

# Hope Tree School

## Skye's News

Volume 1, Issue 1 July 2022

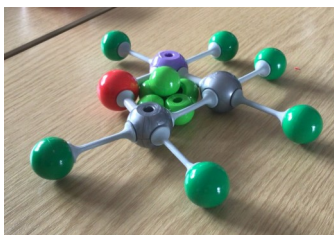


### Our Thank You's

We are very grateful to the Fawehinmi family for their kind donation which enabled us to buy our outdoor equipment.

A big thank you to all other donations received. All donations received have been used to buy resources for our students.

For all those who have encouraged, helped, supported us and provided us with time, energy, motivation and guidance, we couldn't have done it without you.



### Hope Tree School opens its doors on the 7th June 2022

After three years of planning, waiting and more waiting, Hope Tree School finally opened the doors to its first two students.

It was an exciting first day, meeting new people, putting the long thought about curriculum and timetable into action—wondering if all the preparation had in fact been enough.

Despite our fears, a good day was had and the beginnings of developing routines with our students began.

Not only did the students have a new routine but Skye our school dog needed to get used to everything too.

Burning questions included—"where is my water bowl, where is my bed and did they bring my ball

to school?"

After a week of settling in activities the students began to work on their



Day one at Hope Tree School

Maths, English and Science learning activities. Other activities included DT and Art alongside listening to the class text, learning a little about anxiety and what can be done to help

and exploring the new school environment.

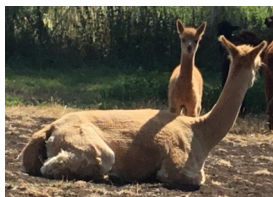
Our half term culminated in a final week of activities with students who will be joining us in the future. We went on our first school trip to the Raptor Foundation, visited Coldham's Common for a morning of outdoor activities and had a wonderful visit with the alpacas at Queenholme Farm.

The students finished their term with a day to choose what they wanted to do, which included making a Zip line for a range of furry friends, a range of water play activities, a final chapter of the class text and thinking about what the summer will bring.

We look forward to seeing our students again in September

### A fantastic visit to Queenholme Farm

On a beautiful summers day our students visited Queenholme farm to learn about and meet a herd of Alpacas.... Including their new cria (baby).



Katy, who owns the farm and runs the Alpaca experiences gave the students an informative and helpful talk about the alpacas and the students

were able to ask questions to learn a bit more.

The students then were able to meet the alpacas. The animals were very



curious about their visitors.

The students had the opportunity to feed the alpacas and walk alongside

them before visiting the male alpacas in their paddock followed by a visit to



the females and two cria born this year.

The students finished off their morning with some activities in the trekking centre with all wanting a return visit in the future.

### From the students



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

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

Rewards are given for

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

Collectively our students have earned several hundred gems between them.

Hope Tree School is in a rural environment with grass and fields as far as the eye can see.

They have an upstairs and outside, there are trampolines and a table tennis table

It promises a calm nice environment for autistic girls. With its nice smallness and school dog, they always have something to do while there..... It is great.

We earn reward gems for doing good things and can throw balls for Skye the dog and she brings them back.

The teacher is lovely and she is reading us Swallows and Amazons.

VC

On Friday we went on our first school trip to the Raptor Foundation. There are quite a few different birds there such as a Bald Eagle, Great Horned Owls and Barn Owls.

The birds sometimes do funny things such as not going back into their enclosure, or going missing for quite a long time. One bird did not want to fly, so spread his wings and lay down.

I enjoyed myself at the Raptor Foundation.

BD

### A mystery at Hope Tree School

One morning at Hope Tree School the students were having a walk in the garden area. Skye the school dog was bounding around having a good look at everything when all of a sudden her head disappeared. She had found a hole and the whole hole was so big that the whole of her head was inside it. She sniffed and sniffed but could not find out what was down here.

Who had made the hole?, where were they now? Questions to be answered and the students set about deciding what to do.

First they took photographs of the hole,

then they measured the hole and then they discovered another hole—were they connected they wondered.

