

# VILLA REAL SPRING NEWSLETTER - 2024

## S2A

This term S2A have been out and about in nature. We have been carrying out some wellbeing activities in the outdoors, breathing in the fresh air. While doing this we are improving our fitness and life skills. Some pupils have been walking and developing their knowledge of flora and fauna, while watching the miracle of nature, such as watching new-born lambs and escorting frogs across the road. Others have been planting trees to sustain our beautiful world and some have been learning how to survive in the great outdoors. Well done to all of S2A who have taken on all of the challenges and built resilience, coming out fitter and stronger!!



## S3A

Senior 3A have had a super busy half term! We have continued to look at different careers. All of the pupils have really enjoyed exploring the different equipment that can be used and dressing up. Some of the careers we have explored include fishermen, photographers, dentists, driving instructors and builders. We have also been super scientists this term, engaging in lots of different experiments. We were all amazed watching our very own volcano erupt, making an egg become bouncy and how skittles make a mesmerising rainbow swirl when submerged in warm water. We are all looking forward to being super scientists next term. Have a great Easter holiday!



## HEADTEACHER COMMENTS

Happy Easter to you all. It has been a difficult term when we've said sad goodbyes to some of our pupils and staff but we wish all their families our best wishes. Have a lovely break and take care.

*S. Bae*

## GOVERNOR COMMENTS

Governors have had an exciting time for our Spring term monitoring, with our Learning Walks. We have been able to walk with staff around school to look at the work, and observe classes being taught. I particularly loved the Storytelling Floor Book, where all classes have contributed with their own stories. Fabulous!

May I also take this opportunity to thank Caroline Givens for her dedicated work as a governor since her daughter started Villa Real in 2018. She has been a great asset and we will miss her on the Governing Body very much, as she steps down at Easter.

Suzanne Bailey

## EYFSA

Pupils went for a trip to the Tim Lamb Centre where they explored the soft play, sensory and outdoor areas. We focused on the positions 'up, down, in and out' using body movements and gestures. We enjoyed the bus journey up there and back and looked at signs of spring out of the window. In class we've listened to our sensory story, 'The Lights that Dance at Night' and explored the arctic, making snow and identifying animals such as reindeers, arctic foxes and wolves. We have celebrated International Language month by making crepes. We showed preferences for certain foods such as jam, ham and cheese. We practiced our mark making skills by rolling bread and cutting a circle out. All in all, a good period for EYFSA, gearing up for Easter.



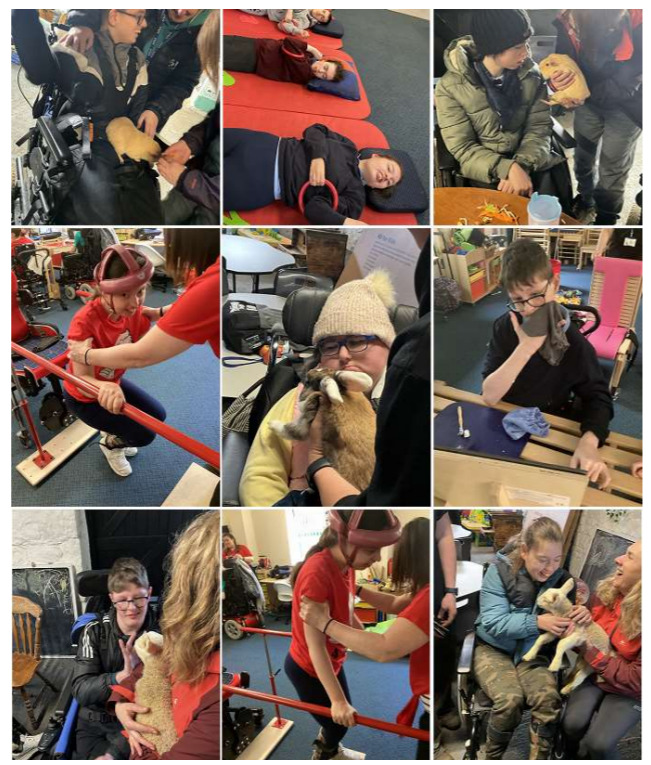
## CE2

We have had a very busy Spring term; however, the highlights of the term were 'CE Awareness Week' and our visit to the library and St Patrick's Church. Father John was brilliant at explaining about the time before Easter and showing us around the church. He made it a fantastic sensory experience for our pupils. As always, we are so proud of our students in CE2 and loved to share all their hard work with the rest of the school during this week.



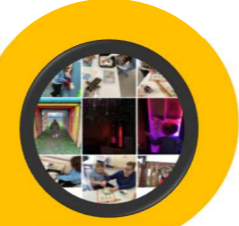
## CE3

CE3 had a lovely time at Bowlees Farm; meeting lambs, sheep, ducks, puppies and a parrot to name a few. All of the students loved petting the animals and feeding the guinea pigs and lambs. We can't wait to return in May. We have also been celebrating Conductive Education awareness week, discussing how the skills we learn through CE tasks transfer into our daily lives enabling us to change position, for example roll over in bed, transfer from sitting to standing, gain and maintain independence in dressing, eating and playing.



