

Message from the Headteacher—Jenni

We welcomed some amazing new pupils and their families to the Bennerley Fields community in September, and I am so pleased at how well all of the children have settled. Please do regularly check your class' webpage on the school website (under the 'Pupils' section) or the school Facebook page for regular updates about what our classes are doing.

We had an exciting September, getting our new accessible minibus and appearing on BBC East Midlands Today. The bus has had so much use already, we are getting our monies worth from it!

Looking forward to the rest of this term and the lead up to Christmas!

Dovedale

Dovedale have been working hard on lots of things since coming back to school in September. We have been accessing the community during Beyond Bennerley, following our visual timetables to access different parks and gaining lots of confidence and skills on the different play equipment.



We have had Charlotte the music teacher visiting Dovedale each week, where we have been working on rhythm and sounds with lots of rhymes, music and sensory interactions.

Dovedale continued

Dovedale class have also done lots of great science learning outdoors focusing on nature and the changes in the seasons. We have then moved on to learning about light and shade in our new topic this half term, where we have investigated different light sources in the dark tent.



During maths, we have been working on number sequencing, big, small, 1:1 counting and simple dice games.



During English, we have been reading and exploring objects from our sensory stories, including stories like 'Whatever Next' and 'Foggy, Foggy Forest.'



In Design Technology, we have enjoyed building with different materials and planning and creating our own rockets.



In PSHE, we have been learning about families, friends and safe adults in school. We have enjoyed carrying out some cooking and games exploring turn taking and sharing.



New Pastoral Middle Leaders

We now have two teachers that are middle leaders for pastoral support for classes.

Claire (Newstead teacher) will oversee Dovedale, Newstead, Duffield, Shipley, Derwent and Haddon.

Gemma (Wollaton teacher) will oversee Chatsworth, Hardwick, Elvaston, Wollaton and Rufford.

They will support class teams with pupil welfare, behaviour, attendance and family questions. If you have a concern about your child in this area, please see your child's class teacher to begin with.

However, if needed, the Pastoral Middle Leader above is your next line of support. Please contact them via the school office if required.

Newstead

Newstead class have had a brilliant start to the school year. We have welcomed four new pupils to the class and they are doing really well adjusting to school life and classroom expectations. This term we have enjoyed exploring items during a range of sensory stories such as 'Whatever Next' and 'The Foggy Foggy Forest.'

We have explored a range of different mark making activities such as spaghetti painting and using vehicles in paint to make marks. In Maths we have explored number counting objects and matching numerals to quantities. We have particularly enjoyed learning about money and role playing shops.

Our topic this half term is 'Light and Shade', Newstead are enjoying exploring different light sources and learning how shadows are made. We had lots of fun exploring the snow! We used spades, buckets and moulds to make snow castles as a team.



Duffield

Duffield have had the most fantastic start to this school year. We thoroughly enjoyed our 'Me and My Memories' topic last half term. We enjoyed learning all about ourselves, growing up, and we did a show and tell with each other about our favourite toys. Lily brought in her baby daughter, Harper, to meet us, which really helped us with our learning about growing up. We loved the 'The Paper Dolls' story by Julia Donaldson and made our own new memories playing with our own paper dolls.

We experienced many autumn wider world events when we had lots of Halloween fun and we remembered the many losses of Remembrance Day by respectfully staying quiet for 1 minute. This half term we enjoyed our 'Make Some Noise!' topic and the build up to Christmas. We experienced a wonderful Christmassy day when we went to Gulliver's for a fun filled festive day. We went on rides, watched a festive show and even went to Santa's house and met Santa himself! We have been making lots of noise in our music lessons with Charlotte and we really enjoyed acting out all the noises from our text called 'SNORE!', which is all about lots of noisy animals.

Throughout the term and throughout our school days we have all been learning to think of others and show respect for each other. We have had some fabulous fun times together, and we can't wait to carry on with our learning journey in the New Year!



Message from the Governors

In October, Governors did a learning walk focusing on curriculum and engagement. It was lovely to see how engaged pupils were with their learning and how interesting and adapted the curriculum was across the school to meet the different needs of the pupils. Many pupils were very welcoming as well and getting to know us now. We also have our Chair, Siobhan, and Vice Chair, Maria, appearing in the staff panto again this year. Rehearsals are underway for 'Cinderella' to perform to the pupils at Christmas - oh yes they are!

