

# Hope Tree School....

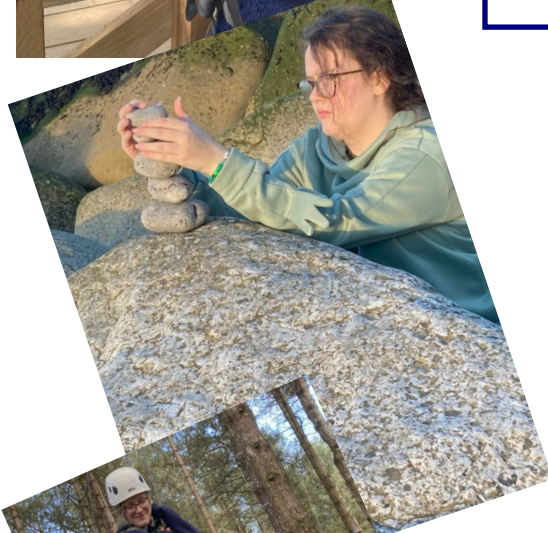
## Skye's News

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Last year we took a group of students to Hilltop Outdoor Adventure Centre where they had the opportunity to experience a range of outdoor activities. This summer we took a bigger group of students for two days. This included a one night stay at Hilltop. All the students had a really good time and 7 of our students were able to stay overnight (many for the first time). What an achievement and another step forward in their journey towards independence.





£522.05

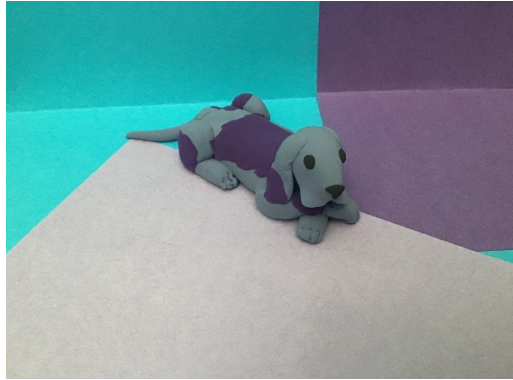
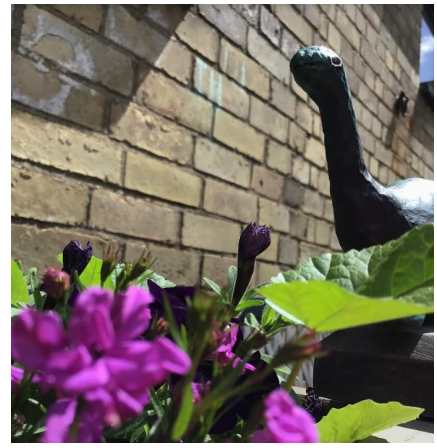
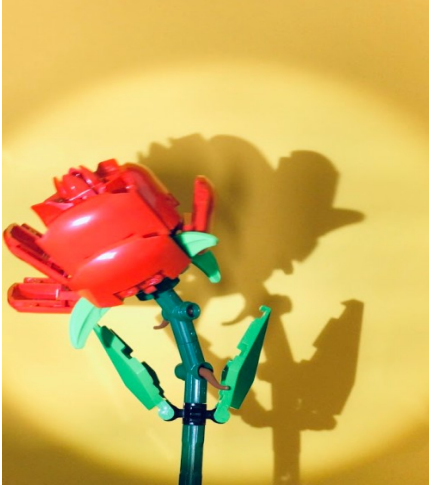
Despite the variable weather that we have had over the summer term, our students and their families braved the wind and the rain to help us celebrate our 2nd Birthday. Our students spent the first half of the spring term generating and sharing ideas for their charity stalls, followed by making items, creating poster boards in preparation to sell their creations to those attending the celebration day. The students should all be very proud of themselves. Between them they raised a total of: £522.05



