

Children's Hospital School

'Better Together'



Executive Headteacher: Mr S Deadman

Willow Bank School

Simmins Crescent

Leicester

LE2 9AH

February 2025 Newsletter

Tel: 0116 2298137

Welcome to The Children's Hospital School newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about all the latest news across all our settings, Willow Bank School, Magpie Learning Centre, Leicester Royal Infirmary, The Beacon Unit and The Phoenix Learning Centre.

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all keeping well at this time. It has been a very busy start to 2025, with more young people coming into the school and plenty of activities being organised in each of the school bases. It has been great to see lots of arts and music being offered to the students across the bases. Well done to the students who have attended one of the residentials this year – I know they got a lot out of the visits.

Our Year 11 students are working hard as they start to think about summer exams and planning for post-16 studies. Further information to support independent study can be found on the school website and will also be provided by teachers. We hope this is useful to students and parents, but any questions or concerns then please ask.

The school continues to grow, and we have now moved into the two new classrooms at Willow Bank, as well as becoming fully established at the new Phoenix Learning Centre in Hinckley. There are plans for future improvements which we hope will further improve the environment in the school.

We have hosted lots of visitors this term already who have requested to come and see what we do. Staff from our school have also been able to visit other provisions so we can learn and become even better. I am fortunate to be attending an international conference for hospital schools in Dublin in May, where I will be giving a presentation about our school.

You may know that we have been looking to recruit some new governors and we are really pleased that 3 new governors will be joining us after half-term. They come from a mixture of backgrounds including health, hospital education and the charity sector.

The days are definitely getting longer, and it is noticeably lighter when we leave school at the end of the day. I am looking forward to some warmer days as we move into spring and then summer.

Have a lovely half-term break and we look forward to seeing everyone again when we return.

Best wishes,

Stephen Deadman

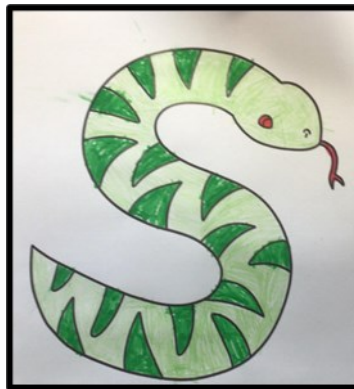


Children's Hospital School

NEWS FROM LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY

Chinese New Year

This half term, children at the LRI have really enjoyed finding out about Chinese New Year. Our students have had lots of fun learning about the customs and traditions of Chinese New Year – the year of the snake. There was lots of excitement on the ward as the children discovered their Chinese zodiac animal.



Hospital Classroom

It has been lovely to see more children being able to come to the classroom this half term. Where possible, we do encourage children to have their session here. However, this is not always possible due to infection prevention.

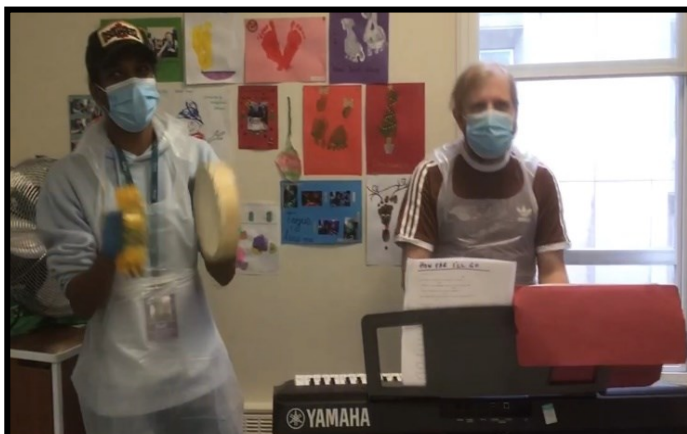
One of our students says, "I like to come to the classroom as it's nice to get off the ward and I can concentrate better." Our students enjoy contributing to the collaborative display. This half term the theme was "THIS IS ME!"