Chatsworth

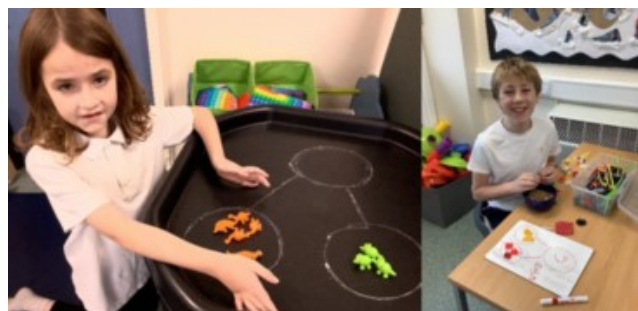
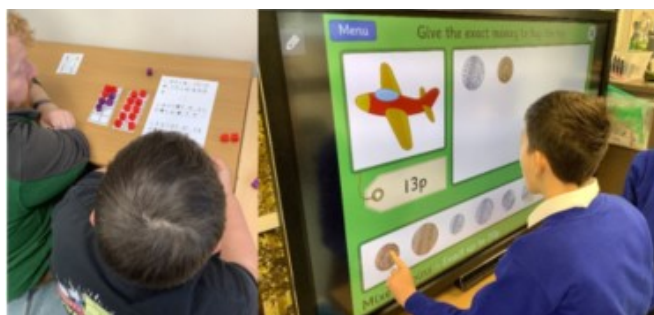
This half term has been full of enriching learning opportunities for pupils. A standout experience was the trip to Gulliver's Valley theme park. Pupils enjoyed exhilarating rides, a festive show, and a visit to Santa's grotto. Our Beyond Bennerley lessons have enabled pupils to explore a range of hobbies and leisure activities, highlighted by a visit to the fitness circuit at Shipley Country Park. PE lessons have focused on dance, with students creatively designing weather-inspired dances, refining their coordination, and learning to move to the rhythm of music.



Forest school sessions with Becky have been another favourite, where pupils have been using tools, completed themed crafts and enjoyed fire building and camp cooking activities. These experiences have been a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop their teamwork skills.



In the classroom, maths lessons centred around addition and subtraction, exploring varied methods and practical problem-solving involving money. We have lots exciting plans for the end of this term including our Christmas performance video and theatre trip to see 'Chicken Licken'.



Willows Department: A great start to the year for Shipley and Derwent Class

We've had a fantastic start to the year in Willows Department, and there's so much to share! For our first topic of the year, we've been exploring the past, looking at how we've changed since we were babies and reflecting on how life has evolved over the decades. Recently, we visited Erewash Museum, where we stepped back in time to explore a Victorian kitchen. We compared old-fashioned kitchen items with the modern appliances we use today, and it was clear, everyone prefers the convenience of today's gadgets! Our visit also included a stop at the museum's charming model sweet shop, where the children enjoyed weighing out traditional sweets.



In our Beyond Bennerley sessions, we've been focusing on building strong relationships with our new classmates. Through a variety of fun activities and board games, our pupils have been practising sharing, taking turns, and working together. It's been wonderful to see the children developing such positive friendships.

To inspire a love of reading, we've also been to visit the local library. The children were excited to explore the wide variety of books on offer, and it's been great to see them so enthusiastic about reading!

Recently we had an exciting trip to Gulliver's Valley North Pole Adventure. We visited Santa and enjoyed a magical day together!



Hardwick

Over the last half term Hardwick have settled in well to Stage 3, moving over to the Stage 3 playground and enjoying the topic of 'All Things Delicious!'.

During our 'All Things Delicious!' topic, the children have found out all about chocolate with our key texts 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and 'All about Chocolate'. We helped Mr Wonka to create a new chocolate bar and we created a non-fiction book that informs readers about the history, location of and process of making chocolate!

We created still life artwork, focusing on shape, form and various artistic techniques. In PE the children developed their ball skills with a focus on football – dribbling, passing and shooting as well as developing their tactical skills.

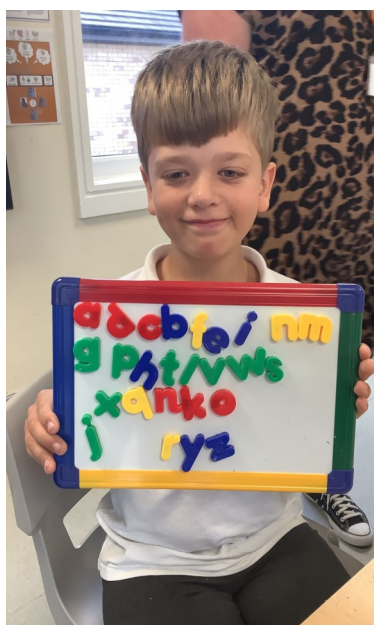
The children really enjoyed their Halloween disco and dressing up in spooky costumes!

