



## Head Teachers Message

Dear parents / carers,

This term has been very productive for us at Calthorpe and you will see through our newsletter the fantastic experiences that our learners have benefited from in Spring Term.

I would like to thank all our parents / carers for taking part in our consultation weeks and your feedback is very important to us as it will feed into our Academy Development Plan.

As you know, we have been using our school app to communicate with our parents and if you haven't got our app yet we highly recommend that you download it, you can find instructions on how to do this under the Calthorpe Academy App tab here: <https://www.calthorpe.thrive.ac/useful-information>.

Our website is also a good source of information and our news page gives you frequent updates on what's happening in school. The cost of living crisis has been a challenge for many families and if you are in a difficult position, please do not hesitate to contact our pastoral team and I suggest that you have a look at our "support available" webpage: <https://www.calthorpe.thrive.ac/support-available>

I would like to wish all learners and staff a restful Easter holiday and I am looking forward to seeing you all in summer term.



**Mounir Meghalsi**

*Head Teacher*



Red Nose Day 2023



We had a fantastic day celebrating Red Nose Day on 17th March- the atmosphere was truly electric! The learners took part in many activities on the day- they enjoyed listening to the Jazz Band, dancing at the disco, face painting, exploring the bouncy castles and the bubble artist workshops!

The Learning for Life Pathway ran fund raising activities on the day for other learners to participate in such as a Bake Sale with cakes made and donated by staff who entered the Great Calthorpe Bake Off, football shoot outs, leading a play time conga and activity stalls!



**We would like to thank our school community in supporting us to raise £1000 for Comic Relief** which is a worthwhile charity which supports children both in the UK and around the world to have the right to good standard of living to meet their developmental needs (Children's Rights Article 27).

Charity enrichment days are a fantastic opportunity for our learners to both learn about the rights of other children locally and globally and develop their understanding of how to be active participants in raising money to promote and help other children (Strand C of the RRSA- Teaching & Learning for Rights- Participation, empowerment and action) whilst also having fun!



**Laura Marsden**

*Assistant Head Teacher*



**Tom Willott**

*Extended Leader for Learning for Life*

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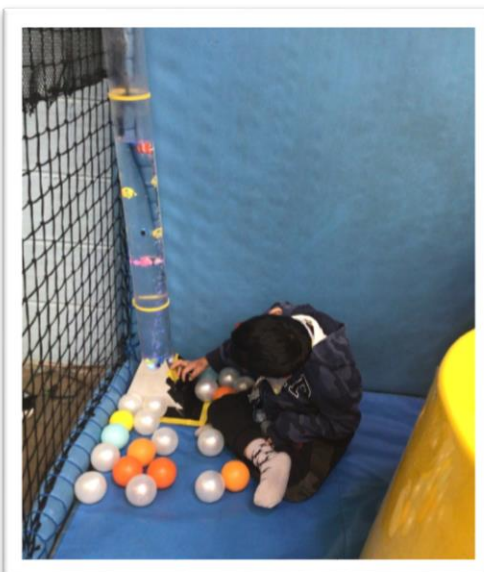
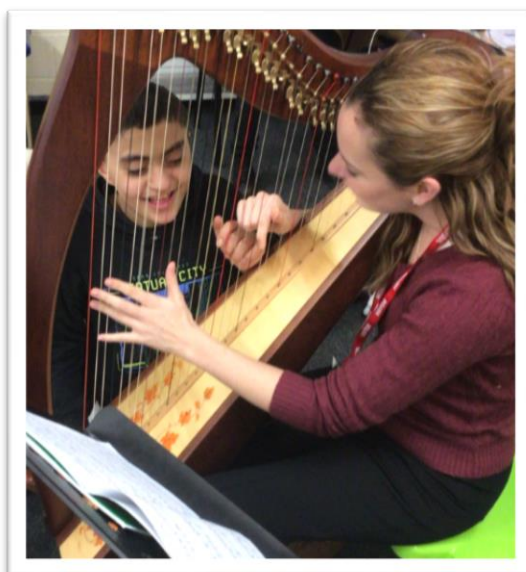
0121 773 4637



## Engagement for Life

We have had an exciting term in the Engagement for Life Pathway. One area that we have been mindful of developing is the amount of enrichment activities that we have in school.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our weekly sessions from an experienced orchestral harpist, as well as weekly sessions from an inclusive dance group 'Free Wheelin'.



