



January 2026 Newsletter

The Forum School



Upcoming Events

February

- 1st – Black History Month.
- 4th – World Cancer Day.
- 10th – Safer internet day.
- 14th – Valentines day & Biscuit Competition.
- 17th – Random Acts of kindness Day.
- Chinese new year (Year of the Fire Horse).
- Shrove Tuesday (Pancake day!).
- 18th – Ash Wednesday. First Day of Ramadan.
- 20th – National Love your pet day.



Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk



National LOVE YOUR PET Day



TFS Events

2026

CALENDAR YEAR

JANUARY

CALENDAR MONTH

MONDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Wild Weather



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29	30	31	01 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS BANK HOLIDAY	02	03	04
05 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	06	Veganuary 07	New Years Day 08	09	10	11
	Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena		PANTO at Salisbury - Bus arriving at 1pm Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	TFS Cinema - Theatre	Shillingstone Station Caf� - Meet at blue gates 13:30	
12	13 Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	14	15 Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	16 TFS Cinema - Theatre	17 Shillingstone Station Caf� - Meet at blue gates 13:30	18
19	20 Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	21	22 Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	23 International Day of Education TFS Cinema - Theatre	24 Burns Night Shillingstone Station Caf� - Meet at blue gates 13:30	25
26 International Holocaust Remembrance Day	27 Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	28 Chinese New Year - Snake	29 Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	30 TFS Cinema - Theatre	31 Shillingstone Station Caf� - Meet at blue gates 13:30	01



Go shorty it's ya birthday, we're gonna party like it's ya birthday!



Cake anyone?



Go shorty it's ya birthday, we're gonna party like it's ya birthday!



Celebrating JC Birthday!
A big welcome back to our Spring 1 term. I hope all are rested
and a Happy New Year!
The young People have all been happy to be back for the start
of our new term .



The Nest

J engaged well in this maths activity, matching number cards and carefully placing the correct number of counters onto each card.

With adult support, he demonstrated growing understanding of quantity and number recognition.

J remained settled and focused during the task, showing improved attention and tolerance for sitting and completing a structured activity.

This activity supported his EHCP targets around early maths skills, attention and listening, following simple instructions, and developing independence with adult guidance.

J also showed positive engagement and confidence when interacting with familiar staff.
Well done, J.





The Nest



M

Here is some of the great work M has been doing since returning from the Christmas break.

She has settled back into school routines well and has been engaging positively with a range of activities.

M has shown growing confidence and curiosity during her learning and is beginning to explore tasks with increased independence and interest.

We are very proud of her efforts and wanted to share some lovely moments from her learning with you.





The Nest

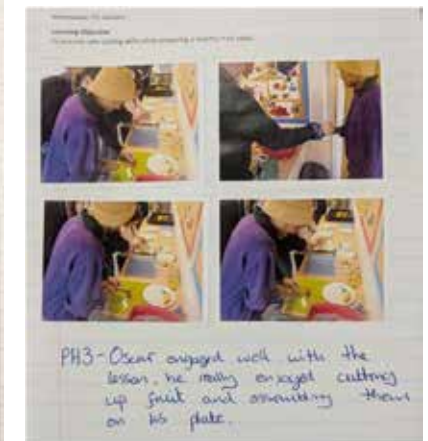
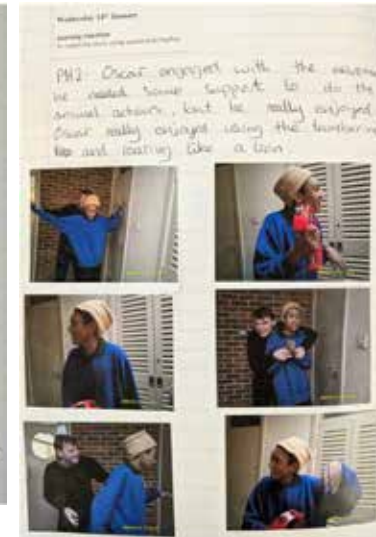


Here is some of the great work O has been doing since returning from the Christmas break.

He has settled back into school well and has been working hard across a range of practical activities.

