



Newsletter

Term 3 - 2024



Welcome to our term 3 newsletter. You can see all the amazing things that the students and staff have been involved in this term, including the countless extracurricular activities. Life Skills Manor adapts and redesigns the curriculum to meet the needs of all our students.

This term we have explored a wide range of activities and workshops that have helped the students to come out of their comfort zones and develop their resilience. We hope you enjoy discovering what the children have been up to!

Whole School

A Midsummer's Night Dream

We welcomed the Sky Blue Theatre Company to our school who delivered Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer's Night's Dream'. Not only did we discover the story, but the cast was made up of pupils and staff at LSM with everyone really getting into their role.



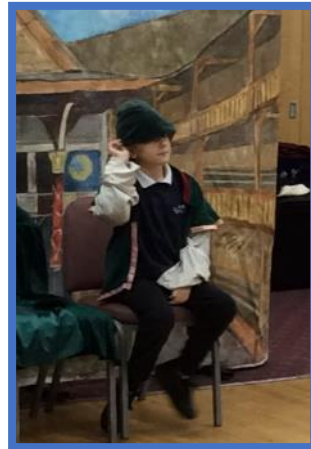
Chicken Run

At the start of term 3 we created a new 5* house for our chickens. Working as a team, the children had to dig out the foundations, construct the flat pack and give it a coat of protective weatherproofing so that it will last a long time.



The bottom of the run was encapsulated with a fine mesh to stop any predators getting in. We back filled the bottom of the run with soil and leaves which will provide the chickens with the correct habitat to exhibit normal behaviour as they can scratch and search for worms and bugs. Here are a few photos of the chicken run as we made it.





Well done everyone!!!

Therapy

Let's help every child
thrive



This term we were lucky enough to have a visit from Phil at the Dog's Trust.

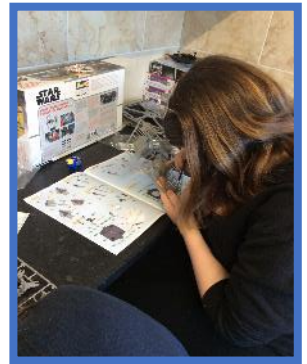


The Dog's Trust

Phil spent the day with us visiting each class in turn delivering an interactive workshop on safety around dogs. The students learnt how to safely interact with dogs including how to approach, play and feed dogs in a safe way all with the help of Larry the labrador and some student volunteers.



As a school we were also able to collect a HUGE four black sacks full of towels, blankets and toys for the dogs currently being looked after by the Dogs Trust. Thank you to everyone who donated!



Model Making

Some students have been busy making Star Wars models in the Therapy House.

Assembly



The assembly held on Friday 26th January was dedicated to Holocaust Memorial Day, which took place on Saturday 27th January. The theme this year was 'The Fragility of Freedom' and the students all showed fantastic focus as they learnt about what the Holocaust was, who was persecuted and listened to individual accounts. At the end of the session, the students were encouraged to reflect on the Holocaust and consider what can be done to stop such an atrocity occurring again.

Mercury



Mercury class have been busy yet again and we have been looking at Life Skills in the community and studying Careers. We have been to many local places to develop our independence in the local community.



We have also experienced extracurricular workshops focusing on different careers. We have had the police in to talk about "The life of a Police Officer" and had a hairdresser in to teach hairdressing techniques.

This term's Creative Studies topic is "Light" and we conducted many experiments to investigate its properties. The students have shown great engagement and interest in this.



Mars

In Mars Class, we have packed a lot into term 3.

Our visitors this term included: the police, the Sky Blue Theatre Company, the Dog's Trust and had Coastal Park School, Folkestone visit for a football match.

We were thrilled when we had a special visit from our local police force! The two police officers were here to engage with our students, sharing insights into their work, and provide a firsthand experience of their equipment and vehicles. They discussed the importance of community policing, crime prevention, and the various roles within the police force sharing their personal stories and explaining the rewards of a career in law enforcement.



This was followed by the Sky-Blue Theatre where 'A Midnight Summer's Dream' was the theme of the day. A few pupils took part in a school production of the play before directing and producing their own trailers and photo stills.

