

Debdale Federation Newsletter

Summer Term 2015



NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEAD TEACHER

The summer term is proving to be an extremely busy one! We have lots of residential visits happening starting with Hagg Farm which took place during the last week of the first half of the summer term. Upper students are staying at Center Parcs this week and then during the last week of this term, further students from the Upper Team are going to Butlins in Skegness! Lets hope the weather is kind to them all.

Just to let you all know that I shall be retiring at the end of this term. I have been at Yeoman Park School for 23 years now and at Redgate School for almost 6 years! I have so many wonderful memories, but I feel it's the right time to go so that I can spend more time with my family and my lovely Grandson!

As you know, Redgate School had their Ofsted Inspection in February and as a result, the school was put into special measures. I am however, very happy to report that the recent Ofsted monitoring visit was very positive and the Local Authority are continuing to work with us to get the school out of special measures as soon as possible. The IEB (Interim Executive Board) have written a report which is on page 2 of this newsletter and gives you a little more information on who the new IEB Governors are and what their background is. However, please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further questions.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all personally for all the support and kindness you have continuously given to the schools over the years. It really has been very much appreciated!

I hope you all have a very happy, healthy summer.

With very best wishes

Paul Betts

Hello,

My name is Chris Levy and I am the Chair of the Interim Executive Board (IEB) that has been put in to replace your Governing Body. For those who were unable to attend the meetings held to explain what an IEB is, I will inform you about it and then introduce the members of the board.

The IEB has all the responsibilities of a normally constituted governing body, but is also charged with conducting the schools 'to secure, so far as is practicable to do so, the provision of a sound basis for future improvement in the conduct of the school'.

An IEB combines the non-executive role of a governing body with a more operational role in order to bring about rapid improvement. The Ofsted inspection earlier in the year placed Redgate School in the category of 'Special Measures'. The local authority has, therefore, called upon us as a group of people with needed expertise and knowledge to form an IEB to ensure that Redgate School will be removed from 'Special Measures' as soon as it is possible. The local authority felt that your Governing Body, who worked hard for the school, could not do this on their own.

The IEB was formed at the end of April and met for the first time on 6 May 2015 and have set about introducing an action plan that will enable us to see your school rapidly improve and be judged as a good school by Ofsted in the future.

Soon you will be able to read more about each of us on the school website but in the interim, the membership of the IEB comprises of:

- Mrs Linda Foster works for Nottinghamshire County Council as the Team Manager for the Education Improvement Service.
- Mr Charles Savage is the Principal Educational Psychologist for Nottinghamshire County Council.
- Mr Tony Brown works for Nottinghamshire County Council as an HR Business Partner working predominantly with schools.
- Mr Aaron Connor is a Finance Officer for Nottinghamshire County Council's Schools' Finance Team
- Ms Linda Lyn-Cook has worked for many years in special schools and helped many in challenging circumstances to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Dr Lucy Morley works as NHS Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist with Looked After Children.

Reverend Chris Levy is a Governor with over 25 years experience and recently chaired an IEB at another school which has successfully, and rapidly, been taken out of Special Measures with an Ofsted grading of 'Good with Outstanding Leadership and Management'.

As you can see, we are a diverse team but each has been invited to sit on the IEB as they have the necessary skills to bring about the improvements the school requires.

We all look forward to working with your staff and you as parents/carers in order to develop your school into a really good place to learn and achieve.

Chris Levy

PRIMARY TEAM NEWS

The Busy Bee class have had a busy and exciting half term with lots of work about Journeys and Transport. Lots of people know the way to Rufford Park now and help to say "left" or "right" to the driver of the minibus. We all loved our winter picnic with hot chocolate and biscuits at Rufford Park and shared some food with the ducks, swans and geese there.



We had a fantastic week finding out about trains! Everyone enjoyed 'The Train Ride' story and worked hard to retell and sequence the story and get everyone "ALL ABOARD!" We went to Hucknall to see the trains and trams too.

Everyone practised the safe way to cross the road, remembering to stop, look, listen and walk safely. We made moving buses with passengers and roadways for them to travel along too and everyone liked the 'Wheels on the Bus' song.



We're looking forward to next half term, working about Day and Night, with more fun inside and outside the classroom.



Ants class newsletter –Summer 2015

We have had a fantastic term, learning all about Journeys. We have experienced a 'virtual' journey to London, flying with British Airways. We explored the London underground and planned where we would visit, Hamley's toy shop was a firm favourite. One pupil even planned to visit 10 Downing Street to pick up a dog he had bought from ebay!

