

MESSAGES FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Message from the Executive Principal

As another fantastic year draws to a close, we hope you enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter and celebrating the many achievements, successes and memorable experiences our learners have enjoyed across the school. It has been a year full of growth, friendship, resilience and achievement, and we are incredibly proud of all that our learners have accomplished.

We are also delighted to be able to share our recent **Ofsted report**, which recognises the strength of our provision, the positive experiences of our learners, and the dedication of our staff team. We are thrilled that the hard work, commitment and care shown by colleagues every day has been recognised, and we hope that our parents and carers feel equally proud of this achievement.

As a school community, we were deeply saddened by the recent passing of **Daniella Jere**, who was a much-loved learner at East SILC for many years. Daniella touched the lives of many staff and learners and will be remembered with great fondness. Our thoughts, love and heartfelt condolences are with Daniella's family and friends during this very difficult time.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Together, we make East SILC such a special community. We wish you and your families a safe, happy and restful summer break.

Message from the Head of School

It's always amazing to see the wonderful work our learners engage in over a term, and this term is no exception- it has been incredibly busy and so much has been achieved, as we can see from this newsletter. We also had a fantastic music festival and our first ever dance festival, alongside a 16+ day trip to London. A huge thank you to all the learners who participated in all the activity in this newsletter.

In other news, we can confirm that our new Shine provision for 16+ now has 24 confirmed Enrich learners ready for a September start with building work just started in readiness for the new academic year. Janet Vinci will be the site lead teacher from September. Lucy Lewis, the Ash class teacher has had a baby girl, Maya Rose, on 18th June. Both mum and baby are faring well.

We also want to inform you that Jacquie, who has been our lead nurse for many years is retiring at the end of this academic year. We want to thank Jacquie for all the hard work she has done as part of our community and wish her well for the future. Marie will be the new lead nurse, who has been with us over the past month but will be fully part of the team from September. As ever, we want to thank you, the families, parents and carers who help to make our school the united community that we value so highly.

We hope you have a fantastic Summer break whatever you may be doing.

Pathway 1

Sunflowers

Sunflowers have had a wonderful year this year. We have really enjoyed topics 'All About Me', 'Out of this World', 'Let's Go Shopping', 'In the Garden', 'Once Upon a time', and 'Under the Sea'. We have been exploring our specialist provision designed around these themes and the fun learning opportunities they have provided for us in class. We have also really enjoyed our swimming and Friday trips to the park this year, working on both our PE and our independence in and around the community. In Sunflowers we have built our learning around our engaging sensory curriculum, and the progress we have made in subject learning, communication and PSHE targets has been amazing this year, with lots of world building and fun imaginative play with our friends. We have also enjoyed meeting some new members of staff to and have all been fantastic with how we have welcomed them in over the course of the year. We have also enjoyed regular visits from music therapy and even recently enjoyed the specialist visit from some very exciting birds of prey! Recently we have enjoyed transition visits too and look forward to meeting new friends and continuing our fantastic progress next year.



Bluebells

This term, Bluebells have enjoyed exploring our Under the Sea topic and also most of the sunny weather. In Art, we have created a range of aquatic scenes and creatures using foil, bubble wrap, bubbles, paper plates, sand and shaving foam. Our Food Technology sessions have been just as inventive, with learners keeping cool by making refreshing ice lollies and baking delicious starfish biscuits. We have also enjoyed taking part in Sports Day and Outdoor Learning Day, which have given everyone plenty of opportunities to learn and play outside, and show off the skills they have been practising in MATP P.E. all year. It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and hard work shown by everyone in Bluebells this year. Every learner has contributed to a happy and vibrant class community, and they should



Buttercups

This half term, Buttercups Class has been very busy enjoying and exploring the world of pirates, searching for hidden treasures, and taking part in lots of exciting pirate-themed activities. One of our favourite experiences was cooking delicious pirate food. The learners especially enjoyed making strawberry ice cream, which we proudly prepared and shared at the Summer Fair. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to develop their independence, communication, and cooking skills while having lots of fun. We have also been working hard to improve our motor skills by practising for the MATP Special Olympics Programme. Through a variety of physical activities and exercises, the learners have shown great determination and enthusiasm as they prepare to be in the best shape possible. Outdoor learning has continued to be a highlight of our days. We enjoyed exploring different materials, investigating the natural environment, and developing our curiosity through hands-on experiences. The learners have also taken part in a range of social activities, including a sensory theatre session, which encouraged communication and engagement through interactive storytelling and sensory experiences.