O has shown enthusiasm and curiosity, particularly when exploring hands-on learning tasks, and is becoming more confident when engaging with adults and activities.

We are very proud of the effort he has been making and wanted to share some highlights of his learning with you.





The Nest

J took part in this practical cooking activity with growing independence and confidence.

He independently chopped the banana, showing good control, coordination and awareness of safety when using the knife.

J was able to accept support appropriately when needed for cutting the strawberries, demonstrating an understanding of when to ask for help.

He followed the routine well, remained settled at the table and showed increasing independence within a real-life task.

This activity supported J's life skills, independence, and confidence in preparing food, as well as his ability to work calmly and purposefully.

Well done, J.



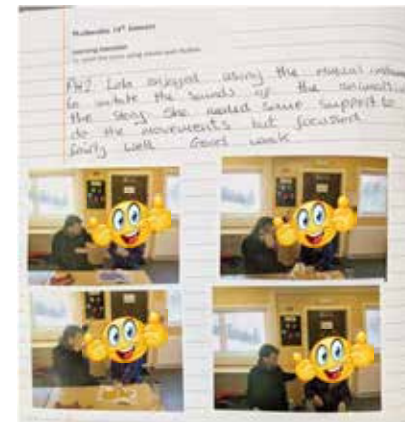


The Nest

Here is some of the great work L has been doing since returning from the Christmas break.

She has settled back into school really well and has been engaging positively in her learning. L has shown growing confidence, focus and independence, especially during practical activities, and has worked hard to follow routines and adult guidance.

We are very proud of the effort she has been making and wanted to share some lovely moments from her learning with you.





Badger Class

We have a great deal planned.

English we are following "Handa's Surprise" by Eileen Browne. Looking at Animals of Kenya and trying some exotic fruits.

Science we are looking at Signs of Spring, New life cycles, planting some cress and matching animals to habitats.

In Health and wellbeing we are looking at keeping ourselves Safe - online safety, Diversity and celebrating differences and keeping ourselves healthy.

Art will be sculptures in wire, looking at the work of Giacometti. Creating delicious looking donuts after study of Thiebald. Dots and repetition after Yayoi Kusami and oil and ink/wax resist after Hundertwasser.

Design Technology will be construction and looking at materials. Floating and sinking objects, creating a musical instrument and a wind powered object.

Maths will be sorting colours, 2D shapes and understanding objects in front of, behind, inside and on top of.. Also creating Holi patterns in repeat and size and weight.



M creating a Jungle background -Art



Badger Class



Learning and tasting exotic fruit from our English book, Handa's Surprise!



DJ looking at the parts of a tulip for science



Badger Class

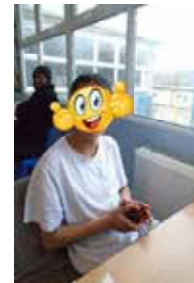


Henri Rousseau inspired Jungle art for The Forums School reception.



Dragonfly Class

Dragonfly have had a busy start to the New Year! We have been swimming, using life skills, learning about shapes, building castles and towers in History, cooking, and building strong friendships.





Kestrel Class



Kestrel Class have been working hard this month on preparing for Chinese New Year by cooking up some fantastic Chinese Dishes. We have enjoyed making Chicken balls with spicy batter, egg fried rice, chow mein noodles, and crispy beef strips as well as a selection of dipping sauces. Feedback from our loyal testers has been very positive and we are going to prepare a full spread for our classmates to celebrate the Chinese New Year of the horse.

Fitness and PE has also been a big focus as we attempt to alleviate the effects of the Christmas celebrations and get back into shape! L has loved playing football with his peers and others and we have had class matches in Meadow Block which were enjoyed by all. His skills are progressing well and he has earned several AQA awards into the bargain. R has been working towards the fitness requirements needed for military service and has already met the strength standards needed by deadlifting 40+kg and medicine ball throwing. She is now working to build her stamina up with cardio exercises and jogging as well as sessions on the treadmill at the local gym. Well done all!!!

We have also been working hard at preparing for our Bikeability and cycling and L has been checking over all the bikes that are in the school as well as organising and preparing the work shed for working on and storing the bikes.



