



## Queen Elizabeth Hospital Schoolroom Newsletter

Issue 6



### What's New!

**Royal Naval  
College award  
ceremony.**

**Art Fund Project:  
The Wild Escape.**

**Sharing Good  
Practice.**

**Human Body Unit.**

**Mini Beasts Unit .**

**Forest School  
Small World Area.**

**Book Corner.**

**Summer Party.**

### Museum and Heritage Awards Night

As some of you may be aware the School room and the Royal Naval College were shortlisted for the "hospital school trip" programme we've developed together over the past few years.

The programme entails the Naval College finding opportunities in our curriculum for enrichment and creating workshops bespoke for the curriculum. The programme provides young people in hospital to handle artefacts and learn about history from their local area.

We were up against some stiff competition and while sadly we didn't win, it was a real honour to be nominated and we had an amazing evening!

### The Wild Escape Art Fund Project

The project was extremely well received and produced some amazing art work which we have displayed outside the schoolroom.



### Sharing Good Practice.

This year we have been really fortunate to be able to visit other medical educational settings as well as welcome a diverse range of people to the school room .

Everyone we met was very generous with their time and expertise. It was very interesting to see how much thought and effort goes into supporting young people while they are not at school across the NHS.

Learning and sharing good practice has been a cornerstone of our process this year and we are extremely grateful to everyone who has taken the time to host or visit us. Your feedback has been valuable and has helped us to improve and expand our curriculum.





## The Human Body Unit

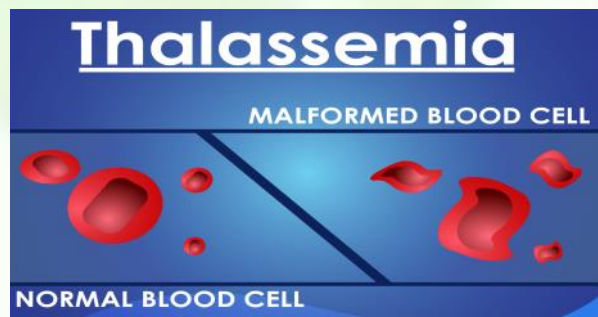
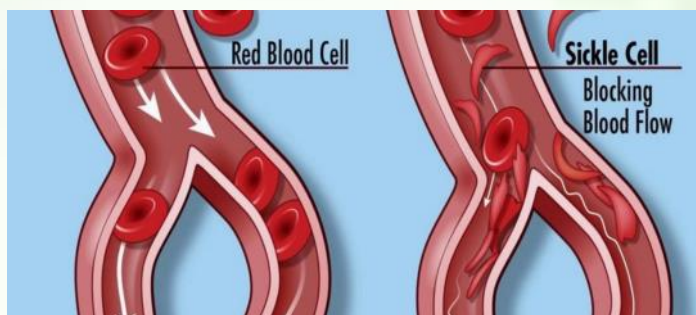
One of the challenges we wanted to explore this year was how to develop our curriculum with content that acknowledged the challenges our students face while still meeting educational aims.

The human body unit is always an interesting unit and allows opportunity to do a subject matter that students are familiar with but leaves room to build on prior knowledge.

We decided to look at two inherited health conditions that affect the blood: sickle cell and thalassemia

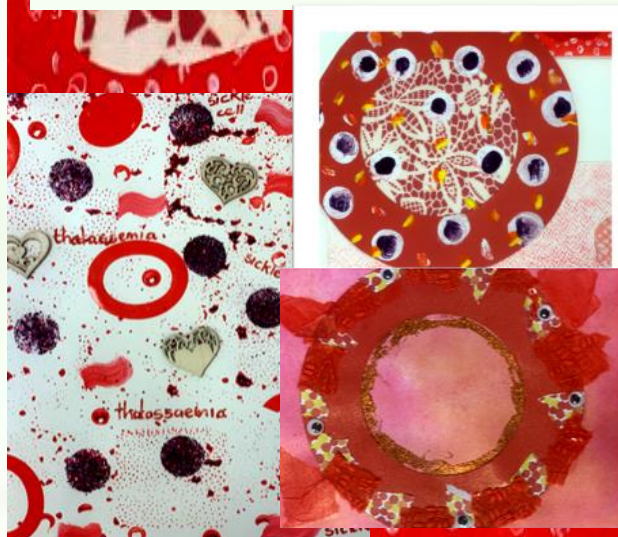
Sickle cell and thalassaemia are serious, inherited blood disorders that are passed on from parents to children through altered haemoglobin genes. Haemoglobin is in red blood cells and carries oxygen around the body.