Learners from across the department have benefited from weekly trips to a local supermarket and soft play. Thank you to all of the parents that have supported these trips. They are very beneficial in developing the learner's skills and independence.



**Aimee Prentice**

*Extended Leader for Engagement for Life*

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## Autism Acceptance Week



27th March -2nd April was Autism Acceptance week. Our focus this year was 'Embracing Neurodiversity'. The week offered opportunities for embracing neurodiversity through various inter-pathway activities such as staff observing sensory circuits and learners from different pathways accessing activities together.

Thursday was a very exciting day for all staff as we were privileged to

have an audience with Alex Manners, an autistic adult talking to staff about his life living with Asperger's and included the challenges he faced in school and how he uses football to cope.

The week concluded with a big celebration day where the school community came dressed in a pathway colour or dressed as their favourite super hero.

It was good to see learners gleefully join in in the different activities such bouncing on the inflatables, dancing in the spectrum disco/inclusive dance or taking part in the sensory circuits.

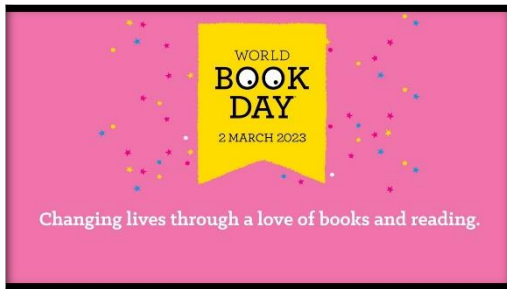


**Jila Chishimba**

*Extended Leader for Foundations for Life*

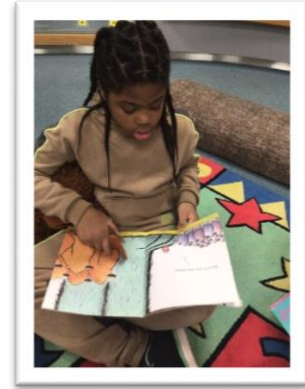
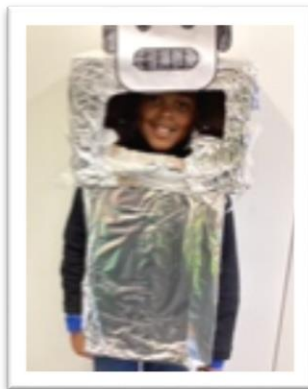


## Reading Celebrations at Calthorpe



This term has seen the return of World Book Day; celebrating all things reading in order to promote a love of reading and storytelling. Learners from all over the school enjoyed taking part in a range of storytelling activities, dressing up, competitions and much more!

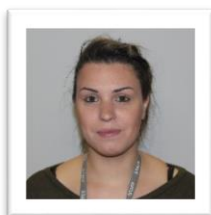
For National Storytelling Week, classes across the school explored storytelling through sensory stories, non-verbal and verbal drama workshops, and sharing their own recordings of storytelling. Some classes visited Birmingham's Central Library to experience the range of children's books on offer there and have even had the chance to visit our new mobile library that comes to school.



World Book Day saw many learners (and staff) dressing up as their favourite book characters and we welcomed the generous donations of books from many! These donations were collected by some of our learners who then took a trip to Oxfam in Moseley to deliver the books. In school, activities linked to celebrating books and reading included Makaton book quizzes, story quizzes and story times. Prizes were given for best dressed staff and learner and everyone received a £1 book token!

Learners also had the chance to purchase their very own books at our travelling book fair; offering a range of books from some of our favourite authors.

Once again, lots of fun was had by all and the pleasure of reading was evident in every class.



