

THE LEARNING LOOP

MESSAGES FROM SLT

Another busy week at Papworth!

This week we have managed to finalise the trips for the classes. We hope all of the children have a great time and a huge thank you to all the teams for supporting. We would also like to thank Emma for endless phone calls and Megan for organising lunches and paperwork!

This week has seen children working together in lots of different ways. We have seen lots of creativity through using different art media to create fish, thinking about the Zones of Regulation and how we can put this into practice, NCFE papers being completed with lots of smiley teacher faces and books being completed and reflected on.

Behind the scenes books have been arriving and more furniture is due any day. This time of year is always busy but lots of fun.

Have a restful weekend and we will see you all on Monday.
Carolyn and Jane.

IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Last day (1/2 day) - 17th July
Sports Day: 17th July 11.00-13.00
Summer Break: 17th July - 28th August
Bank Holiday: 31st August
Inset Days - 1st and 2nd September

REMINDERS

- We are a **nut-free** setting, please ensure lunches and snacks are free from all nut products.
<https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/education/>
- Any **devices** that are brought into school will need to be turned off and handed over to the team once onsite.
- Please note our **sickness policy**: sickness and diarrhea require 48hrs from last bout of illness
- **Absence forms** available on our website - please ensure you give sufficient time for these to be reviewed by the team.

CONTACT INFO

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THE LEARNING LOOP

CLINICAL

This week we have been reminded of the magic of intensive interaction.

Intensive Interaction, developed by D Hewett, is a fun, play-based and evidence-based approach, used widely to help neurodivergent children develop early communication skills. It works by allowing the child to lead, while the adult playfully mirrors their movements, sounds, and facial expressions.

Why Use Intensive Interaction? This approach builds the foundations of social communication and helps children learn how to enjoy being with others. It teaches the fundamentals of communication, like turn-taking, shared attention and enjoyment around an activity.

How to Try It at Home

The magic of intensive interaction is that you don't need fancy toys or a strict schedule. You can practice this anytime—whether you're sitting in the lounge, during personal care, or playing in the sensory room. Follow simple steps:

Get Down to Their Level:

Sit face-to-face on the floor or in a space where they can easily see your face.

Watch and Wait: Observe your child's body language, movements, or noises. Be patient and give them time to process.

Copy and Join In: Imitate their actions or sounds in a meaningful and enjoyable way.

Follow Their Lead: tune into their interests and follow them in their play. The interaction stops when your child has had enough. Don't try to 'teach', just improvise and tune into your child!

Short, repeated sessions throughout the day are perfect.

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CLINICAL

Fun Activities to Try

Building Anticipation: Play games like "ready, steady... go!" with a slow, drawn-out pause. See if your child looks at you or makes a sound before you say "go!".

Mirroring: Gently copy how they tap their hand or use toys.

Noises and Turn-Taking: If they make a sound, repeat it back and wait for them to respond again; if they sing a song, sing back.

Intensive Interaction with older children can involve really tuning into their interests and following their lead in play.

By following the student's lead, mirroring their actions, and pausing to let them respond, you help them build natural conversational skills and emotional connection, which can be an area of challenge, even if they already have developed some spoken language.

The best part of intensive interaction is that it's intuitive, effortless and fun.

Intensive interaction can help a child that is feeling overwhelmed, and can also help prepare them for learning. All staff have had some lovely moments singing to each other in made up tunes, looking at each other and saying 21 or 6-7, making silly noises, drawing monsters, pretending to be robots, playing football, making paper cats, talking about butterflies and Among us, and playing war with sharks and soldiers -a great way to prepare for a speech sound session!

Don't be afraid to appear 'silly', and don't be afraid you might lose 'control' as a parent- or teacher. When children see that we are tuning in and copying them, they feel 'listened to' and empowered, and then they will naturally want to connect with us, making for fewer power battles!

If you want to find out more and see Intensive Interaction in action, check:

Intensive Interaction - Fundamentals of Communication

Youtube channel for intensive interaction

We'd love to hear how it goes!

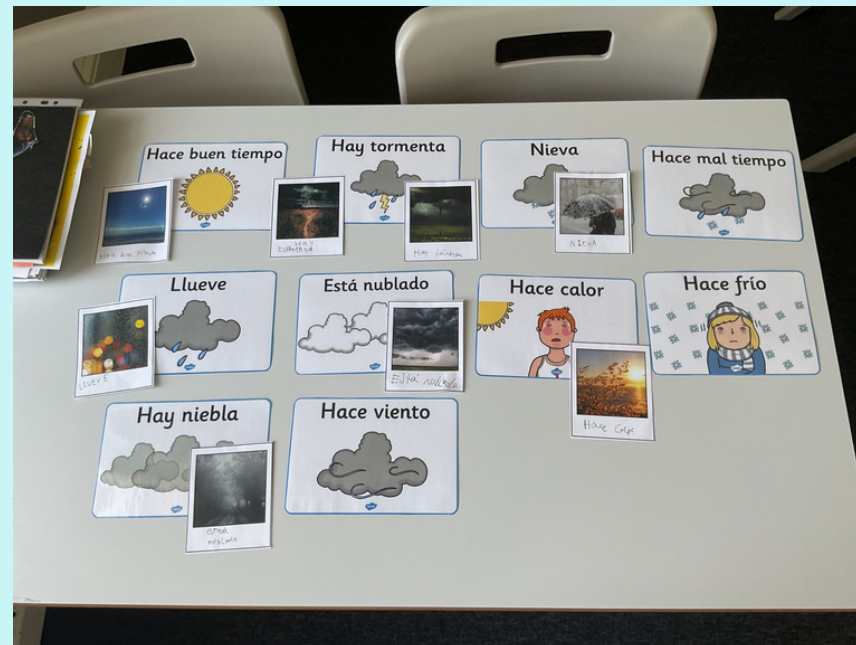
Have a great weekend!