We all loved our visit to Aerozone at East Midlands Airport, we looked around the Departure lounge and found a buy 1 ticket, get 1 free offer to Egypt, we were all very tempted!

We have also learned about day and night and space exploration. We loved exploring the first moon landing, it was also very exciting pretending to be Neil Armstrong.





This terms topic in Ladybirds Class was green fingers, so lots of exploring, digging and making!





Hello from Butterfly Class

Our topic this half term has been 'Under the Sea'

We have enjoyed songs and rhymes about sea creatures and all things fishy! and we have had lots of fun pretending to be sharks as part of our story 'Hooray for fish'



We have used different materials and techniques to create sea creatures for a display, and have had fun with water in science, pouring, filling and investigating.

All the pupils in Butterflies have taken part in an art project to recycle plastic bags into an amazing and colourful work of art.



We are looking forward to next half term when our topic will be Holidays and we are hoping for lots of sunny days



PRIMARY TEAM NEWS

Hello to all our Parents!

The Caterpillar Class have been busy this half term learning about animals and exploring the outdoors. We have enjoyed going for walks, having picnics and exploring at the Local Park and Sherwood Pines. We have had great fun collecting natural objects and making mud!

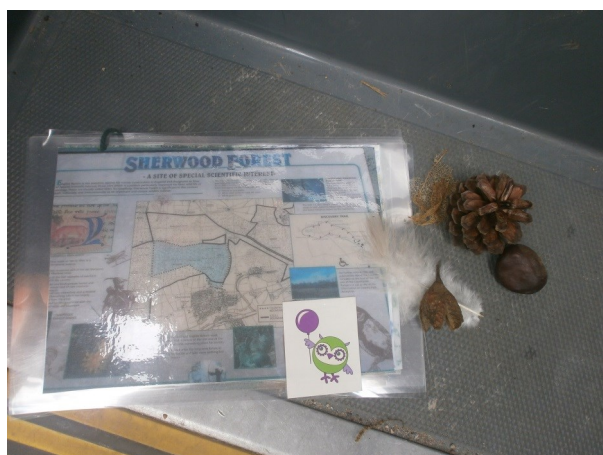


Most of all we really enjoyed our class visit to White Post Farm Park where we saw lots of animals and had an opportunity to feed them and handle them.



CLASS 2 NEWS!!

Class 2 have really enjoyed their Orienteering at Sherwood Forest as you can see!



PRIMARY TEAM NEWS

Primary 1 had a lovely time Ice skating at Lammas Leisure centre in Sutton-In-Ashfield, at the beginning of February. Staff at the centre were very helpful and even put the snow machine on for the children.

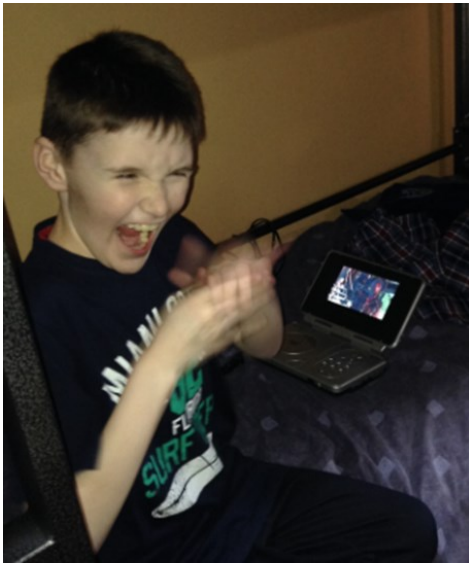


Class 3 have been orienteering with Helen from Adventure Services. Helen has set up an orienteering course around school and they have really enjoyed looking at the clues and finding different points around school. For the last two sessions we have been to Sherwood Forest and followed a course there which was lots of fun!

Class three have also started to do some gardening in the outdoor learning environment, they have planted seeds in class and have done lots of digging outside, we are all now waiting for lots of sunshine so our plants can grow!



Hagg Farm May 19th 2015
We thought we would share some of the brilliant photos with you!





Secondary Team News

S3 have been enjoying the nice weather. We went to the supermarket to buy food for a picnic and then sat on the grass together at Yeoman Hill Park to eat, then we played on the park. We had a lovely morning.