Later in the term, Phil from the Dog's trust visited our class and shared his pawsitivity. Sharing a valuable insight and helping the

students foster a deeper understanding of what a responsible pet ownership is and the unique bond between humans and their four-legged friends. We certainly had fun.



Football against Coastal Park School



Through the curriculum we have we have completed James and the Giant Peach in English and moved onto learning about Myths and Legends and we are studying the legend of Romulus and Remus. In mathematics, we have covered multiplication and division. Enhancing their understanding and applying their knowledge to reasoning and problem solving. Moving on we covered perimeter and have begun to learn about fractions.



Our usual Life Skills trips have gone ahead this term with visits to local parks and an Inclusive Sports trip to Hartsdown Sports Centre to take part in a variety of different activities alongside other schools. The class did an amazing job of tackling new tasks such as curling and darts, even taking on another school in a friendly game of bowls.

Neptune

It has been a short term, but Neptune have really been cramming in a lot. On top of our packed curriculum, we have been studying Shakespeare's 'Midsummer night's dream', and we were fortunate enough to have had the Blue Sky acting workshop come into school. The engaging and comical version of the play and the follow up workshops really consolidated our understanding of the play.



Neptune attended a cricket event hosted by Kent inclusive sport with schools from all over Kent. The event gave the students a chance to take part in an array of cricket games and mix with students from other schools, within the beautiful setting of Polo Farm in Canterbury.

The students were brilliant all day and got involved in all activities, highlighting table cricket as their favourite. The students received medals and certificates for their effort and participation on the day. Off the back of this Neptune class have been invited to a competitive event of table football to be hosted at Canterbury Cricket ground. The winning team will then go on to represent Kent at Lord's Cricket Ground London against teams from all over the country. It would be a great opportunity for all the students involved so we wish them all the luck.



Saturn

Term 3 has been busy in Saturn class. In English we have been studying non-fiction texts, focusing on Shakespeare. We have investigated his life and even had a visit from 'Blue Sky' who performed 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and conducted workshops. Students then planned and wrote a newspaper article about the visit. We have also reviewed books, films, and television programmes.

Maths lessons have focused on life skill tasks, from telling the time of an analogue clock and translating it to digital. Other areas of maths have included rounding decimals and linking this to money and percentage problems.

The class have been enthralled in their science lessons, where we have focused on genetics. We looked at Darwin's work on evolution and investigated genetic traits, such as, tongue rolling and hand spans.



During ASDAN students have honed their fine motor skills by creating diamond art coasters/pictures and assessing the processes of making it, in an instructional form.



The volunteering element of their DofE bronze award has been fulfilled at Monkton Nature Reserve. The class have successfully cleared the 'Lester Trail', trimmed the hedgerows and designed a new map.



Reading continues to be a focus with every student reading a book or using myON every day. Passwords have been sent home for myON, TT Rockstars and Typesy to encourage reading, times tables and touch typing from home.



