

# Debdale Federation Newsletter

## Summer Term 2014



### NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEAD TEACHER

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You will notice that this is the first Debdale Federation Newsletter. The Governors agreed that it would be good for all parents/carers to receive the termly newsletter and include what's happening at both Redgate School and Yeoman Park School. We do hope that you enjoy reading the first edition. Please let us know what you think!

There has been lots happening during the summer term so far. There has been several residential visits to both Hagg Farm in Derbyshire and Center Parcs in Edwinstowe. Both Secondary and Upper Team pupils/students from Yeoman Park School took part in these visits as well as Year 6 pupils who will be leaving Redgate School at the end of term. I think you will agree that these residential visits were a huge success.

Unfortunately, this summer holiday will be the first time for many many years that we haven't run a summer play scheme at Yeoman Park School. This is due to insufficient funds. The school relies on donations to keep this much needed, highly staffed resource going even though it is subsidised by daily charges to parents and by the school. We are continuing to apply for funding so that this can run again next summer. We will of course, keep you informed.

There are several building works taking place at both Redgate School and Yeoman Park School over the summer holidays so that classroom and other areas of school are more suitably equipped to support our pupils/students. Both schools will also be having a floor level trampoline installed.

If you would like to submit an article for the autumn term newsletter, please contact Jo Wass at Yeoman Park School on 01623 459540.

# PRIMARY TEAM NEWS



## BEE CLASS

The Busy Bee class have had a busy and exciting half term with lots of work about the Ancient Egyptians. We made mummies, sarcophagi and pyramids and found out about how the Ancient Egyptians lived. We liked an Egyptian workshop day with an Ancient Egyptian lady.

All the Bees are enjoying going swimming every week to the Rebecca Adlington Centre. We have great fun and work very hard in the big pool and then have a warm up and play in the small pool!

Some Busy Bees had a fantastic few days at Hagg Farm and enjoyed lots of outdoor adventure activities, including the zip wire, climbing wall and pond dipping. We had some long walks and lots of delicious food!

We're looking forward to this half term, working about The Great Outdoors and a special two weeks of the World Cup, including Sports Day, with more fun outside and inside the classroom.

## LADYBIRD CLASS



Ladybirds have been looking at the great outdoors. This is us planting seeds and flowers that we see when we go on walks



## CLASS 3

Class 3 made the most of the brief spell of fine weather in May and enjoyed an afternoon of water play



Class 3 began a planting and growing project in February.

First we went to B&Q to buy seeds and compost.

Then the hard work started! Everyone got busy sowing seeds in pots and containers. Pupils looked after the plants, watering them and then planting them outside once the weather was warm enough.

And then finally harvesting the potatoes they had grown. See pics on next page...





## ANTS CLASS

We have been extremely busy this summer term learning about 'The Great Outdoors'. We have explored our local area using maps and google earth, so don't panic if your satnav stops working as your children are fantastic at map reading and have even signed their ideal town.



Here we are at Rufford Park for the Special Schools Art Day, we performed a fantastic Rufford Park song with the amazing singer Amy Nicholson. We then joined 'Trundlehonk' with his one man band and marched around the grounds, we even had a duck join us on our walk!



We got very wet river dipping at Perlethorpe, we found leeches, tadpoles and water mites and out of eight children, only one fell in!

We are looking forward to our 'World Cup Fortnight', Sports Day and learning all about Brazil.





## Butterfly Class

We had a busy first half of the Summer Term exploring the great outdoors. This included visits to local parks and playgrounds. We also enjoyed digging and planting in the school garden. Here are the strawberries we planted. This half term we have been able to eat them. They were delicious!



This half term our topic is holidays. We've been to the Travel Agents to pick up some brochures. Kye and Thomas have decided that they are off to Lapland, so better start saving! We've visited Thaymars ice cream parlour in Bothamsall and sampled one of the many flavours there, unfortunately it was rather chilly the day that we went, but we were all able to choose a flavour, order it and eat it in the lovely surroundings.

