



NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th February 2026



On Tuesday and Wednesday this week, two groups of students were thrilled to be able to immerse themselves in the story of The Ancient Oak of Baldor which was staged at The Point Theatre in Portsmouth. The Frozen Light Theatre Company is dedicated to creating multi-sensory theatre for audiences with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities. With a giant tree in the middle of the stage that lit and opened up, the audience were taken on a journey through the seasons in a folk tale of love, loss and interconnection between all things.

With the older students from Chimes class and a few of the FE Centre students in attendance, the whole experience was captivating. Both Tinashe and Missy loved having their names in a song, smiling each time they heard it. Missy also loved the “winter season” when she could wear a fur blanket which she was rather reluctant to have removed.



Olly had the biggest grin on his face throughout the performance while Jack was completely mesmerised and took every opportunity to join in as the story began to unfold. Haoran loved twirling the ribbons and was enthralled by the cast doing the same.

Ed enjoyed watching the lights and loved the storm - the wind, rain and thunder made him smile and laugh. He wasn't so sure about the pickled onions though! Gus was glued to his seat for the whole performance - he really liked watching the cast dance and loved the birds that flew towards him.

Meanwhile Zac had a different perspective on the proceedings and thoroughly enjoyed trying the alcohol free beer - he had three glasses and thought it was the best thing ever!

All the cast were incredibly friendly and made sure that each student was included in a way that suited them and the staff at the theatre were so helpful - they allowed lunch to be held in the atrium, which was lovely.

WEEKLY CLASS FOCUS

Cello class has had a wonderfully busy and exciting few weeks packed with learning, creativity, and new experiences! Their topic this term is the Solar System.



The children have been learning all about the eight planets in our solar system and exploring how it works. They now understand that:

The sun is at the centre of the solar system;
We have day and night because the earth rotates;
We have seasons because the earth orbits the sun, and the parts of earth tilted away from the sun are colder (winter), while the parts tilted towards the sun are warmer (summer).

They read fascinating facts about the planets and learnt about the moon landing, which sparked lots of curiosity and discussions. William, Leon and James said they enjoyed learning about the moon landing and the Cold War between the USA and USSR at the time. The whole class liked visiting the Winchester Science Museum as part of their topic. The students also created beautiful artwork of the planets using marble painting with shaving foam and oil, resulting in vibrant and unique solar system pictures. They even made their own PowerPoint presentations about the planets and edited photos of their favourite planet on the iPads—fantastic ICT skills in action!





The Cello students have been practising writing by creating diaries using symbols and words in sequence. They have imagined activities such as checking equipment, messaging family, and exercising—wonderful storytelling! In maths, they have been learning to tell the time and have been working on putting seasons, days of the week, and months of the year in the correct order.



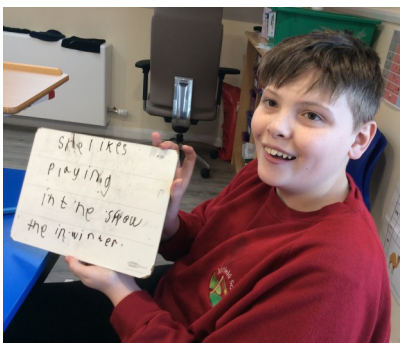
Their weekly cooking sessions continue to be a big hit. They have been making buttered biscuits, and it's lovely to see less help is required each week as their confidence and independence grows.



Teamwork has been shining through in the class PE sessions, when the children love working together in groups. On Tuesdays, during their movement session, they continue to practise their dance routine, showing great rhythm and co-operation.



They also started swimming this half-term at the Leisure Centre, which they have enjoyed very much—Marley and Luci in particular. The confidence of all the class in the water is developing beautifully.



So far it has been a very successful term which Karalina has given the thumbs up to!

VERY HANDY INFORMATION THANK YOU!

During a recent Parents' Coffee Group gathering, one of our student's parents, Sarah Christopher, kindly highlighted a change in requirements for the Merlin Parks (Legoland, Chessington, Thorpe Park and Alton Towers).



The Nimbus access card has now split the “standing and queuing” symbol into two categories—“difficulty with crowds” and “difficulty with standing”. As a result, Merlin have changed their eligibility criteria for a ride access card. You will now only have a valid ride access pass if you have the “difficulty with standing” symbol, “urgent toilet needs” symbol or “level access” symbol.

For further information so you don't get caught out, we suggest you Google “Nimbus Access Card Merlin”.



Difficulty Standing

This symbol is allocated to people who have a physical mobility impairment that makes standing for long periods difficult or impossible.



Urgent Toilet Needs

All Access Card holders have access to accessible toilets.

For people with continence issues, we have the W.C. Symbol. Providers on board are made aware that this means urgent access to **any** toilet without question. This might be an accessible toilet, it might not.

This is unlikely to include emotional support animals. If you require an emotional support animal, we recommend you take advantage of the support provided by an essential companion which may be covered by our +1 symbol.



Difficulty with Crowds

This symbol is allocated to people who find crowded environments or queues overwhelming or distressing, often due to neurodivergence or mental health conditions.

SIGNS AND SYMBOLS OF THE WEEK



Valentine's Day	love	like	nice
special	give	flowers	surprise

SPRING TERM 2026

FEBRUARY

- 13th Ice-skating (Chimes)
- 13th **INSET DAY (FE only)**
- 16-20th **HALF TERM**
- 23rd **INSET DAY (School & FE)**
- 26th Wheelpower Festival (FE)



MARCH

- 6th Dressing Up World Book Day
- 13th Immunisations Catch up (yrs 9-11)
- 17th Full Governors' Meeting (4pm)
- 20th Down Syndrome Day (Odd Socks)
- 27th **INSET DAY (FE only)**

BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED THIS WEEK WERE....

Ben, Harp 13 yrs old

BIRTHDAYS BEING CELEBRATED THIS WEEKEND ARE...

Jacko, Glastonbury 17 yrs old



SUPERSTAR OF THE WEEK

The following students have been awarded the Class Star of the Week Award

Chimes	- Olly
Drum	- Tiger
Maracas	- Jojo
Tambourine	- Alex
Triangle	- Oscar
Trumpet	- Terrence
Oboe	- Chris
Banjo	- Lincoln
Harp	- Donnell
Cello	- Marley



The School Superstar of the Week is !!!

Marley is a kind, sociable, caring, helpful, and hard-working member of Cello Class with a great sense of humour. She is a wonderful all-rounder and shows interest in every lesson, asking for help when needed. Marley is great at using her communicator to let us know how she is feeling and has a fantastic memory! Her swimming is coming along amazingly well as her confidence grows. Marley enjoys being challenged in Maths and is great in the kitchen following recipes. She is also showing an artistic flair and uses her creativity to produce some wonderful work.

FE PPICC CHAMPIONS

(*Personal, Physical, Independence, Cognitive, Communication*)

CHAMPIONS



Chloe
and
Ed