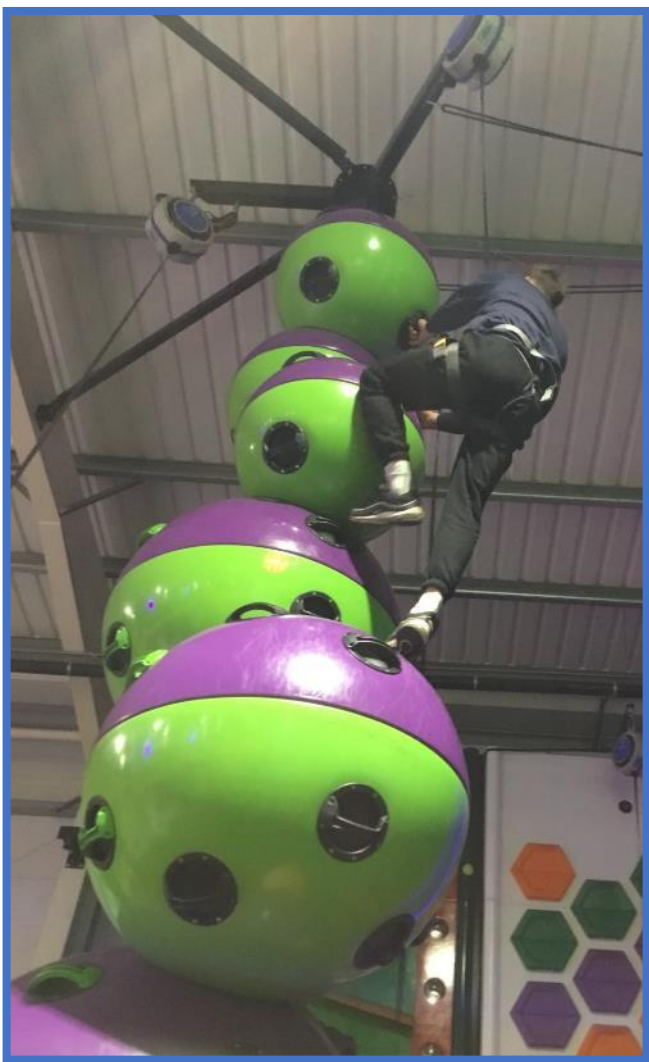
Jupiter

Clip N' Climb

It's been a fun packed term for Jupiter! We started off the term by visiting Cip n' Climb. This was a new challenge for many of us.



Billie said, "it's a challenge", Fin said " it was a new experience, but it was fun". Dakota said, "You embarrass yourself, but then redeem yourself". Milli said, "she liked the bright colours". This great experience was booked in for the whole of the term 3 and helped to develop key life skills such as confidence , team building resistance and coordination.



The Dog's Trust

Phil from the The Dogs Trust gave us a talk about dog care. He spoke to us about how to approach a random dog in the street and how to be safe around them. We found his talk really entertaining and he told us about how to train dogs, careers surrounding dogs and the roles and responsibilities that come with owning a dog.



Tree Planting

It was our time to become superheroes and give nature a helping hand. A few months ago, we had 200 baby trees delivered. Jupiter spent time down in the allotment replanting these into their holding pens. We plan to plant them out down in the outdoor learning area later in the year.

Rehouse the chickens

We have installed a new house for the chickens and early in the week we moved them in. They looked very content scratching in the leaves, looking for bugs and exhibiting normal behaviour. We asked them if they were happy, and they said their new accommodation was eggcellent!



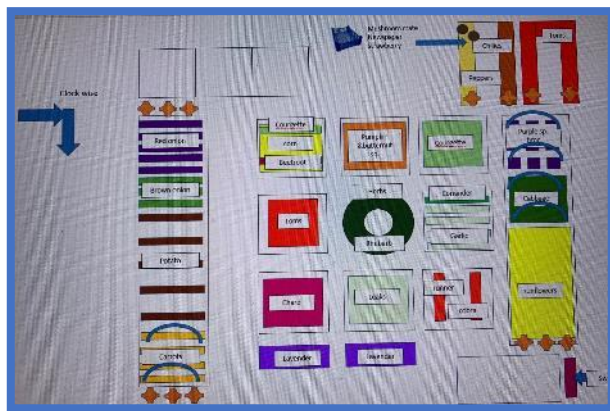
Umbrella plant

While down at the allotment we potted up some umbrella plants. We've taken them home to look after them. We will give them water, warmth, sunshine and love to encourage growth. I hear that singing to them also helps! "I'm singing in the rain"...



Allotment

There has been a lot of work going into the allotment, so well done to Jupiter and Saturn. We are currently installing some new beds and a path around the site. Thank you to **All Access Scaffolding** for the donation of the boards. This has really helped to finalise the layout and double our growing space so we can get ready for planting.



Planter

As part of getting the allotment ready for Spring, we decided to design and make a planter. We wanted to create them using a sustainable source of materials. We used pine which came from salvaged pallets that we saved from going to landfill. Now they have a new life as planters for our iris bulbs.



