

St Francis School Curriculum update – Spring 2

Pre-Formal and Informal Curriculum Update

EBH- Pre-Formal/EYFS

The pupils in EBH have a new swing which they all love using as part of their Sensology sessions. All pupils have shown a positive reaction to the movement of the swing. One pupil vocalises when the swing stops to request 'more'. The swing was a very special present from two families' whose children sadly passed away last year.



Another family kindly donated some money to class from a charity boxing match. The class purchased some LED ceiling panels. These are great to encourage the pupils to work on their visual tracking skills whilst taking part in floor based activities. A starry night and windy tree scene also features on the ceiling



The class had a trip out to the local café and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was so nice for the class to be out and about exploring their local community.



Wow moment for this little lady. She let Donella brush her hair, something her Mum struggles with at home. We have ordered the same brush for her to use at home to see if that helps.



PCS- Pre-Formal

PCS have been exploring mirrors and lights during their 'Explore and Discover' sessions. They have a new display with some very funky lights. More and Stop symbols are used, allowing the boys to control the activity, which they both find very funny!



It's been festival fun in drama this term. The pupils have responded really well to the parachute section of the story and often lift their hands in the air in anticipation. The drama studio is such a lovely environment to deliver our sensory stories in. One pupil did some great reaching out to touch the festival umbrella.



Lots of fun had by all during a class pool party. Kicking those legs and stretching those arms. Completing their physio programmes without even knowing it.



This pupil is blowing us away with his physical development. He is now able to pull himself up to a standing position. We have had some walking bars fitted to the walls so he can cruise around the room independently. His confidence is growing daily and it is so great to see. His Mum is also seeing improvements at home too.



PLP/AM- Pre-Formal

PLP/AM have been enjoying their Outdoor Learning sessions. Where they have been planting seeds, exploring the poly tunnel and all the sensory smells it has to offer.



This class had lots of fun on pancake day- they had a pancake flipping race during their assembly with the next door class. Everyone was clapping and cheering along. They even played the Benny Hill theme tune music.

We have had an eye-gaze wow moment- Ava used her eye-gaze to make a snack time request. Not only did Ava request a snack but she also navigated to her snack page from her homepage! Brilliant work.



Music sessions are a big hit in this class and the pupils have been responding and listening to sounds made by a range of different instruments. Charlie has a preference for softer sounds. He is working on his auditory tracking skills.



PTC- Pre-Formal

PTC have been looking at wind during their 'Explore and Discover' sessions. We have had some great reactions. The pupils have been encouraged to operate the fans and hairdryers themselves using a range of different switches.



Some more great eye-gaze work. This pupil is working on using two-cells to stop and start her favourite YouTube clips, giving her some control over her environment.



Great independent exploration of their environment, on their way outside. They love to play 'follow the leader' and the electric doors are a big hit with both.



This class have also enjoyed a fab trip out to The Lincolnshire Life Museum. They had a great time, particularly in the adventure playground.



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 have already highlighted two pupils who will be moving over to our Semi-Formal pathway in September.

IVS- EYFS/Informal

The new sensory circuit equipment is a big hit in this class, especially the weighted vest and the body sock. We had some new M.I.L.E. room equipment delivered last week and this class can't wait to try it out.

All the pupils are loving their new safe space to play outside. The space has been extended with some safe fencing. The class thoroughly enjoy their time outside where they can run off some steam. They have been exploring giant orb balls, throwing them really high in the air!



Lots of opportunities to develop fine motors skills in 'Sensory Exploration' one of the classes favourite activities is 'crackling jelly baff' where they have to use a range of different sized pipettes to melt the jelly baff and make it crackle. Some super concentrating.



It has been so great to see the classes out and about exploring their local environment. IVS went to the park near school. Two pupils did such a great 'special job' pushing the class mascot Bob all the way to the park. Bob even took it in turns to have a go on the slide and seesaw.



These two pupils are loving their sensory room sessions, particularly exploring the floor protector. The hearts and sweets image seems to be a favourite- it is so bright. Mahdi stomps on the moving sweets and Arianna likes to swipe them. Great team work and engagement.



This class have a lovely 'friendship circle' session where the pupils choose a friend to share their toys with. Ethan decided to share the ball with his friend Frankie. A lovely moment.



ILB- EYFS/Informal

ILB continue to develop their functional communication and independence skills during a range of fun and engaging activities.

Felicity has been wowing us with her communication development. During fun and motivating games, Felicity has able to point to the word 'go' when staff say 'ready steady' Felicity's favourite is the confetti game. Felicity is using her AAC charts during a range of motivating sessions including rebound and outdoor play.



Annabelle did a great job scooping all the fruit to make a smoothie during food exploration. She enjoyed tasting them too.



Ibe eating his yoghurt independently during a trip out. Great independence skills.



Chloe made Lauren look like a Wizard giving her a foam beard. Chloe is doing so well using her communication aid to make choices and direct activities.



Chloe then told Lauren 'you Queen' to tell Lauren that she wanted to look like a Queen. Amazing communication.



