

St Francis School

Curriculum update – Summer 1

Pre-Formal and Informal Curriculum Update

We are continually reviewing and adapting our curriculum offer to ensure that it is responsive to the needs of our pupils. We regularly reflect upon and discuss pupil engagement and use this as a benchmark to review the success of our curriculum offer.

In house training around the seven sensory systems will be taking place over the next few weeks for TAs.

EBH- Pre-Formal/EYFS

EBH have been enjoying sessions in their new extended outdoor area. Water play is a particular favourite. This class really like to get their legs and splash.

EBH enjoyed lots of chocolatey themed activities in the build up to Easter. The class made Easter chocolates and got very messy. One pupil communicated a preference to porridge oats over chocolate! One pupil expressed a preference for milk chocolate, she initiated reaching out to explore the chocolate in a sweeping motion but wouldn't touch white chocolate.



Birthday celebrations have been in full swing in EBH- lots of birthday's celebrated including Becky's 50th Birthday.

Birthday celebrations in assembly for Kaiden. He did so well pulling the paper off his present- showing great persistence.



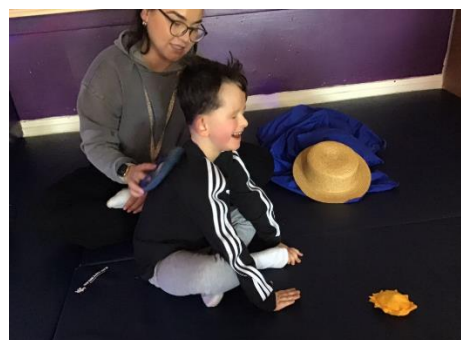
Kya's birthday was in the Easter holidays- lots of smiles for the Happy Birthday song. Singing is definitely a motivator.

Wow Moment- We are so proud of Kairi independently exploring her environment. Kairi 'bum shuffled' all the way across the classroom. Class couldn't decide if she was trying to make her way to the swing or to her 1:1 Donella. Great persistence Kairi.



PCS- Pre-Formal

PCS have been enjoying their new seaside themed sensory story. One pupil particularly enjoyed listening to the sea through a large shell. Ted responded really well to the feel of the flip flop on his back as well as doing some great independent cross-legged sitting.



The class have also been decorating some bunting in preparation for our summer celebrations. Oscar did a brilliant job holding the dabber to make independent marks on the paper. Klay also did a great job- when asked if he wanted more paint- he replied with 'yes'. Klay is very good at shaking his head to communicate no and nodding his head to communicate yes. Recently Klay has been vocalising the words too.



Wow Moment- Ted is having a trial for a walking sling. He is having a great time exploring his classroom from a different position. Ted loves to have a dance. We think he would make a great Irish Dancer.



Wow Moment- Oliver has a new chair- he has shown great realisation to the fact that he can move around his environment independently.



PLP/AM- Pre-Formal

PLP/AM have been enjoying their spring sensory story. Music is incorporated throughout all sessions as it's a big motivator for the pupils in PLP/AM. Rupert engages well with the drumming section of the story and consistently vocalises for 'more'. He also responded well to the sound of bubble wrap. One of Rupert's learning intentions is to 'demonstrate if he would like an activity to continue or stop'. Good Job Rupert.



Maisie had lots of fun exploring the jumping frogs with Beckie. She found the frogs hilarious and was really vocal throughout the activity. Maisie kept looking at Beckie and vocalising to let her know that she wanted 'more'. Great communication.

The class celebrated St George's Day with an assembly. Maisie played the part of the Dragon in the story and vocalised really loudly when Lucy asked her to 'roar'. Emily played the part of the Princess. She appeared to like the traditional music played.



PTC- Pre-Formal

In Explore and Discover sessions this term, PTC are exploring how things move. Lloyd particularly enjoyed the session on 'rolling'. Lloyd initiated reaching for the rolling pin and persisted to figure out how to successfully move the rolling pin. Lloyd responded well to the crunching sound the cornflakes made and sustained engagement. Lydia engaged well with the roll tube activity and persisted to roll the ball down the tube. She really laughed when the balls bounced and hit the floor.



In an assembly PTC looked at how Easter is celebrated around the world. They had egg rolling competitions from Scotland, handed out cards and gifts which is a tradition in Brazil. In Poland the boys spray the girls with perfume and water- everybody enjoyed experiencing the different smells. The celebrations in Spain are very noisy- they have drumming processions, everybody had to bang a drum really loudly.

Wow moment- Lloyd has been working really hard in his sensory room physio session. Lloyd did some great independent standing and reaching. He responded well to sitting and balancing on the yellow peanut ball. He focuses really well in this calm space.



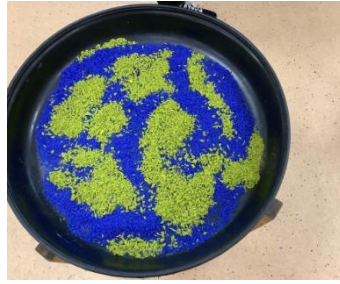
Informal Curriculum Update

The introduction of our Informal Curriculum pathway has had a huge impact. We have been able to further challenge pupils developing their independence and functional communication.

