



UPDATE FROM MR TUCKER

Don't Worry Be Happy!

Emails. Don't you just hate them? The vast majority of them add another task to the 'to do' list and they certainly aren't what I got into education to read and reply to. However, I am lucky in the fact that as I work within a school, I am surrounded by children and so whenever drowning in a sea of electronic communications, I venture out of my office and interact with the wonderful pupils at Forest Park.

This week I have spent a proportion of every day on the school playground and with all honesty it has been the best part of my day. Only the other day I was delighted by what I witnessed. The children were playing beautifully on a fresh, sunny morning and one of our older junior pupils was helping another child manoeuvre around the play equipment as they were clearly having difficulties.

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*'The best way to
cheer yourself
up is to try to
cheer someone
else up.'*
Mark Twain





Now, this is nothing too unfamiliar in the family-friendly setting of Forest Park, but when I looked more closely, and really observed this interaction, it was evident that there was a real connection between these two pupils from differing classes. The eye contact and smiles were clear to see. The older child was helping, supporting and taking a real interest in the younger child. She guided her carefully around the play equipment and the smile on her face was heart-warming to say the least.

It delighted me to watch two pupils share such a wonderful encounter and made me proud of the young people we are moulding at Forest Park. Offering genuine attention to somebody is a powerful gift and to be kind to others is the most important virtue in life. It doesn't cost anything and its impact creates more than just a positive atmosphere. Simple, yet meaningful words are so rewarding and we actively promote this ethos with our pupils.

Recognising the positives about others and sharing our appreciation is a fundamental interpersonal skill. Making others feel happy and good about themselves is vitally important. It lifts spirits, ascends to a new level of conversation and strengthens relationships. It brings the best out in people and becomes a source of happiness, and motivates others to follow suit and behave in the same manner.

A simple act of kindness or a pleasing compliment does not simply last for that brief moment. They touch a core, they inspire and they even permeate through to how individuals view themselves in life. Compliments and acts of kindness benefit both parties and we aim to make as many as we can at Forest Park, because like so many other social skills, the art of paying compliments or being nice to others can sometimes get lost. Feeling happy, and sharing that feeling, is the single most important value we instil at Forest Park.

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Daily use of text messages, emails and social media is changing the way we behave and communicate with one another. Research displays that personal interactions are becoming weakened and conversations diluted. Yes, emojis and other images can reflect onscreen our feelings, but nothing beats a smile on a human face, especially a child's!

Many people are often so busy in life and with themselves that they do not pay enough attention to what is going on around them, to what others are up to and how they are affecting each other with their interactions. Fewer people say hello or good morning on their commute to and from work; instead, they are busy watching a screen or texting someone. Too many of us are so caught up in a rush to get somewhere that we don't take in our beautiful surroundings and the happiness that is staring us in the face.

The brain is hard-wired for negativity and has a tendency to remember and store the bad experiences in our lives. That is why we often remember more of these times rather than the nice ones. It is why efforts are needed to consciously notice positives in others, to act kindly and make others smile. To be happy.

So, at Forest Park, we are generous with our praise and boost self-worth with all of our pupils. Little acts of kindness are in abundance here and the knock-on effect is that our young people feel better about themselves. Not just because the staff praise and compliment them, but, just like the episode I saw on the playground, the pupils are kind with one another too. Spontaneously, they go out of their way to help others, to say nice things to each other or even just say hello. The children at Forest Park help and support one another within our family and, as a result, our family is happy and strong.

We never forget that expressing gratitude leads to more fulfilling experiences for our pupils. It is such an effective way to increase happiness in our school as well as the happiness of others around us. If there is one thing our children remember most from their time at Forest Park, it is to make someone smile!



PRE-PREP

Building Relationships in Pre-Prep

Through relationships, children learn how to think, understand, communicate, behave, express emotions and develop social skills. Relationships play a key part in every child or young person's wellbeing. Healthy relationships can help a child feel secure and supported. Here are some photographs showing our new children in Pre-Prep developing their friendships!

(Read the Year Five page for some lovely thoughts from our juniors about their new buddies!)





