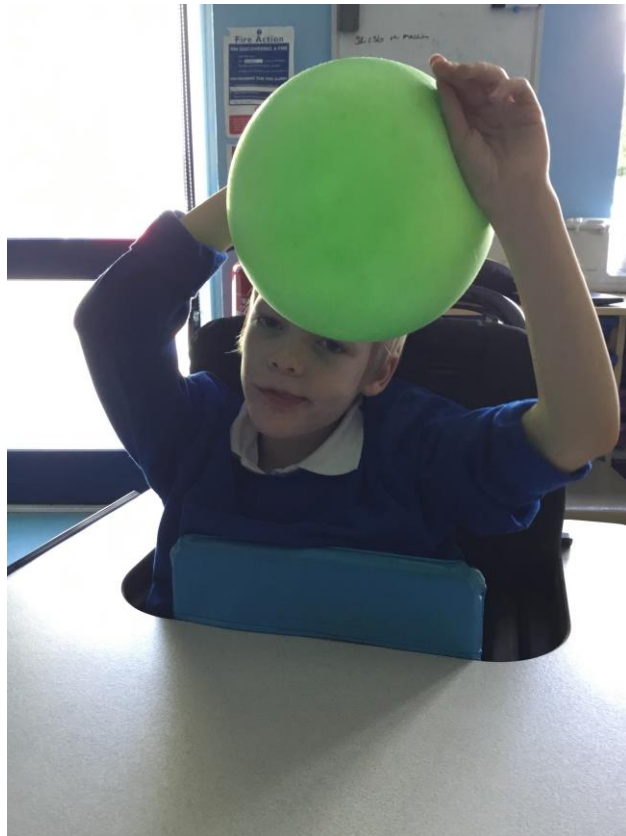
We had our first visit to the Bowfell Bistro. We had a lovely walk to our upper site. We enjoyed meeting students we know. Some of us tasted cakes and warm tea.

Ben is enjoying the cooch balls in Jabadao. We have revisiting Jabadao this half term with Lucy Gibson on Friday's. Lucy is now teaching us each week! We love her calm voice and personalised touch.

We continue to do Eye Gaze club in Robinson. We use our devices to make choices, have a chat and generally have a good time.

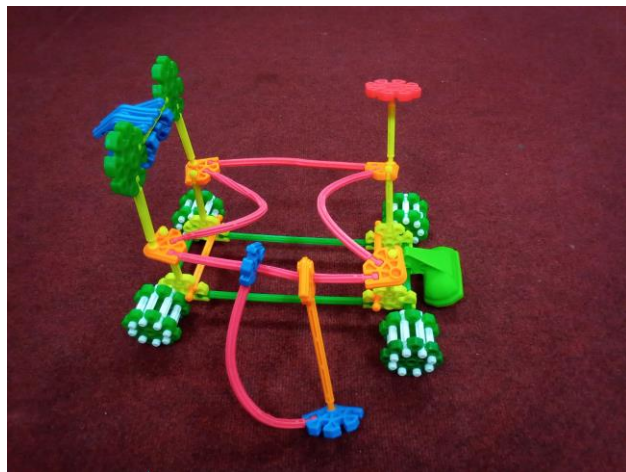
## Fairfield





This half term we've welcomed Toby, student teacher into class. We have been reading bus timetables to plan a journey. We then caught the 555 to Ambleside (and back!) We've written non-chronological reports and learnt about Earth in Space, including the story of four incredible women in our class text 'Hidden Figures'. In Art we have used sewing techniques to create a visual identity statement and in DT we planned and designed Mars Rovers. As always, we've continued to cook some delicious meals in food tech! Toby finishes his placement at the end of this half term - we wish him well

## Fells





Fells have been busy with both mind and body this half term. We have been practicing functional skills questions for Maths English and ICT. Everyone has worked hard and gained confidence in their abilities. We have also been cooking some amazing food including chilli con carne, bolognaise and a Chinese meal to celebrate the lunar new year. Outside of the classroom we have continued to take an active part in the school's football lunchtime club, developed our fitness in PE lessons and experienced the outdoors at Brockhole and Fell Foot. As a final treat we have used the money we earned at the Christmas fair to go 10 pin bowling!

Helvellyn







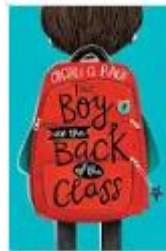


Helvellyn pupils have been working hard in food tech to prepare lunch as well as practice baking as part of the routine as well as for our Valentines afternoon tea with our parents and carers.

Our sensory listening walks on Mondays have also supported observational skills, finding snowdrops to tell us Spring is on it's way. Pupils also saw a new born calf, minutes old as they walked through the farm.