Soft Touch Arts

We were very sad to say goodbye to the Soft Touch Musicians this half term. Lee, Camilla and Sunigh have brought so much fun and laughter to wards and have really brightened up a Friday morning.



Children and their parents look forward to a Friday music session involving singing, dancing and percussion instruments. We hope to welcome them back to the hospital soon.



Children's Hospital School

NEWS FROM WILLOW BANK SCHOOL

Children's Mental Health Week—3rd-9th February 2025

We have marked children's mental health week by giving all the children at Willow Bank a crocheted friendly flower or a worry worm made by Bethany, Elizabeth and Mrs Davies.



Children's Hospital School

Sushi

The students at Willow Bank enjoyed making sushi for their breaktime.



Pizza Express and Highcross Shopping Centre Trip

Students and staff had a great time meeting the staff at Pizza Express and making pizzas. It was lovely to see smiles on all of the students faces! It was followed by a visit to the Highcross Shopping centre, where students had the opportunity to independently shop and browse around the centre.



Rambo

Meet Rambo, the newest member of the team at Willow Bank.

Rambo is our soft supporter who will provide support to students who need a bit of quiet time.



Children's Hospital School

NEWS FROM THE MAGPIE

Foxes last week

As always in our last week of intervention groups, we go Bowling. The Foxes did really well, even beating both staff members! We look forward to our next group going. We also celebrated their 12 weeks with a winter themed afternoon tea. They did an amazing job planning, making the food and hosting a winter related quiz.

New Groups and Pre-school

We have recently created two groups for CHS, Red and Yellow. Both groups are still going to Eyres Monsell Pre-school. We are really impressed with their progress and how great they are. Every week we are amazed with how engaged they are with the children. The Preschool children look forward to our visits every week.



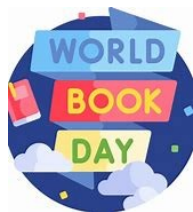
Trips and Events

There is a lot planned for our next term we are looking forward to. Courtney has arranged for our CHS group to have a trip to Waterstones in Fosse Park for all the students to pick a book of their choice.



We will also be taking part in:

World Book Day on Thursday 6th March – get your costumes ready!



Comic Relief – Thursday 21st March.



We have also been offered an amazing opportunity for our students to attend The Curve theatre to have a workshop and see the workings of a professional stage show. They will be able to hopefully see costumes, backstage, lighting and lots of other things you normally would miss out on. We are really excited for this and can't wait for the students to experience the theatre!

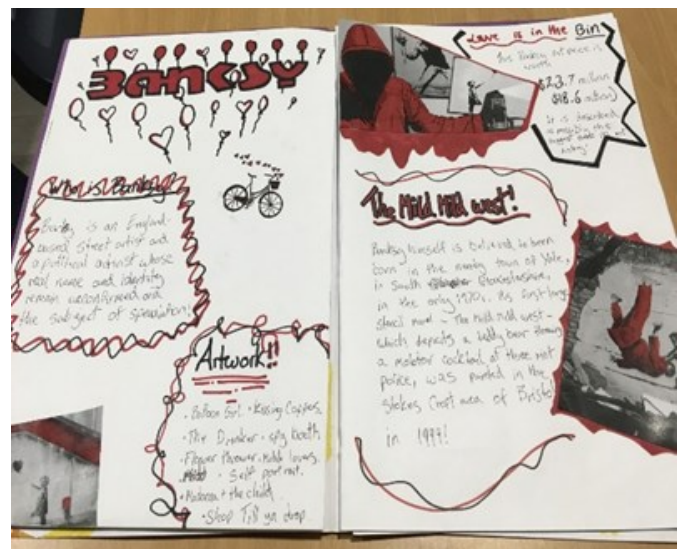
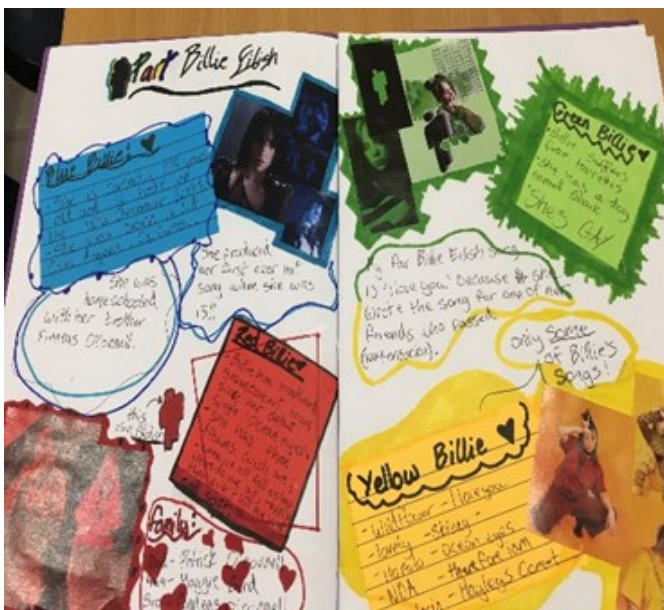