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PRE-PREP





RECEPTION

Curiosity Approach in the Early Years

Introducing Andy Goldsworthy's art in Early Years through the curiosity approach has cultivated both creativity and nature-inspired exploration.

Encouraging children to engage with natural materials, like leaves, conkers, and branches, sparked their curiosity

and promoted sensory experiences. Incorporating Goldsworthy's work as an inspiration invited them to discover patterns, textures, and colours in the environment. Through hands-on activities, the children experimented with arranging and manipulating elements, fostering problem-solving skills and artistic expression. This approach nurtured a deeper connection to nature and an appreciation for art, enabling our young learners to develop a sense of wonder and showcase their wonderful creations, inspired by the beauty of the natural world.



Take a look at how Reception captured the essence of Goldsworthy's artistic spirit, reminding us that creativity knows no bounds - even in the early years.

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RECEPTION





YEAR ONE

Travel & Transport

Year 1 have settled into life in Key Stage 1 amazingly well. They have relished the new ways of learning and have approached everything with their 'I can and I will' Forest Park attitude. The children have enjoyed our cross-curricular learning, which has been centred around 'Travel & Transport'. Our learning links together across numerous subjects to make it more engaging and exciting! In English, we have been reading lots of fun books containing different modes of transport and using our writing and role play skills to retell the stories. In humanities, we have been exploring our capital city, London. We investigated the famous landmarks we would see there and used geographical language to explain how we would travel from our school to London, as well as around the city.

Things got really exciting in Year 1 when we received a postcard from the Bus Driver from our favourite story, 'The Hundred Decker Bus'! He wrote to tell us that his adventure had taken him all the way to London, and he asked us - if we could go on an adventure anywhere we wanted, where would we go? The children used their imagination to think of some great ideas such as visiting Antarctica to see some penguins, travelling to Malaysia to explore caves, and even trips to waterparks in Tenerife! The children each wrote a postcard back to the Bus Driver to tell him where they wanted to go, and we walked to our nearest post box to send it to him.





YEAR ONE

Travel & Transport

This topic has really ignited the wonder and curiosity of the children and made them think about the world around them. It has sparked interesting conversations regarding where all of the children and their families are from, and we have located these countries on a map. It has been lovely to see the children celebrating the diversity of our class and discussing our family cultures and traditions.



YEAR TWO

Our class trip to Staircase House



Year 2's recent excursion to Staircase House in Stockport was an immersive and educational experience that perfectly ignited wonder with their current humanities topic on the Great Fire of London. The trip transported the children back in time to 1666 as they embarked on a journey through the historical Tudor house. The highlight of the visit was the engaging role-play activity that allowed the children to vividly retell the dramatic story of the Great Fire while exploring various rooms within the house. This hands-on approach brought history to life for the children, helping them to develop a deeper understanding of the events and people of that era.

One of the most exciting aspects of the trip was the opportunity for Year 2 students to get their hands dirty and engage in a bit of historical craftsmanship. They were able to create their own wattle and daub, a traditional building technique used during the Tudor period, which further enriched their understanding of the historical context. Additionally, the children had the chance to make fire marks, replicating the unique symbols that were once used by insurance companies to identify properties they covered. These interactive activities not only allowed the students to learn about the architecture and daily life of the time but also fostered a sense of connection with the past.

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YEAR TWO

Overall, Year 2's visit to Staircase House was a memorable and educational experience that brought history to life. The combination of role-play activities, hands-on craftsmanship, and exploration of a Tudor house provided a comprehensive learning experience that will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression on our young learners. As they continue to study the Great Fire of London, the knowledge and memories gained from this trip will serve as a solid foundation for their understanding of this pivotal historical event. A huge thank you to the staff at Staircase House that supported and led our visit!





YEAR THREE

Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies



Year 3 have begun an exciting cross-curricular journey, where we have delved into the fascinating world of healthy bodies... which also covers our whole school target of: Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies! To start this journey, we have looked through the lenses of science, English, and art to create a holistic learning experience.

In science, students have embarked on an exploration of the human body. They've learned about the different food groups and the nutrients we eat in each of these, and especially considered how we must have a well-balanced diet - but that also includes some tasty treats! Recently, we have moved on to understanding about animal skeletons, which of course includes our own! The children have become fascinated with knowing facts about our bodies and learning some tricky scientific names of our bones. Did you know we have about 206 bones in our body? Did you know we are taller when we first wake up in the morning?

