

Hope Tree School....

Skye's News

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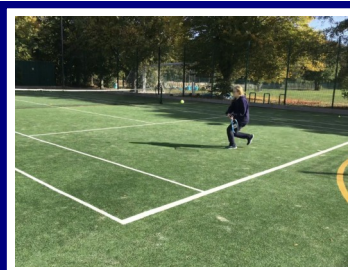
Hope Tree School finishes it's first full term

Wow—what a term we have had at school. From Shackleton's Journey across the Antarctic to Clement C Moore's 'Twas the night before Christmas, all our students have been beavering away at their learning. History, Geography, Computing, a visit to our local church alongside our weekly visits to Queenholme farm to see the Alpacas. Games of tennis and an introduction to

indoor PE have all enriched the lives of our students. We are very proud of them all. They have made new friends, met new members of staff, managed transitions to and from school and were rewarded with many many gems. They celebrated the life of the queen, undertook one or two exciting experiments, chased Skye around the garden, created an ani-

mal hospital in our outdoor learning space and so much more.

Thank you to all our staff, our students and their families for their willingness, cooperation, time, patience and resilience when needed for continuing to make Hope Tree School the very special place that it is.



Congratulations

A massive congratulations to one of our students for coming 2nd in Lucy Frazer's House of Commons Christmas Card competition. All our students worked hard on their entries.



Careers Talk

.A big thank you to Dr Jen Jackson from the British Antarctic Survey who visited the school to deliver our first careers talk to our students. She shared information about her own career, her research about whales and genetics and answered many questions about her work.



The students were able to wear gloves made for use in sub-zero temperatures where they tried to

write in them, not a bad first try from them all.



given the opportunity to try using pipettes and other equipment which is regularly used in research labs. Again many questions were asked.





All students at HTS have the opportunity to be rewarded for demonstrating a range of life skills.

This term rewards are given in the form of gems of all different colours, there silver, gold and diamond gems for special achievements.

Rewards are given for

- Kindness
- Perseverance
- Independence
- Resilience
- Trying new things
- Making good choices
- Flexibility

This term our students have chosen to spend their gems on buying specific pieces of stationary/resources that they would like on their desks and an additional school trip chosen by the students.



From the students

School trips are fun! I honestly liked the church visit with the organ which you play with your hands and feet. A lady played songs for us and it was impressive! Oh we also had a little chocolate hunt too! We saw a squirrel on the way into the church and everyone loved him. There were many things as well, other than chocolate in the church. We found a wreath with candles, a chalice and the font which has been there forever and has a little plug hole in the bottom which they don't use any more. We were able to visit a little room where you ring the bells from. It has a nice view of the inside of the church from there.

BD

Alpacas, alpacas, we see them on a Monday
The alpacas stay as we go away
The alpacas hum and they are our chums
Neville is grey and he eats hay
They each have two toes and a fluffy nose

Thank you alpacas, you come from Peru
Kipling, a favourite has a great hairdo
We give them a snack, makes us want to come back

A carrot apiece, they have soft fleece
Everything is calm, at Queenholme Farm

VC



School trips

Our first school trip this term was to the Museum of Zoology in central Cambridge which enabled the students to further explore classification and taxonomy. The students enjoyed looking at the range of animal exhibits available at the museum, alongside drawing their favourite. In the second half of the term, the students visited the local church where they engaged in a variety of activities including stone rubbing. It was also Skye's first school trip where she mostly behaved herself, but



would have preferred the chocolate treasure trail to include some for her. Our final trip of the term was to the Junction 2 in Cambridge to watch an all inclusive Christmas Show. The show included disabled and non-disabled actors. It allowed our students the opportunity to experience a live play, which some of them had never



done before. We were very proud of them all.



Experiment fun with our Student Support Assistant

At the end of October, I led the students in a variety of small science experiments, focusing upon combining substances which fizz, giving the students an opportunity to learn the basics of different chemicals alongside their physical reactions to each other.



The first one involved baking powder, food colouring and vinegar. Each student watched their concoction change colour and fizz over as the vinegar was added.

Our next experiment involved a coke bottle and a packet of mentos, where the students particularly enjoyed trying to get as many mentos in the coke bottles before the coke fizzed out.



Our final experiment involved using alka-seltzer tablets and water inside canisters, where students were able to watch what happened as their canisters popped up to a metre off the ground

Classroom News:

Our students have been working hard this half term with a variety of learning opportunities and activities: -

English: Students have learned to write diary entries, inspired by Shackleton's voyage, written letters of complaint and persuasive letters about school, the environment and their toys. They have been introduced to Shakespeare and covered the tragedy of Macbeth, interpreting quotes and using them as evidence to answer questions about the play. Some truly terrifying writing was produced after they learnt about ways that authors build tension in stories—their teacher was scared to read their work. There was some work on apostrophes, punctuating dialogue, commas, colons, and semi-colons—less exciting but necessary. Then some Christmas poetry to finish off the term.

Maths: Students have described and extended sequences, found missing numbers in sequences, learnt to distinguish linear and non-linear sequences, represented the pattern of a sequence with a number sentence, learnt the rules of algebraic equations, identified, measured and drawn angles, and calculated missing angles in a triangle and at a point.

Science: Students identified animals using keys, made their own keys, and learnt about taxonomy and naming of species. They then designed and described their own animal and named it accordingly. We learnt about the differences between plant and animal cells in and made models of them.

Geography: This term the students have looked at Antarctica which included seasons, types of ice, mountains; then weather and climate: the

differences between them, pressure systems, heat waves and storms.

History: Lessons have covered the suffragettes and the gunpowder plot; considering why people behaved as they did, whether it was justified and different sources of evidence and what insight they contribute.

Art: Students learnt about using tone to make their drawings look more three-dimensional, made clay animals, and created worthy portraits of the queen; each student using their preferred media. An art student visited to demonstrate different techniques for applying paint.

DT: We have cooked a sweet or savoury item every week, including biscuits, cupcakes, pizza, pies and tarts. The students also built a puppet theatre, a bubble lamp and a crystal lamp.

Computing: Students have enjoyed learning to use spreadsheets, using calculations, formula, graphs and charts and took great delight in building their own Lego robots which could be programmed to walk, talk and shoot soft pellets.

PHSE/RE: Students began learning about friendships and how to manage differences of opinion alongside managing money. In RE, students have studied both Christianity and Islam.

PE: Students have begun to practice their ball skills which have included throwing and catching, the rules of tennis and rounders alongside learning a range of stretching exercises.



Pastoral News

At Hope Tree School much of our pastoral support is delivered in an embedded way. We try very hard not to take our students away from the classroom but difficulties are managed in the moment using a range of listening and problem solving skills. This term we have visited the Alpaca Farm on a weekly basis and introduced the opportunity to engage in an activity which enables students to think about a range of topics. This has included hierarchy of needs, the differences between thoughts and feelings, complex emotions and problem solving skills. The students have all become much more confident in handling the animals and there are a range of favourite animals the students enjoy sharing time with on a regular basis.

Our OT, Sarah has begun visiting the school and making recommendations about addi-

tional equipment and resources to support our students.

We were delighted to welcome Sue Holden from Irlen East to visit school and give our students the opportunity for Irlen screening which where appropriate may result in additional resources to support individual students.

Next term we will have regular visits from our new Speech and Language specialist who will be providing specific advice to any individual student who needs this support. We are looking forward to working with her.

Education and therapeutic support has equal value at Hope Tree School and as a result our students benefit from the holistic approach being offered.