**Hope everyone has a lovely Summer holiday!**

**At the end of May, Redgate School's Year 6 pupils and some staff went away to Derbyshire for 3 days and 2 nights!**

**For many children it was their first night away from home.**

**All the pupils were excited but anxious about the stay. Some parents were a little worried too!**

**The children were wonderful and it was a great success – even though it rained!**



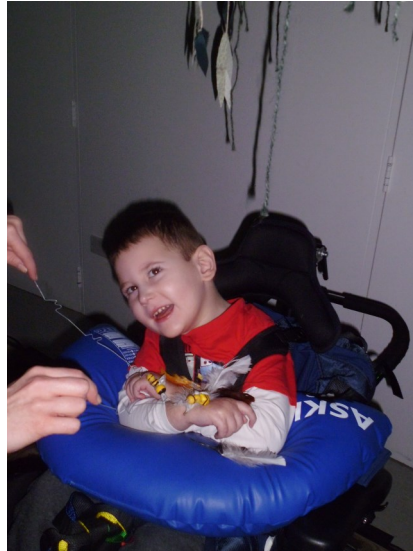


# PRIMARY TEAM NEWS

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Class 1 would like to share some photographs with you! Bamboozles 'Dig For Victory' was very popular as you can see! All the pupils enjoyed Chinese New Year and they loved the cooking in the wok!

Our resident 'Chicken' paid a visit to classes for Easter, delivering chocolates which were very much appreciated!





# Redgate Sports Afternoon 1.45pm on Wednesday July 2<sup>nd</sup> All Parents Welcome



We hope you'll come and join us for our Sports afternoon, we had great fun last year. All the children will be taking part.



This year Sports Day is part of our "World Cup Fortnight"  
The children will have 2 weeks of activities linked to the football event in Brazil.



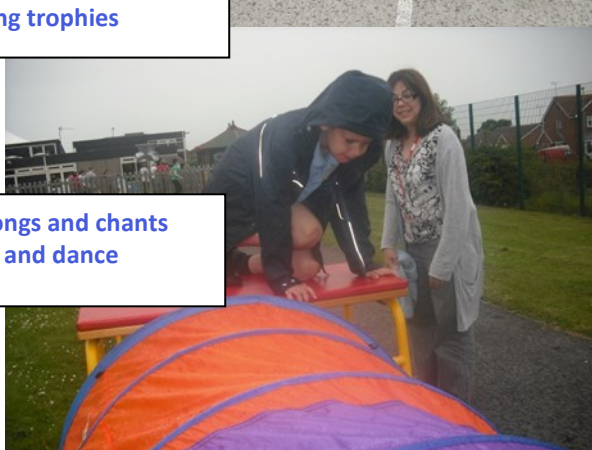
Activities during the 2 weeks will include  
A Carnival  
A visit to the rainforest  
Brazilian cooking



Design a football kit  
Flag making  
Making trophies



Football songs and chants  
Music and dance







You are invited to your child's  
Record of Achievement  
Presentation. Key Stage 1  
Caterpillars, Butterflies  
Monday 21st July at 2pm  
Key Stage 2 Bees, Ants &  
Ladybirds, Tuesday 21st July  
at 2pm. We hope you will join

## Record of Achievement 2014 REDGATE

us to celebrate your child's hard work and their  
achievements. We look forward to seeing you there!

### CATERPILLAR CLASS



We've had a busy summer term learning all about 'the great outdoors' and 'holidays'. We liked our weekly visits to local parks and cafes. It was fun taking part in our sensory stories 'we're going on a bike ride' and 'stormy weather' which were based in the classroom and outside.

Most of all we really enjoyed learning about 'the deep blue sea' during our multi-sensory lessons in the hall.