In English, we have been looking at the story of The Incredible Book Eating Boy by Oliver Jeffers. Probably not the best role model of healthy eating as Henry, the main character, decides to increase his knowledge of a wide range of subjects by devouring huge amounts of books, thinking the more books he eats, the more knowledge he will gain! Of course, this has dire consequences. Delving into the story, the children have considered so many aspects of writing, including similes, onomatopoeia, and powerful verbs to make their sentence writing effective and engaging. After the holidays, we will continue looking into the story of Henry and his book-eating antics and the children will then write their own story based on this fiction piece.

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YEAR THREE

Our art lessons have given the children the opportunity to create artwork inspired by their science lessons. We have looked at still lifes by the Impressionist artist Cezanne. Trying out new mediums such as charcoal, they have looked carefully at fruit and vegetables and other simple shapes to then add shadow and tone to their drawings. Using both paint and collage techniques, the children will produce a still life composition, which will be inspired by our healthy bodies theme.

By integrating science, English, and art, we're not only nurturing well-rounded learners but also fostering a lifelong commitment to health and well-being. As the Year 3 children engage in these cross-curricular activities, they'll discover that healthy bodies are not only scientifically fascinating but also a source of creative inspiration.





YEAR FOUR

In the bustling hallways and vibrant classrooms of our school, a magical process unfolds every day—a process that has the power to shape the future of our pupils.

Igniting Wonder in Year 4

This process is about igniting wonder in the classroom. At Forest Park, we believe in fostering a deep sense of curiosity, sparking creativity, and cultivating a lifelong love of learning. This, we believe, is the heart of education.

The classroom is where young minds are nurtured and moulded, where potential turns into performance, and where ideas ignite like sparks in a dark room. By cultivating curiosity, we are encouraging students to ask questions, be inquisitive, and explore the unknown.

An example of how Year 4 have ignited wonder this half-term is by inspiring a love of reading, for the magic of books knows no bounds. In Year 4, we encourage reading as a gateway to different worlds, diverse perspectives, and endless wonder.

Year 4 have embarked on the exciting adventures in the captivating world of Varjak Paw. This enthralling book by S.F. Said has transported our young readers into a realm filled with excitement, drama, and endless possibilities for creativity.

From the very first page, Varjak Paw has captured the imagination of our Year 4 students. The thrilling escapades of Varjak, the courageous and resourceful cat, have kept our young readers on the edge of their seats. As they eagerly turned the pages, they journeyed alongside Varjak, exploring the dangerous city streets, confronting challenges, and discovering the true power of friendship and bravery.

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One of the most impactful activities inspired by Varjak Paw was our exploration of Conscience Alley. In this thought-provoking exercise, students were able to step into Varjak's paws and navigate dilemmas just like him. Through thoughtful discussions and role-playing, our children delved deep into the moral complexities faced by Varjak.



Wearing the imaginary fur of Varjak Paw, our students immersed themselves in the character's world. Through this immersive experience, they honed their creative thinking, empathy, and problem-solving skills.

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The suspenseful plot twists and turns in Varjak Paw not only kept our children eagerly anticipating what would happen next but also served as inspiration for their own writing.

We are immensely proud of the imaginative and thoughtful work our children have produced, and we look forward to witnessing their continued growth as readers and writers.





YEAR FIVE

Buddies are our best friends!

My buddy is Nathan and he is getting more confident. He makes my day! - Avery

Me and Barney are really happy with our buddy Luca. He is very smiley and very funny and he makes me laugh and he is very cute. And I am glad that he is in Dunham because I always sit with him. Luca is the best buddy in the world. - Stanley

My buddy is Rupert and he makes me feel happy. He lightens up my day with his brilliant smile. - Leo

My Buddy is Elizabeth and I share Elizabeth with Ele#my BFF. She is really cute. I love reading books to her and acting them out. She loves unicorns and pink. - Esmae



My buddy is Nathan. I feel so much happier when I see him. I think having buddies is a great idea because I can help build up his learning ability and confidence. - Omar