Our shopping work is excellent for pupils bringing and using their own shopping lists. There is great celebration for Kian being relaxed in this environment.

## Pillar



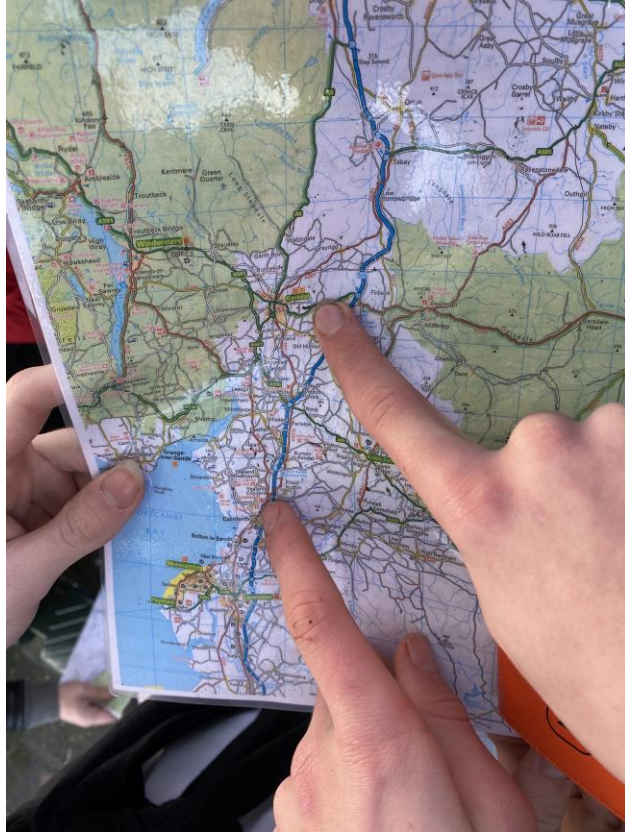
Pillar class have been avidly reading, consuming and learning from the current class reader, The Boy at the Back of the Class.

We've been learning about London, Syria, the Arab Spring of March 2011, the Spring not being successful in Syria, the movement of people through Europe, Islam, Arabic amongst much more.











Finally, applications (supported by home and school) for Now Cards have been successful in Pillar class. Therefore, every other Friday morning, students work on functional use of maths, English and geography in the local community by catching buses to supermarkets to buy class snack.



It's, of course not all been work, work, work. Work experience has continued...



Bowfell





Bowfell have had a hard working half term. We welcomed Robinson and Bessyboot classes to Bowfell Bistro who both gave us lovely feedback. Students have continued their college experience visits at Beaumont College, this term designing and making bags and t-shirts in the art room. We have also enjoyed thinking about our health and wellbeing for Child Mental Health week, particularly enjoying a trip to the community garden for a brew and chat around the fire.

## Scafell



Students in Scafell class have been working hard on developing confidence with their presentation skills. We have been thinking about what is important when we talk to an audience. This is linked in with our BTEC work and our work on Skills Builder for Careers and personal development.









In class maths sessions we have been thinking about the weight of products and comparing how much things weigh as well as reading scales and working out costs of items. We talked about how this is important for when we are packing our shopping bags so we can carry them safely and balance out the load.





We have started a regular well-being session on a Wednesday afternoon. We have a choice of activities from art and crafts, creative writing, board games, and going out for a walk – sometimes we end up at a café!!



Our work experience and volunteering is continuing, some of our students have been visiting a local Care Home on a Friday morning to play games and chat with residents.

## Skiddaw



This term, having wished Sara Wilson a happy retirement, we welcomed Marie Breeze as our new part-time teacher. Marie teaches 3 days a week and Kevin teaches 2 days a week, but the students are busy beavering away 5 days a week, on a range of activities from gardening, swimming and work experience to cross-curricular BTEC Digital Skills and Food Tech. Here are a few of the students' reflections on some of our term's activities so far:

Of Functional Skills Maths and English practice papers: 'The practice papers let everyone try their maths brain. I liked the challenge!' (Oli Cunningham).

Of work experience at Tebay J38 Services: 'When coaches come it gets very busy! I used the machine to make all the drinks.' (Rachel Jones).

Of work experience at Castle Green Hotel: 'We set up for Burns Night feast and whisky, then me and Will helped John in the kitchen. It was great!' (Billy Smith).

Of the Digital Art course at Lancaster and Morecambe College: 'The Digital Art course was amazing because we digitally made an artwork by using shapes and then brought them to life with Adobe Animate.' (Oli Cunningham). Oli designed a house with a clock tower, with moving clock hands, clouds, sun and trees.

This term we have also been fortunate to add part-time Teaching Assistants Lily and Lou to our staff team. We look forward to seeing everyone again after half term.

Thank you!

More updates to come soon and for any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school office.