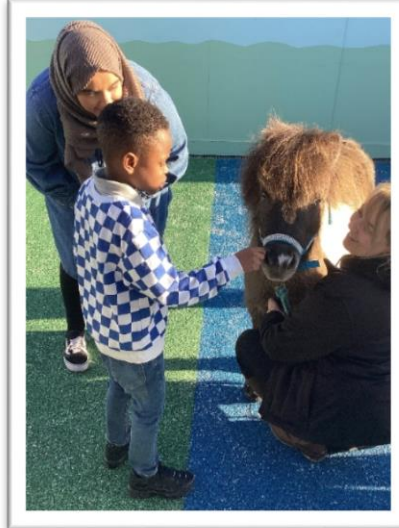
**Lara Latham**

*Quality of Education Coordinator*



## Belgravia Update

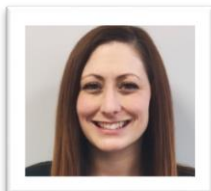
Our Belgravia learners have enjoyed getting out and about in the wider community throughout this half term! Learners from across all classes have visited the CBSO Centre for the Notelets concert as part of their Independence and Community Participation and My Play and Leisure lessons. They had a great time listening to musicians play music from around the world and getting active taking part in a variety of dance activities.



FB3 have been visiting Hickory Dickory's soft play centre weekly to develop their physical wellbeing. Alongside this our key stage two learners have visited Scallywags Soft Play Centre at the Fort to generalise skills they learnt earlier in the year when attending weekly slots at Hickory Dickory's.



As well as getting out and about our learners have had weekly visits on site from miniature horses and rabbits, which have involved feeding and grooming. We are looking forward to many more visits over our Summer Term including going out to Saint John's and Saint Peter's Church as part of our involvement with the Ladywood Interfaith Project.



**Laura Lee**

*Belgravia School Head of Centre*



## Parental Engagement



We have had a busy term with lots of very successful workshops these include, SEND support session by Hall Green Families, Behaviour workshop, well-being session & keep fit session.

The turnout was amazing and I would like to thank all the parents who attended these workshops.

Here is some very positive feedback from our parents:

- *"Thanks to the school for organising this for parents, it was helpful"* (SEND support session)
- *"A very nice discussion with the adviser, I appreciate this session, thank you very much!"* (SEND support session)
- *"Excellent workshop, learnt a lot!"* (Well-being session)
- *"Sarah has been amazing, session was very interactive"* (Behaviour workshop)
- *"The kind of workshop are very helpful for parents"* (Behaviour workshop)
- *"It was a very helpful session, a lot of information was provided"* (Keep fit session)





## Parental Engagement

We are looking forward to the summer term and we'll be bringing once again some very exciting workshops for you, please complete the survey below to share your interests with us for future workshops.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2pbqpGRmVEuSIY\\_ZosYjkh4FuGKsyb1BrynsKdaL6cVURE80WlQ4SzUyS0EySVhVVVFFQ081M08wRy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2pbqpGRmVEuSIY_ZosYjkh4FuGKsyb1BrynsKdaL6cVURE80WlQ4SzUyS0EySVhVVVFFQ081M08wRy4u)

Partners across Birmingham are connecting together to support families who want early help, you can request support by completing the family connect form below for self-referral.

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50224/birmingham\\_children\\_s\\_partnership/2156/birmingham\\_children\\_s\\_partnership\\_-\\_resources](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50224/birmingham_children_s_partnership/2156/birmingham_children_s_partnership_-_resources)

Have a lovely holiday!



**Masuma Rajwani**

*Family Support Coordinator*



## Attendance update

Good attendance promotes great outcomes for children and young people!

At school, learners have access to a stimulating environment that feeds their creativity and helps them learn essential skills.

To reduce avoidable absence, please book routine appointments like dental check-ups outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, we encourage people to book appointments at the start or the end of the day to minimise disruption and maximise your child's time at school.

If your child is absent for an unavoidable reason such as illness, please contact school on **0121 773 4637** to speak to us, or leave a voicemail.

### Upcoming term dates:

**Term Ends:** Friday 31 March 2023

**Easter Break**

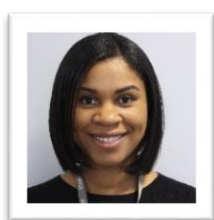
**Term Starts:** Monday 17 April 2023

### Closure dates:

**Friday 28th April** - *Please note, school will be closed to learners on this day for our Trust Wide Annual Conference*

**Monday 1st May** – *May bank holiday*

**Monday 8th May** – *King Charles Coronation bank holiday - school is closed on bank holidays*



**Simone Studley**

*Attendance Officer*