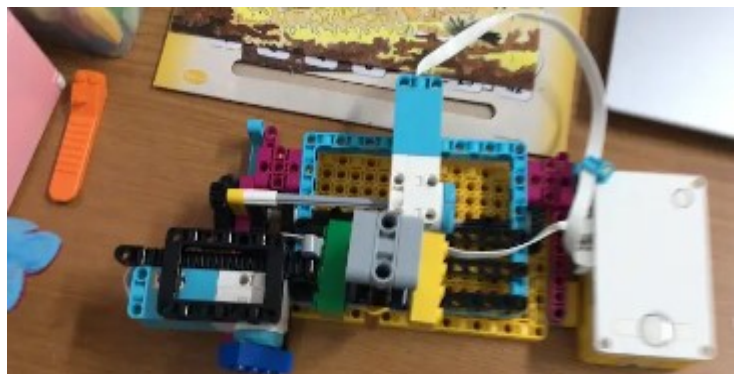
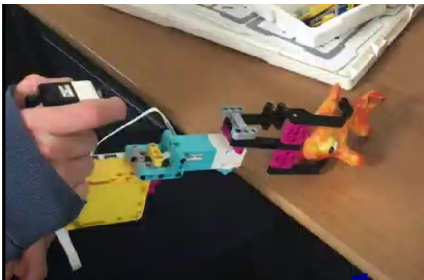
UNICEF... Wood Green... Cats Protection... RSPCA... BEAT Eating Disorders... Fauna and Flora... Froglife Trust... Whale and Dolphin Conservation... Macmillan... Little People... Cancer Research... Nature Conservancy

## Creativity

In art and design sessions this half term, we have been exploring photography. We learnt about photographic processes by creating cyanotype prints, then used ipads to take photographs, experimenting with colour theory, composition, light and shadow. As ever, the resulting images were amazingly diverse, demonstrating the creativity of our artists.

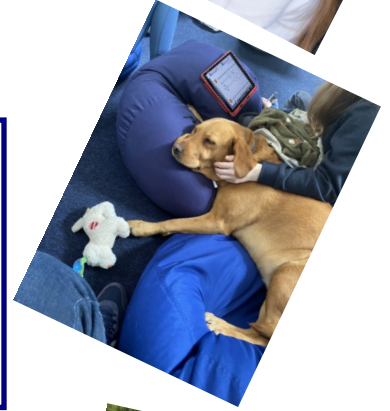


In design and technology, we have been using Lego Prime and Python to construct and program a range of devices. We have created and adapted prototypes, identified and rectified glitches and evaluated the success of our builds - demonstrating resilience and teamwork throughout.





Our students were excited to learn that Skye our school dog has been nominated for a 'Make a Difference' award which is run by BBC radio Cambridgeshire. A BBC reporter came to school to interview both students and staff and talk about what difference Skye makes to life at school. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students. The winner of the animal category will be announced in the Autumn— fingers crossed for Skye.



**Water sports:**  
Water sports remain a favourite activity for many of our students. This half term they have tried several different water craft. Canoes, paddleboards and Kayaks have been used by different students, many gaining water confidence and new skills along the way. We are grateful to Alex and his team for supporting our students with all aspects of these skills where amazing progress was made.



## Classroom News:

Our students continue to work hard engaging in their learning and acquiring new skills.

### KS3:

**English:** Our Shakespeare play was 'The Tempest' which we have studied using reading aloud, modern language versions, Manga and Graphic novel versions, Globe Theatre performance and film. We considered the themes of family, love, power, freedom, colonialism, betrayal and forgiveness. We looked at historical and social context, staging and production choices, and Shakespeare's use of poetry within the play. We practised our annotation and analysis skills, and some of us, our reading aloud and acting skills too.

During the second half of term our topic has been 'Autobiography and Biography' and students have been given the opportunity to do some Autobiographical and Biographical writing, as well as reading and researching from our new non-fiction book collection. A major focus has been on skills, such as finding reliable sources of information online, finding information within books, using libraries, reading skills, summarising, note making, interview questions, writing from memory, and extending your writing.

**Maths:** This term our students have continued to work in smaller groups which has allowed them to practice more skills, consolidate previous learning, begin the process of closing gaps in their knowledge bases and build confidence. The different groups have covered a good range of topics which include drawing and interpreting graphs, probabilities, working with circles, pie charts and learning to calculate Pi. Other groups worked on adding and subtracting directed numbers, using square and prime numbers, calculating angles in shapes and many other things. A good term all round.

**Science:** During the summer term one, chemistry was covered throughout and the students took part in a wide variety of chemical experiments including chemical reactions. Students covered the following units in chemistry: Introduction to chromatography, Observing chemical reactions, Introduction to the Periodic table of elements, Investigating the PH Scale of liquids and an introduction to catalysts and polymers. Students worked on using their scientific language when observing teacher led science experiments and were introduced to fair testing. Students were introduced to new scientific equipment and began to plan experiments with adult support.