NEWS FROM THE BEACON

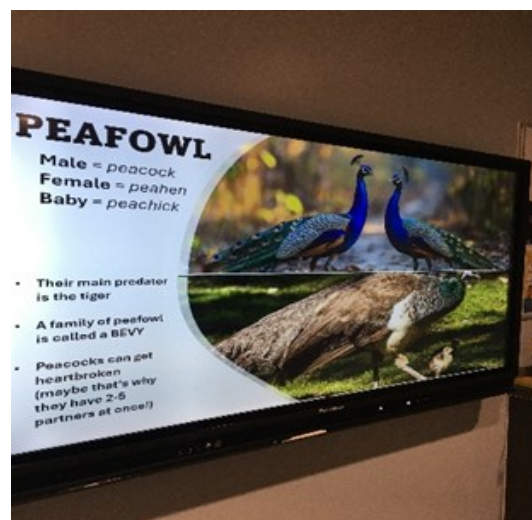
This month at The Beacon, the young people have been participating in food technology lessons, where they have been looking at safety and hygiene within the kitchen. Their first practical task was to make bread in a bag, which smelt amazing and everyone thoroughly enjoyed eating it afterwards.



The young people have continued to work towards their Arts Awards. This Award promotes independent learning and creativity.



In outdoor learning the young people created beautiful paper designs of peafowls.



As part of the Arts Award practical, the young people have been pebble painting. The pebbles will be placed around the grounds of the Beacon for the wider community to find and enjoy.



Children's Hospital School

NEWS FROM THE PHOENIX

We have had a good start to the spring term. We have welcomed new students and new staff to the team. Rebecca has joined us as transition support. Zoe has joined us as pastoral and inclusion support and Sumera has joined us as Maths and Science Teacher.

During uplift students have achieved the Reading PawPrint badge; students have created their own book covers and story boards. Students are now working on a cardboard badge; they have created cardboard flowers and bracelets using a cardboard template.

During book club students have been reading Macbeth to support English lessons. We are now reading Bad Alice. We have completed the first puzzle of the year! and we have discovered giant dobbie!



To encourage students' independence, they are choosing what they'd like for lunch, going to the shops to buy it and then preparing it back in our kitchen space. We are also offering new recipes to make and try new things as well as eating what we enjoy.