Pathway 1

Snowdrops

Snowdrops have had a lot of fun in the shade this half-term. Despite some overwhelming temperatures we really enjoyed our Outdoor day time in shade with time in the Physcap playground, an outdoor music session, a tug of war and some parachute games being the highlight of the fun. This term we also had the great pleasure of welcoming bird of prey demonstration into school. The learners were fascinated by the visit of the Birds of Prey with all of them showing clear interest and awe at the beautiful collection of birds.



Orchids

Our Orchids learners had a fantastic time taking part in the East SILC Dance Festival. Dressed in vibrant African-patterned kaftans, they performed an energetic and engaging dance to *Kingdom of Eswatini*. As part of their performance, the learners used Boomwhackers to create colourful rhythms and exciting sounds, adding a fun musical element to their routine. They performed with confidence, enthusiasm, and excellent teamwork, making us all incredibly proud. Well done to all of our Orchids learners for representing our school so brilliantly and making the festival such a memorable experience!



Snowdrops & Orchids

Snowdrops and Orchids come together every week for a joint PE session. The learners are always fully engaged and have great fun exploring a variety of activities. From exciting parachute games to throwing, catching, bouncing, and rolling balls, there is something for everyone to enjoy. A firm favourite is the racing section, where two learners compete side by side, cheered on by the lively music of *William Tell Overture*. The energetic soundtrack adds to the excitement, creating lots of smiles, laughter, and enthusiastic participation.



Pathway 2

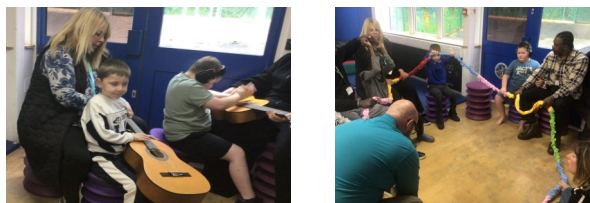
Squirrels

This summer term Squirrels have enjoyed exploring the topics 'holidays' and 'transport' we have enjoyed using different sensory materials, props and stories to fully immerse us into the topics! A big highlight for squirrels this term has been our food tech sessions where we have been working to independently make different foods and chop fruit and vegetables. It has been fun and busy term to end the year full of curiosity, creativity and progress!



Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs have had a busy term. We enjoyed work box activities with some characters from Toy Story and we created colourful art work to sell at the Summer fair. In music lessons we have played guitars, ukuleles and drums and all joined in moving to songs whilst stretching and passing around the big elastic. Our attention sessions have been great fun this year and we especially liked exploring cause and effect light up toys in stage 4.

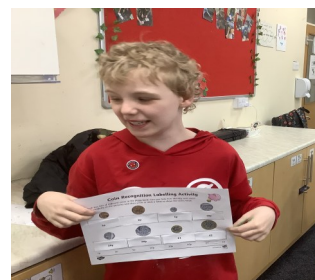


Badgers

This term, Badgers Class have been busy exploring the exciting topic of transport. In literacy, our learners have thoroughly enjoyed our sensory story based on 'Oi! Get off our train!' engaging with the story through a range of interactive and sensory experiences. We have also been discovering how different types of transport move through creative mark-making activities and fun water exploration—perfect for helping everyone stay cool during the hot weather! Communication has continued to flourish as learners have been practising lots of Makaton signs, including different modes of transport, the weather, and ways to keep cool. Of course, one of the favourite signs had to be ice cream, which was made even better by having one to cool down during the heatwave! Well done Badgers.

Owls

Owl's class have excelled in their maths learning throughout the year. We spent time looking at data handling and sorting objects & characters into "is" and "is not" categories including: colours; appearance; size and shape. The class loved completing these activities and enjoyed switching what they were doing each lesson. We even used tweezers to grab items to help support our fine motor skills! During the topic of "time," learners practiced inputting numbers onto a clock and telling the time to the hour and we have continued to implement this throughout the school year.



