

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been (as ever) an action packed half-term at Sfit. It has been fantastic to see so many wonderful images on Class Dojo showing students engaging with a wide variety of activities, and especially getting to enjoy our outdoor spaces as the weather improves.

We are already looking forward and planning for September. It has been really exciting to join our OPAL (Outside Play and Learning) staff planning group. They have been looking at how we can develop our school sites to encourage learning through play, with imaginative outdoor spaces and equipment that will benefit learners of all ages, in all weathers. We will hopefully be able to share some of these innovative plans with you soon!

Wishing you all a peaceful break,

Pete Jenkins, Executive Principal



NEW STARTERS

We welcomed the following new staff to the school:



Victoria Palfrey
Occupational Therapist

AWARD

The most outstanding individuals and institutions in the education sector are recognised in the shortlist for the Tes Schools Awards 2022 - and we are a finalist for the Specialist Provision of the Year award!

We are incredibly proud of our team and all their hard work - being nominated is a fantastic achievement.



Tes Schools Awards 2022
Shortlisted
Specialist Provision School of the Year



Don't forget: both Schools will be closed for an extra day this Friday - 27th May (the day before our half term holidays), to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee - seventy years on the throne!



REMINDER!

Please remember that the school day ends at 3:10pm.

Thank you!



If you want any support or advice from any of our Multi-Disciplinary Team; they can all be contacted via our school reception phone number.



Please note: School mobile phone number 07806 768 241

PLEASE TEXT to notify the school of any absence/sickness of students, collection information etc. Availability to access it is in term time only.



A MESSAGE FROM LEWIS HARBEN

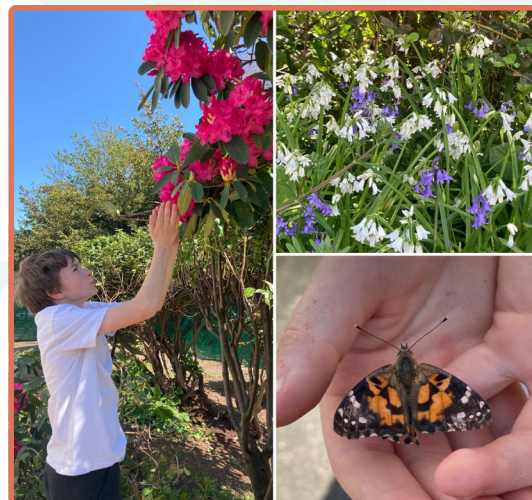


This half-term has seen all the students at College House making the most of the late Spring weather! We have all been getting out in our garden as much as possible, either to join in with group games or simply taking our learning out into the sun.

The students have continued to develop the Forest School area with Katie, cooking delicious treats on the fire and building the most fantastic treehouse. We have also continued to enjoy trips in the local area, making the most of our proximity to beaches and beautiful Devon woodland.

As we look ahead to next half-term, we are very much looking forward to learning about and celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Healthy Eating Week, World Music Day and National School Sports Week.

Thank you all for your continued support. We now look forwards to Summer Term, my favourite time at School for Inspiring Talents, where all students enjoy applying the progress they have made throughout the year so far.



TAMAR CLASS

Tamar have had a lovely start to the summer term. Our topic has been Under the Sea and we have been focussing on non-fiction texts to support this.

We can't wait to visit Plymouth Aquarium this week to see some of the animals we have been learning about! We have continued with social interventions this half term and are making great progress with our friendships within the class.

Have a great half term break Tamar!



DEER CLASS

This half-term we have been spending lots of time out in nature, venturing into the local area and local parks. The sunshine and warmer weather has also increased the amount of time we have been able to do this!

The boys have been conquering fears and exploring safe risks during play, climbing the ropes at Paignton Geo-Park and making rope swings in Forest School.

We have had a brilliant time enjoying sessions with Nathan and learning all about the different parts of his bike and it's engine!





TAW CLASS

In Taw Class we have been making the most of the warmer weather and going on daily walks for our wellbeing. Basketball has also been a hit with the students and they have been spending the end of the school days perfecting their teamwork skills.