**We thought you would like to see what a lovely day Class 1, 2 & 3 had at Wheelgate Park recently. The sun was shining and it was just wonderful!**









## Secondary Team News

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April, Connor, Sean and Kyle all had a wonderful time at Hagg Farm in May. They tried lots of new things including the zip wire, climbing wall and making bird feeders. They also had lots of fun pond dipping, and found newts, snails, fish and a huge frog!

They found time for ice cream too as you can see!



**Fun, fun, fun was had by all who attended the Center Parcs residential! It was a great few days of exploring, chilling in the hot tub, games of bowling, having a boogie at the disco and lovely meals out too!**





# Secondary Team News

## My Center Parcs Residential Experience by Jane Foster (Parent Governor)

If I had been asked 2 years ago if Megan could attend a residential my immediate response as her Mam would have been a definite No.....

However, 1 year ago when the word 'residential' and Megan were mentioned in the same sentence I felt quite excited and said immediately – put her name down now....

Until Megan went on the Center Parcs residential she had only been looked after overnight by a family member.

So what made me change my mind? I think it was learning to accept that other people (Megan attends holiday/Saturday/afterschool club) can care for her and meet her needs in a way that is acceptable to me and if I couldn't trust the school staff who care for her every week who would I trust to care for her overnight.

It was a strange experience for Scott (big brother), Nik (Dad) and I being at home on the Monday without Megan. We didn't have to pick her up from afterschool club, then do the usual evening routines yet Nik and I still found ourselves clock watching ready to jump up to sort Megan out.

Nik and I went out for tea on the Tuesday and both managed to finish our meals at the same time without swapping chairs in order to support Megan to finish her meal.

Megan was due home on Wednesday so I went to join the group for lunch and to collect Megan for an appointment. Megan gave me one smile as if to say "hi why are you here?"

Ginny was full of smiles – I personally believe she was thinking Thank Goodness for that no more listening to the raspberry blowing in the night....

Unfortunately 2 of the boys were poorly and weren't able to go on residential a thought was beginning to worm its way in my brain – shall I ask – no it will seem as if I don't want her home – but she is obviously having a fantastic time by the cool welcome I got – shy bairns get nowt (if you don't ask you don't get). So I did "If the boys aren't coming is there any chance Megs could stay? .....there my thought was out.

The bottom line was I rang school and Megan was able to stay the rest of the week until Friday.

Nik had to take Megs back to Center Parcs after her appointment so I never got to see Ginny's face when the Phantom Raspberry Blower arrived back to share her room.

I know from being at the villa and seeing the staff with the young people that I am ready to put Megan's name down for any residential she is offered.

She had a fantastic time and obviously didn't miss us too much. We don't have a hot tub at home, dine out every night or take her out socialising every day.

Her Auntie and Grandma got a much more animated hello than I did when we went to collect her on Friday.

As a parent I would say – Let your child go on a residential – they will have a whale of a time....THANK YOU to school for giving me the opportunity to say that both of my 'kids' have attended a school residential as I never ever thought I would be able to say that.

As a governor I would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to school for always thinking out side of the box where our children are concerned. That to me is one of the reasons why our school is OUTSTANDING.....



# Nottinghamshire Special Schools Arts Event

Special schools from throughout Nottinghamshire gathered at Rufford Abbey and Country Park on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June for a jam-packed day of performances and activities in the summer sun.

Mansfield Schools, Redgate School and Mansfield Woodhouse's Yeoman Park School took part in the day performing to a small audience.

Each school worked with an artist to create an original performance within a small space of time of only four days.

Classes from Redgate School teamed up with Hand Made Theatre to put together a fun and active musical performance. The students performed a song they had written themselves about what they liked about Rufford Park.

Post 16 students from Yeoman Park School went back to the beginning of time with a dance about when dinosaurs once roamed the earth, with help from their artist Phil Riley.

The most spectacular feature of the event was the Luminaria dome provided by the Architects of Air. It was the second time the smaller sized dome had been used, providing a sensory experience for the participants.