DofE

Y8 Football Match

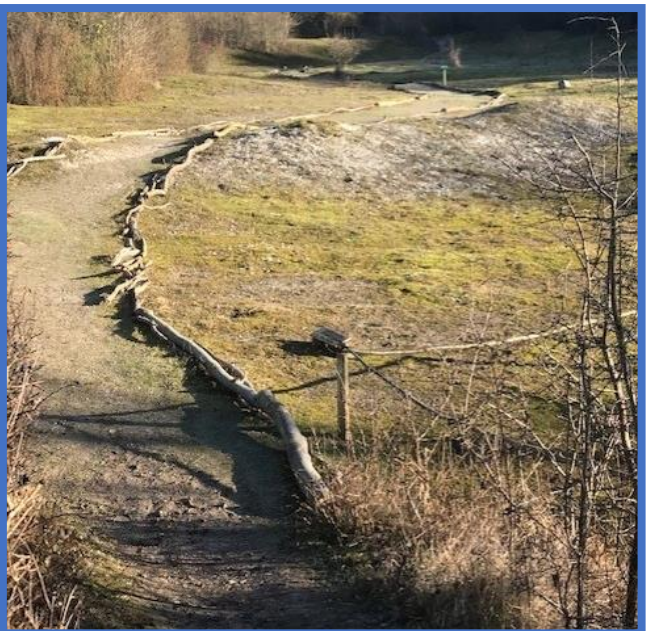
This term in another extra-curricular activity the year 8 students played a football match. As usual they showed great enthusiasm and a positive attitude. The games took place against Ripplevale School on their brand new astroturf. We were made to feel very welcome, and both sides were full of excitement and enthusiasm. The first match that we played against their A team was very competitive and evenly matched. Right towards the end of the match we managed to take the lead and win the game 3 -1. For the 2nd game against their B team, we made some changes and won again 3 - 0. Fantastic performances from both teams, well done. Excellent!



DofE

Monkton

Saturn have been continuing with their DofE voluntary work at Monkton Nature Reserve with great success. Recently the students have been examining one of the 'activity' trails at the reserve. They then submitted a written report with various recommendations on how to improve the trail (Lester's trail). The students have applied themselves well on this project/task and displayed great teamwork. Well done team!



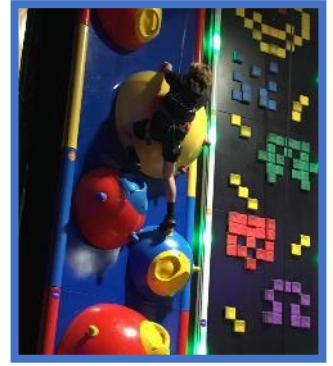
As part of the DofE, the students helped with some path maintenance work and some ground clearance.



THE DUKE
OF EDINBURGH'S
AWARD

PE

This term we have had the excellent opportunity to attend Clip n Climb with Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune. Resilience was key and whether it was getting to the top of the wall or their own personal limit- all the students did an amazing job in pushing themselves.



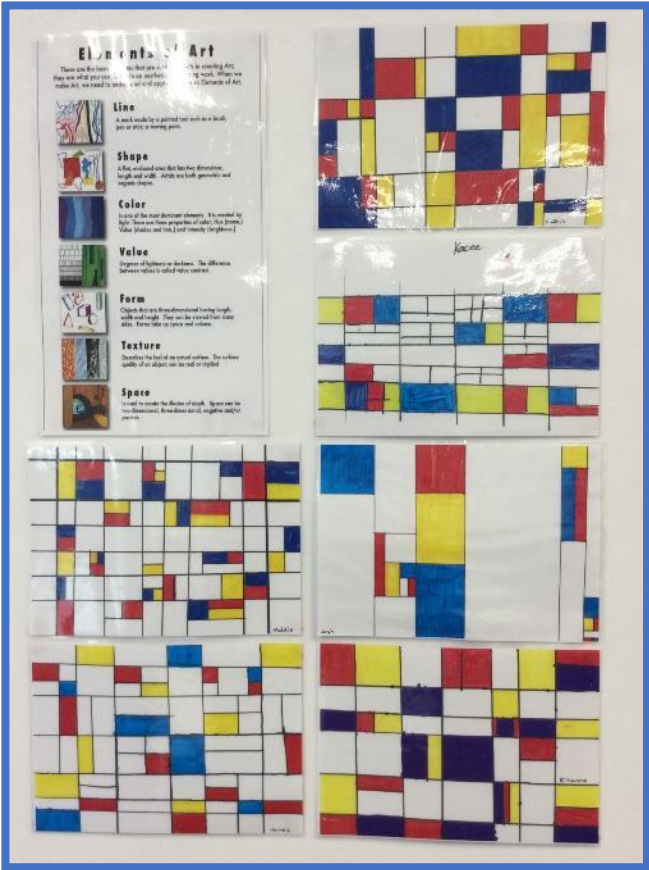
Mars and Mercury have attempted a myriad of multi-skills/sports which has consisted of dodgeball, pickleball, table tennis, badminton and football.