Butterfly Class



We've been very busy with doing lots of work!



We made flapjacks

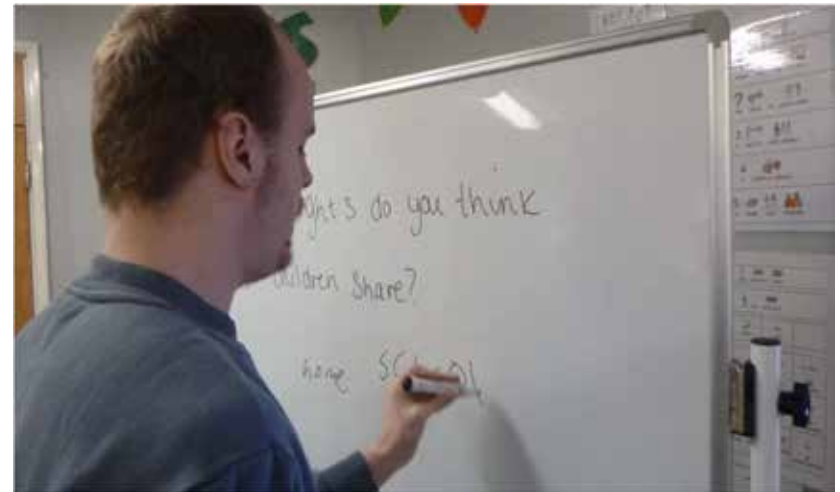
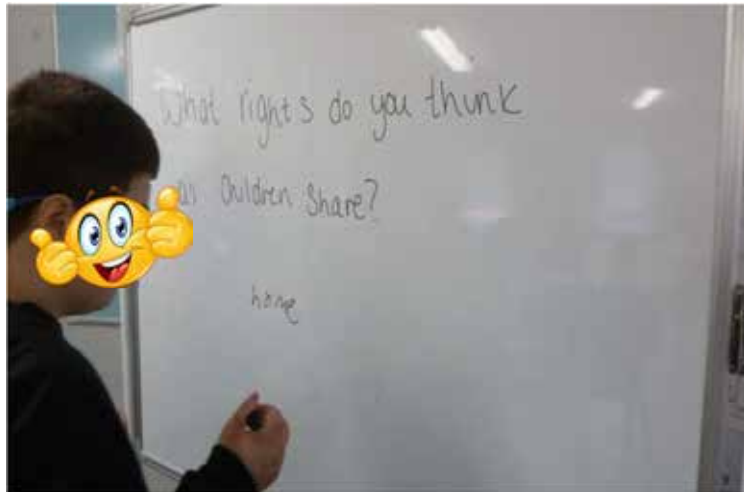
In outdoor learning we made animals of our birth month using coloured paper and we looked through them and saw different colours!



We also had a birthday celebration for demi who turned 12!
We celebrated in butterfly class!



Kite Class



Kite Class has been learning about human rights





J in our dance workshop for the Dorset SEN Dance Festival 2026



Firefly Class



H showing great focus in hockey



K learning to juggle during sensory play



C making his model Anderson shelter

J engaging in some brilliant Maths work.





Stable News

NEW RIDER ALERT !!!



Well done H, you are so brave for trying something new, and it's great to see you enjoying your new skill.



HORSE RIDING
STAGE 2



Stable News



HORSE RIDING
STAGE 3



HORSE RIDING
STAGE 3





Stable News



FIELD AND YARD
MANAGEMENT STAGE 1



FIELD AND YARD MANAGEMENT
STAGE 2





Principal Stars



KAM

Thank you so much for helping with clearing rubbish from the therapy room. You are a star! Well done 😊

SSU, KT, JH, JV, AT, DJ, OH, DH, JC, HL, CR, JR, MRL, KB & SD

A huge well done for attending the Pantomime and engaging in the story. You were AMAZING! Well done 😊

MJP

Well done for telling adults you didn't want to stay at the pantomime. Well done 😊

JCv

I just wanted to say a huge well done for going to the Wagtail for dinner. I heard you walked straight in! A massive well done 😊

JCV

I just wanted to say a huge well done for attending the GP surgery today. Well done 😊


JH

I heard you followed the instructions and demonstrated the correct way to brush your teeth. You followed along well. The final step was to spit out the tooth paste and rinse your mouth with water, which you did, copying Leeshma's actions.

