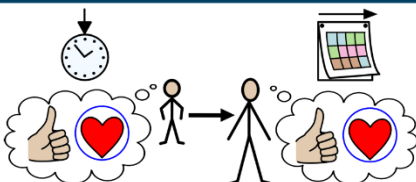




Newsletter

March 2023



"What does a good life look like for me
now and in the future"



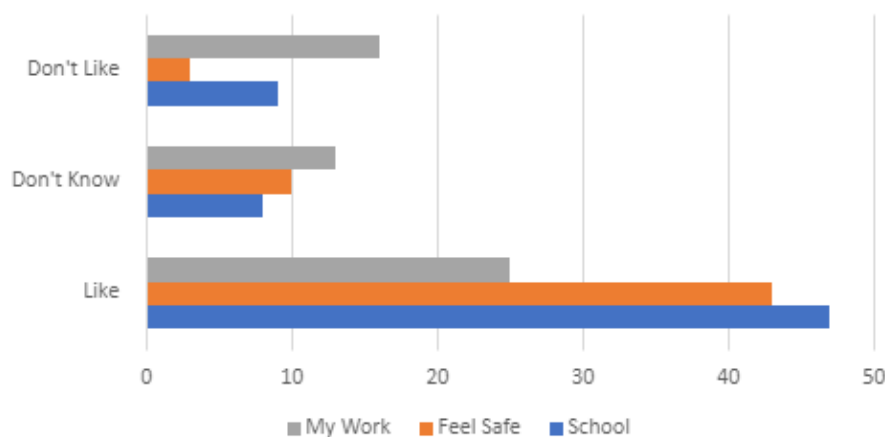
Message from Swavek

It is incredible how quickly the spring term went and it's time again to share with you Fiveways' news and achievements.

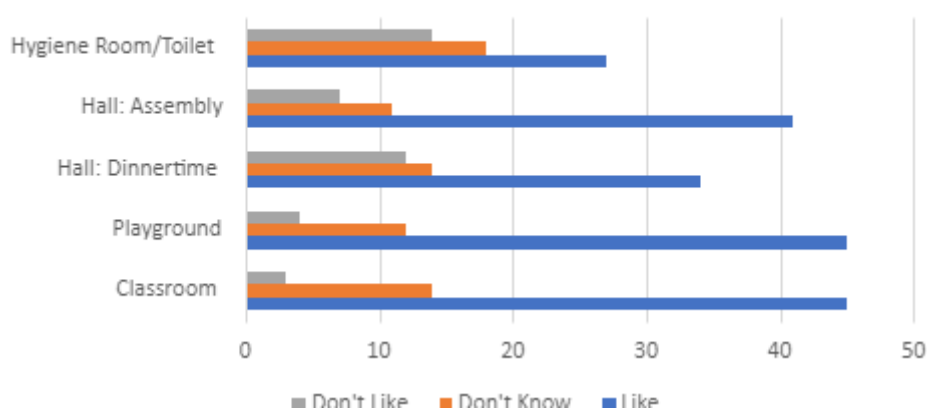
We are very proud to say that this year, we succeeded in getting every pupil to take part in the questionnaire. We understand that for some pupils the questions can be very abstract, but this should not stop us from trying to engage all pupils in taking part.

Below you will find data for the whole school, but we also have analysis by individual classes, which we will soon upload onto the school website.

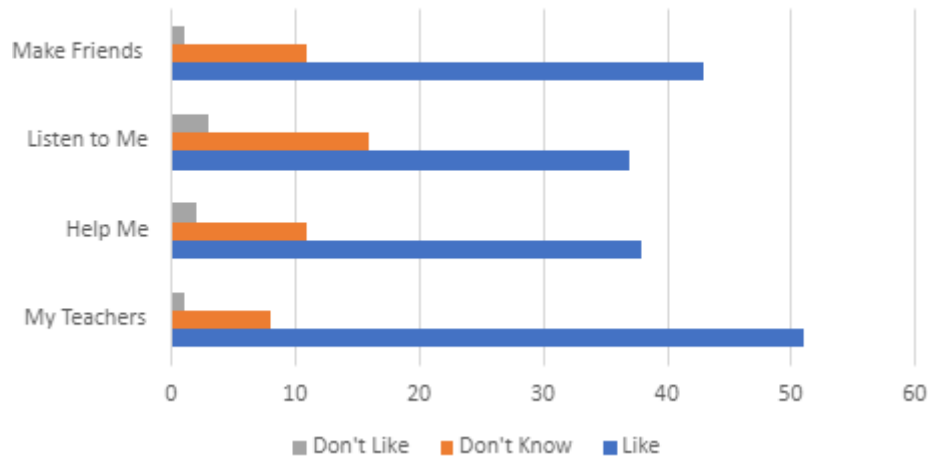
What I think Fiveways School?