This half term the children have all enjoyed their new key text – 'The Demon Dentist' by David Walliams. We have explored the key features of writing a letter, which we then used to write our own letters! The children have enjoyed computing lessons where they have explored debugging and following simple algorithms. We have also been focusing on staying healthy through exercise and diet – it has been excellent to see and hear all of the children share their knowledge of healthy lifestyles. In PE we have been focusing on developing our fitness skills taking part in various short exercises and then thinking about how the exercises affects our bodies.

The children continue to enjoy Forest Schools, taking part in various activities alongside cooking on the campfire!

We are so very proud of the children as they continue to develop their friendships and push themselves in their lessons – well done Hardwick!

As always, if you need to get in contact please use the class email.



Elvaston

It has been a fantastic start to the year for Elvaston Class! The students have settled wonderfully into their new environment, forming friendships, exploring new subjects, and embracing the routines of Stage 3. We are so proud of how well they've adapted, showing enthusiasm, curiosity and creativity in all they do.

This term, our learning has been as varied as it has been exciting. Our topics, 'All Things Delicious!' and 'Our Bodies', have sparked brilliant discussions and hands-on activities. The students have thoroughly enjoyed reading our class texts, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl and 'The Demon Dentist' by David Walliams. Inspired by Willy Wonka's creativity, they designed their own unique chocolate bars and wrote fantastic non-fiction pieces all about the history of chocolate. We've recently moved on to exploring the art of letter writing, learning its features and crafting some wonderful letters of our own.

In computing, the children have shown great determination and problem-solving skills as they debugged programs and created algorithms using Bee-Bots and Scratch Jr. Meanwhile, in D&T, our focus on diet and exercise has tied in beautifully with trips to local shops, where we researched and made smoothies, while also learning about Fairtrade products. These outings are part of our Beyond Bennerley curriculum, giving the children meaningful real-world learning experiences.

Physical activity has been a big part of this term too! In PE, we've enjoyed football and fitness sessions, while Forest School days have also been a particular highlight. The children have shown great teamwork and a love of the outdoors in these sessions. We have played in the autumn leaves at Victoria Park whilst enjoying a relaxing nature walk. A visit to Erewash gymnastics hall was another standout moment, and we're excited about upcoming trips, including a cinema visit to watch 'Paddington in Peru' and a magical outing to Pride Park to see 'The Snowman'.

We've celebrated special occasions together, like Halloween and Bonfire Night, with creative activities, a spooky disco, and lots of laughter. These moments have brought lots of joy to our class community and helped us build wonderful memories.

As we reflect on this term, we are incredibly proud of each child's achievements and the effort they've put into their learning. Their enthusiasm and resilience have made this term truly special.

As ever, if you ever have any questions or would like to get in touch, please don't hesitate to email via our class email address.



Wollaton

Last term our topic was 'All Things Delicious!'. Some of our learning included exploring properties of different materials in science, the impact of fair trade and learning about significant people from history such as James Lind and George and Richard Cadbury. As part of our careers work we researched different supermarket jobs, food production and then designed and made our own smoothies, some tasted better than others!



We also had a fun filled day for Halloween!



This term we have lots of exciting things planned! We are visiting local parks and sports centers as part of our Beyond Bennerley Curriculum. We are going to Nottingham Showcase cinema to watch 'Paddington in Peru' and Wollaton class also have an amazing experience planned to watch 'A Christmas Carol' theatre production at Derby Theatre!



Autumn term at Forest School

This term four classes have been coming to Forest school. Chatsworth, Hardwick and Elvaston have been developing some great skills and knowledge related to their fire building and their campfire cooking.



All classes started off their cooking experience using some of the school grown produce to make a raspberry and apple crumble and then moved on to designing their own campfire meals/snacks menu for each week.



These classes have also taken part in lots of woodland crafts, working on their tools skills and developing their independence skills, to further their own learning in areas of interest around the site and the different available activities.



Shipleigh class have also taken part in lots of woodland crafts during their sessions at Forest School as well as developing a greater confidence to explore the site, the activities, working as a team and looking at extending their own learning and investigation in areas that interest them.



The last exciting thing to happen at Forest School this term is the installation of our second shelter; the pupils have loved using it and is a great base to learn in during all weathers.



Bennerley Fields School Awarded School of Excellence by Thrive



We are delighted to have achieved an outstanding milestone, becoming fully accredited in all five key areas of the Thrive Approach, earning the coveted title of a School of Excellence. These accolades reflect our commitment to nurturing emotional and social wellbeing, a vital aspect of every pupil's development. Thrive, an established approach that promotes emotional resilience and mental health, awarded Bennerley Fields for its excellence in supporting both pupils and staff alike. Becoming an Ambassador School of Excellence is no small feat. It signifies that we have successfully embedded the Thrive Approach into every aspect of school life—from leadership and environment to individualised pupil support and interventions. This ensures that all pupils receive the help they need at the right time, allowing them to flourish both academically and emotionally. We have long championed inclusive education, tailoring our approach to meet the unique needs of every child. This new accreditation further cements our school's reputation as a leader in nurturing young minds and creating a supportive, empowering environment.



