

### Message from the Headteacher—Jenni

What a fabulous year we have had—such a lot of lovely work completed in class, enriching visits to so many different places and residential to Lea Green for Rufford and Haddon. I am very proud of the curriculum we offer for our pupils, with our latest academy review from Esteem MAT giving us glowing feedback. We are all ready for transition week and next year, with some classes changing rooms (which will take us all time to get used to!). It has been a long term and we look forward to the summer holidays and a chance for pupils and staff to recharge and rest, with hopefully some lovely weather. Thank you to all our families for your continued support.

### Dovedale

Dovedale have had a lovely final Summer term with some wonderful sunny weather to enjoy the great outdoors. Dovedale have continued to work on their shopping skills and accessing the local community during their Beyond Bennerley lessons on a Friday afternoon. All pupils have developed some wonderful shopping skills, creating and following their shopping lists as well as money transaction skills when paying for and packing their items. Dovedale loves being out in the community and have visited a number of different places, including a variety of parks, small shops and Gulliver's Valley, having fun and working on their science and humanities outcomes, to explore the world around them. During math's, Dovedale have been working hard on different mathematical concepts with the topics of number and place value, working on one-to-one counting, number names, number sequence and playing simple dice games. As part of the calculations math's topic, we have been looking at addition, matching items and making groups of objects.



During our RE days this half term we have been looking at what is special about the world? Including the outside world/ growing things, planting seeds and caring for them, as well as looking at the Creation Story.



During English, Dovedale have been working hard exploring sensory stories based on our topics 'Going on Safari' and 'At the Seaside.' We have enjoyed using our senses to explore objects from our stories and have been able to match objects to symbols linked to key vocabulary from our texts. We have also been working on our blank level questioning to answer simple questions based on our books. Dovedale have also enjoyed carrying out different fine motor and mark making activities linked to our topics, such as pencil control activities and threading.



During our Creative lessons, Dovedale have enjoyed listening to different seaside sounds and songs as well as exploring different percussion instruments together. In Art, we have enjoyed printing using different materials such as sponges, foil and shells to create various colours and patterns. In our topic 'Going on Safari,' Dovedale have also enjoyed printing to create different animal masks and threading to create our own African necklace.



## Newstead

Our final topic this year has been all about the seaside! We have explored a range of sensory stories based on the sights, sounds and activities you might experience at the seaside. In English, we have listened to a variety of seaside stories, including Pip and Posy at the Seaside, Goodnight Beach and Seaside Sense Poems. The pupils especially enjoyed interacting with 'Pip and Posy at the Seaside' lifting the flaps to find where Posy was hiding. To bring the topic to life, we held our very own beach day. The pupils had a wonderful time exploring the sand and water together before enjoying a well-deserved ice cream in the sunshine.



In our maths lessons, we have been exploring the concept of day and night. Pupils listened to Night Monkey, Day Monkey and explored what each monkey does during the day and at night. We then looked at our own daily routines, matching symbols to pictures to show what we do during the daytime and at night-time. We have continued to develop our understanding of numbers through number rhymes and counting activities, using number names with support. Pupils have explored counting objects in different arrangements and have practised making groups of "one" and "lots."

As part of our 'How My World Works' topic, Newstead Class have been out and about in the community exploring different local parks. It has been fantastic to watch their confidence grow as they try new equipment and enjoy new environments. We've also seen lovely moments of teamwork and shared enjoyment as they play alongside one another.

In PE this term, we have been accessing our local swimming pool for sensory swimming sessions. The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed the water, showing growing confidence through splashing, filling and pouring containers and, for some, even retrieving toys from the bottom of the pool! Back in school, we've been developing our ball skills—rolling, bouncing, and kicking different types of balls. As the term progressed, we introduced aiming skills, such as rolling balls at skittles or kicking to knock over cones. It's been wonderful to see these skills developing into simple turn-taking games with peers.



In Beyond Bennerley, we have been out on the school minibus to explore shops in our local area. Pupils enjoyed looking around the local high streets and pointing out the different shops they spotted. Back in class, we set up our own shop for pupils to take part in role-play shopping. They used pointing boards to communicate their food choices and then exchanged money to buy their chosen items.



