



## Head Teachers Message

Dear parents / carers,

As you are probably aware, the start of our academic year was marked by our OFSTED inspection on the 4th and 5th of October. We are very happy with the outcome of this inspection where Calthorpe was judged as a good school with a lot of excellent practice. This is confirmation that our vision is strongly embed in the school culture, that our expectations and ambitions are high and that our provision is centred on our fantastic learners regardless of their needs. I would like to thank all the staff here at Calthorpe Academy for their ongoing commitment to continue to be a good school every day. I would like to thank Thrive Education Partnership for their continuous support which is vital to the good functioning of our school. Finally I would like to thank all our parents and carers for their trust and kind words.

We have received various support requests from parents and carers this term. These requests are often linked to external agencies and our school has limited expertise and resources in some of the areas of needs from parents. Our Pastoral Team has compiled for you a great source of information and guidance under our "support available" page on our website: <https://www.calthorpe.thrive.ac/support-available>

We will continue to challenge and inspire learners to gain the highest standards in a vibrant, well-resourced and personalised learning environment in 2024 and I wish you a great Christmas break as well as a happy new year.  
Kind regards,



**Mounir Meghalsi**

*Head Teacher*



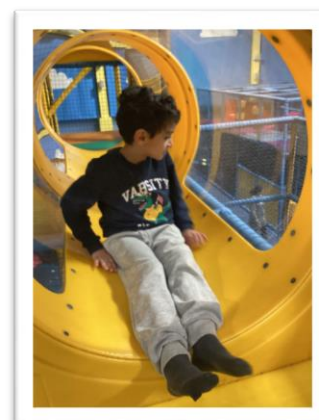
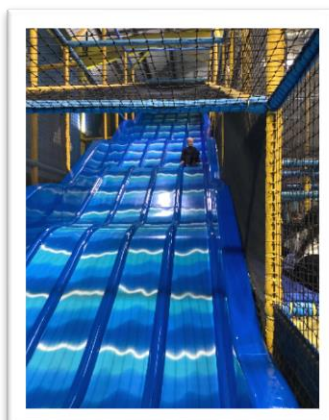
## Belgravia Update

This term FB5 learners and staff at Belgravia School have had a wonderful time visiting Hickory Dickories Playhouse. Learners have had fun developing their Social Interaction and Communication Skills as well as their physical wellbeing through jumping, climbing, running and having tremendous amounts of fun!

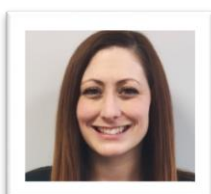


Belgravia learners and staff have been enjoying the countdown to Christmas through a variety of festive arts and crafts activities. Learners joined in the Christmas celebrations on Jolly jumper day in order to raise money for Birmingham's Children's Hospital.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Leanne Maguire. She will be the new Head of centre at Belgravia school from January. We are confident that she will be a valuable addition to our school community and will contribute significantly to the bright future of our students.

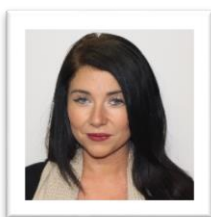


Laura Lee will continue to support Belgravia school as Assistant Head Teacher for the Foundation for Life Pathway.



**Laura Lee**

*Assistant Head Teacher*

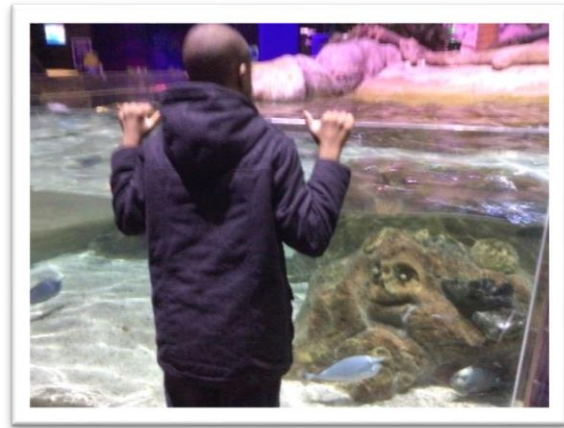


**Leanne Maguire**

*Belgravia School Head of Centre*

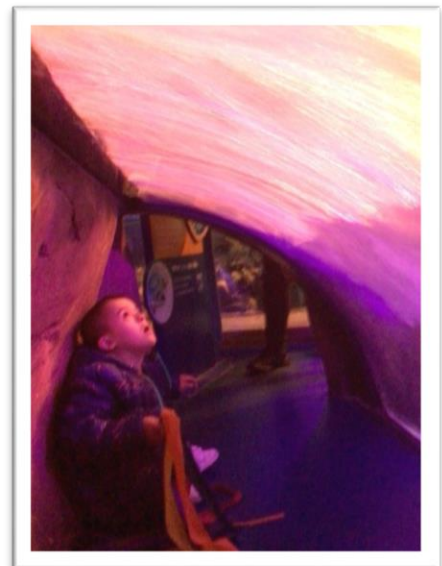


## Enrichment in Engagement for Life



Learners in Engagement for Life have benefited from a range of enrichment experiences this term. Learners from E3 and E6 have continued with their weekly trip to the local supermarket where they are increasingly able to navigate the store and use their motor skills in a new environment.

In school we have had weekly visits from the Shetland Ponies and dance sessions with Free Wheelin'. Having the sessions on a weekly basis has enabled the learners to develop their confidence and independence in these sessions. To celebrate the end of term, some learners visited the Sea Life Centre where they enjoyed exploring the centre and watching the animals in action.