Our academic focus has been on exam revision with all students consolidating their learning and either taking exams or mock papers at Entry Level 3 and Level 1.

We are also very proud to announce that one of our students has passed his Maths Functional Skills Level 1 exams! This is testament to the hard work and dedication he has put in throughout. To celebrate his achievements we had a class party with cake!



AXE CLASS

Axe have had a superb term so far. We have been really busy, our linked English and Topic lessons on 'Deadly Animals' have been interactive and engaging for all students, the facts we have found out have been stunning!

We have been studying and naming 2D and 3D shapes in maths and undertaking loads of 'reading for fun' sessions. We have all also completed reading assessments so we can buy some new books!

The weather has been improving immensely which has allowed us to perform a lot more learning outdoors, apart from Forest School, we have also taken books to the beach and the park and various other places in the locale.

We are hoping to arrange a last week school trip due to the hard work that all the class have put in, well done AXE! Keep up the great work...



EXE CLASS

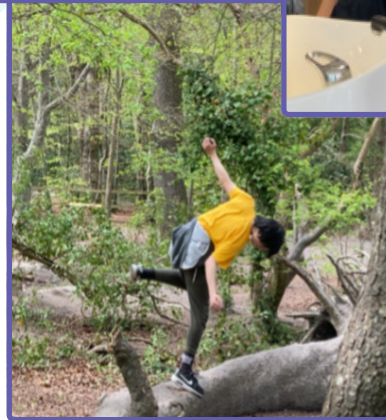
Exe have had a great start to the summer term, and we have taken full advantage of the sunshine.

At Combe Pafford, we have been studying Hair & Beauty, perfecting a range of useful skills that could be used later in life. One of our students even cut another's hair and did an amazing job!

There have also been lots of relational activities taking place, such as walks to town, local parks and much more besides. To help our students with their physical and emotional wellbeing, we have now started to participate in a weekly gym session at Venture Fitness. This will continue into the second half of the summer.

We continue to offer our students bespoke activities suited to their needs, with academic learning in the morning and outdoor and therapeutic activities such as forest school and catering in the afternoon, .

The class have started to settle now, and we are excited for what next term has to offer.



PLYM CLASS

This term Plym have been exploring the world around us. Last term we had caterpillars that we watched grow and when we came back from Easter had turned into butterflies that we released.

Some of the students have been continuing to enjoy their time at Equafinity, they are building great relationship with the horses and the staff.

They have also been enjoying forest school and exploring the surrounding areas.



A MESSAGE FROM LUCY GRENN

I would like to say a massive thank you to all parents and carers for their support. The relationships you have with the staff here at School for Inspiring Talents is incredible and provides the best for our students. I'd like to mention some highlights from this term.



Dart students have done fantastically sitting their exams and have made a great start planning for their futures. We are all very proud of them! We've had lots of trips out, enjoying the weather, to Exeter to visit the Cathedral, Dartmoor for walks, the Eden Project and to Paignton to play in the park and on the beach. Paul and Pete have continued to adapt our lovely forest school by working through the Easter Holidays. We've gained a little pond with some tadpoles which we can watch grow into frogs.

Mikki has started food technology lessons with the students which has been a hit! The theme this half term is Curry and the students have been trying lots of new foods. We have started to grow our School Council Committee which is being run by Jake and includes all classes across the school. We have welcomed some new students who have settled in really well and have started to build relationships with students and staff. We've also welcomed a new teacher, Gemma Adams, who has taken on Parrett Class and is thriving - welcome Gem!

TEIGN CLASS

Teign class have had a jam packed half term full of great trips, EGGsperiments, creative art and forest school fun!

As a group this term we have all really come together and created more of a team environment. In P.E we played group games - not just to get outside and exercise, but to learn how to work together and communicate as a class.

In PSHE we used eggs in different solutions to show how sugar can affect our teeth and the children all really enjoyed looking at the gruesome outcomes of this eggcellent experiment! We've loved our food tech lessons with Mikki, making delicious curries from all around the world.

Finally, we visited Exeter Museum to see all the Ancient Egyptian artefacts they had as part of our topic this term. All the children found it very interesting as we looked back into what life was like as an Ancient Egyptian! We are extremely proud of the improvements Teign class are making, being able to express themselves and most of all having fun!



