



Manor Hall
Academy Trust

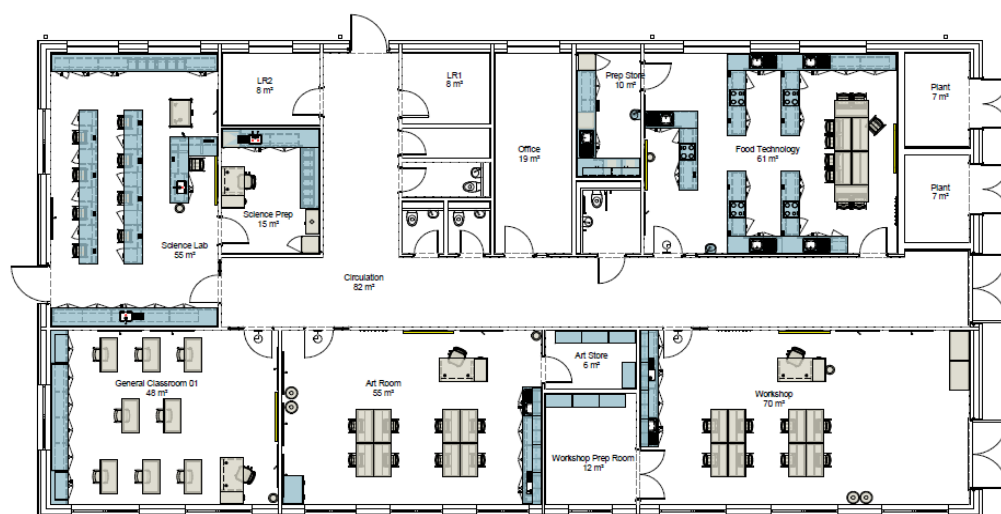
Message from the Head

As we complete the first Term of the Academic Year I think its fair to say that it has felt a long one ! The students and staff have worked extremely hard to embed a number of initiatives that were introduced towards the end of last year. Of particular note is the way in which reading is now systematically threaded throughout the schools with a real focus on supporting those who find it more difficult, as well as challenging those who are already fluent.

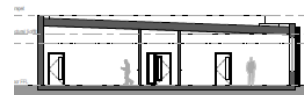
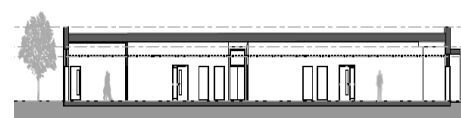
As we track progress, it is clear that the early reading age gains have continued and more students are doing better at all levels.

I am also pleased to see that the schools open days and coffee mornings have been exceptionally well supported and feedback has been very positive. The sessions held on the Brades Lodge site have attracted parents and carers from both schools and have been a really good way to share information from a range of agencies, charities and the school.

On another note, we continue to move closer to a mid/end January start date for building work at the Brades Lodge as meetings to plan the final details have been completed. This includes fixtures and fittings and agreeing the colour schemes. Below is an impression of what the rooms will look like once finished. For information there is 1 generic classroom and 4 specialist rooms which will be used to teach science, food tech, art and work based learning. The rooms are approximately 3 times larger than the current teaching spaces, which will make a massive difference to the quality of what and how lessons can be delivered.



Side Facing Current School Building



Front Entrance

On behalf of all the staff at our schools we wish you a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.





SPORTS NEWS The Brades Lodge year 7's had a fantastic day out as they got the opportunity to go on a VIP tour of the West Bromwich Albion stadium-The Hawthorns. The boys got to see behind the scenes,

checking out the changing rooms, the dug out, the commentary box, the stadiums sensory room and loads more. They all really enjoyed their time at the ground, especially when they were given some promotional 'freebies' !

The Midland League games have continued at a pace with The Brades team recently playing home and away. The latest fixture was against Woodfield School, from Coventry. Following a bright start Brades went in to half time 2-0 up after great goals from Dej'Ai and Josh. As the game progressed the heavy ground, and lack of subs took its toll as tiredness set in. This gave Woodfield all the room they needed on the pitch and soon in the second half they had scored their way to victory... 4-2 was the final result. Adam Nunney (PE)



Shenstone Lodge are working closely with AFC Fradley Falcons to develop its SEND schools programme. As part of the arrangement the school gets to take part in local tournaments and on Sunday 17th Dec the team played at St Georges Park.