Semi-Formal Curriculum Update

Updates and Developments

Classes have been busy this term and students have been working really hard within their lessons. Lots of classes have been fortunate to go out on local walks to the shops as part of their Independence Skills and also enjoy walks into the Bailgate and the park for their physical Wellbeing.

SEW have been practising in preparation to take part in a Boccia Tournament at a local Secondary school against other schools in the county. The students are looking forward to get back into competing against other schools and show their competitive edge.

Phonics

Since our last update, we have completed the Annual subscription to Little Wandles Letters and Sounds Revised. Becky Small and I attended the Welcome Zoom which has enabled us to access their Whole school CPD to begin to bespoke training for our support staff in school on the next training day. An order has been processed for all of the classroom resources and teacher guides in preparation for implementation after the Easter holidays. On the 1st April all staff using the programme will be trained by the whole school online CPD and have access to 8 modules and over 100 'how to' videos.

The next steps for Becky and I is to set-up the resources for each class, train staff and re-band the book library to incorporate the phonics Reading pathway in line with Little Wandles Letters and Sounds Revised programme.

World Book Day

School had a fantastic time for World Book Day this year. The theme around school was 'sharing stories'. Upper School sent some students to come and read to the students in Semi-Formal, which was fantastic. Students were all engaged and listened really well to older students sharing their favourite stories. Members of SLT, kitchen and admin staff also rotated around the classes for the afternoon to share some fun and interactive stories with the students.

Celebrating Student Success

Lilly has been working really hard using her eye gaze. We are encouraging Lilly to use this to express her basic needs and have the motivation to want to communicate using the eye gaze. Lilly has been reading lots of stories using the device (particularly Waffle Dog) and also choosing her snack at break time from a choice of snacks that she brings with her. Well done Lilly!



Upper School Curriculum Update

This half term has seen Lesson Observations take place right the way across school, with some excellent practice seen and this is especially apparent in Upper School. From lessons in Literacy to Music and Learning Outside the Classroom. students in Upper School really do get a great variety of exceptional learning opportunities and experiences.

We also now have a new fish tank in Upper School which is acting as a lovely, calming activity for the students to maintain as part of their Animal Care lessons.

Sam McCardell continues to make good progress in his college course and is now working alongside Lisa Penney. Lisa has vast experience and will support Sam to plan for the students' examinations in Functional Literacy and Numeracy, particularly for those students who will be leaving us this year and those that follow the Upper Formal curriculum pathway.

Again, further progress has been made with work experience opportunities for our students:

- We are in the process of agreeing a starting date for Telshia, who will go into their nursery provision (awaiting clearance from the DBS process).
- Josh Midgely continues on the 'Supported Internship' model on his route to employment with Black Cat Travel and is now getting paid for his days employment which he is now starting to use to start Driving lessons.
- We plan to send Amber Gregory to the 'Museum of Lincolnshire life' in their café provision. Amber has been working internally in the school kitchen every Monday and will now transfer these skills learnt to external work experience.
- Jemima is going to visit an Adult Social care provision with the possibility of work experience and/or paid employment.
- Every Tuesday, Andy Fowler (Teaching Assistant) currently works with 2 Upper School students to support some general ground maintenance where new skills are learnt. Andy is going to set up an Enterprise car washing service that will be offered for a small price to staff as well as maintain the school's fleet of mini-buses. The funds raised will be re-invested in projects in Upper School.

Careers – Talentino has now been purchased using our Covid catch up funding in Upper School and we are awaiting the resources and the support plan, to be able to roll out a Careers 'Journey' to all students irrespective of ability, disability or the curriculum they follow within school.

Aaron services have been back into school and have donated and erected a shed to support the Horticultural department in the storage of their equipment, this is next to the new Polytunnel at the back of Upper School.

Additionally, Telshia won Aaron services Eco-schools' competition! The logo that she designed is now displayed on Aarons Services first 100% electric vehicle in their fleet. There will be 2 vans in their fleet that will showcase Telshia's winning design.

In May, Nick Wray has been asked to go and present with the Local Authority (and Telshia) at Old Trafford in Manchester. The presentation is to show how businesses and schools, with a particular focus on SEND, can collaboratively work side by side to give students greater experiences in the world of work.



Nick Wray has also been asked by the Local Authority's 'Stay Safe Partnership Team' to help support the training of their staff. Nick will upskill the staff in how to adapt their sessions to better support SEND students.

The Stay Safe Partnership Team go into schools annually to support students understating of delicate issues such as Anti-Social behaviour/ drugs etc, so this is a vital resources for schools. We are very excited to be a part of this.

The sessions will take place at the end of March at the 'Core professional development day' for all of our Stay Safe Presenters.

Extended Curriculum- We have now visited 'The Collection' and started to plan between Anita Fox, the NCS and our Year 14 students in how the Collection can become more accessible for families with children who have additional needs.

This is all in relation to the 'The Gaia' that has recently been unveiled at 'The Collection'.