



OAK

This term Oak have been carrying out Outdoor Education. Pupils have been working on developing their stamina and fitness by completing walks at Prudhoe, Chopwell woods and the Blyth coastline. During these sessions students carried out some work on their map reading and orienteering skills, locating points on the map which matched to the markers they found in the woods.

We have also been increasing our knowledge on flora and fauna at National Trust properties and observing the changes in nature, while looking for the signs of Spring which come with the weather warming up. We have enjoyed using the bird hides too, watching the blue tits, grey tits and robins feeding from the feeders and perched on high branches. Pupils were very interested in listening to the sounds of the birds they spotted on the bird sounds app and staff reinforced the type of bird while they listened.

Well, done to all of Oak class who have taken on all of the challenges and built resilience, coming out fitter and stronger with a fresh outlook on the great outdoors!!



ROWAN

Our students have had a wonderfully busy and rewarding term. They've thrown themselves into their work experience placements, taking on groundwork at Gibside and serving customers with enthusiasm at both Willowburn Hospice and Glenroyd House. Staff at each setting have praised their attitude, effort and teamwork, and our students have represented the school brilliantly. Alongside this, everyone has continued to work hard on their school curriculum as well as their accreditation/qualification and DAAC work, showing real determination and pride in their progress. We are also incredibly proud of our students who competed in the Panathlon Kurling Competition and secured a place in the regional finals. Their sportsmanship, focus and team spirit have been fantastic to see.



HEADTEACHER COMMENTS

Happy Easter everyone! The Easter Bunny came to see us all and had a fun time with all of the classes. It has been a very busy term and we are already planning our exciting new building for 2029. We welcome a new governor, Claire Sewell. Have a lovely holiday.

SBae



GOVERNOR COMMENTS

As Chair of Governors, it is my pleasure to update you on some of the significant developments at our school this term. We recently held our full governing body meeting, where governors discussed a range of important matters to ensure the continued success and wellbeing of our pupils and staff. These meetings are a vital part of our commitment to providing the very best educational environment and support for all pupils in our care.

I am sure you all heard the wonderful news that Durham County Council have approved funds for a new school building. This exciting development will allow us to further enhance our facilities, creating additional space and opportunities for learning and growth.

Throughout the term, governors have also been present in school to support the recruitment of new staff and to monitor key areas including Safeguarding, English, and Maths. This direct involvement helps us to better understand the daily experiences of pupils and staff and to ensure that our standards remain high. We are proud of the hard work and dedication shown by everyone in our school community.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful Easter break.

Lindsey Robinson
Chair of Governors

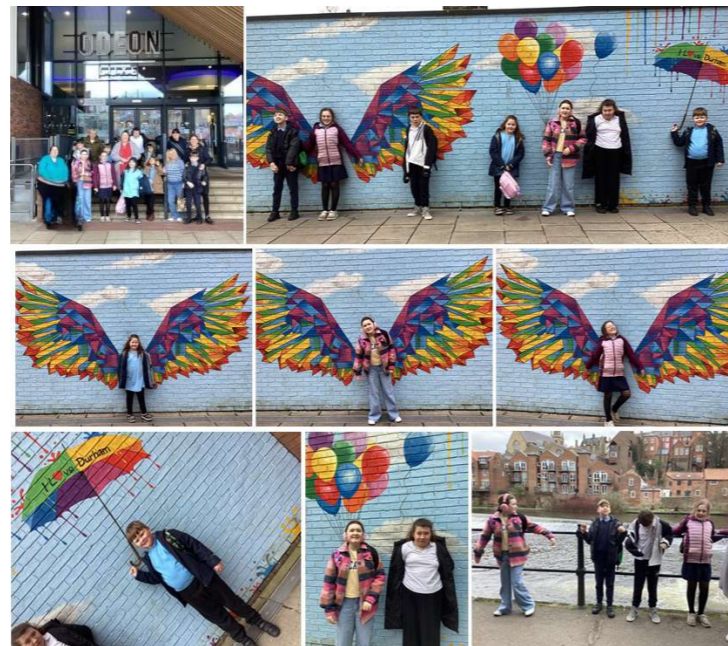
SYCAMORE

Sycamore class had a great time exploring the story "The Gruffalo" during National Storytelling Week. The pupils explored a range of ingredients to create a Gruffalo crumble. They used a fork in brown paint to mark-make and produce a Gruffalo portrait adding horns, tusks, eyes and a poisonous wart. The pupils loved using the interactive whiteboard in ICT to add lots of colours and their own marks on the Gruffalo. The pupils also did colouring-in and used paint and textures to create a giant Gruffalo.



WILLOW

Willow class had an amazing time visiting Durham for the Into Film Festival Spring event. We were very lucky to have the chance to go to Odeon Durham to watch 'Pets on a Train' as part of the film festival. Pupils loved sitting back, relaxing and watching the film whilst tucking in to some delicious snacks. We learned about different careers in the film industry before the film began which was really interesting. After the film, we had a nice walk along the Riverwalk before returning to school. All the pupils were fantastic representatives of the school and we can't wait for the Winter Film Festival to come round so we can go again.



ASH

We've been living and breathing traditional tales — and what a ride it has been. "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" had us tip-tapping over imaginary bridges, while "The Three Little Pigs" inspired some very serious discussions about structural integrity and wolf-proof building materials. The children have loved stepping into these stories and bringing them to life in their own wonderfully imaginative ways. PE has been a whirl of movement, rhythm, and giggles as we explored dance this half term. From big expressive shapes to tiny tiptoe moments, the children have been discovering just how much storytelling can happen without saying a single word.

