

NEWS FROM CLASS 13

September 2020

So - it has finally happened! After years of waiting, Newark Orchard School has been rebuilt! Not a leaking roof or bucket in sight! Instead, we have a state of the art building with lots of new learning spaces and an exciting playground to explore.

The former U3 and U4 have joined together and we have welcomed two new students, one from Town Site and one who has recently moved into the area. New staff have also joined the class team. Our classroom area is bigger and we are able to get straight out of the classroom to the outside area. Of course, like everyone else we are all currently following strict guidance related to Covid 19, but this has not stopped everyone feeling excited and hopeful about the opportunities the new building brings!

The students in Class 13 are following the "Engagement for Adulthood" pathway. This means they continue to work towards individual targets to help them become more independent as they grow up and prepare to leave school. These targets are set in conjunction with you as parents and carers and will also come from EHC review meetings.



Wednesdays continue to have a vocational bias in the 14-18 department and the students will get the chance to use the new hairdressing salon, fitness room and the specially designed food tech room.

Hopefully, if circumstances allow, students will still be able to access the local community to practise their shopping skills, handle money or choose their own drink from a café menu. If you have the opportunity, please encourage these things when you are out and about as it will support the work done in school.

The students for whom it is appropriate will continue to follow their physiotherapy programmes. This includes opportunities to practise walking or standing as well as stretches and other exercises. There will still be the regular link between therapists and other professionals to ensure the needs of the students are being met.

Our general theme for the term is Festivals and Celebrations. We will study and even celebrate some of the many festivals that take place between now and Christmas. This will include the Jewish New Year, Harvest, Diwali and of course Advent and Christmas. You can help support this learning at home by talking about different celebrations that take place and all the things that people do to make events special. If anyone in the house has a birthday, think about the things that happen then or why people might have a party.



We are also thinking about a variety of emotions as part of our work about relationships. Please help us by identifying when your son or daughter displays different emotions at home and talk about what is making them feel happy or sad or excited or grumpy!

Communication is a really important part of our students' development especially for the older ones who are preparing to leave school and move to new settings. They are encouraged to ask for the things that they want or need using their preferred methods of communication. At home, please help and encourage your child to ask politely for these things, rather than just pre-empting their wishes. This encourages them to be more independent.

Even though we are living in unusual times, we are still here to answer any questions you might have about school. Please feel free to get in touch by phone or email.

Moyra, Janet Sean and Jo

Tracey, Amy and Bev