What I feel - Places at School?



What I think - People at School?



Curriculum presentation

We had planned to provide a presentation on the curriculum in March. However as only a small number of you were able to attend we have decided to cancel the presentation. We do understand how difficult it must be for you to attend meetings/presentations during the day or after school. Therefore, we have decided to record the presentation and make it available on our website. This way you can access the presentation when it is suitable for you. I hope that this will be available before the end of April 2023. Once online we will send a notification and a password to access it. We will issue a short questionnaire after the presentation to give you the opportunity to ask questions related to the content of the presentation.

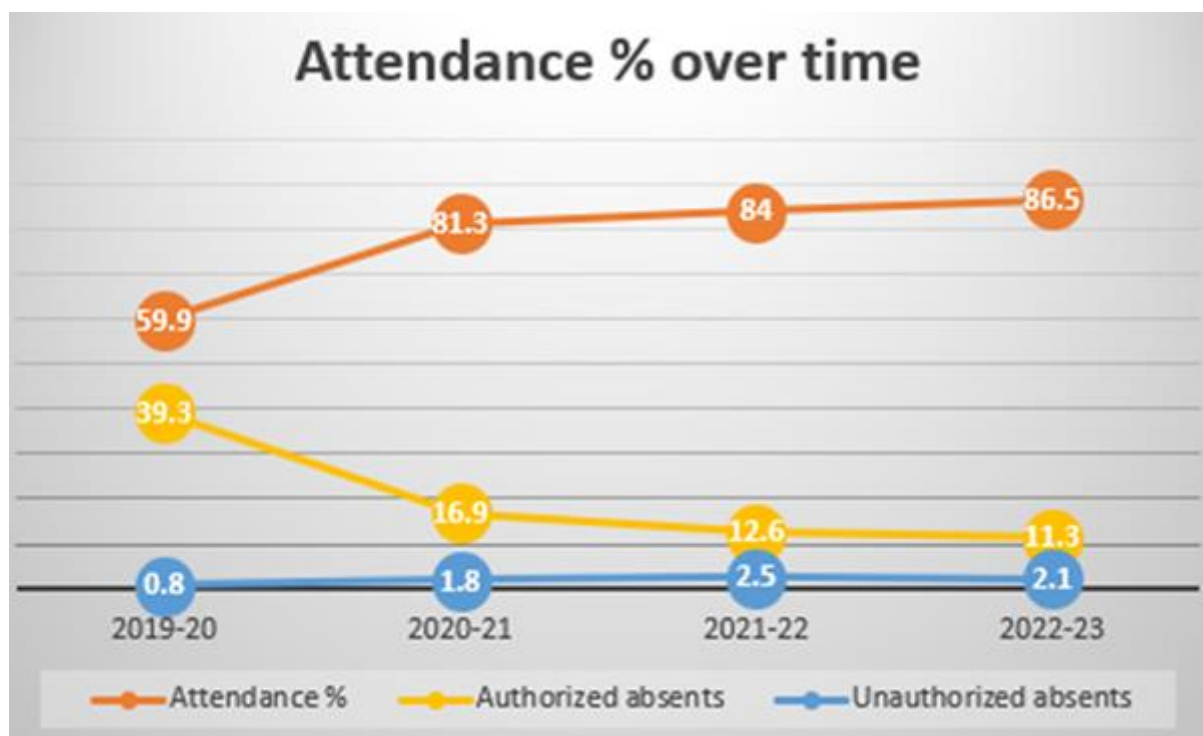
Staff responding to emails

During the spring term, we experienced a high number of staff absence. Due to the rest of the staff covering gaps there has not always been time for the staff to respond to emails the same day. Please be patient with us, our staff will try to respond to email communication within three working days or earlier if possible. If your enquiry is urgent please call the school office and leave a message. A member of staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

Pupils' attendance

Thank you for your support in increasing your children's attendance. Attendance has increased during spring term by 0.4%. This means that the overall attendance for this academic year is 86.5% and 91.7% for the 6th Form. We have had a small increase of unauthorised absence mainly due to unauthorised holidays during term time.

Attendance letters will be sent at the end of this term. If you have any questions related to attendance please contact Chloe Baker, Attendance Officer cbaker@fiveways.school.



Thank you for the continued support that you offer Fiveways. We all really appreciate this.

I would like you to join me in saying to say a big Thank You to all of Fiveways' teaching, support and facilities staff for their hard work, commitment and for going above and beyond to assure that all pupils are experiencing excellent learning opportunities.