DART CLASS

This half term in Dart Class we visited the Royal Albert Memorial museum in Exeter where the boys completed an independent quiz in small groups as they went around.

For mental health week the boys each made a card for an elderly person, and wrote some kind words inside, as we spoke about people who may feel lonely and what we could do to help, which we linked into our PSHE lessons. Sadly as a class we said goodbye to our fantastic LSA Paul Curtis, however we now have welcomed Chris Simmons into the team and the boys are very happy.

Well done Dart boys, we are all super proud of you!





PARRETT CLASS

Another FABULOUS few weeks from Parrett class! We've all welcomed Gem as our new class teacher - she is fabulous, and the students are really working hard and doing their best for her.

From forest school fun, to wild mechanics at Combe Pafford, and from excellent cheffing (Jamie Oliver style, but better) to putting our absolute all into each academic lesson. It has all been a blast.

Parrett class try their best to achieve the highest standards of work that they can, and try their best not to give up when things get tough.

We have seen a huge change in the students from maturing and becoming brave, to learning more about themselves and pushing themselves out of their comfort zones.

You make us proud, happy, and amazed every day. Keep being fab Parrett class! Believe in yourselves! Oh and keep the cooking and the baking coming! We love it. Yummy.



ARTS & CRAFTS

Students continued to make some fabulous items this half term, expressing their creativity with a range of upcycling projects - such as S's stylish bag and K's amazing 'Stitch' cushion - both made entirely from recycled and scrap fabric!



TAVY CLASS

Tavy class have mostly been enjoying baking and tasting different dishes this term.



ERME CLASS

This term we've been focusing our Topic looking at Colombia. Children have created some amazing spoon puppets with traditional carnival costumes.

In food tech we have been making traditional Colombian food. First we made 'Arepas' with tomato scrambled eggs. Children then got to try a street food pudding called 'Obleas' - these are wafer thins with dulce de leche and jam inside. Delicious!



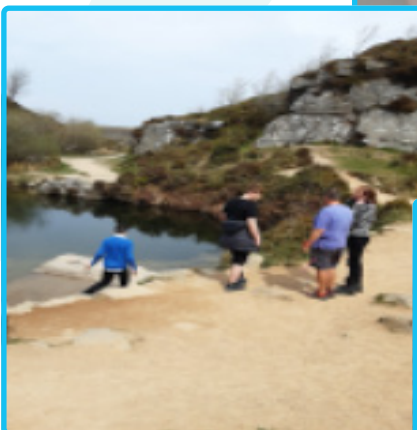
FOREST SCHOOL

With the Summer Term under way, we have begun by exploring new additions to the forest school area. Over Easter a couple of tree platforms were added which the students have really enjoyed in a variety of ways. Whether this provides a raised, quiet, safe place for them to sit and chill out or a new objective for them to climb to and jump safely to the ground from.

Also over Easter, a pond was hastily dug to provide our new tadpoles a home to live and explore. Many a five minutes or hours has been spent studying these tadpoles and other creatures that find them self in the pond. Several spider and beetle rescue operations have successfully been carried out to date. As the pond establishes firmly within the environment, I am sure there will be plenty more for us all to keep an eye on.

During structured lessons we have begun to create our own bird houses which we hope to hang in trees providing again more homes for wildlife to come and find. The construction of these bird houses are building on using more DIY styled techniques and tools like accurately sawing straight lines and screwing wood together at 90°. Each class will be free to paint/decorate their bird houses as they wish and we can't wait to see how they choose to do this.

Dart class have also started taking trips to Dartmoor. We ventured up to the Hay Tor Rock area where we explored the quarry and large mounds of Granite rock laying around. Back at school Dart class have decided to whittle spoons, however no one is quite sure how to carve out the bowl of the spoon...



Since our last update in the newsletter our Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) project has really got off the ground! We have formed a working group of staff to share ideas and organise, making ideas a reality. We have been learning about all of the elements needed to ensure we have high quality play at SftT. Did you know that there are 16 play types?!



