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## Information Station

- **Half term**—School Closed 24th October 2022 to 4th November 2022
- **Uniform** either contact the school office by email or phone for more information, or orders can be made online at: [www.schoolshopdirect.co.uk](http://www.schoolshopdirect.co.uk)
- **Building work** for the permanent academy has now started— watch this space for updates!
- **School Meals**—Did you know that you can pay your child's dinner money by bank transfer? Please let us know if you would like our bank details to make a payment.
- Our school menu is changing from 7th November—please see the school website for the new menu on offer
- **Free School Meals**—If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, you will be receiving a £15 e-gift card to support over the half term. Look out for an email with further details.



# THE KEYSTONE ACADEMY

## NEWSLETTER ISSUE 4

October 2022

### HEADTEACHER UPDATE

As our first half term since opening comes to an end, I thought it would be nice to share some of our highlights so far.

Within this edition of our newsletter, you will find some examples of learning that have been taking place across the school. It has been a delight to see pupils in all of our classes engage in the outdoor learning part of our curriculum, with a focus this term on making the middle courtyard an attractive place to be. The pupils have enjoyed the opportunity to design their given areas, many of whom have taken to the physical exercise as well as the purposeful introduction to landscaping and design.

I am pleased to inform you that we have successfully recruited additional support staff, admin and an outdoor instructor, all of whom will be joining the school from 7<sup>th</sup> November. To help with transition, we have included some details about the staff within the newsletter.

We will also have the pleasure of welcoming some new pupils to the school during the first week back. This means that we will be opening a second primary class, requiring a few changes to pupil groups. We have already been in touch with the pupils and their families for whom this will affect, but if you have any questions about this, please do get in touch. I know everyone will take the time to make our new pupils and their families feel welcome.

During next half term, we will be holding our first parent / carer consultation event. This will be an opportunity for you to meet with your child's form teacher and discuss how they have been getting along since joining Keystone, as well as meeting some of our wider team, including our Mental Health Counsellor and Speech and Language Therapist. Staff will be able to update you on how they are doing with both their learning and their wellbeing and you will be able to share your insights too. We're keen to explore how we can work together in supporting your child to grow and develop during their time with us at Keystone, including through opportunities for home learning.

The consultation event will take place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November between 2.40pm – 6pm. We will be in touch during the first week back (w/b 7<sup>th</sup> November) to arrange appointments for the event. We hope you are all able to attend but if not, we will be happy to arrange an online meeting via Teams or a phone conversation.

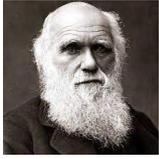
In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and enjoy a safe and restful half term break. We will all look forward to welcoming pupils back on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Best wishes

Ali Bellaby

## Introducing our Classes

Our pupils have been involved in choosing a name for their form groups. We all agreed to vote on a variety of neurodivergent heroes. Below are our choices:

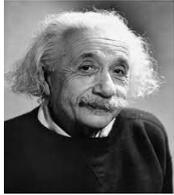


### DARWIN CLASS (Charles Darwin)

In our Geography and History lessons we have been exploring Shewsbury. We enjoyed learning all about Charles Darwin, so much so that we decided to name our class after him!

### TURING CLASS (Alan Turing)

We chose Turing for our class name because: "he's good at maths and so are we" "We love ICT and he invented the world's first computer called Christopher" "He was neurodivergent like us" "He did amazing things and saved people's lives because of his neurodivergent abilities"



### EINSTEIN CLASS (Albert Einstein)

Einstein chose their class name because: "I like how Einstein is so smart" "He is from my favourite country: Germany" "Einstein is very knowledgeable and reads lots of books" "Everyone in our Einstein group is lots of fun!"

### TESLA CLASS (Nikola Tesla)

Tesla class chose their name as it sounded interesting and they wanted to find out more about his life.



### BURTON CLASS (Tim Burton)

Burton class chose their name because they identify with Burton's creativity. The pupils in this class are similarly artistic and eccentric

## OUR SCHOOL DAY

On arrival at school, all students meet in the Hub for social time where hot or cold drinks and toast are available.

Students then go to their form groups to prepare for learning.

Lesson 1—9.05am—9.55am

Lesson 2—9.55am—10.45am

Break 10.45am—11am Students can take part in outdoor sports activities, access a quiet space with board games, or enjoy social time in the Hub, where there are hot and cold drinks and toast available again.