Secondary Team News

S1 had a lovely time at Rufford Park, we went for a walk, fed the ducks and then enjoyed lunch in the courtyard



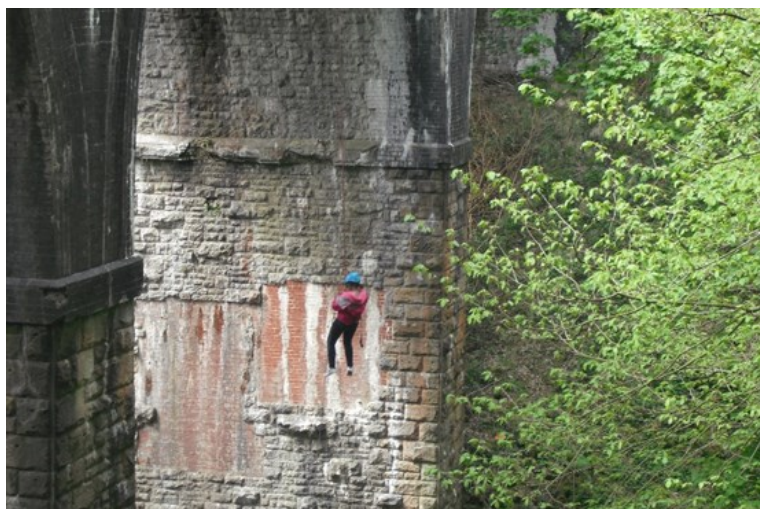
UPPER 2 NEWS!

After a term of work with The Adventure Services, Upper 2 were invited to participate in an abseil session at Miller's Dale Viaduct in the Peak District.

So on Wednesday 13th May 2015 we set off to Derbyshire.

It was a beautiful spot, and after watching some of the students from The Adventure Services abseiling, three pupils from Upper 2 had a go.

We were all really proud of Eleanor, Levi and Harry-Jay for completing an abseil; it was a lovely day, the weather was kind and we were made to feel very welcome.



Eleanor on her way down!

Levi preparing to go!

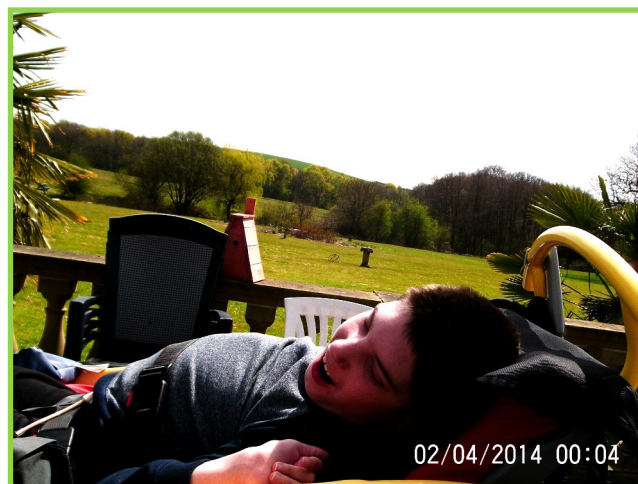


Harry Jay setting off!

Upper 1 News!

Upper 1 have been visiting Post 19 provision so we can see where we may want to attend when we leave Yeoman Park School. We have visited Portland College, Ashfield Day Centre, and Every Sensation. We are visiting Redoaks Day Centre in June. Here are some photos of our visits to Every Sensations.

We wish you a very restful summer holiday.



UPPER 3's News!

SAILING

Students from Upper 3 over the next half term will be sailing on Kings Mill Reservoir on a Friday morning. The group have already started sailing and students have been out on the Cobble sailing with the instructor.

FISHING

We have started a fishing group again this term. Students from Upper 3 are going to Brierley Park to fish on a Thursday morning. They are getting support from the anglers at the fishing club at Brierley.



Debdale Federation Parent/Carer Wellbeing Group

The Parent/Carer Wellbeing Group continues to meet every fortnight! The group have also had further trips out and about including visiting the local café for breakfast and enjoying a spa day once again. This group also helped out with our recent Nottinghamshire Special Schools Arts Day at Rufford Park along with other volunteer parents which was very much appreciated by all staff and pupils.

During the Summer Holidays, the group will also be organising a couple of events for all the family, the first of which will be a drop in for a coffee and a chat on Friday 31st July from 11am—1pm in The Lodge at Yeoman Park School. Next is a Picnic in the Park at Rufford Park on Monday 10th August from 11am. Meet in the Courtyard and bring your own packed lunch! We look forward to seeing you all there!

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. All meetings are from 10—12 but you don't have to arrive and leave on time—you can pop in and out whenever you please! Please come along and join us for a cuppa and cake!