Well done 😊

HL

I just wanted to say a huge well done supporting with the tour on induction. Well done 😊





I'm delighted to inform you that Tracey Wilson is our new Principal.

Tracey brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in leading educational provisions and is a qualified teacher.

In addition, Tracey has over 10 years of experience working as a residential social worker for a learning disability trust, which will be invaluable to our continued success.

Over the next couple of months, there will be a robust handover from Melissa, as the current Interim Principal, to Tracey as the incoming Principal.

After this transition, Melissa will return to my role as Regional Care Lead and will continue to support Tracey and the teams at The Forum School.

"I want to take this opportunity to say how much I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you so closely over the last two years and look forwards to continuing to do so in the future. We have been on an incredible journey together, achieving so many positives and amazing outcomes for the young people who attend The Forum School.

Please join me in giving Tracey a warm welcome as we enter this exciting new chapter!"



CONGRATULATIONS!



We are pleased to share some fantastic news!

Hannah Everard has been successful in securing the role of Registered Manager. Please join me in offering her our warmest congratulations on this well deserved achievement.

In her new role, Hannah will take responsibility for Okeford and Laurels, and she will be naming this combined registration Riverstone View. This change will also involve a further registration split with the regulator.

As with previous restructures of this type, Kerry will continue in her role as Head of Care for all services and will remain the Registered Manager of Woodland View. No additional changes will be made at this stage.

Importantly, this development also creates new career opportunities, including a future Home Manager and Deputy Manager role at Okeford.

These changes will take effect from 1st April this year. Please join me in congratulating Hannah on this exciting next step in her career.

Well done, Hannah!

Movement with Saba!

**FUN AND
LAUGHTER
GUARANTEED!**










Once a month Saba we will be delivering a Movement session in the theatre for all young people and adults to attend. This is a great opportunity to get everyone together for co-regulation, movement, fun and laughter.



MOVEMENT WITH MEL

Once month 10 - 10:30 in the Theatre

Let's celebrate movment, have fun and bring your best moves

 Movement with Mel	
 Hello	
 Okie Cokie song	
 Macarena song	
 Superman song	
 Cha Cha slide song	
 Finished	
 look at	 Schedule

Movement with Saba!





Outdoor Learning

Gallop into New Year

Spring 1

Have a cracking Easter

Spring 2

Seed To Sun

Summer 1

Tractors and Trailers

Summer 2

Flower Power

Summer 3



Gallop into New Year

Spring 1



Students will be celebrating the Chinese New Year, which marks the Year of the Horse this year. They will explore various craft ideas and materials to create horseshoes, horse collages, and other horse-themed items.



Have a cracking Easter

Students will
celebrate Easter
by making
paper Mache
Easter eggs
and crafting
baby farm
animal collages
with
various
materials.

Spring 2



Seed To Sun

Summer 1



Students will unleash their creativity by decorating planters to grow their own sunflowers and will later craft stunning suncatchers to display around the school grounds.



Tractors and Trailers

Summer 2



**Time for our competition!
Using all of their craft skills, the
classes will build a tractor; if they
want to, they can add trailers or other
farming equipment. When
completed, our fabulous Head
Teacher, Jane will judge them.**



Flower Power

Summer 3

Let's check out the sunflowers' current size. After observing how well their sunflowers have grown, the students will use flowers found throughout the school grounds as inspiration to make some lovely bouquets.



Meet the Clinical Team

I thought I would share the clinical team poster which explains who we are and what we do, as there are some new faces joined/joining the TFS team and the clinical team have welcomed Jess and Phoebe. Please see attached.