The Falcons played teams from , Stoke City, Wolves, Tamworth and Gt Wyrley losing only one ! The Shenstone team were an absolute credit especially as some parents/carers were able to attend and watch the games too ! Ian Mitchell (HOS)

WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD ? To get to their new home at The Brades Lodge School ! After years of planning and work to build a suitable 'fox resistant' coup, four feathery friends have finally arrived !



Students gathered and watched as the chickens entered their new home for the first time and began to acclimatise to their surroundings. A competition is already underway to name the birds with students and staff getting chance to enter. We look forward to regularly reporting on how they are getting on !



Local Support Shenstone Lodge School has always worked closely with Community Groups from Shenstone Village when the opportunity arises. This year the 'Friends of Shenstone Station' asked the school to decorate a wooden Christmas Tree that would sit with pride on the station platform over the Festive period. Students from Trolls class responded to the call and decided that a rustic theme would do the job on a number of levels, not least that the materials could be composted once the tree was removed.

Year 9s Hard at Work ! Brades Lodge students undertaking a work based learning unit have been given the job of redecorating and transforming the intervention learning rooms. Having prepped the walls by sugar soaping and filling holes with polyfiller, the boys sanded the dry filler and painted the ceiling. The next step will be to 'cut in' and paint the walls. Jake said " I really enjoy the things I get to do.. It makes me think about the jobs I want to do when I leave school." Jack Benson (WBL lead)



Parent Survey 2023 As a reminder, Our Parent Survey, 2023 has been sent to all registered email addresses and should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. The feedback will be anonymised unless you specifically mention your name in a written response and wish to be contacted by the school to address any specific concerns you may have. We would appreciate the completion of the form by Friday 22nd Dec so that we can put any areas for development in place as soon as possible.



Oh Yes It Was ! The Shenstone Lodge site students enjoyed a fantastic trip out to The Lichfield Garrick to watch Beauty and the Beast on Wednesday 13th Dec.

Much to the delight of the children, Mr Lewis was thrown in to the spotlight as he was asked to kiss one of the cast's poorly arm better! Everyone had a great time watching the brilliant show!

XMAS Quiz Corner



1. From the carol, what is the gift presented by 'my true love' on the 5th day of Christmas ?
2. Can you describe 3 meanings for the word 'mass'?
3. How many words can you make using the letters in Nativity ?
4. What is mulled wine made from ?
5. What is myrrh ?

Birds of Prey visit.

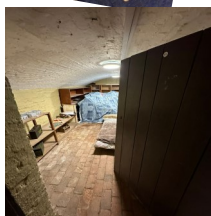
On Friday 1st December, Year 4 and the week's DOJO winners, had some special visitors. Bert the Harris Hawk and Ollie the Barn owl came along with Graham (their owner), to talk about their life in the wild versus their life in captivity. Year 4 had been looking at food chains in Science so this was a great opportunity to learn about predator prey relationships. We learnt that both birds are carnivores (meat eaters that eat other animals). In the wild the Harris hawk eats rattlesnakes, but now has a diet of chicks and that the barn owl, although would feast on mice in the wild, also now eats chicks. Ollie the barn owl is 15 years old, in the wild he would only live until approx. 1 years old, this is due to the lack of barns we have, and although predators to mice, they have become the prey for cats.

All of the students displayed exemplary behaviour, and represented the school and its core values, in a way that made us all very proud.



History Comes to Life

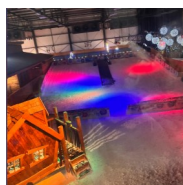
Having learnt about WW2 this term, Y6 had a visitor on Dec 12th. Dressed as a soldier, Mr Goldstraw answered a wide range of questions and shared some amazing resources for the children to look at and handle. The classes learnt all about wartime clothes, weapons, rationing, and discussed the Holocaust. In addition they got the chance to sit in the school cellar which had been 'dressed' to replicate a WW2 bunker. The group were really well behaved throughout the day, and learnt some amazing facts! Ms Shutts





A.O.B.

- Shenstone Lodge School site will be closed for staff INSET on Monday 15th January. The Brades Lodge site will be open as usual.
- The 'feedback window' regarding the INSET day consultation closes on the 22nd December. If you haven't already, please respond to the email sent on 18.10.23 if you have an opinion on the school increasing the number of training days from 5 to 6.
- The schools will be saying goodbye to a number of staff this half term. This includes Mark Daniel and Jess Millward who teach Maths and English (respectively) at the Brades Lodge. At Shenstone, Anne Marie Payne (Dragons teacher) and TAs Diaine Hill, Natasha Chadbone Picken
- The school welcomes Hattie Beeston who is the new Business Manager, Jak Edgley who will be teaching maths at The Brades. Alisha Abbas and Agnes Agnieszka who are taking TA positions at Shenstone



FUN TIMES IN THE SNOW As part of the final week activity schedule children from the Shenstone Lodge site spent a fun morning learning how to ice skate, before playing on the artificial slopes at Tamworth's Snowdome. It was a brilliant session despite chilly fingers and bright red noses !