Please telephone Jo Wass (01623 459540)/Theresa Skillen (01623 455944) for further information or a chat

Also, just to say that some of the parents and carers from the wellbeing group will be at the Fun Fair for children with special needs and disabilities on Wednesday 5th August from 11am—2pm at Manor Farm Recreation Park, High Road, Toton, Nottingham. You should have recently had a letter about this from school. However, if you haven't, please telephone school and let them know and they will send one home with your child.



Friends of Debdale Federation

NEWS

Friends of Debdale Federation would like to thank everyone for their continued support. This year the Easter Raffle raised £318, 20% of the funds raised were donated to the Parent Wellbeing Group who helped to prepare hampers for the event.

A table top sale was held at Yeoman Park School on Thursday 21st May, thank you to all the students, staff, Parents/Carers & Sam's Place for their support. Most stalls raised approximately £30.

The group will be donating £50 to the Yeoman Park School Summer Ball, which is a prom like event for the older students (years 9-14).

FUTURE EVENTS

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2015

5-7PM

YEOMAN PARK SCHOOL



A free family evening, during which you can enjoy a pie and pea supper, and have the option of playing a couple of games of bingo and joining in with the family quiz.



FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE SENT OUT DURING THE AUTUMN TERM

CHRISTMAS FAIR 2015

WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2015

5-7PM

YEOMAN PARK SCHOOL



A great evening with plenty of fun and entertainment for the whole family. There will be Community stalls, a raffle, visit from Santa, Christmas Carols, Hot Turkey and stuffing or Parsnip and Maple Syrup cobs and much much more



NEXT MEETING

TO BE ARRANGED

Everyone is welcome to come along discuss fundraising ideas, plan events and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit.

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.

If you would like to volunteer to help at any of our events or have any queries in relation to Friends of Debdale Federation, or in relation to the pickup/drop off service please contact Caroline or Jo on 01623 459540.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SPECIAL SCHOOLS ARTS EVENT!!!

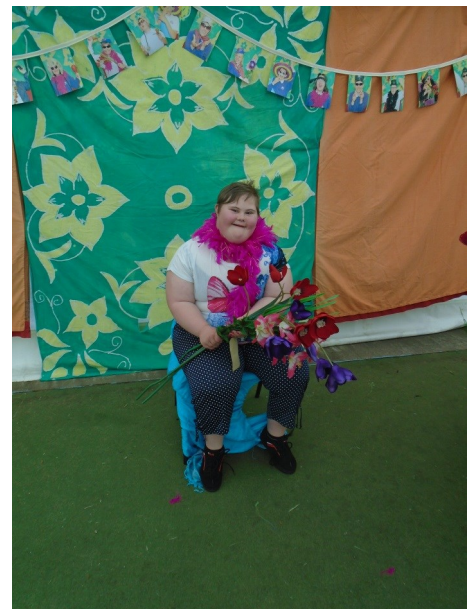
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Once again, pupils, students and staff from all the special schools in Nottinghamshire, got together for another fabulous Arts Day! The Extended Services Network Group work closely with Helen Ackroyd and Kevin Tennant (Strategic Arts Development Officers) to organise this brilliant annual event. This is a year in the planning but well worth it! As you will see from the pictures, everybody had such a great time and the sunshine made it even better!



**More great photos from the Arts
Day at Rufford Park on Friday 5th
June!!!**

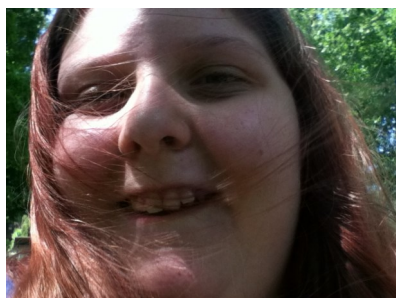
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More lovely photos from the Rufford Arts Day! Kayleigh took some of these photographs herself plus a selfie too!





Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a positive response to using email as the main form of communication with yourselves and are in the process of getting the system up and running. We intend to continue to use the text service for urgent messages.

We would be obliged if you could let us have an email address we can contact you on, if we do not already have this information, by completing the slip below.

Please return the slip to your child's school office by 29th June 2015.

Once the system is operating, hopefully before the end of this term, we will contact you by email to let you know, so please keep checking your emails.

Yours sincerely

Paul Betts
Executive Head Teacher

Name of Child

My email address is

To be returned to your child's school office by 29th June 2015