For those who don't know, we have moved office and now based in Treetops, you can call us on **243** or **240** or you can also email the team at: TFSTherapy2@cambiagroup.com

If you have any questions or would to speak with anyone in the team, please don't hessite to reach out 😊

Thanks
Jemma & Team

Meet the Clinical team at TFS

 Karen Varney Clinical Psychologist (Tuesdays)	 Katie Loftus Assistant Psychologist (Monday to Friday)	 Jasmine Keats Music Therapist (Tuesdays)
 Hollie Earley Consultant Occupational Therapist (Onsite as and when to support the team)	 Bridget Townsend Occupational Therapist (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays)	 Jess Ryall Music Therapist (Mondays and Fridays)
 Phoebe Dennis Speech and Language Therapist (Monday to Friday)	 Jemma Grove Speech and Language Therapy Assistant (Monday to Friday)	 Jane Reynolds, Physiotherapist (Termly visits)

Smartbox

Why use AAC?


AAC in the form of a voice output system will offer a voice that either augments (extend/compensate) and in some cases become an alternative (instead of) to current speaking skills that for a variety of reasons could be difficult for the person to achieve. Speaking, minimally speaking and non-speaking people can benefit from using AAC systems because for some conditions, the process of planning what needs to be said, formulating that information and then sharing it effectively using oral speech can be permanently but, in some cases, temporarily challenging.

AAC systems that are Robust (core word, fringe words, phrases, word prediction, keyboard for example) support the language and communication growth necessary to participate in conversations.

Robust AAC can support language now and offers a road map for the persons communication and independence skills in the future.

As humans we have 3 Innate Needs: Autonomy, Relatedness and Competence (Theory of Self Determination - Field of Psychology). Communication is about connecting with people; the technology isn't the focus but it can be a significant tool to achieve life changing outcomes for a person as a conversationalist. Conversation forms the basis of all daily situations. For some, the path to become as flexible a language user as possible requires visual and voice output assistance.

Your new Talkpad



What is it?

A talkpad is a communication device, used to support individuals with speech and language difficulties.

It enables young people to have a voice and to be able to make a range of choices and preferences.

What do they help with?

- **Expressing ideas and emotions:** They include customizable vocabularies, pre-recorded phrases, and the ability to type messages.
- **Provides feedback:** Provide visual and auditory feedback to the user, supporting their understanding.
- **Vocabulary:** Devices have a wide selection of words.
- **Communication functions:** The ability to ask questions, comment, protest, and more.
- **Grammar support:** Options for verb tenses, plurals, comparatives, and possessives
- **Verbal speech:** Support verbal speech by providing a visual and auditory model of language
- **Organization:** Words are kept in the same place to support efficient access

How do I use it?

At first, the best thing to do is to **explore** it.

Model the device for your child. For example, you could say 'I feel tired', and press the tired symbol.

Encourage your child to explore it and use it - it can be helpful to have 20 minutes of 'talker time' in an evening.

Useful links:

<https://thinksmartbox.com/smartbox-academy/>

Smartbox academy have free helpful videos!!

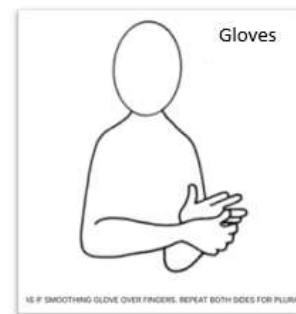
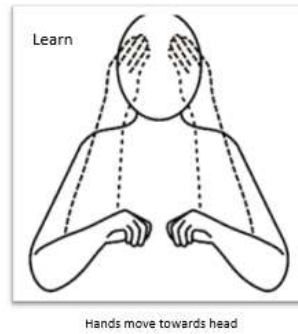
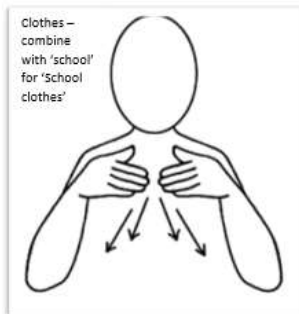
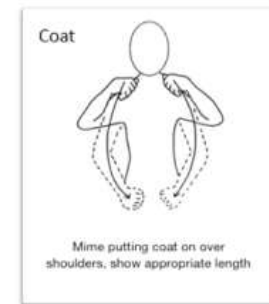
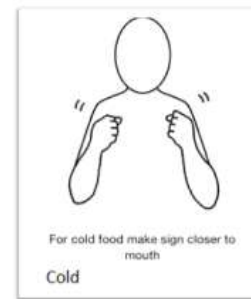
You can also email:
Nicole.Washington@cambianguroup.com