We now have an informal curriculum board where all staff can read the focus and key aims of the curriculum.

IVS- EYFS/Informal

IVS have been very busy celebrating Earth Day. They made some green and blue slime to represent the earth. Patrick did a great job explaining to everybody how to make earth gloop. Arianna spent time mixing the coloured flour together with a spoon. Frankie enjoyed exploring the earth rice tray, she spend time transferring the rice from one container to the other with her scoop.



Frankie was going to the dentist for the first time. In the week leading up to her appointment, class had a roll play dentist area. The pupils used shaving foam to brush teeth, made giant teeth out of bottle bottoms and looked at how teeth get dirty.



Wow moment- These two friends displayed some great team work whilst on a mission to collect leaves. Patrick reached up for the leaves and then pass them to Braydon.

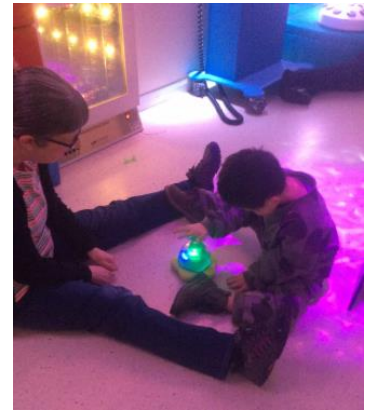


Partick has also been a great friend to Arianna- giving her a big cuddle when she was upset. Class are very proud of how kind you have been.

ILB- EYFS/Informal

ILB have been working hard during their core skills sessions.

Ibe is responding well to his core skills sessions in the sensory room. Ibe actively explored some items in the sensory room. He initiated pushing the light up spinner and explored using different speeds and pressures of hitting it to make it spin faster or slower. He also initiated climbing onto the tunnel and watched the lights change colour.



During Riley's core skills he showed an interest in the mini recorder. When Mary was playing hers, Riley vocalised and tapped Mary on the arm to initiate 'more'. Riley then initiated blowing his recorder.

Ruby and Chloe making a bird feeder together at lunchtime. They both initiated following Steph's instructions to pour the bird seed in and Ruby twisted the top to secure it.



Ruby and Jack have been exploring the new ball pool tent together. Ruby started to tickle Jack and this made him really laugh. Jack then began to anticipate Ruby tickling him.

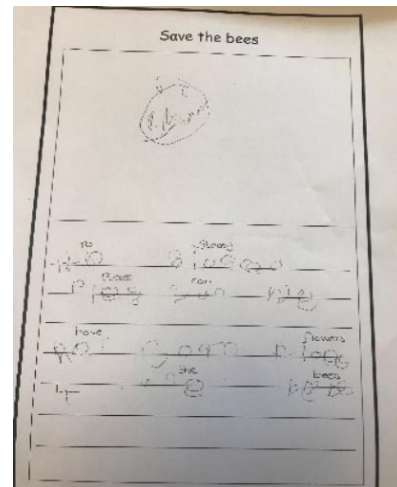
Updates and Developments

Our younger Semi-Formal learners are learning about what animals live in our country. They have been listening to stories that involve bugs and baby animals as well as learning how to look after the animals.



For our older Semi-Formal learners, they are learning about how we can save our planet. During My World lessons, students have been planning on how they can save the bees by making bee stations and planting flowers.

As part of this, I have had several letters asking for some money in order for the class to go and buy some seeds in order to save the bees.

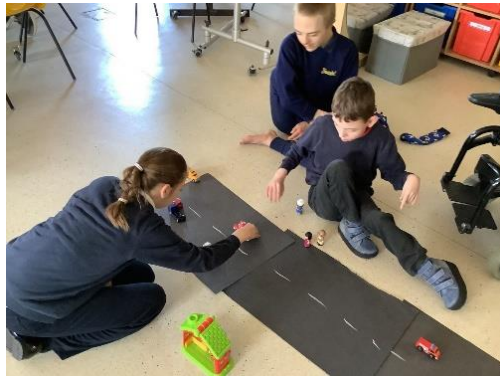


During this Summer Term, Semi-Formal are practicing their postponed Drama Performance of Harry Potter in preparation to share with parents before the end of term.

Suzanne has been working really hard in her drama lessons with all classes, practicing their scenes.

Due to the weather becoming increasingly warmer and dry, classes are taking the opportunity to go out into the local area to practice their road safety and transfer their learned skills in the real world.

We have also purchased some road safety resources which students can use to learn the skills in the playground before generalising in the wider community.



Trips

Semi-Formal are looking forward to some lovely Summer Trips this term and some have already started planning their days out. SBS are really looking forward to a trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park and are having an extended day.

Lots of classes have started to go for local walks to the shops to practice their independence and shopping skills. SSM decided to go and buy their break time snacks from the local Co-op and loved paying for the items, practicing their money skills.