Diary Dates...

Students return 8th Jan

SLS SCHOOL ONLY STAFF INSET

DAY Fri 15th JAN

STAFF INSET DAY Fri 9th FEB

Half Term 12th -16th Feb

Half Term 25th-29th March

School Data Box 2022/23

Whole School Attendance

2023/24 Yr To Date 87.3% PA 37.1% (below 90%)

2022/23 Whole Year : 85% PA 47.7% (below 90%)

Days lost to Suspension

2023/24 Yr To Date : 4.5

2022/23 Whole Year : **65**

STAY SAFE ONLINE ...



Supported by a range of popular sports stars and social media influencers EE Learn Smart has been widely advertised on TV. The website allows your child to access guidance on how to manage anxiety, confidence, resilience and even maths !



There are easy to follow short video clips presented by familiar faces that children can relate to. They provide insight to thinking strategies and how to reframe set backs, look at things more positively which relate well to real life circumstances. There are also interactive games on the site which help children to keep safe online.

Good To Know Newsletter



Free Changes Programme for Parents & Carers

Would you like to meet other parent/carers in similar parenting stages to you in a judgement-free and friendly environment?

Did you know our Changes Early and Primary years courses are held at soft play sessions? This means the children can play and make new friends while you relax and talk to other parents!

New early and primary years courses will be available in January - for more information email parent_support@sandwell.gov.uk

Free Changes activity sessions

January courses coming soon!

We are excited to be able to continue offering our FREE Changes activity sessions to families living in Sandwell with children aged 0-5 years old in 2024!

January courses will be available to book [here](#) soon!

Free Changes antenatal offer

Find out more [here](#)

Sandwell Changes offers free antenatal courses for parents who live in or have a GP in Sandwell.

Services include:

- Virtual and in-person 3-week antenatal courses
- 4-week aquanatal courses
- Grandparent/supporter sessions
- New Bump & Beyond sessions
- New Bump to Baby sessions

Sandwell Family Hubs

September is here and our local family hubs have so much to offer and share with you!

Sign up to our FREE newsletter ([here](#)) to receive the latest information on what Sandwell Family Hubs has to offer you and your family.

Sandwell Family information service

Visit the hub [here](#)

Has anything changed?

- Don't forget to update the FIS Hub and keep families up to date with your information
- Log on and check your record now
- Please complete the online Provider Survey. Your input to the Childcare Sufficiency Report is invaluable

Supporting Sandwell Residents

Supporting Sandwell Information Hub has lots of support and advice for residents during this tough time, from energy bills to Welcoming Spaces there is help for families in the borough.

Visit the Supporting Sandwell Information Hub [here](#)

Childcare support is expanding in 2024

Childcare support is expanding– even more working parents can get help to pay for their childcare.

Click [here](#) to find out more about the upcoming expansion starting April 2024.

Please remember, if you currently use the 30 hours childcare offer you must renew your 30 hours code before the 31 December

Healthy Sandwell

Helping you to improve your mental health and wellbeing

The festive period can be an emotional time for some, Healthy Sandwell has tips and information to support you, your family and friends this year and beyond.

For more information click [here](#)

Child to parent abuse

Child to Parent Abuse: Supporting parents and professionals. PEGS aims to reduce the impact of child-to-parent abuse by helping parents, training frontline professionals, impacting policy and raising awareness.

Find out more [here](#)

NSPCC Learn

Online safety

The NSPCC has opened applications for its Online Safety Youth Taskforce, for young people aged 13 to 16 across the UK, to help shape decisions about children's safety online.

The Taskforce allows young people to meet decision-makers, influence policies, and share their thoughts on how to help make the online world a safer place. Find out more [here](#)

NSPCC Learn

Banter vs bullying in sport

The NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) has released a webinar recording on bullying in sport. The webinar looks at the differences between banter and bullying and how to identify this in sports.

Find out more [here](#)

Sandwell Winter Booklet

Sandwell Council has produced a new Winter Booklet to support residents.