All over the park activities were going on including crafts, which will be used for the Future Fields Exhibition later on at Rufford Park.

An enormous amount of time and effort was put into organising the event by Nottinghamshire County Arts services and arts staff to ensure the day was fun and exciting for all.

***This article was very kindly written by Kate Skillen—Journalist. Thank you Kate!!!***







Redgate School  
performing their song about Rufford  
Park at the Arts Event!

Below are Yeoman Park School's  
Upper Team Students performing  
their dance routine at the Arts Event!



More photographs from the day.











### NEWS

Friends of Debdale Federation have had a busy year, holding the Parent/Carer Pamper day, Easter Raffle, Family Fun Night and arranging transport to Disability Rocks Festival. Thank you to everyone who supported these events.

Photos of past events can be seen on the website: [www.debdalefederation.org/](http://www.debdalefederation.org/)

### FUTURE EVENTS

#### **CHRISTMAS FAIR 2014**

A date has been set for this year's Christmas fair it will be held on:

**WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2014**  
**5.30-7.30PM**  
**YEOMAN PARK SCHOOL**

Further information to follow

Please note events for Friends of Debdale Federation are held at Yeoman Park School, due to the space, and car parking facilities available at the site. If anyone would like to attend an event but has transport issues, we will wherever possible provide a pick up and drop off service from Redgate School.

### **DEBDALE FEDERATION PARENT/CARER WELLBEING GROUP**

The Parent/Carer Wellbeing Group is well under way and have now had several fortnightly meetings. They have had a speaker on the Benefits system, enjoyed a relaxation session and have just visited a spa for a morning of some much deserved pampering.

The group meet in 'The Lodge' on the Yeoman Park School site and welcome all parents/carers. It's a place to offer mutual support and understanding in a relaxed and informal environment. The group will soon be inviting a parent of a student who left school a few years ago and she will be talking about post school life. There is also talk of setting up a craft group which will be held on the Redgate School site. Details of this will be forwarded to you once things have been finalised.

You should have recently received a list of meeting dates and our next one is 2nd July at 10am. Please come along and join us for a cuppa and cake!

Please telephone Jo Wass for further information on 01623 459540



# Special times and memories from Center Parcs Residential



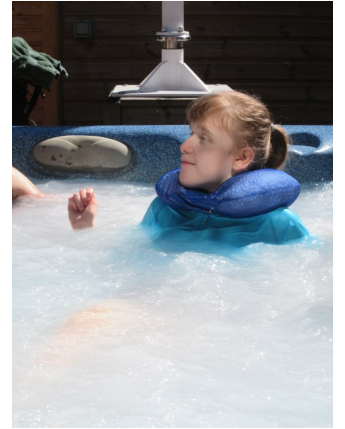




ROUND:	TIME:	27	REMAINING:	33	C. TOTAL:	10
HDP:						
2.4 Mph	5	6	3	15		
Lewis	16	25	31			
2.8 Mph	6	1	6			
Megan	7	17	3	4	5	6
2.5 Mph	5	6	1			
Geniva	5	12				
4.6 Mph	5	1	6			
Sue	6	12				
3.7 Mph	8	1	2	5		
Claire	9	16				

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# DEBDALE FEDERATION SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES

## 2014/2015

	PUPILS LAST DAY AT SCHOOL	PUPILS FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL
SUMMER TERM 2014	23.07.14	03.09.14
OCTOBER HALF TERM	24.10.14	03.11.14
CHRISTMAS 2014	19.12.14	05.01.15
FEBRUARY HALF TERM	13.02.15	23.02.15
EASTER 2015	02.04.15	20.04.15
MAY DAY	01.05.15	05.05.15
SPRING BANK 2015	22.05.15	01.06.15
SUMMER TERM 2015	22.07.15	03.09.15
<u>INSET DAYS</u>		
Tuesday 02.09.14		
Further inset days to follow.		