## CE1

All the pupils in CE1 enjoyed taking part in lots of fun filled activities to celebrate Comic Relief. We all enjoyed finding the red noses hidden in the cold, sticky red spaghetti. We held a roleplay bake sale and tried strawberry delight at snack time. We made silly faces in the red playdough, by adding googly eyes. We only used the red bricks to build towers and we drew silly lines on the red sequence board. We even completed some fantastic red nose homework. Well done CE1, you all know how to have fun!



## P1A

In P1A, we have been out and about participating in Outdoor Education. We have been exploring different environments, for example Beamish Woods, and saying what we can see. Some saw the trees; some saw the river and some even saw squirrels running around.

We have been doing activities onsite too, involving our Wild Passport. We have been trying to master our peeling techniques and motions. Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed all the experiences in and out of school - well done P1A!



## P2

P2 entered an Art and Poetry competition, 'No Place Like Home'. P2 also explored different colours and what they represent, for example yellow = happy, green = luck. Pupils looked at symbols linked to colours and chose how home makes them feel. They used those colours to paint a picture. Afterwards, they explored acrostic poems with staff. From an option of four symbols, pupils chose a word for letters for the word 'HOME' to write a poem. We shared our art and poems in class to celebrate their work.



## P3A

This term P3A have spent one afternoon a week choosing a reading book each to read and explore independently, this has encouraged pupils to develop their Literacy exploration skills. In line with this we have also began exploring syllables. Staff have been so impressed to see how pupil's understanding and identification of syllables has grown; we began on one and two syllable words and are now exploring three and four syllable words.

For Enrichment Day we brought the foot spas into class and pupils all enjoyed dipping their feet in the warm water. We even filled them with bubble bath so our classroom floor was like a foam party. It was a lovely sensory experience and all pupils took a turn.

In February, we took part in The Great Valentines Bake Off which was in Memory of our school Cook Larissa. Pupils worked to bake and decorate a cake which was then taste tested by Larissa's friend Linda and her daughter Kayleigh. Although P3A didn't win we really enjoyed the challenge and we thought our cake was a Show Stopper!

We had our first Swimming lesson this term. Staff were so impressed with how well the pupils did and they all had a brilliant time.



## S2

Senior 2 have been busy bees this term, soaking up lots of knowledge and having a blast along the way!

We recently visited Bowlees Farm, where our students dove into the world of farm careers. It was an eye-opening experience, and the children had a fantastic time getting hands-on with farm activities!

But wait, there's more! We had a special visitor, Craig from Preston Park Museum, who brought along intriguing artefacts from the museum. The students were captivated as Craig shared fascinating stories about life on the home front during World War 2.



## P2A

P2A have started swimming lessons this half term. We absolutely love our weekly swims! Pupils are developing their confidence in being in the water and learning the basic swimming skills such as floating and using their arms and legs to move around the pool. Some pupils are even learning to jump into the pool safely by placing their toes on the side and waiting until there is enough space to jump in safely. Keep up the good work P2A!



## P3

This half-term P3 have joined with an online creator / animator called Natalie Paris for the North East Festival of Languages which lasts for the whole of March 2024. The class have been working through a range of activities such as listening to French stories and French words with Natalie. During her online creative French Puppet Workshops the class have been creating their own French Puppets to go along with the ones Natalie has been to show us in class. The pupils have really enjoyed watching the shows and creating their own puppets, by thinking about the different emotions and feelings that puppets can show during a story and what they will encounter through different activities both inside and outside of school. These activities have allowed the pupils to experience a different culture and feel part of a North East Festival with their peers from other schools.



## S3

S3 have had a lot of fun learning about different topics during the Spring term. We have participated in many exciting Literacy opportunities including National Storytelling Week, World Book Day and being invited to a student performance of 'Macbeth' at Elemore Hall School. The pupils have been learning about a variety of topics including; the Middle East, life on the home front, properties of materials, electrical circuits and Judaism. Some of our pupils enjoyed a visit to Durham Oriental Museum, where we examined the museum exhibits (with a focus on Egypt) and viewed an exhibition of contemporary art from the Middle East. Other highlights of our Spring term were participating in a table cricket tournament at Durham Cricket Stadium in Chester-Le-Street and baking a cake for the Great Valentines Bake Off.



## S4

S4 visited the Heugh Battery Museum where we learnt what it was like to go to war and be on battlefield in World War 1. We got the opportunity to dress up as soldier, look inside the Anderson shelter and experienced sitting in a tank.



We have also been enjoying visiting the Emmaus village where we have all been working on our life skills and experiencing being a cleaner.

We have also visited a range of exciting places such as the power station and custody suite with DAAC.