Students have also had the opportunity to attend Thanet Inclusive Games held at Hartsdown Leisure Centre, this term was Boccia and New Age Kurling.

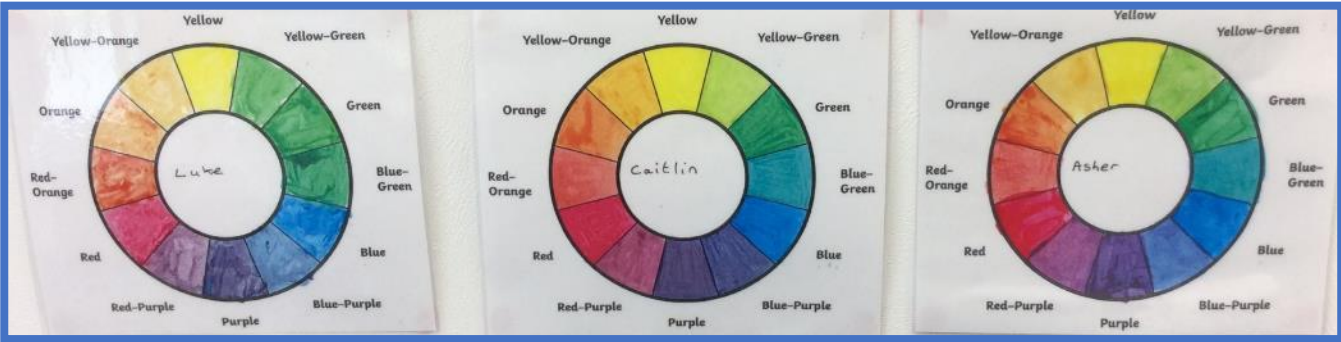


The Art Gallery (KS3)

Neptune have looked at colour theory this term. Below are examples of exploring how colours can be made. They have also looked at colour wheels and which colours are complementary colours.



They then applied this knowledge to create their own work inspired by the artist Mondrian. Mondrian used primary colours when creating his work and bold black lines to frame it.



The Art Gallery (GCSE)

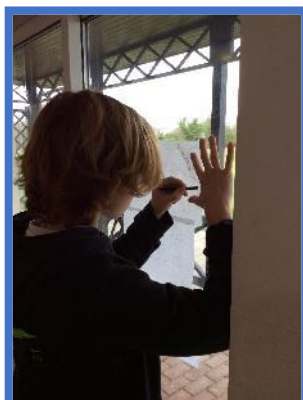
It's not very often that you get to see the artist at work. But here is Syd creating his final idea for the 'My Space' project.

"My idea came from Picasso's Guernica. I started by creating a range of initial ideas which helped me to design my characters. This work shows the army evacuating the beaches at Dunkirk during WW2. I enjoyed using the water colour inks because they were stronger than water colours". - Syd