Nightingales

A very busy and hot half term. Nightingales have been really working on PfA during this half term, we have been learning how to navigate conversations and talk about our likes and dislikes in a social situation. We have also been completing independent jobs around which has been wonderful to see! Luckily due to the weather and some free slots in Phys cap, Nightingales have been able to enjoy all the outdoor facilities we have over there. In our PE sessions we have been doing a combination of Gaelic Football and Lacrosse, this has been enjoyable and we've enjoyed getting outside when we can. We have also been luckily enough to be going swimming this half term which all the learners have enjoyed, its so nice to see the joy in there faces on a Wednesday morning. To finish the year we are going to Tropical World on the 10th July for our end of year trip. Its been an absolute pleasure having your wonderful children in my class this year!



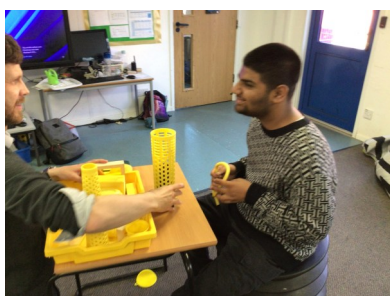
Pathway 2

Woodpeckers

This term, the Woodpeckers have worked hard on their engagement and have been accessing up to stage 2 during Shared Attention sessions as a group. They have made so much progress both individually and as a whole group, working together and developing some beautiful friendships! They have also enjoyed lots of outdoor learning and exploration, developing outdoor spaces to make them more appropriate for regulation as well as making fabulous progress during their swimming sessions! Well done Woodpeckers you have all made us so so proud.

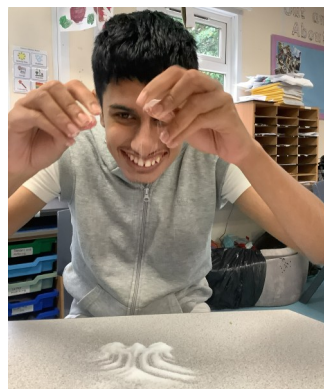
Hawks

This term Hawks have taken part in an art project, run by the Leeds Museum Art gallery, Carl and Bee provided excellent opportunities for learners to create their own pieces art from a range of different resources. We have made the most of the lovely weather and enjoyed outdoor learning in the redzone and Physcap playground. Learners have enjoyed cooking a range of different dishes and are becoming more and more independent. In Hawks we have 2 learners who are leaving us for pastures new, Meriem and Rebecca, they have been an absolute pleasure to teach over the years, we are so sad to lose them both but we wish them all the best for the future.



Foxes

This term, our Post-16 SEND class has had a fantastic time learning through a range of fun and engaging activities. In sensory cooking, we focussed on developing the skill of dipping while making treats such as chocolate watermelon sticks and healthy salad dippers. In Maths, we explored the concepts of *up and down* through Attention Autism bucket sessions and sensory trays. Our English lessons brought the story *Oi, Get Off My Train!* to life through sensory storytelling, helping us to develop our recall skills as we revisited characters and elements of the story. We have also enjoyed our enterprise project, creating items to sell at the Summer Fair, and loved joining the other focus days, where we built friendships, confidence and enjoyed learning outside together.



Pathway 3

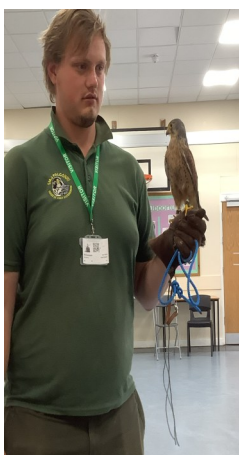
Willow

This term, Willow have really enjoyed our swimming lessons, and we have all gotten more confident in the water! We have also enjoyed accessing the community on our trips and weekly local walks. We have even planted our own sunflowers in class and now they have grown taller, we have planted them in the employment village!



Ash

This term, Ash class have enjoyed making crispy buns, fruit smoothies and fruit salads to keep cool in the heat. We made cards for Lucy to congratulate her on having a baby and telling her that we miss her. Ash class have completed lots of arts and crafts, making bunting for the fair, some colourful fish and some lovely beaches. We like expressing ourselves! Friendship group is another important part of our week, we want to be good friends to one another and we play fun games. Looking after the garden and learning about how to weed has helped us get outside and enjoy nature. The best thing we did was seeing the birds of prey, especially the little owl which hopped all over the hall! John Jamieson welcomed some very special birds of prey into school on Monday! We met a falcon, a barn owl and a little burrowing owl which hopped from chair to chair keeping learners entertained! What a hoot.