My buddy is Adam and I share him with Eli. He is really cute. I am super happy because he is in Tatton and love playing with him. It makes me feel good and he makes me laugh. He loves playing with cars. He gives me LOTS of hugs. - Varun

My buddy is Darasimi. I share a buddy with my BFF Richa. Darasimi is super cute!!! I am so happy because she's in the same house as me, which is Tatton. She's always so happy and she makes me feel amazing. Darasimi's so confident. Me, Richa and Darasimi have a special bond. She loves the story We're Going On A Bear Hunt, but she's a bit scared of the bear. So we just tell her it's just a story! I am so excited to meet Santa with her! - Diya





YEAR FIVE

My buddy is Hafsa and whenever I see her she makes us both smile. It's hard to break us up when we meet, she is adorable and loves giving hugs to everybody. Me and Ayza (her other buddy) are her best friends and I feel very close to her now. Hafsa is always happy and wondrous, I feel calm and mature around her and excited for buddy duty. - Hana

My buddy is April. She is so happy and smiley all the time. She makes me feel so alive. I share my buddy with Sophia. I can't believe I got paired up with such an amazing buddy! She is always confident. She is always giving me and Sophia the best hugs! I enjoy drawing and playing with her. I can't wait to go and see Santa with her! - Felicity



My buddy is Everlyn and I get really excited when I get to see her and she brings me happiness and she's beautiful in my eyes. She is in Dunham which is the same house as me and I sit next to her every time. She gives me lots of hugs!! She loves dogs and once brought a teddy bear dog into house meetings. Everlyn makes me feel more responsible. I am very happy having Everlyn as my buddy. - Ayaan

My buddy is Hafsa. I like our pre-prep buddies because they are so CUTE!!! I have been waiting since Year 3 to get pre-prep buddies. Not just because they're cute but because I feel more responsible now. Hafsa is so cute like a mini teddy bear. The best hug I've had is from Hafsa. I also share her with Hana! I enjoy giving her hugs. I can't wait to be on buddy duty!! - Ayza



My buddy is Miles, he is very nice. I liked reading the book to him, I also like sharing Miles with Luca. He is one of the best boys I have ever met. I feel happy that I am with Miles. - Henry

My buddy is the cutest!!! She is called Everlyn. I feel more mature when I have a little person to look after! When I met her, I thought she was going to be a little chatter-box. She is amazing! I can't wait to spend more and MORE time with her!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Aleeza

YEAR FIVE

My buddy is Darasimi. She's very fun and we play a lot. We talk a lot. I'm very happy with her and I share her with my friendliest friend Diya. I know her sister and we have a lot in common. I think we're going to get through this year together really well.
- Richa

Me and Stan share a buddy called Luca and I really like playing with him. Me and my friend Stanley really do share the best buddy in the world. And he is really cute. I also like reading books to him with Stanley. Me and Stan are really happy we have Luca as a buddy.- Barney

My buddy is called Eliyas. He is really clever. He knows everything in the Stick man book. He is in Tatton. He is really cute and he makes me feel happy. I really love having him. He makes me have happy vibes. - Tejas

My buddy is April, she makes me smile and she makes me light up inside. I share a buddy with Flick. April makes me and Flick lots of drawings of spiders. She gives the best hugs. And her favourite colour is orange. - Sophia

My buddy is Elizabeth. She is so cute!!! And I like reading her books. She is so tiny. She makes me happy and I am excited to go and do fun things with her. I share her with Esmae and I love being her buddy. - Ele

My buddy is Miles. I am happy because Miles is in Dunham like me. My buddy makes time go quicker. It's a pleasure to share him with Henry. Miles is like a loyal companion to me and Henry! - Luca

My buddy is Remi and he is SO NICE! I really like him. He is cute and everyone read a story to their buddies and Remi heard mine and he liked it. He wanted to read more books but also wanted to play with toys. We read 2 books and made a helmet out of plastic tubes and made a sword and a cube! - Lucas





YEAR SIX

Aye Aye, Captain!

Our fantastic Year 6 children have made a real splash with their new roles - as Captains, Leaders, Heads and Deputies. They have embraced their new responsibilities with enthusiasm and determination, demonstrating their immense potential to inspire and guide their peers towards a better school environment.