## Duffield

This half term Duffield have enjoyed learning around our topic of Carnival. We have been learning about different music, costumes and foods. Duffield enjoyed making their own carnival masks, playing musical instruments, trying new foods and learning about different carnivals in other countries. Duffield also enjoyed learning to play the steel drums and then performing their new skills and talent in the X Factor for the school.

We've had a wonderful year together in Duffield and we wish all our Duffielders moving on to new classes all the best for the next step in their learning journey in Bennerley Fields school. We wish you all Happy Holidays!



## Message from the Governors

It's been a wonderful year of learning and all governors have been delighted to see your achievements over the last year. Through your activities and lessons, we have witnessed dedication, commitment and lots of hard work from all of our pupils and we want to say 'well done' to each of you. As governors, we remain committed to ensuring our school goes from strength to strength for all our pupils, families and staff. We are so proud of our families and send our thanks for all the support you give to school. We are equally proud of our staff too, and we extend our thanks to them and Jenni who continues to show outstanding commitment and leadership. We hope you enjoy the last few weeks of school with all the exciting activities planned and have a wonderful summer break.

## Chatsworth

### *Colourful Carnival Fun!*

Chatsworth Class have had a brilliant time diving into our Colourful Carnival topic, with a particular focus on samba music. Pupils have enjoyed exploring percussion instruments and learning all about rhythms through hands-on performance activities.

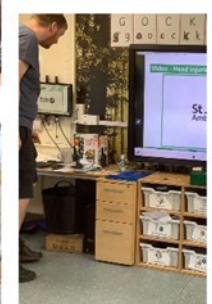
A real highlight was our steel drumming workshop, where we had the chance to play together as a band – a very fun and energetic experience! We showcased our musical talents at the X Factor performance, proudly wearing our very own tie-dye costumes, designed and created in our D&T lessons.

Beyond the classroom, we've had lots of exciting experiences. Our trip to Twycross Zoo was a roaring success – we spotted a variety of fascinating animals and had a wonderful day out. We also really enjoyed Sports Day, taking on a range of sporting challenges, with archery and axe throwing being particular favourites.

In our RSE lessons, we've been learning valuable first aid skills. Through practical sessions, the children have developed confidence in how to respond to different types of accidents – a truly important life skill.

It's been a colourful, energetic, and memorable term, and we're so proud of all the children's achievements.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break!



PHSE - First Aid  
Treating head  
injuries 18th June



## Willows Department: Derwent and Shipley

As we reach the end of a wonderful summer term, we wanted to take a moment to share some of the exciting things the children in Derwent and Shipley Class have been up to. It's been a term full of creativity, discovery and adventure, and we're so proud of everything the children have achieved.

In English, we've been exploring the colourful and lively world of carnivals, which has really sparked the children's imaginations. They've enjoyed writing their own carnival-themed stories, using descriptive language and learning new vocabulary along the way. Our journey continued into the jungle, where we discovered all sorts of amazing animals and learned about different insects. The children created fact files, poems, and imaginative stories, showing off their fantastic writing skills.

Our topic work has linked beautifully with our English learning. We've brought the carnival theme to life by designing and making our very own carnival costumes and headaddresses. The children loved expressing themselves through bright colours, feathers, sequins and glitter – the classroom was full of excitement and creativity as everyone prepared for their own mini carnival parade! Maths has kept us busy with practical and hands-on learning. We've been working on telling the time, recognising and using money, and building our confidence with addition. Whether it was setting up our own classroom shop or racing to beat the clock in time-telling games, the children have shown great enthusiasm and progress.