This is the Guide to Living Well this Winter and is being delivered to all residents. It is full of useful information on how to keep well during these cold winter months.

For access to the virtual booklet is [here](#)

SCVO

The community environment fund

SCVO has teamed up with The West Midlands Combined Authority to deliver an information session on The Community Environment Fund.

The session will be held on Tuesday 9th January 2024, 10 am via a Zoom

To register your space click [here](#)



Good to Know News

Please click on the photographs for access to links for booking or further information

SPDC
sandwell parents
for disabled children

Parent Carer Newsletter
December 2023

SPDC Coffee Shop Tour!
Friday 8th December, 10.00am – 11.30am
Court of Robbers, Oldway, Wednesbury, W51D 9BE

A chance for parent carers to meet before the festivities get too busy. Enjoy a coffee and catch up with other parent carers.

Top along in your Christmas jumper for our last coffee shop of 2023!

Well Wisher show by Rachel Sambrook
Thursday 14th December, 10.30am-12.30pm
Branthorpe Community Centre, Branthorpe Lane, Smethwick, B66 1BA

Are you tired of all the pressure to be perfect? Rachel is here to remind you that it's okay not to have it all figured out! Join her for a word and wonderful journey through the world of wellbeing, self-care, and the hilarious mishaps that come with trying to be the best version of yourself. Join Rachel for an unforgettable morning of comedy and self-discovery. (Get ready to laugh your way to a happier, more authentic you!)

Light refreshments will be provided!

Craft and Chat
Wednesday 20th December, 10.00am – 12.00pm
Gulston Valley Children's Centre, Great Arthur St, Smethwick, B66 1UH

We are delighted to have another of our lovely parent carers offer to share her skills. This time we will be making decorative baubles using the craft of needle felting. Join us for a relaxing couple whilst trying out an enjoyable craft, making a handmade Christmas decoration or just come along for the chat.

Dads Night out at Flights
We invite the dads all the best for their night out. The dads are off out on Saturday 23rd December to Flights club in Birmingham. Places have been allocated but if you would like to join the evening list or can no longer make it, please contact Jane on 0121 965 2410.

Co-op Local Community Fund!
We are delighted to have been chosen to raise funds for SPDC as one of Co-op Local Community Fund charities of the year.

If you shop at your local Co-op and have downloaded the app, you will now be able to select Sandwell Charities for Disabled Children to receive a percentage of your spend in store.

If you would like to become a Co-op member, there is a charge of £1 but as well as supporting our charity, you would be able to take advantage of the sale and savings in store and earn 2p back for every £1 spent for yourself!

Please visit our website www.coop.co.uk/community for more information

Christmas Office Closures
SPDC Offices will be closed from Friday 22nd December 2023 and will reopen on Monday 8th January 2024.

All messages, calls and social media will be answered on the return, we would like to make this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Look out for January 2024 activities coming soon!

To book activities please email spdcparentcarerbooking@spdc.org

Starting the name of each parent carer, and which event you want to book for bookings will close on 6th December 2023.

SPDC Parent Carer Support Line: 0121 965 2410

NHS

Measles cases are rising in England

Make sure your child is up to date with their vaccinations

2 weeks left to

Tell us what you think about our...

Local Plan

Would you like to become a Community Cancer Champion?

This training will take place over three sessions on Microsoft Teams and will focus on:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Cancer Prevention and Early Diagnosis
- Cancer Screening Programmes
- Signs and Symptoms
- Living Well and Beyond Cancer



If you are interested, book by going to re-url.uk/WUUA or contact Kassandra.styche@nhs.net for more information

Murray Hall Food Pantry

he Bridge St Marks Road Tipton DY4 0SL

Open Tuesdays 11am – 3pm
Open Wednesdays 9.30am – 3pm

Membership is £6 per week. You receive up to £15 of food chosen by you!

All welcome, whether unemployed, working or retired.

Phone: 0121 612 2934
mail: info@murrayhall.co.uk



Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

Council Budget Consultation

“Have **YOUR** Say!”

Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

Don't let your rent snowball out of control this Winter

If you want to pay by Direct Debit or are struggling with your rent then we're here to help
Call us on 0121 737 5148 for advice

NHS
Black Country

Is my child too ill to go to nursery or school?

Get health advice for your child at blackcountry0-18.nhs.uk

FIND A WELCOMING SPACE IN SANDWELL

Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

WELCOMING SPACES

LOW COST HOMES

ONE in FIVE CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC ABUSE.