Lesson 3—11am—11.50am

Lesson 4—11.50am—12.40pm

Lunchtime 12.40pm—1.20pm Students eat lunch either in the Hub or the quiet space and also have the chance to play football or other outdoor activities

Lesson 5—1.20pm—2.10pm (Enrichment time on Fridays)

Students return to their form groups for daily reflections / reading time

Hometime—2.40pm

## Exciting Enrichment!

Every Friday afternoon, we have been enjoying doing different things in our enrichment time. Some of us have been sporty and have played football, basketball and dodgeball. Some of us have enjoyed watching new animes with our friends. Some of us have enjoyed unwinding by drawing or building exciting things out of Lego. We may have been doing different things, but we have all had good fun and have had opportunity to build upon and extend our social experiences! Here are some of the things we love about our enrichment time:

Courtney in Tesla said, "I love being able to spend time with different people."

Elayna in Turing said, "It is nice to spend time relaxing after working hard all week."



**“Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new”** Albert Einstein

## Outdoor Studies—Mr Gray

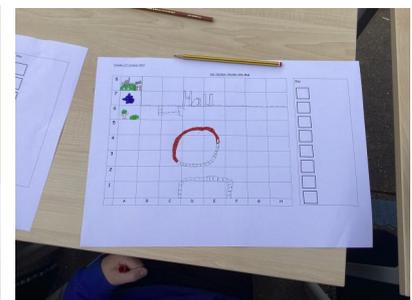
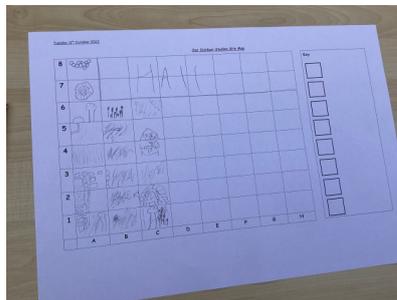
Over the past few weeks Tesla form have been organising the middle of the courtyard space and have been working tirelessly to remove all the weeds, rubble and loose soil from this area. It has required a great deal of effort, teamwork, resilience and problem solving to complete this task that Mr Gray set at the beginning of the year. Please see outcome of 4 weeks' worth of work in the images below. Well done to all of Tesla form for working extremely hard.



Darwin class have also been working in the courtyard space during their outdoor studies lessons. Children took turns mowing the lawn, with the help of Mr Gray and Mrs Brammer.



Over the past few weeks Turing form have been working hard to complete the weeding of a large flower bed. Except one plant that is rooted into the ground, we have managed to do this. The form group took part in mapping out the courtyard area using grid references and their knowledge of co-ordinates. We used logical thinking to divide our space into grids and began to draw our map of the courtyard.



### Outdoor Studies / Health and Fitness Days—REMINDER

Darwin Class— Outdoor studies Wednesdays

Turing Class— Outdoor Studies Tuesdays / Health and Fitness Thursdays

Einstein Class— Outdoor studies Tuesdays / Health and Fitness Thursdays

Tesla Class— Outdoor studies Thursdays / Health and Fitness Wednesdays

Burton Class— Outdoor studies Fridays / Health and Fitness Thursdays

## Outdoor Studies—Mr Gray

### Burton Form Pumpkin Farm Visit—14th October 2022

Year 9 visited a pumpkin farm outside Shrewsbury called Little Wytheford Farm in Shawbury. The children were set the task of collecting pumpkins for next week's forest school and outdoor studies lessons. The pupils were amazing, working in teams to find a wide range of shapes, size, and colours of pumpkins and showed our Keystone Spirit in wheelbarrow loads. Thank you to Little Wytheford Farm for their generosity and Mr Evans for driving us.



We must also say a big THANK YOU to Alice and her family for donating pumpkins that have been grown on their allotment!



The pumpkins collected last week are being carved by pupils (with help from staff) during this week's outdoor studies lessons. Turing and Einstein class's creations are pictured above.



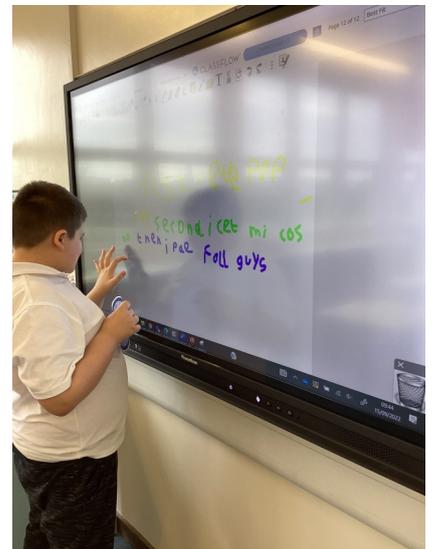
**“The World Needs  
Different Kinds of Minds to  
Work Together”**