We are looking at ways in which we can try and incorporate all of these play types in our school outdoor areas whilst also thinking about how we can meet our students' very specific individual physical needs.

Our Occupational Therapist Victoria has been advising on how we can adapt our environment to ensure we develop our students fine and gross motor skills, eye-hand coordination, endurance and body strength and sensory processing. We are excited to now consult with students to get their ideas and be creative in how they can lead elements of our project!

Here are some images that have inspired us! It is still not too late for parents and carers to get involved in the project, if you are interested please do give us a call or contact a member of staff: admin@sftt.org.uk



A MESSAGE FROM JULES SANDERS



Optimus Wellbeing Award for Schools

We are due to have our first assessment meeting for the Optimus Wellbeing for Special Schools Award in the very near future. At this initial visit we will be considering our practice and provision to date and undertaking a self-evaluation to determine our starting point. We are pleased to say that the evidence of good practice already in place at SfiT will count towards accreditation and to further embed this we will use the award framework to continue to develop and improve. The award considers the following areas to ensure it is fully effective:

- staff wellbeing
- positive culture
- training for staff
- stakeholder participation
- vision and strategy
- supportive networks



Over the next few months, we are working towards the

WELLBEING

AWARD FOR SCHOOLS

This is a whole-school activity to help improve the emotional wellbeing and mental health of everyone.

To find out more or to get involved, contact your Wellbeing Award Coordinator:
info@lifechance.org.uk

WAS | Wellbeing Award for Schools | OPTIMUS EDUCATION

The award focuses on the culture of wellbeing within the organisation. It uses an evidence-based framework and will help us ensure staff and student wellbeing, and positive mental health sit at the heart of our school life. We are delighted to be able to undertake it and will ensure we share regular updates to document our progress.

TEA & TALK

Our session on Friday 20th May was all about SLEEP! Mental Health lead Megan Hornsby gave a presentation about the science of sleep and tips to support good bedtime routines, with support from our new Occupational Therapist, Victoria Palfrey. If you'd like any more info or support about this topic, please contact Fay Hooper - f.hooper@sfit.org.uk

Tips for Good Sleep

- Set bed and wake-up times at the same time each day, including weekends.
- Keep bedrooms quiet, dark, and a comfortable temperature.
- Remove electronic devices from the bedroom.
- Avoid large meals and caffeine before bedtime.
- Make sure kids are active during the day so they can fall asleep at night.
- Model good sleep behaviors for kids.

Learn more about good sleep habits at www.cdc.gov/sleep.

WHY SLEEP MATTERS FOR KIDS

SLEEP RECHARGES KIDS' BODIES AND BRAINS SO THEY CAN:

- Feel calm and refreshed.
- Make good choices.
- Have a healthy weight.
- Pay attention in school.
- Remember what they learned.
- Do better in sports.
- Avoid getting hurt.
- Feel good about themselves.

AFTER 1 OR 2 NIGHTS OF LESS SLEEP, YOUR CHILD MAY:

- Have more meltdowns.
- Make poor choices.
- Zone out in class.
- Forget what they learned.
- Have trouble with sports and games.
- Get into arguments.

KIDS WHO ARE SLEEP-DEPRIVED MAY:

- Feel sad, hopeless, or anxious.
- Become overweight.
- Make risky choices.
- Use cigarettes, alcohol, and drugs.

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

9-12 hours for ages 6-12 8-10 hours for ages 13-18

School Term Dates 2021 / 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

September 2021

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

October 2021

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

November 2021

Term Lengths

Autumn Half Term

- 7 Sep - 15 Oct

Half Term to Christmas

- 1 Nov - 17 Dec

Winter Half Term

- 5 Jan - 18 Feb

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

December 2021

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

January 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13

February 2022

Half Term to Easter

- 28 Feb - 8 Apr

Spring Half Term

- 25 Apr - 27 May

Summer Half Term

- 6 Jun - 22 Jul

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

March 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

April 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

May 2022

Half Term to Easter

- 28 Feb - 8 Apr

Spring Half Term

- 25 Apr - 27 May

Summer Half Term

- 6 Jun - 22 Jul

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

June 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

July 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

August 2022

Key

Holiday

Bank Holiday