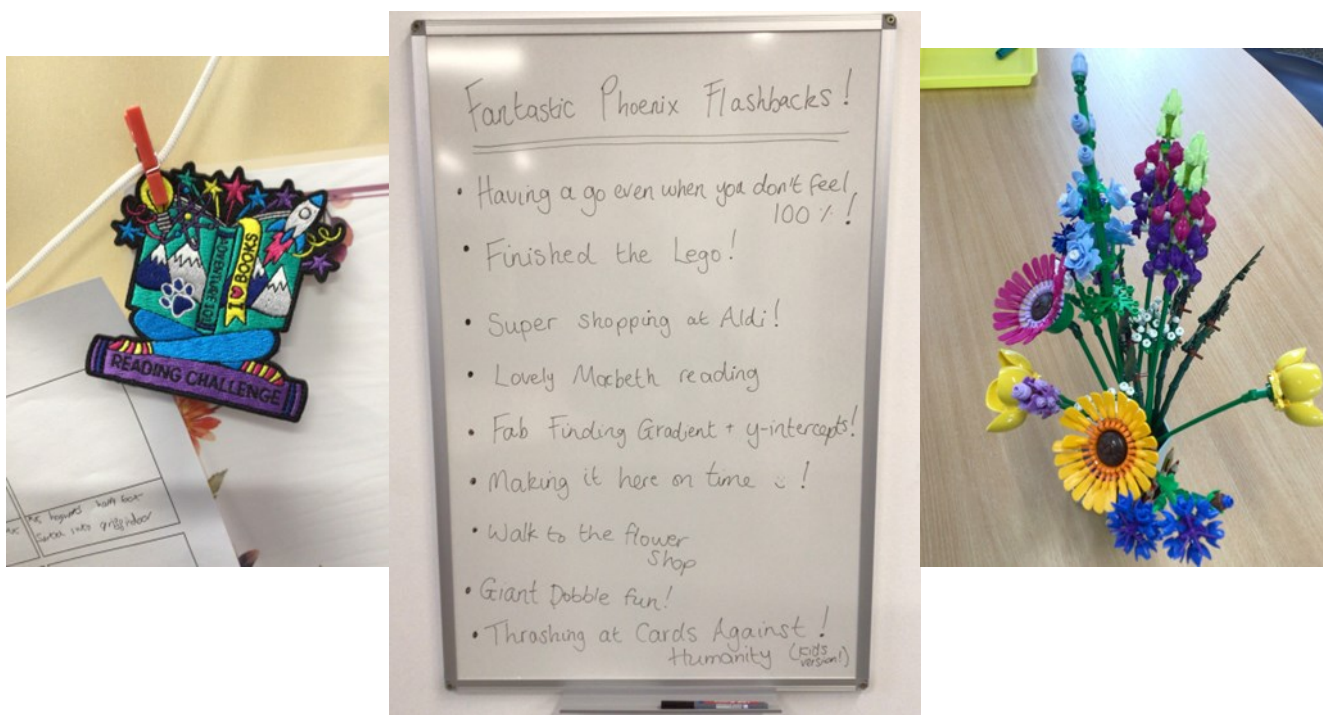
During 'Get Active' we have been for walks in the local community, we have visited the gym and we have played badminton.

On Wednesday afternoons we are sharing our 'best bits' from the week. Some of our highlights so far have included, finishing lego, reading Macbeth out with expression, walks out, celebrating students creations and much more.