## Primary Class—Miss Rhodes

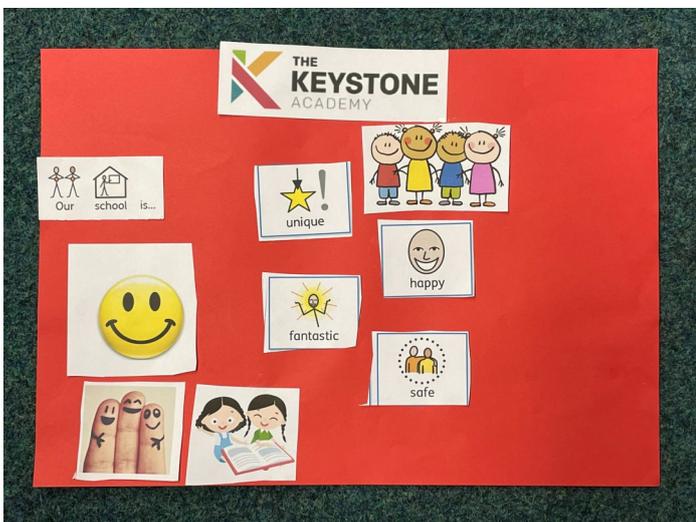
*The Darwins have made a brilliant start to the academic year since September! In our English lessons, we have explored lots of books such as Journey, The Day the Crayons Quit and The Dinosaur that Pooped Halloween! We have all enjoyed creating lots of character profiles and even begun writing sentences of our own! In our first few maths lessons, we enjoyed discussing numbers which were important to us such as our age and birthdays, and even learnt how to create a tally chart based on information we had collected. For the last couple of weeks, we have all begun looking at the topic of place value.*

*In our geography and history lessons, we have explored our town of Shrewsbury. We enjoyed learning about Charles Darwin, so much so that we named our class after him! We also took a virtual tour around Shrewsbury and discussed whether the buildings were old or new. We were all brilliant at this!*

*One of our favourite times of the week is forest school! We all love being outdoors so much that we decided to become Keystone's Eco-Warriors! Every Tuesday afternoon, we spend time planning ways to make our school safer for the nature that lives around it. We even have been out litter picking!*



*Darwin class were asked to choose some words and pictures that would tell others who may be joining Keystone Academy, and may be a bit worried, how great our school is!*





## Staff profile — Mrs Bentley-Hammond

My name is Mrs Bentley-Hammond., and I will be your new receptionist. I am so excited to meet you all, especially the children. I live in Shrewsbury with my husband and teenage son. I love visiting my caravan in Wales. I spend my time collecting shells and pebbles on the beach and making them into pictures. I keep busy doing DIY around the house and can bake a good cake. I also like football, can you guess which team I support?



## Staff profile — Mr Plimmer

Hello my name is Mr Plimmer, I will be your new outdoor instructor at Keystone Academy. I'm looking forward to meeting you all in the near future. My hobbies and interests include walking in nature, outdoor cooking, bushcraft, camping, foraging, playing the guitar, football and walking my dog Lola.



## Staff profile — Miss Dawson

Hello everyone! My name is Miss Dawson. I will be a Teaching Assistant at Keystone Academy. I am looking forward to meeting our school community and having lots of fun learning in the coming term.

My favourite things to do are cooking, arts and crafts and being surrounded by nature with friends and family. I love drawing so feel free to ask me to draw you something in my spare time. I'm helpful, kind and a good listener.

It will be a pleasure getting to know you all, feel free to say hello when you see me!



## Staff profile — Miss Downes

Hi, my name is Miss Downes, and I am super excited to join your school as a teaching assistant! My favourite subject is Maths, followed by History!

In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family, baking, swimming, reading books and playing netball!

I am looking forward to meeting you all!



## Staff profile — Miss Parkes

Hello my name is Miss Parkes I will be working at Keystone academy as a teaching assistant, I have worked in education for a very long time and I'm passionate about helping students achieve.

I live near Shrewsbury with my partner, three children, 2 cats (Gary and ginge) and a tortoise (Shellby), so my free time is spent looking after them, I also really enjoy gardening and decorating.

I'm very much looking forward to joining everybody after the half term.



## Staff profile — Miss Williams

My name is Miss Williams and I will be joining Keystone Academy as a Teaching Assistant.