On behalf of all the staff at Fiveways I would like to wish you, your children and your families a very Happy Easter break and we look forward to seeing you all after our return on the 17 April 2023.

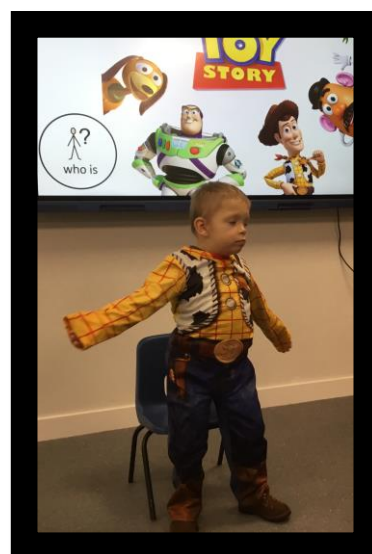
With best wishes

Swavek





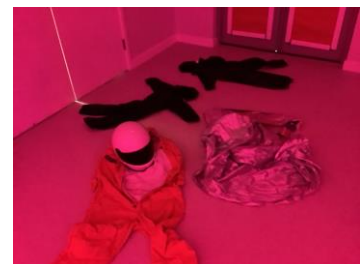
Fiveways had a fantastic World Book Day and everyone had lots of fun dressing up as their favourite characters and joined in with the special stories and activities!





RED NOSE DAY

Fiveways celebrated Red Nose Day in spectacular style this year, everyone dressed up in something red and took part in some wacky science experiments. The children played with moon rock, playdough, sensory floor tiles, volcanoes, bath bombs and more! We have raised almost £100, thanks to everyone for your support!





Safeguarding arrangements during holidays

If you have a safeguarding concern and would like to raise it during the holidays, please send an email to DSL@fiveways.school. The Designated Safeguarding Lead or one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads will be monitoring emails over the holiday period.

If a child is at immediate risk, please call 999. For any other support which you may need during the holiday period please contact Somerset Direct 0300 123 2224.



Dates 2023

17 th April	Back to school
1 st May	Bank Holiday
8 th May	Bank Holiday
22 nd May	Careers Week
29 th May – 2 nd June	Half Term
9 th June	Inset Day
21 st July	End of Term

For FOFSA dates please see separately at the end of this newsletter.



MOBILE PHONE FREE ZONE



A polite reminder that parents and visitors to the school are not permitted to use their mobile phones on the premises for safeguarding reasons.

Thank you very much for your co-operation.



TEN TORS
2023

28th–30th April

This April some pupils from Fiveways are taking part in the Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge at Okehampton, Dartmoor. The Jubilee Challenge event is held annually as part of the Ten Tors. We are taking a group of six pupils who will camp out overnight before walking 7.8 miles on the circular link road returning to Okehampton Army Camp to receive their medals. After a lunch they will then pack up their tents before returning back. Good luck everyone!





Parent Behaviour Training Feedback

Thank you to those parents who attended the training 21st February. Feedback was extremely positive with everyone finding the session useful. We reviewed how to analyse behaviours to understand what is being communicated and how to respond effectively.

Comments included:-

"being able to ask questions and be specific was very helpful"

"very useful to listen and learn some more information"

"interactive"

This training will soon become available to view on the school's website along with other presentations. Look for new training within the 'parents section'



Next Training Opportunity

Annual Review – Friday 26th May 10.00 – 12.00

All parents looking to enhance their knowledge of how Annual Reviews and EHCPs are essential parts of a child's journey to adulthood and why it is so important to contribute updates every year.

We'll look at:-

The sections of the EHCP and what they mean

How school documents relate to the EHCP

What a great Annual Review looks like

How the EHCP can be used to access other support

Sensory Integration Virtual Coffee Morning

Rob Kirkwood is a specialist Occupational Therapist and Sensory Integration Practitioner supporting Fiveways with consultation and advice to help our students in school. From a sensory point of view, schools can be very rich but also sometimes challenging places for children and young people.

We have been using Rob's experience with sensory processing and regulation to support classes with strategies for meeting sensory needs and maintaining better sensory and emotional regulation in school. We recognise that home life can be equally as rich and challenging so we wanted to offer an opportunity for parents to bring their questions to Rob in an informal/relaxed coffee morning style virtual group.

Our first coffee morning will take place via Microsoft Team at 10.00am on Tuesday 7th February, if you would like to join us please email kkerr@fiveways.school.