In Science, we've been learning all about different materials and their properties. One of the highlights of the term was designing and building our very own roofs. The children had the chance to test which materials were best for keeping water out – a brilliant way to combine creativity with scientific thinking. It was a fun and messy project, and we were so impressed with their problem-solving skills! We also had a thoughtful and reflective RE Day, where we explored the Christian Creation Story. The children listened carefully, asked brilliant questions, and created some beautiful artwork to represent the world being made. It was a lovely opportunity for them to think about the natural world and the importance of looking after it. This term has been filled with exciting trips that helped bring our learning to life. At The Lanes Garden Centre, the children explored plants and nature in a real-life setting. Our visit to Erewash Gymnastics gave everyone the chance to get active and build confidence in trying something new. A big highlight was our day at Twycross Zoo, where we saw many of the animals we'd been learning about in English and Science. And of course, our visit to Lea Green Soft Play was packed with energy, fun and laughter – a perfect way to round off the term!

As always, thank you for your continued support. It's been a fantastic term, and we've loved seeing how much the children have grown in both confidence and curiosity. We wish you all a relaxing and sunny summer break.



## Hardwick

This half term Hardwick have continued to work hard and have lots of fun!

We have enjoyed our key texts King of the Cloud Forest and Freaky Peaks - lots of adventures and fantastic facts. Some parents may know of the Horrible Histories books from school, Freaky Peaks is part of the Horrible Geography series, so it follows much in the same vein. The students have created an action story using a story plan, expanded noun phrases and relying less on adult support in their writing. They have worked so hard in this area and their stories are amazing!

In maths the children have continued to work on addition and subtractions, multiplication and division, place value and telling the time. Telling the time has come in to particular use when we have been using public transport in our Beyond Bennerley sessions.

In our topics lessons we have focused on learning about mountains, how they were created, their key features and fabulous facts about them. We have also used technology to find the source and end of rivers in the UK and in Africa. We have also explored the materials used in equipment to keep rock climbers safe when they are out climbing in our D&T lessons.

We have visited Ilkeston Library and Ilkeston Tesco's in our Beyond Bennerley sessions, as well as visiting amazing places such as Clip and Climb in Derby and Gulliver's Valley in Rother Valley. The children have been absolute stars going out in the community and the comments we have had from members of the public about the children's conduct have all been very positive.

It has been an absolute pleasure to teach your children this year. They are all fantastic - kind, helpful, funny and with a passion to learn. We are lucky to have them at Bennerley Fields and myself and the class team are all so proud to have worked with them. Thank you for a lovely year, have a peaceful and relaxing holiday. See you in September.



## Elvaston

This term, Elvaston class have climbed to new heights with our exciting topic Marvellous Mountains! We explored how mountains are formed and identified different mountain features. Using atlases and Google Earth, we tracked down mountain ranges across the world and discovered famous peaks like Everest and Snowdon. The children showed real curiosity and enthusiasm as they became mountain experts!

Our class texts—King of the Cloud Forest and Freaky Peaks—inspired some fantastic writing. We wrote our own thrilling mountain adventure stories and created fact-packed non-fiction guides. Everyone worked hard to use ambitious vocabulary and structure their ideas clearly, producing writing to be proud of.

In science, we investigated light and shadows. Through hands-on experiments with torches, mirrors and different materials, we discovered how light travels, reflects, and forms shadows. Making shadow puppets was a particular highlight, with children testing how distance and angle affect shadow size and shape.

We also enjoyed designing our own mountain climbing gear in D&T. After learning about what real-life climbers need to stay safe, we created labelled designs and thought carefully about materials, purpose and practicality – Inspired by a very successful trip to Decathlon!

Some highlights of the term were our trips. We loved our Carsington Water trip where we learnt about the water cycle. We are particularly excited for the Clip 'n' Climb in Derby and the trip to Gulliver's Valley in Rotherham – A trip that has been mostly funded by the children's hard working and effort during our Enterprise project where they came up with some stunning bookmarks which we managed to plan, design and create to sell at a profit.

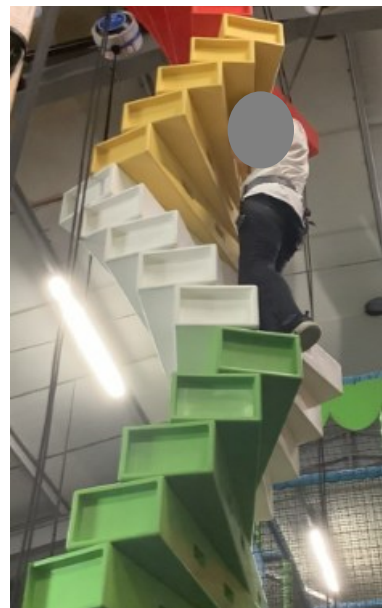
In PE, we developed our skills in cricket. Elvaston class showed fantastic teamwork, enthusiasm and sportsmanship as they practised bowling, batting and fielding. Meanwhile, in our Beyond Bennerley sessions, we focused on time—reading clocks, using timetables and learning how to manage our day more independently.