The House Captains have shown great courage in running and organising House meetings with aplomb - this year, they have driven the push towards greater 'Pupil Voice' in how these meetings are run; their new suggestion box invites ideas from all members of their houses. Our Head Boy and Girl helped to lead this half-term's charity assembly, Jeans for Genes, and delivered Harvest Festival donations to St Mary's, as well as putting forth a persuasive case for the creation of a new Tuck Shop. The Deputy Heads have been busy leading the School Council meetings, setting out the school's plan for the year ahead and putting in place a new competition based around the renewal of our Buddy Bench for increased wellbeing support at break times. Our Computing Captain confidently delivered a presentation to our school governor, Mr Davies, about his (very popular) plans to implement a new gaming competition in celebration of our Chromebook Evolution!

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YEAR SIX

Meanwhile, our Swimming Captains have been busy winning water polo matches, and supporting at the ISA swimming gala and in celebration assemblies. Our Football Captains - when not taking part in the Sale & Partington Boys' League - put forth their ideas for new training sessions at break times, designing posters to advertise this, with a particular focus on girls' football. Our Sports Captains have been busy helping to arrange the break time resources, and winning dodgeball tournaments and football matches, which they'll soon write about for their PE noticeboard! Our Art Captain has been busy judging entries to the ISA North art competition, and our Music Captain - who supports Mrs Wainwright's music assemblies each week - designed the autumn concert programme cover and acted as compere for the big event!

At every turn, these young leaders have shown exceptional dedication and initiative. They are growing into confident and responsible individuals, who will undoubtedly make a positive impact on our school community this year!





SPECIALIST TEACHING: PE

Healthy Bodies and Healthy Minds!

We have so much more still to come this year, but in only a half-term, our children have jumped headfirst into a range of sporting activities and competitions, with great success! Dodgeball, football, waterpolo, swimming, cross-country and multi-skills... they are a multi-talented bunch and we couldn't be more proud of their fantastic team spirit and Forest Park determination!





SPECIALIST TEACHING: MUSIC

Autumn Concert Superstars!

On Wednesday 11th October, our talented young musicians took to the stage at this year's Autumn Concert. The audience was taken on a musical journey through songs from musicals, the energy of Rock and Roll, and some smooth jazz and elegant classical pieces. There were rocking guitar and drum kit performances which kept everyone's toes tapping; the classic melodies of 'Twinkle Twinkle' and 'Old Macdonald' to enchanting waltzes and captivating dances for piano. There really was something for everyone.

The musicians included beginners who are just discovering the magic of their first musical notes, as well as some experienced performers who are now taking on the challenges of grade 4 and 5 exams. The Infant and Junior choirs sang too with performances of 'Sing a Little Song' and 'Do-Re-Mi' respectively. The Rock Band concluded the evening with their powerful rendition of 'Seven Nation Army.' It was a night filled with musical diversity and talent, showcasing the dedication and passion of our young performers.





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SPECIALIST TEACHING: MUSIC



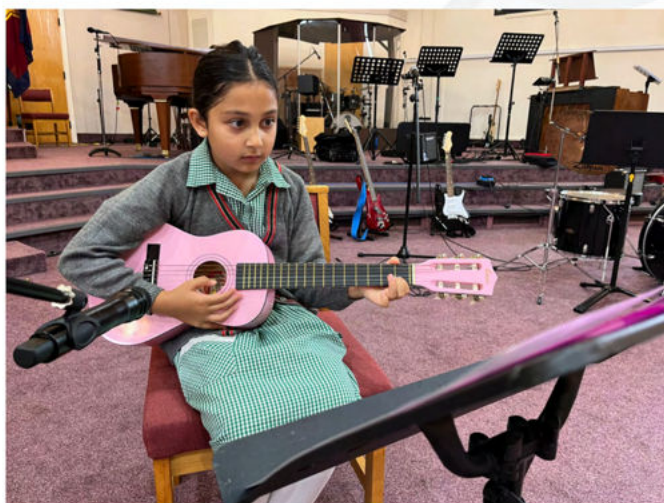


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