Details: 25th April @ 10am. Virtual - MS Teams



Class News

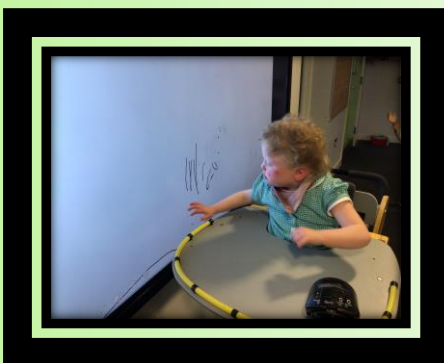
GEMS



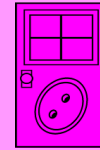
Gems have had a fun term joining in with the special whole school activities on World Book Day and Red Nose Day.

We were lucky to have Class 1 teacher Clair Findlay join us to read a story about 'Mrs Honey's Hat'. We loved dressing up in the hat. On Red Nose Day we had fun in the Rainbow Hall and Main Hall exploring science.

In between all of these fun days we have of course been working hard on our communication and practicing our mark making skill on our white board.



Buttons

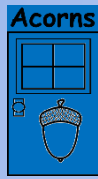


Buttons have been very busy moving their bodies in different ways this term. We have been focussing on climbing and balancing in P.E. and everyone has worked really hard to copy actions in order to move in different ways. We especially enjoy climbing in soft play and on the playground!





Class News



Acorns have enjoyed learning about firefighters this half term! We have been reading a story about Firefighter Ted, made helmets and fire safety posters.

We have also enjoyed practicing our fine motor skills, MOVE goals, challenging our literacy and mathematical knowledge and learning about E-Safety!

It has been a fun half term of learning!

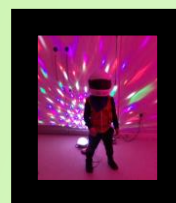


This half term Shells Class enjoyed dressing up to help raise money to support Comic Relief Day. The theme in school was Silly Scientists Day. The Main Hall was turned into a Space Room where we did lots of exploring and sensory fun with a moon rock tray, mirrored tray, playdough planet table, rocket launch and sensory floor tiles.

The Rainbow Hall was turned into a Science Lab where we enjoyed experimenting with bath bombs, Oobleck (cornflour mix), bubbles, coloured test tubes and volcanoes.

In the afternoon we decorated cakes and make large red noses. Thank you Daisy and Page for organising this.

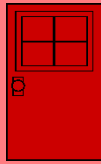
We all had lots of fun!





Class News

Feathers



This half term, Feathers went on their first school trip to Ninesprings. We have had a jam packed half term with World Book Day, Red nose day (which got very messy with Silly Scientists and spaghetti), music performances and exploring the school even further.



Class 1



Class 1 had a fantastic trip out to Magdalen Farm this week. Logan N said "We saw the cows, goats, pigs and chickens and we had hot dogs for lunch!

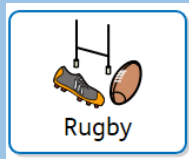
Clair drove the minibus, it was raining and quite muddy but we had a brilliant time!"

Logan B said "we had to do gardening jobs, we put vegetable and pea seeds in soil".

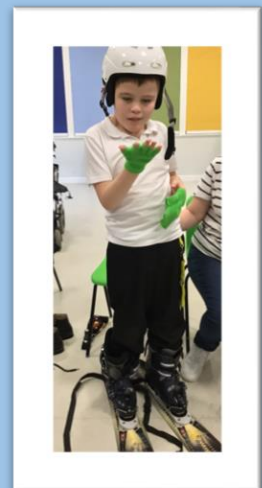
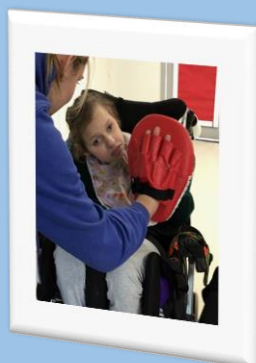
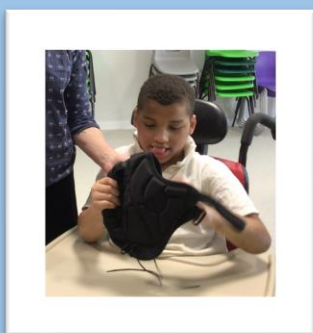
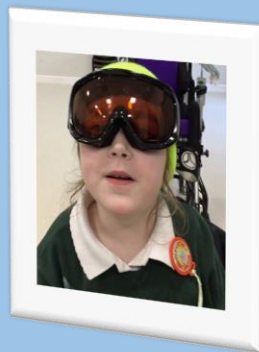
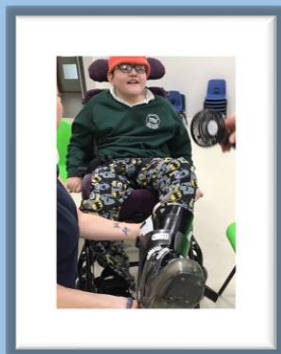




Class News



In February, Class 2 went on a sensory rugby and skiing experience. We tried out lots of things. The rugby ball, head protector and punch mitt were favourites for some. Skiing was brilliant fun, we needed warm hats and helmets, we felt cold ice packs ... 'CHILLY! We all loved the goggles and skis, but the boots were the best!





