

SUNFLOWER FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER



Volume 1 Issue 1

5th April 2019

WELCOME

Welcome to our new Sunflower Federation Newsletter. We will be sending one out termly, providing parents and carers updates on what is happening at both Breakspeare and Meadow Wood Schools, information about events, voice of the students and lovely art work!



NEW STAFF

My name is Gemma and I started at The Sunflower Federation in January 2018. I work with the admin team and site managers looking after the federation's finances and resources. I'm based at Breakspeare School every day except for Thursdays when I'm at Meadow Wood.



I'm off to a very busy start, meeting with teachers and other support staff, working together to plan lots of exciting projects across the federation, such as new changing rooms, sensory and outdoor spaces. I love how everyone here understands the needs and is so passionate about giving the children the best experiences at school.

I hope everyone has a fantastic break, and I look forward to meeting you in the future!

ARTS AWARD



This term at Arts Award we have been learning the story of 'The Firebird'. During one of our sessions we re-created the magical pathway that lead to the Princess's

Castle. All the pupils enjoyed taking part using the extended paintbrushes and lots of different coloured paint to cover a long sheet of white paper taped to the floor. The following week we all had to take a walk along the pathway with one of our friends. The picture shows Bianca and Hamid at the start of their walk, as you can see they were both happy and excited to take part.

These are Bianca's responses when asked:- Where were you in the picture? "At Arts Award", Who were you with? "My friend Hamid", What were you and Hamid doing? "On the pathway"



CANINE ASSISTED LEARNING

This term Breakspeare has had a visitor called Charlie, a black Labrador, who has been coming in to work with some of our students along with her trainer, Helen. Students have been learning practical skills such as taking Charlie on walks around the school, as well as playing fetch the ball to encourage social interaction. Charlie has been very calm, affectionate and tolerant, we look forward to seeing her again next term.



Meadow Wood have had Cooper come to visit them with students learning the same practical skills.

HORSE RIDING

As part of our sports premium offer, students at Breakspeare School enjoy weekly horse riding sessions on Tuesday afternoons at Gaddesden Place Riding for the Disabled. Students attend in small groups for a block of 5 weeks. This is an exciting and very beneficial opportunity for all of our students and we are very pleased with all their achievements during these extracurricular sessions.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Breakspeare

Wednesday 8th May: M & M
Production of Charlotte's Web

Wednesday 15th May: - Friday
17th May: Class 8B Residential
trip to Kingswood Activity Centre

**Monday 10th & Tuesday 11th
June:** Soundabout 'Sounds Wild
Project' focusing on outdoor
sounds.

Wednesday 12th June: Rotary
Club Kids Day Out to Whipsnade
Zoo - 12 students attending

Friday 28th June: INSET DAY

Friday 12th July: Leavers
Celebration Evening

Tuesday 16th July: Sports Day

Meadow Wood

Wednesday 12th June: Rotary
Club Kids Day Out to Whipsnade
Zoo

Friday 28th June: INSET DAY

Monday 8th July: Sports Day

Thursday 18th July: Leavers
Assembly

UPDATES

IT- Sue Douthwaite

Federation communication

Breakspeare and Meadow Wood drives have been upgraded and amalgamated to provide a shared Sunflower Federation server. This allows for easier sharing and storage of information across the Federation. Please also remember to look at our school weekly news at

<http://www.breakspeare.herts.sch.uk>

SPRING TERM EVENTS

The past term has been very busy at Meadow Wood School. Off-site visits have included a pantomime and SEN music festival at Breakspeare School, regular horse riding sessions and trips to the local shops. Some students from Owls class have attended Funky Pie which is a creative arts project for pupils from different SEN schools in Hertfordshire. Others have visited Bushy Meads School for PE sessions. As a school we have dressed up as our favourite book characters for World Book Day and collected money for Red Nose Day. Lunch time clubs have included Art Club and Football club run by Watford Football Club. Pupils



have also had the opportunity to attend some Watford games during the term!



Each week teachers have organised a themed assembly with topics this term including Food, Birds, Chinese New Year, Pancake Day and Mother's Day.

Voice in a Million - A group of older students had been practicing songs to sing with lots of other schools at Wembley Area. We travelled to Wembley by minibus where we met over a hundred school choirs. In the afternoon we practiced singing together which was very loud! After eating our tea we put on our special VIAM T-shirts. Mark, Yousaf and Josh went onto stage to carry our school banner. We sang and signed all the songs for the audience.

SUNFLOWER FEDERATION ACTING CHAIR OF GOVERNORS JANE ROGERS

Welcome to the first of what we are hoping will be a termly newsletter. It is nearly two years since the Federation between the two schools was formed. During that time the Governors and Leadership Team have been working to bring both schools closer together, whilst retaining the unique identity of each school. We have established a strong shared ethos which aims to continue to provide the very best education for each individual pupil. If you would like further information, please contact the Governors via the school offices.

We have three new Governors that we would like to welcome to the Federation:

Marios Iacovides - LA Governor

Barry Hammond - Co-opted Governor

Sapna Olsen - Co-opted Governor

SITE WORKS

Breakspeare: Site Manager Jo Halward



We have exciting plans for work being carried out over the Easter holidays. Sunny Side will be installing one mud and one sand wigwam in the woodland area, Acoustic Arts musical trail in class 1, the track and outside classes 3-7 area. Outside will have lots of new equipment for the students.

Meadow Wood: Site Manager Alan Walsh



We are busy assessing the site to see what repairs and maintenance are needed and what buildings improvements Meadow Wood could benefit from this year. We take pride in ensuring the school is kept in good decorative order, safe and functional for the students. We will be soon having our grounds team mark out two additional disabled bays and are currently getting quotes to have our upper school changing rooms refurbished.