Speech & Language

Signs of the week



Signs of the week



Speech & Language

Signs of the week



Signs of the week

 Monday	 Tuesday	 Wednesday
 Thursday	 Friday	 Saturday
 Sunday	 today	 tomorrow
 Yesterday		



Music Therapy

What is Music Therapy?


Music Therapy is a psychological intervention which is delivered by HCPC registered Music Therapists to help people whose lives have been affected by injury, illness, disability or those who may need support with their emotional, cognitive, physical, communicative and social needs. Music Therapy is undertaken through establishing and building a therapeutic relationship between the client and therapist. Music Therapy can provide an opportunity for clients to express, explore and develop awareness of their feelings in a safe and supported way.

What are Music Therapists and what do they do?

Music Therapists hold a master's degree in Music Therapy and have high levels of musicianship. Music Therapists must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), like other Arts therapists such as Art and Drama. Music Therapists work in schools, NHS, hospitals, day centres, hospices, care homes, prisons, private practice and more. Music Therapists also complete weekly clinical and reflective notes and often provide end of year reports. Music Therapists complete additional reading and thinking about each client's needs. Music Therapists use different approaches and theoretical knowledge. I use an 'integrative approach' with clients which is based on working using a range of approaches, such as: Psychodynamic, person-centred, unconditional positive regard.

Who can benefit from Music Therapy?

Anyone can benefit from Music Therapy. However, Music Therapy can be especially useful for people who do not communicate verbally or who struggle to express their feelings and thoughts using words. Music Therapy can be useful for children and young people from all backgrounds including those who attend mainstream or SEN education. People can discover new ways of communicating through music and the therapeutic support can allow them to gain confidence that people will listen to them. Clients do not need any musical skills and the aim is not to teach them instruments.






Music Therapy

What happens in Music Therapy sessions?

I usually offer three assessment (taster) sessions to people who have been referred to Music Therapy to ensure that it is the most appropriate psychological intervention. Music Therapy sessions can include playing music together using instruments, listening to music, song writing, talking art, play. Just like other therapies, it can take time for people to become familiar with the Music Therapist and with the sessions. Music can also prompt or encourage talking and discussions. Music Therapists use music to help people achieve therapeutic goals. There is no requirement for people to 'be musical' or 'good at music' or 'know how to play an instrument' to engage in Music Therapy. Music Therapy sessions are completely confidential unless a disclosure is made that poses a high risk of harm/injury to the client or to other people.

What are the benefits of music therapy?

Music Therapy is creative and playful in its nature which can encourage people to express themselves in alternative ways rather than just talking. Music Therapy can help people improve their self-confidence and build on their awareness of themselves and others by feeling listened to. There are many aims and benefits to music therapy which can include (and not limited to) the following:

- Developing communication skills
 - Increasing confidence
 - Enabling self-expression
 - Feeling heard and valued
 - Developing social skills
 - Working through difficult emotions
 - Developing a sense of identity
 - Increasing autonomy and choice
 - Addressing behaviours that challenge
- 

The Positive Behaviour Support focus of the month

Supporting each other and the PBS team supporting YOU!!!!

WHEN WE
SUPPORT
EACH OTHER
INCREDIBLE
THINGS CAN HAPPEN



A message from Tracey

Stepping into The Forum School as Principal has been an absolute privilege, and I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the incredibly warm welcome I've received from our young people, their families, and from the staff team.

Every day, I am inspired by the rich variety of learning taking place across our homes, classrooms, and beautiful outdoor spaces — from creative projects and hands on exploration to moments of personal growth that truly reflect the spirit of our community.

Our young people continue to amaze me with their effort, resilience, and achievements, and I am genuinely excited about all we will accomplish together in the months and years ahead.

Thank You!