Haddon

The opening term at Haddon School has been a whirlwind of adventures and learning for Haddon class. This engaging and enjoyable start has seen both pupils and teachers diving into a variety of educational and sensory experiences, setting a truly inspiring tone for the school year ahead.



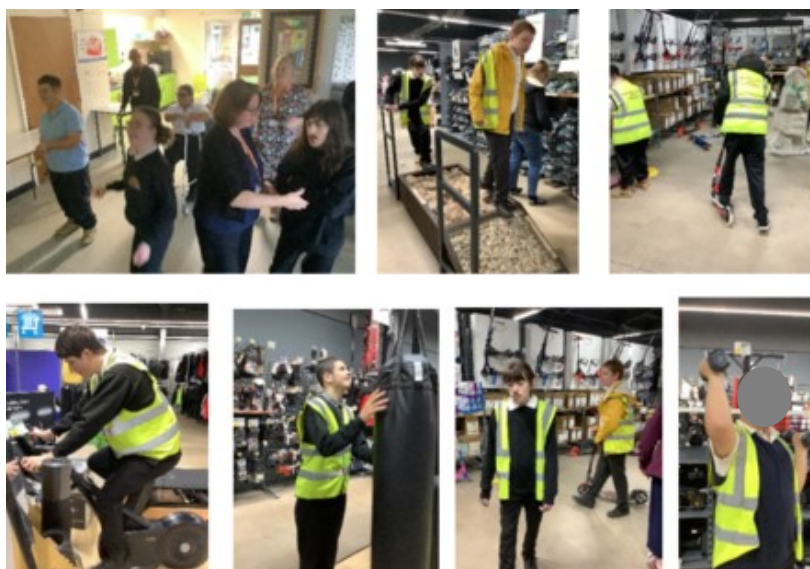
One of the highlights of the term was the highly successful jacket potato enterprise. With the students showing remarkable entrepreneurship and teamwork, they rolled up their sleeves and turned their culinary talents into profit. The excitement didn't stop there, as the hard-earned money was put to great use – a thrilling visit to the cinema!



In addition to these enterprising activities, the students have also been focusing on important life skills through the Careers Independent Pathway. Personal hygiene, a cornerstone of healthy living, has been made a primary focus. With hands-on activities designed to demonstrate the proper techniques for washing hands and using various hygiene products, the pupils eagerly embraced these lessons. The joy and enthusiasm were palpable as they mastered these essential skills, which are so important in daily life.



Our PHSE curriculum further enriched the term by encouraging students to explore and enjoy an array of different hobbies. The children discovered the graceful movements of yoga, the vibrant rhythms of salsa dancing, and the adventurous possibilities of using the outdoor equipment. Each activity provided a chance for students to find new interests and develop both physically and socially in a safe and supportive environment. We also visited Decathlon to explore a range of equipment which was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the pupils did us all proud with their social skills and representation of our school values.



As the leaves turn and autumn deepens and heads into winter, Haddon class eagerly looks forward to continuing their journey of discovery and growth throughout the rest of the year. It's clear that with such a fantastic start, they are set for a year full of exploration, learning and joy.

Rufford

Rufford Class has had a fantastic start to the new school year! In Science, we visited Twycross Zoo, where students observed a variety of animals and explored how they are adapted to their unique habitats. It was an exciting day filled with hands-on learning and new discoveries, and everyone had a wonderful time!

In Careers lessons, Rufford students visited Broomfield College and attended the Careers Futures Fair. These visits provided valuable insight into post-16 opportunities, helping students explore different pathways for their future. Additionally, this term, Rufford will spend one afternoon each week at Breadsall Priory, engaging in work experience. This opportunity allows students to practise essential work skills in a real-world setting, preparing them for the future.



Key dates for the year:

- **Christmas activities:** Tue 17th Dec Parent/Carer café and virtual concert performance
 - 1.15 – 2.00 - Dovedale, Newstead, Duffield, Shipley and Derwent
 - 2.15 – 3.00 – Chatsworth, Hardwick, Elvaston, Wollaton, Haddon and Rufford
- **Christmas activities continued:** Wed 18th Dec Christmas jumper and dinner day for pupils
- **Parents'/Carers' evenings:** Tue 3rd Dec 2024 and Tue 13th May 2025
- **For holiday dates see the school website:**
<https://www.bennerleyfields.derbyshire.sch.uk/term-dates-and-times/>
- **Inset days remaining this academic year:** Tue 6th May