People who have these conditions will need specialist care throughout their lives.



We explored these conditions because we often work with young people who have these illnesses and because it is likely that our students if they don't have it are likely to know someone at school or socially who experiences the consequences of living with either of the illnesses This unit provided the opportunity to help raise awareness.

In art we examined how the illnesses affect the shape of the blood cells and recreated the shapes using patterns.



In science we learnt key words associated with the blood and created slime exploring the viscosity of blood vs water.





# Minibeasts

The minibeast unit was scheduled for the summer term to encourage curiosity as students are more likely to see the insects in their natural environment at this time .

This unit was developed to encourage young people to engage with the outdoor space; understand the very important role mini beasts play in the eco-system as well as share and learn interesting facts about the insects and their life cycles.

The projects were deliberately designed to be tactile and to engage the senses in order that students learn by engaging in practical activities. We created a bug hotel and encouraged students to create mini beasts to live in the bug hotel.



## Flower Power

We had the privilege of meeting this amazing Year 3 student. The family had lost dad and decided to remember him positively by creating a library honouring him in Sierra Leon. They collect retired books and toys to stock the library. The school room donated arts and crafts and was able to create links for the family to collect books that would have otherwise ended up in landfill.

She enjoyed learning about sunflowers and put a great deal of thought into her flower pattern—each colour represented a fact about sunflowers:

yellow - great source of vitamin E, protein and other nutrients,

Blue - national flower of the state of Kansas

Purple—sunflowers can reach a height of 30ft.



She used paint to create her flower design and the flower pattern was created on the computer. Mum decided that when they visit Sierra Leon in the summer she is going to have the flower pattern printed onto material and a dress made.



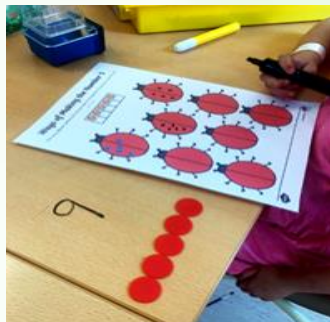


## Minibeast Master!

We had our very own mini-beast master in the school room this half-term.

A year 3 student completed all our terms work whilst staying in hospital over two stays after having their appendix removed. This master whizzed through the activities and completed all activities with care and diligence.

The school room provided a place for distraction, allowed her to feel like a student and take pride in her work and creations. Special mention goes to Ruby the glitter bee.



## Butterfly Garden

As part of our summer mini beasts unit of work and as an extension of the forest school we had a butterfly garden in the school room. Students were able to see the progress of the butterflies in real time.

The sense of wonder and excitement was felt by everyone on the ward. We all loved watching the metamorphosis of the butterflies.







## Forest School is growing!



Each unit brings its own challenge of how to incorporate the forest school element of our curriculum with the theme of the week. The Body Waste week of the Human Body unit was a real challenge.

We decided to incorporate it into the science topic of the week which was seed dispersal through faeces.

This week turned out to be one of the highlights of forest school for the year and provided lots of laughter. We even had a new Guinness world record in the school room. The world's longest poo, measuring a whopping 2 meters long, was made using flour and water. We painted it and rolled it into a poo-like swirl. Great fun was had!!



Our Mini-beast unit also provided an excellent opportunity for us to develop and extend our forest school curriculum.

Our students were encouraged to go into the garden, even if for a few minutes, to get some fresh air and think creatively. Students collected natural products to develop their mini beast or the environment.



Our aim is to make the outside space an extension of the school room learning space.

To develop this purpose we place a range of numeracy and literacy tasks on the shed outside.

The activities reflect the theme being studied in the school room and are selected to interest and encourage engagement of a range of ages.





## Small World Area

We have further developed our sensory curriculum and created a small world area.

The aim was to showcase our activity for the week and engage the student as soon as they enter the room.

The area contains a range of sensory activities as well as topic related books.

It has been a real ice breaker and has helped to calm unsettled or anxious attendees.



## Our Reading Garden

In order to highlight literacy and encourage students to read and explore we have spruced our reading garden.

Topic specific books reflecting the theme of the week are prominently displayed and we encourage readers to find information or have a look at the books on display.

## Astronomer's Box

The school room received an amazing goody bag from The Royal Observatory-Greenwich.

It included a wonderful selection of books on space for a range of ages. The most exciting part however, is the Ask an Astronomer box and postcards which we hope our students will post questions in and the observatory team will answer.

Hopefully this venture will encourage the young people to visit the observatory and may spark a new interest.





# Summer Party



THANK YOU