It's been a brilliant end to the year, and Elvaston class should be incredibly proud of everything they've achieved. We hope everyone has a relaxing, fun-filled summer holiday!



## Wollaton

Our topic this term is “Marvelous Mountains” and as part of D&T we visited clip and climb. Pupils challenged themselves to climb as high as they could.



As part of our mountain project pupils enjoyed the lovely weather and read our class text ‘King of the Cloud Forests’ outside.



We are really looking forward to going to Gulliver's Valley for the last trip as a class team. We have all had a fantastic year building positive relationships between peers and have had lots of fun learning.



## Summer term at Forest School

During the summer term, Wollaton, Derwent and Duffield classes have been accessing Forest School sessions. Wollaton and Derwent have been working on their tool and fire lighting skills. They have been using the loppers for site maintenance and to prepare and grade the silver birch tree wood for their fire-building sessions. Additionally, they have been using the billhook and mallet to split the large wood into usable-sized firewood. Both classes have planned and cooked delicious snacks on the campfire they have built and lit, including cooking popcorn, pancakes, lamb kebabs, pizzas, toasties and hot dogs. Duffield class have been developing their exploration skills across the site, using teamwork to plant the potato competition sacks, care for our vegetable garden, and start to learn and develop their woodland tool skills with the billhook and mallet.



## Careers—Green Garden Growth at Bennerley Fields

Hardwick and Rufford Classes Shine in our MAT Collaboration STEM Project!

Over the past two terms, students from Hardwick and Rufford classes at Bennerley Fields School have been nurturing more than just plants, they've been growing creativity, collaboration, and STEM skills through their work on the Green Garden Project.

This exciting initiative formed part of the prestigious Industrial Cadets Bronze Award, delivered in partnership with the Engineering Development Trust (EDT). Designed to develop STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) thinking, the project challenged students to design green spaces with a purpose, whether for community, education, or wellbeing.

Rufford Class partnered with the Bennerley Viaduct team to design a welcoming, inclusive community garden. Their concept celebrated local heritage and aimed to create a calming, accessible space that people of all ages could enjoy. Their thoughtful design and strong local focus earned them the People's Choice Award, voted for by attendees at the final celebration event.

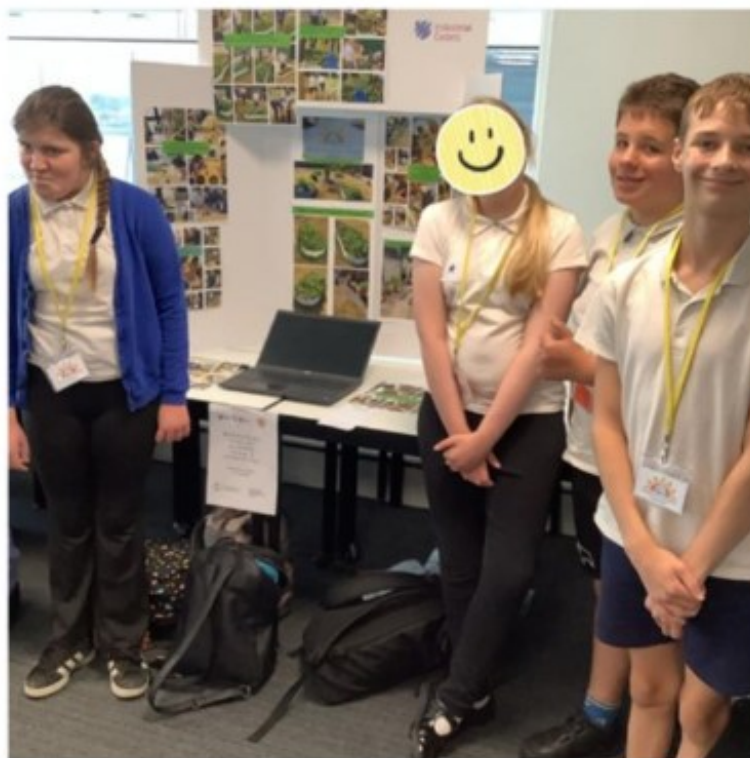
Meanwhile, Hardwick Class focused their efforts closer to home, transforming areas of the school grounds into new growing zones. Their practical approach and enthusiasm for gardening turned previously unused spaces into vibrant patches of nature, right outside the classroom door.