Syd - Dunkirk 1940, Water colour inks on cartridge paper

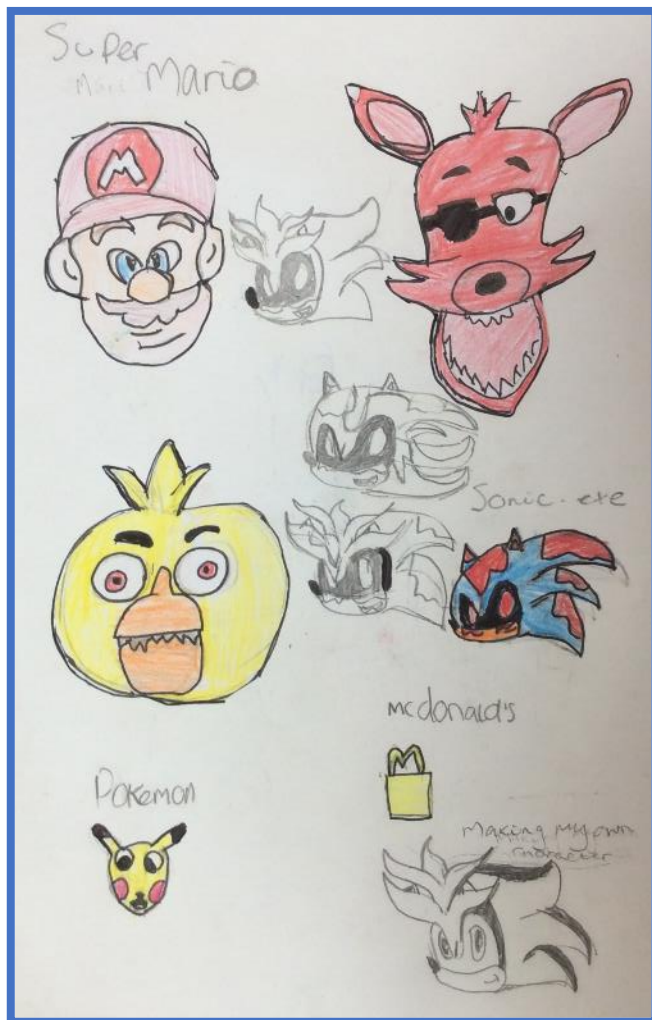
Here is Leo exploring with acrylic paint. Leo dropped paint on the paper and used a piece of card to drag the paint into the shape of the dragon. He drew the dragon on tracing paper, redrew over it with charcoal. He then transferred the image back onto the painting. Leo will continue to work on this over the next few weeks.



Leo – Dragon - Acrylic paint on cartridge paper



Kacper – Photo with pencil crayon



Shauna – Cartoon characters - Pencil, pencil crayon and fine liner pen



Milli – Oil pastel on cartridge paper

Henry Moore

As part of the GCSE art course, we need to explore the techniques of other artists. Here we have been working with a technique that Henry Moore used. Drawing in pencil, reinforcing the lines with charcoal, then adding a wax contour. Finally, finishing off with a water colour wash.



Parent/ Carer Questionnaire

A huge thanks to everyone that completed the questionnaire, we had a great response. The results were overwhelmingly positive with 100% saying that they would recommend the school to another parent!

A few parents and carers felt unsure what their children were studying over the course of the year. Therefore, Curriculum Maps will be added to the website to provide an overview of what will be studied over the year by each class.

Also, as mentioned on Class Dojo, in term 5 there will be a Parents and Carers' Consultation. Jupiter and Saturn will be held on Monday 22nd April and Mars, Mercury and Neptune will be held on Monday 29th April. This will give everyone the opportunity to discuss their child's academic and social progress and look at the work they have produced.

Please find below all the comments that we received:

'My kid loves school now which is all we could really ask for so thank you.'

'Best school and all the staff are amazing. Couldn't ask for a better school for my child.'

'My child is able to be who she really is, not what others say she should be.'

'I have been really impressed with the school, the communication is brilliant and there are so many opportunities available.'

School uniform

PE Kit

White Top with School Logo
Black Joggers or Shorts
Black Trainers



The Games Master

Games review by **Thomas Sullivan**



For term 3 I have decided to review an old school game called Pacman. You can play this game online for free. The aim of the game is to collect all the little white balls and not get caught by the four coloured ghosts. You can only get to the next level if you collect all the balls. While doing this will be chased by ghosts. If the ghosts catch you then you will lose a life. However, if you eat one of the big balls then the ghosts can be eaten by you for a small amount of time. The ghost will flash blue and white. After the time is up, they will turn back to their original colour. This game as it is old is created using retro graphics. My top tip for this game is to collect the balls just before being caught by the ghosts, then you can turn round and eat them. My other top tip is to use the portholes at the side so that you can transfer from one side of the screen to the other.



Life Skills Manor Uniform:

Blue coat or Fleece with School Logo
Blue Sweatshirt with School Logo
White Shirt / Polo with Logo
Black School Shoes
Black School Trousers
Black Skirt (Knee Length)