The students placed some sand around the hole to see if any foot prints could be gathered. They also put out some food to see if that would attract whoever had dug the holes, but no further clues emerged.

A new plan was put together, the students put up a night vision camera to see if anything could be seen.

Nothing so far..... The story will be updated as soon more information is available.

### A few words from our work experience student

I have spent three weeks at Hope Tree School where I was able to work alongside the students assisting them with various learning activities.

This included some Maths activities and several science experiments.

Work experience gave me plenty of opportunity to practice transferrable skills, work with young people who need things presented differently.

All the staff were very encouraging towards me and the students, enabling me to know how best to work with them and there was always something for me to do.

I think the school is amazing and will get better as it grows, they help the students to achieve their best and have fun.

## Classroom News:

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

**Maths:** Students have created and interpreted graphs and pie charts. They have calculated missing angles and solved equations and looked at the properties of 3D shapes and the parts of a circle. The students continue to practice their times tables and work on a range of maths skills with daily questions from across the maths curriculum.

**Science:** Students created and discussed food webs, investigated photosynthesis and experimented with light and reflections. The students made use of different containers to measure liquid, learned how to use our school microscope and were able to identify and label the various trees in our garden area.

**English:** Fun was had discovering some crazy idioms from English and other cultures. Students practiced making thoughtful language choices to make their writing more interesting. They identified features of newspapers and wrote their own. Students have also been practicing inferencing and answering ques-

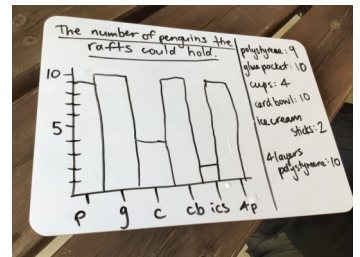
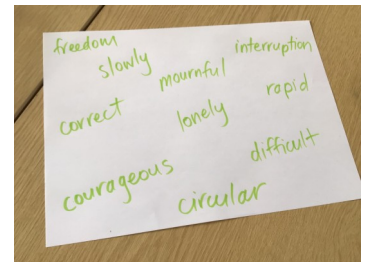
tions about a text and providing evidence. Our class text this half term was Swallows and Amazons.

**DT/Art:** Students used a range of printing methods to print their designs, produced effective fabric representations of characters and scenes and experimented with paint.

**Continuous Provision:** Students used their own time to develop their ideas with a variety of resources. This included using various sized blocks of ice to create a habitat for penguins, measuring how quickly the ice melted and creating enrichment activities (slides) for the penguins to play on.

Students also had the opportunity to code a mouse to follow a series of directions in order to get to the cheese. Many different routes were explored.

**Physical activity:** Students have made good use of the trampolines, the table tennis table and used the garden area. They all engaged in play activities with the school dog, began learning how to play croquet, badminton and use hula hoops.



## Pastoral News

As a new school it has been important to give time and resources to the students to get to know each other and get to know the members of staff.

The students were given daily opportunities to work together, collaborate together, problem solve together and share occasional disappointments together.

Many of the activities available at school are designed to facilitate working together whilst at the same time teaching important life skills. Students have played games, decided how to spend their rewards both individually and collectively, decide on a school trip and include other students during our transition week.

In addition all students have had the opportunity to learn 'bite-sized' therapeutic strategies which has enabled them to begin the process of self regulation. These bite sized interventions are taught through the use of play objects and story telling. Students have demonstrated what they have learned during other times at school.

Students have made good use of outside equipment to self regulate and those students who have established a good relationship with the school dog have been able to benefit from her being part of our school community.

Enabling our students to be able to practice their communication skills and giving them the tools to do this has been a central element to our provision this half term.

Students have enjoyed collecting tangible rewards for a variety of behaviours linked to our key skills programme. Students have thought about what they would like to spend their rewards on and have enjoyed rewarding the school dog for good behaviour and deciding what new toy Skye should have.

Students have also begun to develop their sense of responsibility by taking on small tasks e.g. watering the vegetables, filling up Skye's water bowl.

