

# Autumn Newsletter



## Words from the Head of School

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter for 2023/24. We have had such a busy term, from trips out and about, to visitors and fun within school and residential. We have welcomed many new staff and therapists to our school this term, further enhancing our skills and provision to ensure all our pupils get the best from their time here at RSB.

It has been a pleasure to invite you all into school for parent/carer days, coffee mornings and obviously all our festive celebrations over the past few weeks. We truly value all the support you show to RSB and welcome your involvement to continue to improve and develop our school and residential home.

I wanted to mention a huge achievement that our pupils were awarded over the summer, and this was to receive Eco-School status. This was a lot of hard work from our school eco-council and classes, all of whom participated in a wide range of activities to improve our school grounds and local area, including a local litter pick.

Well done to everyone!



There are so many other fantastic things to read about and so many amazing experiences to share with you from this term, happy reading.



## Lemon Class

Lemon have had lots of fun over the last term with our topic Transport.

We have been on lots of journeys by train, plane and a car.

We all went on a journey on train to the forest and used our feet to splash in the water and feel the leaves underneath us.

We were kept busy in class washing all the cars!

Lemon have learnt about being safe on the roads via our outdoor road safety set and by going outside and listening for the sound of the traffic lights.

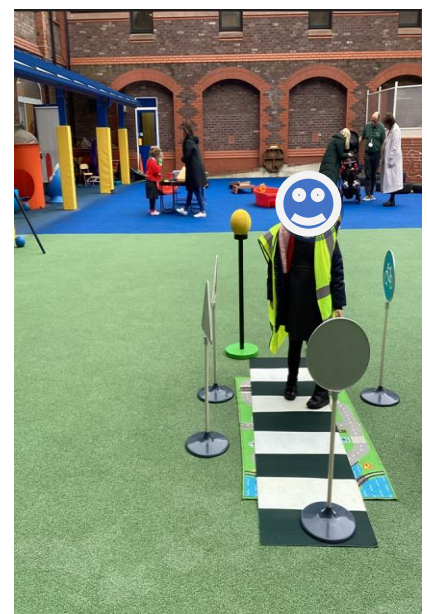
We can't wait to see what exciting topics we have in 2024!



## Lavender Class



Lavender Class have enjoyed building friendships and settling into their new school this term. Some of the children's favourite activities have been water play, Bucket Therapy, Food Technology and the multi-sensory room. The children have explored the topics: All About Me, The Seasons, Transport and Christmas and have worked hard on their understanding of the world around them. We went on our first outing to the park in December and enjoyed the sound of the trees rustling in the wind!



## Mint Class

Mint class have had great fun this term. Through our topics 'Kind hands and hearts' and 'Toys', we have experienced social games, increased our Makaton sign vocabulary and developed our skills in using communication boards.

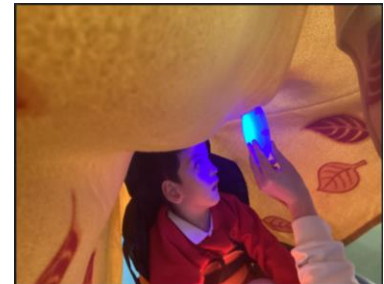
In maths, we have been focusing on learning about the number one and the number 3 among our target work and made a surprise Christmas cake as a practical maths project (shape, length, weight etc).

We have been developing our independence skills in eating, toileting, and moving to different areas in school (inside and out) with less adult support.

Mint have had fun visiting the pumpkin patch and Liverpool One and doing lots of games with Everton Football club.

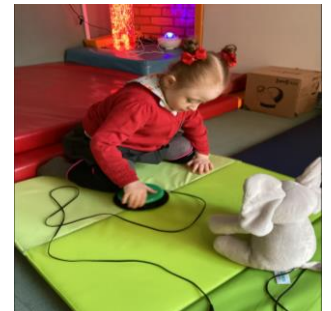


## Banana Class

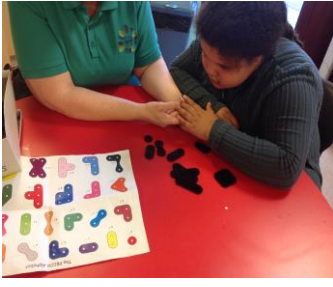


This term, Banana class have enjoyed multi-sensory lessons and stories where they have worked on building their tolerance of exploring resources using various senses. Incorporation of light sources to capture their attention during such lessons has enabled the children to maintain engagement and work on their visual tracking. They have enjoyed a total communication environment where we use a range of communication methods, such as, Makaton, on body signing, switch communication etc, to ensure each child has meaningful interactions.

Our pupils have amazed us with their switch activation skills this term. They are working towards using switches as a means of key word communication and choice making. They have worked hard to utilise the switches and have become comfortable with the various effects the different devices produce. We are all excited to develop on these skills in the spring term.