**Aimee Prentice**

*Extended Leader for Engagement for Life*



## The Move Programme at Calthorpe Academy

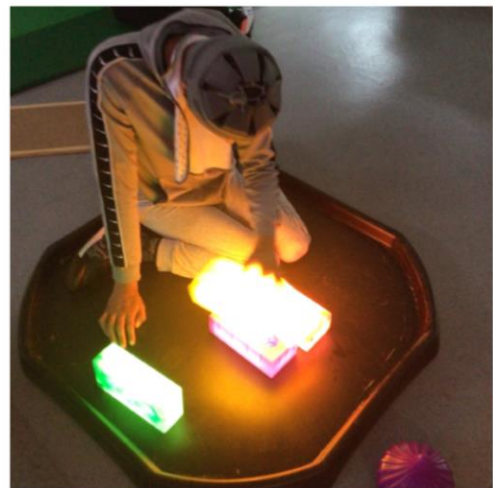
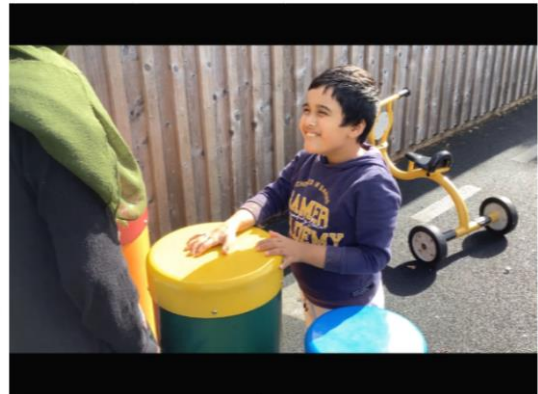
The MOVE programme is designed to support learners develop physical skills and gain independence in sitting, standing, walking and transferring skills. Our aim is to make sure that we incorporate movement opportunities for our learners throughout the day.

This term, our success has been recognised by the school being awarded the MOVE Silver award, with our report stating that;

*"Calthorpe Academy continue to be an exceptional example of how to embed MOVE into every area of the learning day".*

*"The children and young people on the MOVE programme at Calthorpe are thriving as a result of the MOVE team's hard work, commitment and passion for prioritising movement opportunities!"*

We have been so proud of all the efforts of our learners on the MOVE programme this term and look forward to even more movement opportunities in the spring term.



**Gareth Dawes**

*Class Teacher*





## Christmas at Calthorpe Academy



We always use various celebrations to take the opportunity to learn more and do more by engaging and participating in a range of festive recreational activities within school and in the wider community.

Each class were creative by decorating their classroom doors in a festive theme- there were so many exceptional entries to this competition that our learners and staff voted for.



Some of our learners participated in virtual calls with Santa and shared letters they had written with each other. Others had the opportunity to develop their physical skills further using the Christmas inflatables.





Our Sixth formers have enjoyed being citizens of Birmingham generalising their learnt skills within the community in a meaningful context while visiting the German Market and our winter fayre.



They also enjoyed pantomimes at the Midlands Arts Centre.



**mac**  
Midlands Arts Centre

Our kitchen team have worked extremely hard to produce and serve up a fantastic festive lunch experienced by all learners and staff.



It has been a fantastic term for all and we have used various opportunities to extend our curriculum offer and learn the skills and knowledge we need for the life we want.



**Laura Williams**

*Assistant Head Teacher*



## Calthorpe Winter Fair 2023



Our Learning for Life and Sixth Form pathways welcomed parents and classes to our annual 'Winter Fair'. Stalls showcased products, games and activities that learners have made with the aim of raising funds for enrichment trips later in the year.

These items were created within timetabled Choices and Enterprise sessions, providing them the opportunity to develop a range of functional skills and generalise their learning within a topical context.

Learners across both pathways also made decorations and displays as visitors arrived.

A great festive day for all.



**Tom Willott**

*Extended Leader for Learning for Life*





## Parental Engagement

We have had a busy term with lots of very successful workshops these include, Communication workshop, Makaton workshop, Sensory Integration Precession workshop, NHS support/Data Bank session, RSE session & Therapeutic art.

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

Here are some very positive feedbacks:



Here are some very positive feedbacks:

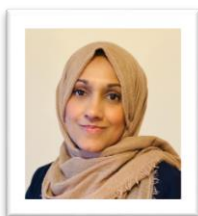
- "Very Knowledgeable presenter who helped with personalised activity ideas" - Sensory Integration Precession
- "This workshop was so helpful and Shelley is a brilliant teacher - Five Stars" Well-being session "This workshop was very helpful, thank you!" - Communication workshop
- "Very happy and enjoyed the session, I would definitely come for the other sessions"

We are looking forward to 2024 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 next year.

[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)



**Masuma Rajwani**

*Family Support Coordinator*

Website:

[www.calthorpe.thrive.ac](http://www.calthorpe.thrive.ac)

Email:

[enquiry@calthorpe.thrive.ac](mailto:enquiry@calthorpe.thrive.ac)

Phone:

0121 773 4637





## Attendance update

*All children have the right to education, based on equality of opportunity.*

A child's success at school is likely to be affected negatively if their attendance is poor. Those who do not attend regularly may fall behind in their learning, leading to underachievement, both academically and socially.

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.

### Leave in Term Time (Holidays in Term Time)

The two weeks school holidays are nearly here and many parents wonder about whether they can go on holiday early or during term time. We are really clear that going on holiday in term time is unlawful unless you have the advance permission of the head teacher to do so.

By law, leave in term time (holidays) can only be granted in exceptional circumstances and because of this, almost all holiday requests are denied and parents may be issued with a fixed penalty notice or court fine by the Council.

Some of our parents have had fines from the council for holidays taken during term so we encourage parents to please not book holidays in term time. Every day in school is precious.

If you are struggling with your child's attendance and would like support please contact us on **0121 773 4637**