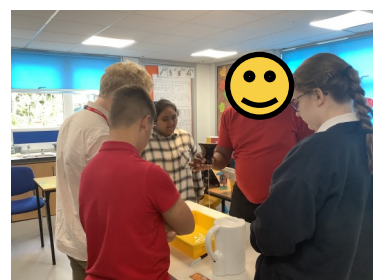
Pine

Pine Class have had a fantastic and memorable summer term, filled with exciting experiences and engaging learning opportunities. We enjoyed several wonderful trips, including surface pattern printing at Harewood House, a hands-on pizza making session at Pizza Express, and performing at the lively dance festival. Our learning topics have been equally inspiring—during our Holidays topic, we explored stories such as *Clean Up!*, while in the second half term, our Transport topic saw us enjoying the classic song *Yellow Submarine* by The Beatles. In mathematics, we have focused on position, developing our understanding through practical activities, and in science, we have thoroughly enjoyed learning about seasonal changes and forces. In PE, we have also been developing our skills through Lacrosse, which everyone has really enjoyed.



Maple

Maple Class have had a lovely Summer term this year, enjoying trips to see cricket matches, to build bug houses and to explore the wilderness with wilderness crafts. We have enjoyed preparing for the summer fair with lots of crafts and planning activities, as well as for the dance festival where many of us are performing. Maple Class have also had a regular visitor from Mott MacDonald teaching us about STEM and the world of engineering, where we have done fun STEM activities like building bridges, designing eco-friendly buildings and even making our own bricks! We have also worked hard in all our subject lessons, learning about forces around us, how to use maps and describe directions and enjoying reading about transport and understanding the meanings of lyrics.



Elm Class Arts Award Success

We are delighted to celebrate the fantastic achievements of our Elm class learners, who have been taking part in their Trinity College London Arts Award coursework.

All learners successfully completed the programme and were awarded either the Discover or Explore Arts Award accreditation, receiving their official Trinity College certificates—well done to everyone involved!

The Arts Award introduces young people to a variety of art forms in a fun and structured way. Throughout the course, our learners:

- Took part in creative arts activities
- Experienced the arts as audience members
- Shared their own learning and ideas

This enriching experience has helped them develop important skills including creativity, communication, teamwork, and reflective thinking.

We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, creativity, and hard work—what a brilliant achievement!



Internal 16+ Work Experience

This year, our Post-16 learners have taken part in a range of internal work experience placements, including supporting food deliveries, working in EYFS classrooms, and assisting primary learners during community visits. In the EYFS setting, learners experienced a busy and engaging environment, helping staff prepare activities, join in with story time, and encourage children through play. While supporting primary learners off-site, they helped supervise children during trips, promoting safety, positive behaviour, and active participation in the community. Learners also delivered parcels between school sites and helped organise stock. These responsibilities required them to follow instructions carefully, communicate effectively with staff, manage their time, and ensure deliveries were completed safely and efficiently. These placements have helped learners

develop valuable employability skills, including communication, teamwork, organisation, adaptability, and problem-solving. Most importantly, they have built confidence, independence, and responsibility, supporting our learners as they prepare for adulthood and future employment.



Prom Night Highlights

What a fantastic night! This year's prom was a wonderful celebration of our learners' hard work and achievements. Everyone looked amazing, and the evening was filled with laughter, music, dancing and plenty of memorable moments. It was great to see friends enjoying time together, taking photos and celebrating the end of another successful year. A huge Congratulations to all our learners—we are incredibly proud of everything you have achieved. Prom was the perfect way to finish the year, and we hope the memories made will last for years to come!



Ofsted Report 2026

We are delighted to share our 2026 Ofsted report with you.

We are incredibly proud of this report and hope that you will be too. The report recognises the strength of our provision, the positive experiences of our learners, the strong relationships between staff and learners, and the high aspirations we hold for every young person.

This outcome is a reflection of the dedication, skill and commitment of our staff team, who work tirelessly every day to support our learners and their families. It also reflects the invaluable partnership we have with our parents and carers, whose support plays such an important role in our learners' success. Most importantly, the report celebrates our wonderful learners, who continue to inspire us with their achievements, resilience and determination. You will also be able to read the report attached via the Ofsted Reports website here: [Ofsted Report Website](#)

Thank you for your continued support of East SILC. We hope you enjoy reading the report and sharing in this significant achievement.