I live near Ellesmere in Shropshire with my partner, I have 2 children and 2 dogs. I enjoy watching movies and spending time with family going on various days out and watching autograss racing.

The rest of our newsletter has some information on local events, activities and support that you might be interested in

## Autumn Fair at RAF Museum

Date: 22-24 October 2022

Time: 10.00am – 5.00pm

Cost: Free entry



This October half term, the Royal Air Force Museum Midlands will host a new seasonal Autumn Fair celebrating the craftsmanship and love that goes into handmade items, alongside a range of autumnal activities for families to enjoy during the school break.

Held in the Museum grounds, the three-day event on 22-24 October will see over 35 local exhibitors displaying and selling their seasonal craft goods and sharing tips and advice with keen crafters. Brought together by the Creative Crafts Association, these handmade delights will include everything from soaps and candles to textiles and jewellery. So, whether you're treating yourself or looking for a unique gift there will be something to suit all tastes.

Nestled in the heart of the event will be some feathered friends from the Shropshire Falconry, flying in to meet with visitors. Birds of prey including Owls, Falcons, and Hawks, along with their handlers will be on site each day. Visitors can get up close to the birds in the pop-up falconry, and learn more about their incredible capabilities, their daily routines, and special diets.

Families are invited to take part in willow weaving workshops delivered by the experts at Willowpool Designs. This versatile and sustainable material is easy for small hands to bend and weave into various designs, so why not test your willow weaving skills on the day and create a decorative item to take home.

Alongside the crafts, falconry and workshops will be a selection of seasonal food and drink to tempt visitors, including toffee apples, hotdogs, mulled wine, and speciality hot chocolates.

It's the perfect late autumn day out for the whole family, and entry to the event and Museum is free. Open each day from 10.00am until 5.00pm, for more information and to pre-book your arrival time visit

[rafmuseum.org](http://rafmuseum.org).

- Would you like to know more about why sleep is important for our health and emotional well-being?
- Does your child struggle with their sleep?
- Would you like to access support to help improve sleep and bedtime routines?
- Would you like to meet other parents/carers to share and discuss experiences?

## **SLEEP TIGHT WORKSHOPS**

**Join the Parenting Team for a 5 week workshop starting on:**

Thursday 10th November 2022 Virtually via Microsoft Teams from 9.30am—11.30am

Or

Friday 11th November 2022 at Oswestry Castle View from 9.30am—11.30am

To book a place on one of the workshops or further information on the workshops we run please contact the Parenting Team by:

Emailing: [parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk)

Or call us on 01743 250950



## Information from Autism West Midlands

### WEEKLY ADVICE SESSIONS—MONDAY, TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

For parents/carers who would like some face-to-face advice Autism West Midlands are offering virtual video appointments. Zoom works well on mobile phones. To book a 45 min advice appointment with a specialist autism advisor please book via their website:

<https://shop.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/collections/events/products/online-autism-advice-and-consultation-sessions-shropshire-county>



IMPORTANT – THE ZOOM LINK WILL NBE EMAILED TO YOU THE WEEK BEFORE YOUR SLOT, MAKE SURE YOU CHECK YOUR INBOX INCLUDING SPAM/JUNK TO GET YOUR LINK

### VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS

Wednesday Mornings 10am-11am & Wednesday Evenings 8pm-9pm – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds of each month (term time)

Online support groups meet twice a month via Zoom. This is an opportunity to talk with other parents, share ideas, and offer support. We recommend that you have attended an online advice appointment with a member of the team before joining group sessions (link above).

If you would like to join either of the support groups, please email the team here:

[shropshire@autismwestmidlands.org.uk](mailto:shropshire@autismwestmidlands.org.uk)

### DAD'S GROUP

Monthly on Thursdays 7pm—8pm

This is an opportunity for dads to meet online, share ideas, celebrate their children's achievement's and offer support to each other with a member of Autism West Midlands present. For more information and booking details see link below

<https://autismwestmidlands.org.uk/events/virtual-dads-support->

### Advice and support

We also offer advice and support over the phone and via email. Parents/carers and professionals can contact our small team directly to arrange an appointment please call:

<b>Shropshire office</b>	- 01952 454156	
<b>Mon, Wed, Fri</b>	- Wendy Cowton	07900784186
<b>Weds, Thu, Fri</b>	- Emma Hegenbarth	07881109480
<b>Tue, Wed, Thu</b>	- Dawn Lewis	07706309382
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:shropshire@autismwestmidlands.org.uk">shropshire@autismwestmidlands.org.uk</a>	
<b>Helpline</b>	0121 450 7575	