In the second half of the summer term both human biology and physics were covered. The students learnt about the human reproductive system and asexual and sexual reproduction. In physics, topics included air and land pollution, acid rain and other climate variables and gravity.

Students have been encouraged to handle a wide variety of scientific equipment and have been recording their results in both graphs and tables.

**Geography:** The first half of term was spent on map skills and an introduction using Geographical Information Systems. We learned how to understand map scale, direction, and measure distance both on paper and digitally. We also learned how to read height on maps and understand four and six-figure grid references. We practised atlas skills using both paper and online resources to understand how geographical information can be mapped and visualised.

Our 'Settlement' topic has required us to become familiar with different sizes and types of settlement in the settlement hierarchy, understanding how site, situation and function of settlements varies. We have looked at megacities, as well as considering our closest city, Cambridge. Our fieldwork allowed us to evaluate and to survey Environmental Quality at varying distances from the city centre, and our enquiry and analysis has considered what patterns we found and why they may have occurred, using digital mapping to visualise our results.

**RE:** In RE this term, we have focused on developing whole-class discussions and encouraging students to share their thoughts and questions. In Summer 1, the unit title was 'Religion and the World Around Us'. In this unit, we considered how the world is impacted by different religions through social justice, stewardship, conservation, and acts of charity. In Summer 2, the unit title was 'Religion and the Media'. This unit encouraged the students to consider where and how we develop religious literacy, in addition to questioning the impacts of this on our individual knowledge.

**History:** In the first half of term, continuing chronologically from our previous work on the crusades, we considered the development of parliament and democracy in the UK. We considered how various sources from the National Archive show how the Magna Carta limited the power of the Monarch, and how this shift of power continued through the development of the House of Commons.

During the 'British Empire' topic we have looked at the nature of British Imperialism from 1776 onwards, with a major case study focusing on British rule in India, from the beginnings of the East India company, through the 'Raj' and into the independence movement and the campaigns of Gandhi. We have also considered how the historical relationship between Britain and India has shaped Britain today. We have also briefly considered 'internal colonialism' in the historical relationship between Britain and Ireland.

**PHSE:** Our unit on politics and democracy aimed to introduce students to the concept of democracy, including what does democracy mean and the key features of a democratic country, the democratic process of voting, what happens during a general election and what some barriers and solutions are in relation to young people voting. Classes also explored the difference between local and central government, what a political party is, the purpose of manifestos, the role and responsibilities of an MP and what priorities they would have if they were to form a political party.

**PE:** This term in PE students have had the opportunity to develop their catching and throwing skills learning to play rounders and practiced their precision skills during Archery sessions. In the final half term canoeing, paddle boarding and kayaking were the options as part of water sports. Many students challenged themselves to try a new sport and develop new skills.

### KS2:

In English, Hedgehogs and Squirrels have written their own WW2 evacuee diaries and created their own version of The Twits story.

In maths students have been working on investigating negative numbers and angles and shapes

Hedgehogs and Squirrels have participated in many practical activities in our topic sessions this term. They have created the Nile Delta from clay, soil and cress seeds. Made canopic jars and papyrus paper in DT and written about The Pharaohs whilst learning about Ancient Egypt.

This half term they have also participated in WW2 topics, designing and producing propaganda posters and creating oil pastel Blitz scenes. They have deciphered codes using a cipher and learned about Alan Turing and Bletchley Park. They really enjoyed their trip to Bottisham Airfield Museum where they could see all the things they had learned about.

The girls also had a great time visiting Shepreth Wildlife Park and finding out more about the anatomies of different animals.

**A big thank you to all our staff, visitors, external coaches that have given our students amazing opportunities to grow their knowledge bases, practice their life skills and build their confidence this term.**



Hector



Cleo



Ophelia



Monty

**News from the farm**  
A big welcome to four new cria at Queenholme Farm, all of whom have brought great joy to many of our students.



Huge congratulations to one of our KS3 students who used her entrepreneurial skills to set up, run and re-stock the schools tuck shop. Our students have loved everything she has done and the tuck shop is hugely popular.



**A last word from Skye**  
Thank you for all my toys, my sticks, my treats, extra time with my ball and all the attention, grooming and cuddles.  
I am going to rest, sleep, play and visit new places over the summer. I hope some of you get to do the same.  
PS..... I made the final..... and YES... I know I am not supposed to be on the table.