Phonics

On our training day (1st April 2022) training took place for Teachers and TAs for the Little Wandles Phonics Programme. It highlighted the importance of early reading, consistency of approach and some background learning into how students learn to read. It also provided an overview of the phases within the programme, how it works and also the support the programme can offer for those falling behind. Teachers have completed the equivalent to 6hours CPD and TAs have also completed 2hours bespoke CPD. During this term, Teachers have carried out placement assessments of those children who are learning to read phonetically so they can begin to identify their starting points in the programme.

We are now in the process of re-organising our banded books and will begin to track the impact of the phonics programme during the term.

Upper School – Curriculum Update

This half term has seen planning started for September 2022. We have 19 students leaving us this academic year with 4 students educational journey coming to an end, they will now be fully supported by Adult Social care, where they will have opportunities to further develop their independence but from a community-based approach rather than an educational one.

These 4 students will access day care provisions that can best meet their needs following their adult social care assessments. 2 students will be moving onto a Social Enterprise provision with an educational focus called Hill Holt Wood, where they will have the opportunity to further develop their Construction industry skills set and at the same time continue with their Functional Skills.

11 students will be accessing their most local college provision to where they live, that is best able to meet their individual needs and ensure that further progress again in their Functional Skills is made, that continues to develop their Independence and allows them to 'have a go' at an employment sector that they have a real interest within. This ranges from Hospitality to Retail to Sport and the Arts.

Finally, we have 2 students that we are very hopeful that will end up in a form of employment, that will be fully supported by 'Supported Employment' and is the model that the LA are hopeful will be embedded in Special Schools as an exit route for more students who can and should go into the 'World of Work'. This is where a lot of my work has been spent in the past 18 months to try and develop this pathway- (please see Case Study of TS and Aaron Services)

For September 2022, we currently have in Upper School 51 confirmed students, some of which will be travelling from the Semi-Formal area of school, they have just started their transitional work on Friday afternoons, where they are given the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the area of school, fellow students, new staff and also some of the activities that Upper School do in comparison to where they have come from.

We have supported St Christophers school with students at the end of Year 11 not quite ready for moving onto college and requiring further nurture coming across to Upper School at St Francis.

Care plan meetings and transitional work will begin this term with the families and young adults to ensure they receive as smooth a transition as possible. We also have 1 young man who has been home educated since birth who will be joining us to further develop his independence and softer skills set that will best prepare him for adult life. We have said Yes to a further 3 consultations from the LA and are just waiting for a confirmation that they have been given a place with us from September.

Lisa Penney, Sam McCardell, Georgia and myself have been working closely together to ensure that the examinations in Functional Literacy and Numeracy are well planned and that the students are in the best possible place to now sit these examinations. Lisa and Sam have been working

incredibly hard to best prepare those students who will be sitting these examinations this year and we are hopeful of some good results that we will be able to share with you in due course.

Working closely with Kirstie Payne at Aaron Services, who are the schools business support adviser for the next coming year, we have a date planned for your diaries of an 'Industry Have a Go' day, where all students in Upper School will have many opportunities to engage in activities that will hopefully inspire our students to understand what the 'World of Work' is like and to develop further work experience opportunities for more of our students and to break down this perception of young adults and disabilities that cannot work!, some of the businesses already committed to this day are:

Galliford Try– with a Tetrahedron Building challenge,

Aaron Services & PTS, Danfoss and Valliant– Toilet / shower rigs, getting wet!

Plum Products – Constructing Play Equipment,

North Kesteven DC – Insulation Activities,

Lindum Group – Mini Diggers (move sand from one place to another),

Hill Holt Wood – Team Building Activities (possibly Willow Weaving),

City of Lincoln Council – Painting and Decorating Experience, and

Travis Perkins – Brick Laying

So, to support this we have along with Kirstie at Aaron Services been nominated for 2 awards:

- Careers Champion Recognition 2022 by Alex Nightingale at the Careers and Enterprise Company (please see attached document) and
- ASCP– Safety and Compliance Awards for 'Community initiative of the Year', partnership between Aaron Services and St Francis, shortlisted into the final 5 applicants (please see attached document).

I have also been and delivered some training around SEND to the Local Authorities 'Stay Safe Partnership Team' who go into schools annually to support students understating of delicate issues such as Anti-Social behaviour and Drugs. They wanted me to provide an insight into Special Education and how their staff could better adapt their sessions to better support SEND students. This was held at the end of March at their 'Core professional development day for all the Stay Safe Presenters. It was very well received by all and to follow this up, staff at the Stay Safe Partnership are now wanting to come into school to observe staff across school to get an even better understanding. (Please see attached presentation that I used at the training)

Extended Curriculum– We are now in the final stages of 'The Collection' project between the NCS and our Year 14 students, a letter which the students have written will be going out to all students later this week about how they feel The Collection can become more accessible for families with children who have additional needs. This is all in relation to the 'The Gaia' project at The Collection in a bid to try and get more people to access this wonderful Lincoln attraction and to boost tourism across the city.

Finally, below are a few pictures of the students in Upper School showing some of the activities that we do and the fun we have doing them