We've also had a special musical treat — Helen has been visiting us and filling our classroom with the sound of spring. The children have learned cheerful new songs and even had a go at exploring the ukulele. Let's just say we may have a few future rockstars in our midst. In Science, we've been "jetting off" on imaginary holidays as we explored the wonderful world of weather. From sunshine to snowstorms, the children have been thinking about what to pack, where to go, and how weather shapes our adventures. Their curiosity has been absolutely infectious. It was very useful that the weather in the Ash class garden has had a variety of snow, rain and sunshine!



SCHOOL NEWS

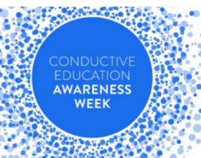
On Tuesday, 31st March, we were delighted to welcome the Masonic Bikers Association to our school. The pupils were very excited to see the motorbikes arrive, and the bikers were incredibly warm and friendly.

They generously gifted our pupils Easter eggs, sensory toys, and soft Easter-themed characters, bringing lots of smiles and joy across the school. The visit was supported in partnership with BMW, whose involvement helped make the day even more special.

We are extremely grateful to the Masonic Bikers Association and BMW for their kindness and generosity.



From 23rd – 27th March we celebrated Conductive Education Awareness Week with a vibrant mini Special Olympics-style event during our assemblies. Pupils were thrilled to showcase the skills they've been developing, as three students from each CE class demonstrated what they have learned through their Conductive Education programmes and in-class task series. It was a wonderful opportunity to highlight their determination, progress, and achievements.



ASPEN

Aspen Class Bring New Life to Old Clothes through the Good Life Project

Aspen Class have been busy exploring sustainability, creativity and practical skills through their exciting **Good Life project**. With bags of old clothes kindly donated by staff, pupils have been transforming unwanted textiles into completely new creations. From re-engineered clothing pieces to handmade dolls and beautifully crafted accessories, the class have shown incredible imagination and pride in their work. Throughout the project, pupils have strengthened their fine motor skills, using cutting, stitching and assembling techniques with growing confidence. They have also learned how colour, texture and fabric choice influence the overall design and feel of the items they produce. This hands-on experience has encouraged them to make thoughtful decisions, experiment with materials and reflect on what makes a product appealing and functional. The project has been a wonderful celebration of creativity, recycling and independence—well done, Aspen Class!



BLOSSOM TREE

This term Blossom class have loved exploring some local sites including **Herrington Park, Hexham Abbey, Locomotion and Hoptown Museum**. They have coped amazingly well on their first school trips and have really enjoyed them. We loved the snow day where we spent time in the sensory garden sledging and having snowball fights.

This term we have been reading *“The Hungry Caterpillar”* where we have practiced counting the different fruits and feeding the caterpillar. We also celebrated **Red Nose Day** this term where we enjoyed lots of different activities in the hall, including throw the sponge at a teacher, a funny photo booth and pin the nose on the face.

This term we have also loved performing music with Helen where we have played lots of different instruments, enjoyed using the scarves and loved using the lycra. We have had a very busy term!



BEECH

This term, Beech class pupils have been hands-on with a range of materials, investigating their properties and uses. Their curiosity and practical testing have helped them develop strong scientific thinking and creative problem-solving skills.



We proudly secured first place in the spaghetti tower competition with our impressive structure, which was the tallest among all entries. Our Outdoor Education sessions have been immensely valuable, greatly enhancing our learning and development within the local community.



We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Easter and encourage you to celebrate this special occasion with joy and togetherness. Kind regards, the Beech team.

CEDAR

Cedar Class has had a fantastic term! We've celebrated **World Book Day**, enjoyed the fun of **Red Nose Day** and taken part in **CE Awareness Week**. Alongside all these special events, pupils have shown amazing effort and enthusiasm in all their lessons. We're incredibly proud of the hard work and positive attitude they've demonstrated throughout the term.



CHERRY

This term, Cherry Class have taken a deep dive into the Easter story during our lessons. To bring our learning to life, we headed outside for **Wild Passport** sessions where we built a crackling fire and cooked fresh bread together, connecting the ancient story to a real-world experience.



HAZEL

Hazel class have had a lovely Spring Term. The pupils enjoyed going swimming together, building confidence and having fun in the water. They enjoyed listening to the story of *“The Owl and the Pussycat”* in Literacy and exploring the characters and events through sensory activities. During Outdoor Education, some of the pupils have enjoyed exploring nature through activities such as hill walking, climbing and orienteering. Hazel class pupils also enjoyed participating in a variety of whole school events such as **World Book Day** and the **Valentine's Day Bake Off**.



ELM

This term, our students have thoroughly enjoyed exploring *“The Wizard of Oz”*. The story linked beautifully across all areas of our curriculum, inspiring imagination, communication, and creativity in every lesson.

One of our favourite topics this term was gymnastics. The students were full of excitement as they explored different movements, practiced balancing skills, and tried out various rolls. Their confidence grew each week, and they especially loved creating their own gymnastic sequences. Watching them perform their routines—with the biggest smiles on their faces—was a real highlight of the term.

We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved this term.

Have a lovely easter break and we will see you soon.



MAPLE

Maple Class have had a fantastic Spring Term, full of exciting learning and great achievements. In English, we explored *“The Tiny Seed”* by Eric Carle and the nonfiction text *“All Bodies Are Good Bodies”*, which helped us learn about growth, diversity, and self-esteem. In Maths, we focused on number recognition and explored measurement and volume through real-life links such as weather and self-care.

Our Science topic, *“Young Gardeners”*, was a highlight, with pupils enjoying planting seeds and learning how different plants grow. We also made brilliant progress in swimming, with all pupils growing in confidence. In Outdoor Education, we visited local parks and looked for ‘maths in real life’, spotting shapes, patterns and numbers in the environment.

It has been a wonderful term, and we are very proud of the enthusiasm and hard work shown by all our pupils.