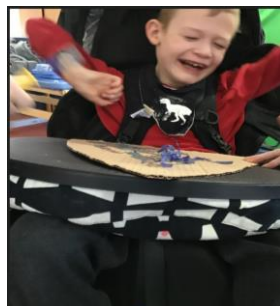
## Ginger Class



Ginger class have had a great start to the academic year. All the students in Ginger class have got to know each other and have settled down well. They have been working hard on their literacy and numeracy skills in class. They also helped to make decorations to sell at the Winter Festival and thoroughly enjoyed the Treasure Island pantomime (oh yes, they did!) before decorating the classroom for Christmas and going off to see Santa!



## Strawberry Class



Strawberry class have had a fantastic autumn term! We have learnt all about the changes of the seasons had fun visiting Sefton Park to spot some signs of autumn and say hello to the ducks. We also collected some colourful leaves, conkers and chestnuts that we included in some of our artwork and sensory stories. As Halloween rolled around, we decided it was time for another trip, and went to visit the Pumpkin Patch! We loved going out with our friends in Mint Class, exploring all the different pumpkins and meeting the scarecrows. We've also had people from outside of school come in to visit us; we particularly enjoyed having a DJ in to teach us how to make music on the iPads. There have been so many more exciting activities this term: making "fireworks" over Bonfire Night, creating colourful rangoli patterns for Diwali, visiting the planetarium for our Science topic, dressing up as Pudsey Bear for Children in Need, dressing up as Romans for History, playing ball games with Everton in the Community, and much, much more!

## Vanilla Class



Vanilla class have had a super half term with lots of learning and fun. In English we have been reading Harry Potter and in Maths we have been doing lots of counting in 1s and 2s. We especially enjoyed staying active! We have enjoyed our weekly Let's Move It sessions, making sure we do our daily mile around Abbey Holme and entering some sporting competitions, competing with children from other schools across Merseyside. To finish the term we have all had lots of fun getting ready for Christmas and we loved our trip to the Richmond for Breakfast with Santa!



## Rosemary Class



In Rosemary Class, we have been very busy this term taking part in lots of exciting activities within our community. We have enjoyed representing the school in different sporting events such as Boccia and even became pizzaiolos for the day at Pizza Express! In school we have loved dressing up for Halloween and our Christmas play which we enjoyed showing to our friends and family. We are looking forward to making some more amazing memories next term!

## Cinnamon Class



This term, Cinnamon class have worked hard on a number of different EQUALS projects.

For Clothing Care and Maintenance, the class enjoyed making the clothes extra dirty with lots of sensory items such as coffee, mud and honey and then washing the clothes. They then explored a range of different washing products and made choices about which ones they liked best. The pupils then had a splashing time washing their dirty clothes and hanging them out to dry!



Cinnamon class have also successfully set up a breakfast enterprise across school. Every Friday morning they are spreading a little bit of joy throughout the staff team by cooking and delivering a range of different breakfast sandwiches. This is not only in keeping with our Post 16 curriculum targets for vocational skills, but also helping to raise money for the Post 16 department for trips out.



The highlight of this term, however, has been our trip to have breakfast with Santa at the Richmond Tavern. It was a fabulous morning and the pupils had a wonderful time!

## Apple Class

Apple Class have had a very busy term with lots of festive fun! They have enjoyed a wonderful morning out of school for breakfast with Santa and also had the honour of meeting The Grinch! They have been busy learning about the Nativity enjoying sensory sessions, singing traditional carols and crafting a nativity scene. They have also been busy with enterprise making posters and selling delicious mince pies to the staff.



## Blueberry Class



## Orange Class

Well, what a term it has been! In Orange Class we have been learning about Space, Our Families, the Egyptians and the 80s and 90s. We have recently, been discovering Christmas festivities, watching the Panto, and exploring decorations. We've really enjoyed our topics this term, getting to create, make and many exciting things, including making cultural art and craft items and food to celebrate different faiths. The children have enjoyed lots of sensory science sessions about the planets and our moon and have enjoyed singing along to lots of songs about space, too!

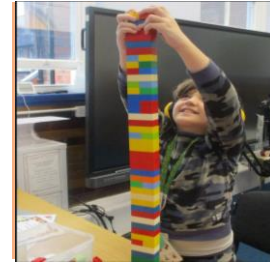


During the Autumn term, Blueberry class have had lots of fun, worked amazingly in class and built beautiful relationships with one another.

We have gained independent living skills from our weekly walks. The children have selected items they'd like to order in Costa and for breakfast. They have met and spoke with members of our local community and grown in confidence each week when crossing roads. The children enjoyed a DJ workshop where they were able to independently explore different sensory music apps. Blueberry Class have enjoyed the build up to Christmas, particularly the Christmas play, Breakfast with Santa and Christmas arts and crafts. We are all excited for what the new year will bring.