### A Project in Full Bloom

The celebration event brought together schools from across the wider Esteem

Multi-Academy Trust, and Bennerley Fields students stood out for their dedication and teamworking skills.

We're incredibly proud of the achievements of our Hardwick and Rufford learners. Their efforts not only enriched our school environment but also sowed seeds for future projects, both in the garden and beyond. Well done to all involved!



## Haddon

What an exciting final term we've had in Haddon!

We've enjoyed so many wonderful experiences this term—from canoeing, archery, caving, making keyrings, and bushcraft sessions with the amazing Trailblazers team, to our one-night residential at Lea Green where we had great fun in the bikes and buggies, exploring the low ropes and enjoying smores around the campfire and finishing off the evening with our own disco to Abba under the stars (well the stars weren't quite out!)

We also took part in work experience at Breadsall Priory in the grounds and continued our hugely successful jacket potato enterprise (a big hit with staff!). With the profits we raised, we treated ourselves to a trip to Spring Lakes for a beach visit.

Our adventures didn't stop there! We visited Crich Tramway Museum and enjoyed a fantastic day at Gulliver's Valley with Duffield Class, where we showed what brilliant role models we are to our younger peers.

Throughout the term, we've also engaged in lots of sensory learning through stories, role play, and tuff tray activities, which have sparked our imaginations and supported our learning in creative ways.

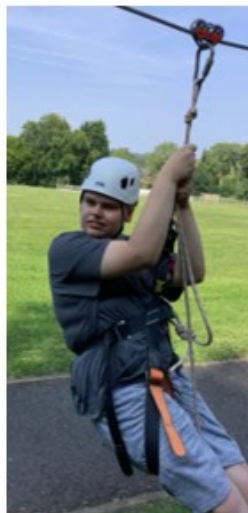
Sadly, this term we say goodbye to our amazing Year 11's. To celebrate their achievements, we're holding a special Leavers' Assembly and Prom, two events filled with memories, laughter, and a few happy tears.



## KS4 Residentials to Lea Green

We have had two groups from KS4 on residentials this summer. Haddon and Rufford classes had a great time at Lea Green trying lots of different activities. For some students, it was their first time staying away from home.

Many thanks to all the staff who supported the residentials.



## Rufford

Rufford have had a fantastic and busy summer term! As part of an exciting Enterprise project, the class worked as a team to research, design, and create items to sell. Their teamwork and creativity paid off during the Enterprise Marketplace afternoon, where they successfully sold their products and made an impressive profit. The funds they raised are being put to great use—with a well-earned cinema trip and a fun-filled day out planned at Gulliver's Valley!

In Culture Studies, Rufford class took to the tram for an educational adventure into Nottingham city centre. They explored local landmarks and delved into the rich history of Nottingham. The class also enjoyed a visit to Sherwood Forest, where they saw the famous Major Oak and learned all about the legendary tale of Robin Hood.

After such a busy and enriching term, Rufford class are now looking forward to a well-deserved summer break!



### Key dates for your diary:

- Transition week where pupils move to new classes: 21-24th July 2025
- Last day of term is Thursday 24th July 2025
- Pupil return from the summer holidays Monday 8th September 2025
- **Inset days 2025-2026:** Thu 4th September, 2025, Fri 5th September 2025, Friday 12th September 2025, Mon 29th September 2025, Tue 5th May 2026, Monday 1st June 2026