

Newsletter

SPRING TERM 2024

The spring term has been short but busy with many exciting activities taking place. Pupils took part in sporting activities including football and table cricket tournaments. A group attended the Nottingham Festival of Science and Curiosity at the Council House where they had the opportunity to experience science projects from other SEND schools and in turn explain to other pupils about their projects. Life Skills lessons had a focus on domestic skills and health with pupils learning to clean and tidy the life skills room as well as learn about drugs, medicines and important first aid skills. We also celebrated World Book Day, British Science Week and hosted some visitors from Egypt.

British Science Week



Woodlands celebrated British Science Week by hosting events for pupils from across the Trust as well as other local special schools. On Friday 8th and Thursday 14th March children were invited to experience the Wonder Dome mobile planetarium. Pupils enjoyed this immersive experience and learned about the solar system. Over both days, pupils from Woodlands, Westbury, Ambleside, Denewood, Carlton Digby, Rosehill and Nethergate attended.

On Tuesday 12th March, Woodlands hosted the annual Raleigh Education Trust STEM Day. Pupils from Woodlands, Westbury, Ambleside, Denewood, HHE (Home Hospital Education) and Nethergate took part in six engaging STEM activities, led by staff from Raleigh academies; dry ice bubbles, making toothbrush robots, e-bikes, chemical clocks, a card sort activity based on scientific events through time and a giant steady hand game.

Feedback from pupils and staff was very positive; "We would like to do something like this at our school and invite lots of people", "Making a robot was awesome", "The colour change chemicals were good", "Everyone was extremely friendly and welcoming". Pupils from Elm class

wrote newspaper articles about the event in literacy to promote cross-curricular learning through non-fiction writing.

This event exemplified the power of collaboration between schools to provide engaging inclusive activities for our children. It was wonderful to see so many children from different schools come together to engage in STEM activities.

World Book Day



On Thursday 7th March Woodlands celebrated World Book Day. The theme this year was 'choice'. A number of activities took place throughout the day including a book café in the life skills room where pupils were able to read a book while enjoying a drink and a snack, reading champions sessions and storytelling where staff read books including 'Flesh and Blood', 'Papa Anansi & his spectacular spider stories' and 'Fantastic Mr. Fox'. Pupils and staff were invited to dress up either as their favourite characters or as adjectives including 'old' and 'sporty'. We even had a team of staff and pupils dressed up as Willy Wonka, Oompa Loompas and the Golden Ticket. It was a brilliant day, celebrating literacy across the academy.

Pupils had positive things to say about the day; *"I enjoyed the library session in the afternoon where we got to pick out some books and we was given some treats too. I also enjoyed when Willy Wonka came to visit our classroom and give me a vegan chocolate bar."* *"I finished reading Witchipoo's School, I enjoyed reading this book."* *"I enjoyed listening to Mr Betts read and getting to borrow a book from the book café."* A book I read on World Book Day: *"The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."* *"I like listening to World book Day books, We Are Going on a Bear Hunt."*

Egyptian Visitors



On Thursday 7th March we were also pleased to host visitors from BCCIS (British Columbian Canadian International School) in Cairo, Egypt. On their visit, Nesrine Noureldine (Vice Principal for Arabic studies) and Dr Walid Ali (Student Affairs Advisor) visited classes and had afternoon tea with the pupil council. They also handed out Egyptian gifts to the pupils and staff.

In 2022, BCCIS hosted a group from Woodlands at their school in Cairo and it was an honour to repay their hospitality with a reciprocal visit and show them around our school. We hope to continue our partnership in the future with another visit to BCCIS school in Egypt as well as ongoing partnership projects around the environment and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, helping our pupils to become global citizens.

Parents and Carers Evening

Parents and Carers are invited to come to Woodlands after school to talk about their child's progress and meet with staff on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th March. If you haven't already booked a slot and you would like to please contact your child's class teacher directly by email or Class DoJo.

Say Thank You - Staff Awards 2024

This year we would like to ask you to vote for staff members who you feel deserve some extra recognition. Please take the time to vote to help us recognise and celebrate the fantastic work our staff do in supporting our children.

You can cast your votes here:

[Say Thank You | Raleigh Education Trust \(raleightrust.org\)](https://raleightrust.org)

Andrew Morgan

Principal