From the Clinical Team: Nafsika, Nicola, Katy and Claudia

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GRAFHAM

What a fantastic week of learning! 📏 Our mathematicians became fruit roll investigators, measuring, comparing lengths, and ordering their findings from shortest to longest. The hands-on approach had everyone engaged and excited about numbers. 🎉 In Spanish, we explored the wonderful world of weather! ☀️ Students read and repeated new vocabulary with enthusiasm, then put their new words to work by describing different pictures. 🌧️☀️



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PAXTON

We have enjoyed the slightly cooler, but still warm temperatures this week. We have enjoyed going back out for our full daily mile each morning. The class has now completed reading *The Diary of Anne Frank* and have written reviews of the book. We have been working on spelling in preparation to complete Reading and Writing assessments. Students completed their STAR reading and maths assessments this week. In Art we reviewed and ranked all nine nature inspired artworks we have looked at this term. We finished off studying the Holocaust in History, ending with the topic of 'Choiceless Choices'.

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HARDWICK

What a week it's been in Hardwick! ✨ Our students absolutely crushed their phonic assessments, Literacy Star readers, and math assessments – we're talking stellar performances across the board! 📚✨

As we wound down toward the end of the week, we shifted gears into something equally important: pure fun! ☀️ The students enjoyed some fantastic social games, soaked up the beautiful weather, and jumped into team games while getting their competitive spirits ready for sports day! 🏃⚽

It's been the perfect blend of academic excellence and joyful play – exactly what a balanced week should look like! 🎉

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WYTON

As promised on ClassDojo, here is the verdict to the ice cream Wyton made earlier this week.

One student said, "It tastes so good!"

Another said, "It was really tasty!"

It was good fine—motor practice for learners to work out how to dig the frozen deliciousness out of the tub.

We also discussed how it was beneficial to not have a little now, and save some for later

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CAXTON

Class update: Caxton have been focussing on outdoor art this term, and this week we made our own artworks using only natural materials we found outside in the style of Andy Goldsworthy. We made faces, roads, boats and moving gates for a railway crossing!



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BARTON

What a week of creativity and adventure awaits Barton! 🌈 We've been diving into the magical world of Rainbow Fish, and when our printer decided to take an unexpected vacation, we turned it into the perfect opportunity to get artistic. Our little ones have been exploring all sorts of mark-making techniques to decorate their very own shimmering fish – think paint, pastels, stickers, and so much more! The results are absolutely spectacular. 🎨

But wait, there's more excitement brewing! 🦁 We're gearing up for our end of year trip to Hamerton Zoo, and the anticipation is real. We've been studying pictures of the zoo and getting acquainted with some of the amazing animals we'll encounter. We've also read through our social story together, so everyone knows exactly what to expect. Both the adults and pupils are buzzing with excitement for this adventure! 🎉



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STAR MOMENTS



Grafham: Our students worked really hard for their NCFE tests, and I couldn't be prouder of the effort, focus, and determination!

Caxton: Our star moment is all about generosity; Caxton learners have been particularly good at sharing and giving each other things they know they will enjoy.

Paxton: we enjoyed listening to a track produced by one of the Paxton students during a session with John in Music Therapy.



(Image, not sound file)

THE LEARNING LOOP

OUR VALUES

At Papworth Hall School we are committed to enhancing the lives of all our young people through education preparing them for life in the community.

We support our children to be:

Safe – be safe, feel safe, and understand risk
Understanding – be effective and successful communicators

Kind – be kind to all around them, to understand and respect the needs of others

Happy – be healthy and happy individuals who enjoy coming to school

Ambitious – have goals and dreams for their futures and be supported to achieve them

Successful – find regular achievement and celebrate this as part of a community.

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FEATURE OF THE WEEK

You won't believe what Dai brought to life for her final art project! 🎮✨
She crafted an absolutely amazing chain puppet inspired by her favorite video game character. The creativity, the detail, the dedication, it's all there! 🎨



We would like to share some of the crafty work our students are up to. Doing embroidery develops fine motor skills and helps to stay grounded. Some really fine work is being produced.