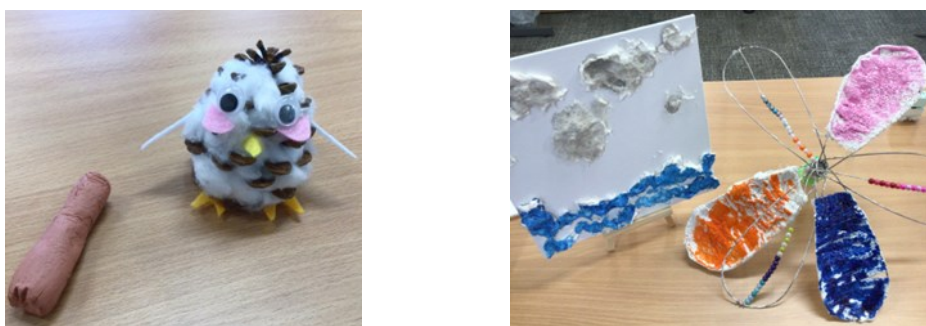


Children's Hospital School

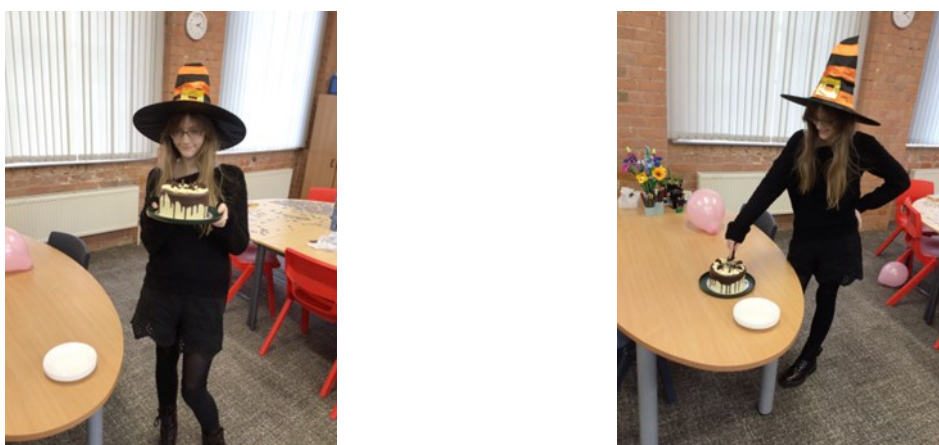
Messy Senses



During messy senses students have enjoyed creating owls, tissue canvases and whisk flowers.



We celebrated one of our students 16th Birthday with balloons and cake!



Children's Hospital School

Year 11 Summer 2025 Examinations

The summer 2025 national exam timetable has now been published. Please use the QR code which will take you to the EXAMS page on the school website. You will find the timetable along with other useful documents and guidance relating to examinations. Further information will follow in due course. Contact: exams@childrenshospitalschool.leicester.sch.uk



Year 11 Revision

With GCSE exams fast approaching for year 11 students at Willow Bank it is never too early to start revision. After half term we will be launching our revision programme to students and outlining all the opportunities and support on offer to help students through the exam season.

As a start point here are some useful websites and online resources which will help students to ensure they have the content needed for revision.



MathsPad



Children's Hospital School

FAMILY SUPPORT

Key information	For more information:
<p>Cost of living challenges</p> <p>There are funds available that maybe able to help you with household bills (gas, electric, water).</p> <p>The Department for Work and Pensions are able to review benefits and ensure families are receiving the appropriate support.</p>	<p>Contact:</p> <p>Jayne Lister Family Support Worker</p> <p>07961 397 364 jlister@childrenshospital school.leicester.sch.uk</p>
<p>Parental controls for Social Media:</p> <p>There are Privacy and Safety Checklists from the UK Safer Internet Centre for Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok. You can find other checklists for different platforms online. Online Safety - Children's Hospital School - Leicester</p>	<p>If you would like a paper copy, please get in touch via the school office.</p> <p>We will be running a termly Online Safety session for parents and families. Look out for further details.</p>
<p>Be aware of the current risks to children and young people in Leicester:</p> <p>Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): This involves young people being manipulated or coerced into sexual activities.</p> <p>Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE): This includes young people being forced or manipulated into criminal activities, such as drug trafficking or gang involvement.</p> <p>Online Harms: With the increasing use of digital platforms, young people are vulnerable to online exploitation, cyberbullying, and exposure to inappropriate content.</p>	<p>Contact:</p> <p>Children's Hospital School Safeguarding Team</p> <p>0116 229 8137</p> <p>safeguarding@childrenshospital school.leicester.sch.uk</p> <p>Support & advice for parents NSPCC</p>

Have a fantastic half-term and we will see you back on Monday 24th February 2025



Children's Hospital School