Merry Christmas! 😊





The children who attend Lego therapy sessions have had lots of fun this term! They have been working hard when listening to instructions, sharing with one another and working together in a group. We are pleased to see their social skills continue to develop where they have progressed in their communication and coping skills. The children have worked on their fine and gross motor skills in addition to exploring our feeling and emotions activities.

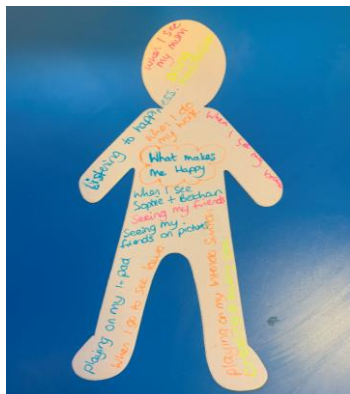
## Mindfulness and Wellbeing



This term some of the pupils on the mindfulness and wellbeing sessions have shown great progress.



We have worked on various areas to help regulate emotions, teaching techniques to help reduce stress, anxiety, and any valid feelings they may feel where they can feel safe and heard. During the sessions we go with the flow, we have great fun, share our feelings, dance through body movement, talk about grief and the happy times with loved ones. This is explored through many ways, each individual young person is given time to experience stillness, quiet time and to connect to themselves.



As you can see some individuals have been creative, making affirmation bunting, happy boxes, and positivity jars. This has been a wonderful experience for all, keep up the good work!





# Residential News



This term in Bradbury House we have had lots of fun! We have been on some adventures, with trips to Ikea, and local shops. Some of us visited Park Place Ponies open evening and even got to brush the ponies! Some tried their feet (or hands) at a bit of foot golf at the local golf course. We all got to go on a Christmas trip to either Chester Zoo Lanterns, Land of Lights at Gulliver's World or Luminare at Walton Hall Gardens, everyone enjoyed their nights out, loving the lights, meeting Father Christmas and listening to the music! Some even enjoyed toasting marshmallows and eating them!!

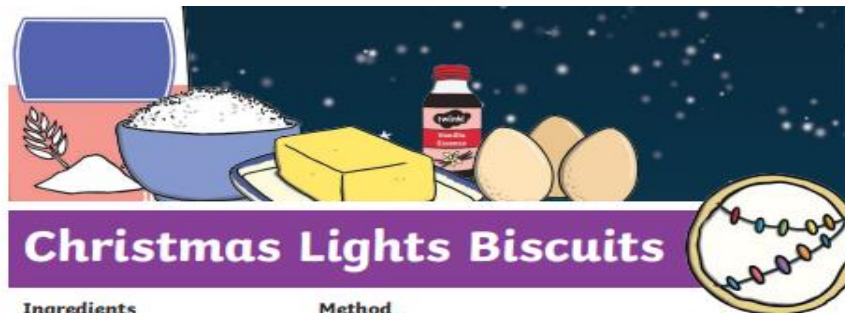
We have also enjoyed our time in Bradbury either relaxing doing our own thing, listening to music or playing with friends, or doing some activities in our craft room! This term we welcomed a new member to our Resi gang, and he has settled in well and is enjoying time with his classmate and getting to know children from other classes.





During our recent School Council meeting, the councillors were introduced to our new Statement of Purpose document. This document includes all of the important information on how school and residential keep the children safe, supported and cared for. Members of the Safeguarding Team at RSB also popped into show the councillors the new Safeguarding Poster for 2024!

### A Winter Recipe



## Christmas Lights Biscuits

### Ingredients

- 275g plain flour
- 100g unsalted butter, softened
- 100g caster sugar
- 1 medium egg, lightly beaten
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- To decorate:**
- 400g icing sugar
- 3-4 tbsp water
- 1 small tube black icing
- Brightly coloured mini candy coated chocolates

### Equipment:

- Oven
- Baking tray
- Baking parchment
- 2 large bowls
- Wooden spoon
- Rolling pin
- Round biscuit cutters

### Method

1. Preheat your oven to 190°C/gas mark 5 and line a baking tray with some baking parchment.
2. Using the wooden spoon, cream the butter and sugar together until smooth.
3. Beat in the egg and vanilla extract, a little at a time.
4. Slowly, stir in the flour until the mixture forms a dough.
5. Roll the dough out on a floured surface until it is about 1cm thick.
6. Use your biscuit cutters to cut out your biscuit shapes. Re-roll the remaining dough and repeat this step until you have used all the dough up.
7. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until pale golden-brown.
8. Leave to cool on a wire rack.
9. Mix the icing sugar with enough water to form a smooth paste.
10. Carefully, spread the icing over each biscuit and leave to harden.
11. Using the black icing tube, pipe two thin, curved lines across each biscuit.
12. Decorate with the coloured mini candy-coated chocolates so they stick along the black icing lines.
13. Leave to set and enjoy!