Class News

Class 3



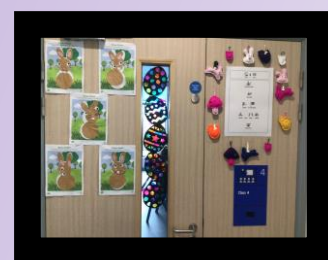
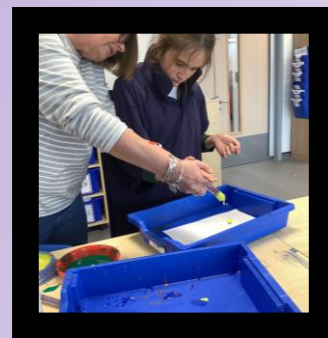
This half term, Class 3 have been making all different kinds of soups. They have been practising their chopping skills and learning the different ways to chop lots of different vegetables. They have also been tasting the vegetables they have been chopping and using communication aids to tell the adults if they like or don't like the food!



Class 4



This Spring term we have been looking at different artists, including Jackson Pollock, Andy Warhol and Monet. We used a variety of mediums to achieve our pictures. We thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day, dressing up and the sensory stories. Class 4 have also enjoyed making Easter Bunnies and mosaic eggs.





Class News

Class 5



This half term we have been talking about emotions through the use of the story of The Highway Rat. We have been exploring our emotions and trying to say when we are feeling a certain way.

The students have been working hard on asking and paying for items at the Hub café and have progressed incredibly well.

We have been talking about growing up and the changes to our bodies as we grow.



6th Form



For over 18 months a working group from Fiveways sixth form have been uncovering the external boundary wall of the Iron Age wall at Ham Hill Country Park. The stones are of great interest to the National Geological Society because of the clearly defined layering. The Rangers gifted us with a plaque on the wall to recognise the hard work and achievement of the learners. We are really hoping to develop the area so that it becomes a really lovely place to sit and picnic.

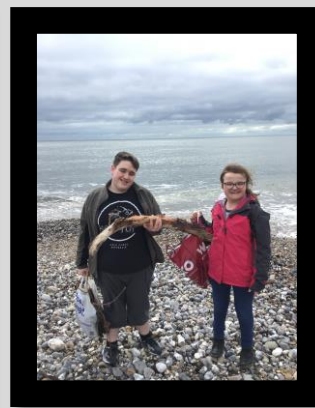


We have completed our Spring AQA on sustainability! We have learnt about keeping our beaches clean and have taken part in litter picking activities at local beaches. Staying with our beach theme we worked together to create a brand new 6th form Ocean Tac Pac which involves pieces of sea themed music paired up with different sensory actions involving sea sprays, bags of shells and water bubble blowing.

We worked incredibly hard to host a group of 25 school leaders who attended the training centre. From meeting and greeting the visitors, performing a song about being 'Unstoppable', delivering speeches on what we want for our futures and cooking and serving a delicious lunch, the 6th formers were incredible and the visitors all gave impressive feedback and thanked them for such a wonderful day. Well done, 6th form. You should be very proud!

As part of our PfA curriculum some of our learners have begun new work experience placements at The Lords Larder and a local charity shop and we've also had visits to Yeovil and Strode colleges.

We look forward to hosting a range of different providers to Fiveways during our Careers week in May- more details to follow.





Message from FOFSA

Once again a big thank you to you all for your help. We currently have a range of events coming up and would love to see you there. If you have any ideas or would like to join email smarkham@fiveways.school. We are keen to get some ideas and help with our summer fete which is fast approaching and we are hoping to make it bigger and better than before.

We are currently fundraising to purchase 16 interactive communication boards that can be placed in our outside play areas to give the children a voice when they are out exploring the Woodland Walk, adventure playground, sensory garden, pool, sports hall and other areas. Our target is £4000!

1st April – Easter Bingo
28th April – Movie Evening
May – Triathlon (details tbc)
10th June – Family Fun Day
1st July – Summer Fete

Thank you for your continued support!

Rosie Cooke
& The FOFSA Team