Governor's Update

The Summer term has been busy for Governors as well as staff with the anticipated visit from the Ofsted Inspectors at the beginning of June. Four members off the governing board met with Ofsted inspectors on the second day of the visit to discuss their role in oversight of the school from the curriculum, through safeguarding and attendance to the state of the buildings. We are very pleased with the Ofsted report recognising the hard work of all staff in striving for the happiness, wellbeing and best outcomes for all learners.

In early May, three governors spent the whole day visiting across the school sites to assess implementation of item 2.1 of the school improvement plan (SIP): *Implement the pathway model across the SILC to ensure that all learners are accessing stage appropriate curriculum and learning*. They began the day meeting with Becky Parker (curriculum lead) and Jamie Darby (head of school at John Jamieson) to gain a more detailed understanding of the pathway approach and then toured classrooms on the John Jamieson, Jack Clark and Roger Cannon sites to meet teachers and observe classes putting the four pathway streams, Engage, Encounter, Enrich and Elevate, into action. The governors were impressed with how staff had embraced the pathways, felt supported in delivering them and how they recognised a benefit in pupils' ability to focus and learn in lessons.

A subsequent visit by 3 governors later in May looked at SIP 3.3 *Implement benchmarked parent/carers survey to gather evidence- informed feedback and strengthen home-school partnership*, reviewing the 129 responses received to the recent parent survey and discussing engagement between the school and parents. Other regular school visits reviewed Safeguarding procedures and the health and safety requirements of the buildings, with the termly meetings of the Curriculum and Welfare (CAWC) and Finance, Health and Safety committees meeting before the final full governing board of the year. It is not all hard work. Governors enjoyed joining a great evening of music and entertainment at Spectrum Festival on June 12th and are looking forward to participating in the end of term activities, including the "Together We Groove" dance festival at The Bridge on July 8th.

A Fond Farewell and a Warm Welcome

This term, we say a heartfelt goodbye to our Lead Nurse, **Jacquie Beattie**, as she begins her well-deserved retirement. Jacquie has been a valued member of the East SILC team for many years, providing outstanding care and support to our learners, families, and staff. We thank her for her dedication and wish her a happy and relaxing retirement. We are also delighted to welcome **Marie Nzambita** as our new Lead Nurse. We look forward to working with Marie and wish her every success as she joins the East SILC community.

Matthews Fundraising



Matthew's fundraiser for the East SILC to help fund SEND residentials

This year, I'm stepping well outside my comfort zone by taking on not one, but two marathons – the Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon on 10 May 2026, followed by the Altra Yorkshire Marathon on 18 October 2026. To put that challenge into perspective, the furthest I had ever run before starting this training journey was just 10k.

I've chosen to fundraise for East SILC, a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) school that does incredible work supporting its learners. East SILC offers residential trips across the UK and abroad, but for many SEND learners these opportunities are often out of reach due to the additional costs and support required.

Your donation will directly help cover vital elements such as accessible accommodation, specialist staffing and fully inclusive activities, ensuring learners can take part safely, confidently and with dignity. By supporting this cause, you're not just helping to fund a trip that may be a once in a lifetime experience – you're helping to build self-belief, create lasting memories, and show SEND learners that they are valued, included and deserving of the same opportunities as everyone else.

Every donation, no matter how big or small, makes a real difference and brings these experiences closer to reality for East SILC learners. If you're unable to donate, sharing this page would still mean the world.

Thank you for reading. Thank you for caring and thank you for helping make a difference.



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Help us reach our target!

Make a donation with **JustGiving**



Important Dates

Please make sure you make a note of these important dates in your diary

Friday 17th July Break Up Summer Holidays

Thursday 3rd September Return To School

Friday 23rd October October Holidays
(1 week)

Monday 2nd November Return To School

Monday 30th November Training day

Friday 18th December Break up for Christmas



NURSING CONTACT INFORMATION

We would like to ensure that you have the Inclusion Nursing Service Contact Details, should you need to contact a member of the team during the holiday.

Marie Nzabamwita

East SILC Lead Nurse

0113 2492431 or

0795 129 0212

If you cannot contact a member of the Inclusion Nursing Service, please contact Susan Carr Team Leader 0113 2738644 or the service Coordinator.

Leeds Community Healthcare **NHS**
NHS Trust

