

Another week has flown by! Whilst the weather outside may have been grey and miserable, we have enjoyed plenty of 'sunshine' moments in school throughout the week.

Our new group of Chester University third-year associate teachers have settled in wonderfully across the school and are already throwing themselves into the life of being a teacher - observing staff, supporting learning and teaching small groups.

On Wednesday, I had the pleasure of meeting with Danni, the founder of *Blades Down*. As a school, we have pledged to swap any existing knives in our staffrooms for Viner Assure knives, two packs of which were kindly donated by Blades Down. As a school, we are proud to support the 'Let's Be Blunt' campaign - a powerful initiative aiming to prevent knife crime and protect our children and wider community.

Year 4 have been busy preparing their Menai assembly, showcasing the fabulous artwork created during their two-night residential and sharing their highlights of the visit. The children have enjoyed lots of singing, practising words and learning actions — we are very much looking forward to their performance on Thursday 12th February at 9:30am.

We are also delighted that Mrs Dutton, our English Lead, is already making exciting plans for World Book Day, due to be held on Thursday 5th March. This year's theme is "*When I grow up, I'd like to be...*". Mrs Dutton is currently arranging visitors to school to speak about future careers; if you are able to help or would like to take part, please contact the school admin team.

This week, children from Reception to Year 6 took part in Scootability sessions with James from Scoot Fit. These were a roaring success! The children (and staff!) loved the energetic music and learnt new scooter skills while discovering how scootering supports fitness and wellbeing. Did you know that scooting uses the same large muscle groups as running, but with less stress on joints and bones? It's a fun and sustainable way to stay active!

Year 3 violin sessions are also going brilliantly and this week the children used their bows for the very first time! Academic clubs and sports clubs continued after school and it is great to see the children enjoying these additional activities after school.

Supporting staff professional development continues to be a priority in school. This week:

- Mr Barnes attended a working lunch at Theatre Porto and returned full of exciting ideas for a future whole-school arts and community project - watch this space!
- Miss Taylor took part in 'Now We Are Two' training to enhance learning for our youngest children.
- Mrs Coaker attended computing training and has already shared fantastic new resources.
- Miss Skillen met with the whole EYFS team to share strategies to support neurodivergent children and help them regulate emotions and make learning connections.

- Staff across school explored new approaches in history and geography during our staff meeting - thank you to Mrs Megginson and Mrs Barrett for leading on this.

In addition, Mrs O'Hara attended a national webinar for primary SEN and resource provision units and Miss Williams, Mrs Morphet and Mrs Wilkinson completed 'Steps to Toileting' training - all of which will support our resource provision children moving forward.

Today we said *au revoir* to Mrs Barrett as she begins her maternity leave ahead of the arrival of her baby girl. We send lots of love and best wishes to Mrs Barrett and her family at this exciting time.

Next week, we warmly welcome Mrs Lonsdale back from maternity leave. She will be working at the start of the week in Year 4, alongside Miss Sheard, who will teach towards the end of the week.

Thank you as always for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend everyone and let's hope the rain finally gives us a break!

See you all on Monday,

Mrs Liversey