



# Newsletter

As we reflect on this wonderful year, we are thrilled to share the many positive developments and achievements within our community. Our focus on nurturing relationships and investing time in our young people has proven to be the cornerstone of their successful outcomes, healing processes, and confidence boosting.

We bid farewell to some remarkable children as they transition to new schools, proudly noting that 100% of our departing students have successfully made this transition into their new schools this September. We wish them all the best in their new environments.

At the same time, we eagerly anticipate welcoming back those who return to us, ready to continue building their confidence and pursuing their personal goals.

This year has also seen the completion of our new playground, which has become a favourite among both primary and secondary students, particularly the zip wire! Additionally, we have opened a dog and animal grooming room, which has been a delightful addition to our facilities. We are excited to announce the launch of our outreach programme, staffed by two dedicated individuals trained in outbound activities. This initiative will allow us to extend our support and services even further.

Moreover, we are looking forward to the completion of a new building, aptly named "The Cow Shed," which will serve as a space for canteen services, social gatherings, and mindful activities such as yoga.

Most excitingly, we are thrilled about the upcoming opening of our café/bistro, spearheaded by Toby and his team, Gary and Steven (yes! He has finally got the help he needed to keep pushing forward!). Set to open in October/November, this venture will provide our secondary students with invaluable work experience opportunities in retail and catering, in partnership with ASDAN.

We also look forward to developing the woodwork room, which will be overseen by Steven, a qualified tradesman. He will be teaching our children wonderful life skills, from changing a plug socket to creating wooden spoons and bowls. In addition, our wonderful little creatures will be rehomed in the bus, which we will begin to kit out as a vivarium. This will provide additional learning opportunities and a serene place for everyone to enjoy.

We now sign off and I would like to personally thank our team for their constant hard work and commitment. They consistently give it their all and I am very proud of the impact everyone one of you have on our children. Have a good rest everyone!

Here's to another year of growth, achievement and exciting new beginnings. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our mission.

**Ludivine x**



# This term..

Our young gardeners have had an incredibly busy term, taking on a variety of garden jobs and engaging in creative projects too. We have prepared beds and planted out a variety of things that the learners grew from seed in the spring, including pumpkins, squash, sweetcorn, carrots and sunflowers. We have undertaken a lot of watering this term- especially through the very hot weather, and learnt how to prune and add supports to tall-growing plants. In line with our overarching theme for the term, the children have sowed seeds of native Greek plants such as pomegranates, oregano, and thyme. As always in the garden, we are also already thinking ahead to the next season and have made a start on cabbages, purple-sprouting broccoli and sprouts for the autumn! In addition to their practical gardening skills, the students have unleashed their creativity by making gorgeous sun catchers and beautiful cement tiles to decorate the garden- their artistic contributions have added a vibrant and personal touch to our green space. It's been a wonderful season of growth, learning, and creativity!

In art, the learners embarked on an enriching journey through ancient and modern Greek art, delving into various creative activities that bridged historical and contemporary techniques. They experimented with clay, sculpting intricate replicas of ancient Greek pottery, and constructed temples, gaining insight into classical architecture. In a unique twist, they utilized tea bags to stain and texture paper, mimicking the aged look of ancient manuscripts. Their exploration extended to the natural world, where they studied the dolphin, Greece's national animal, and incorporated its elegant form into their artworks. Additionally, they embraced modern art by creating vibrant abstract backgrounds, blending colours and shapes to express the dynamic spirit of contemporary Greek culture. Through these diverse projects, the learners developed a deep appreciation for the rich artistic heritage of Greece.

On the farm, our learners have been thoroughly enjoying the sunshine on the farm, making the most of the lovely hot weather. They've been learning to care for our animals, ensuring they stay cool and comfortable while developing their skills in animal care. The warm days have provided the perfect backdrop for hands-on learning and fostering a deeper connection with nature.

Our learners have also been thoroughly enjoying their exploration of Greek cuisine in our cookery sessions. They've been perfecting their dishes and honing their culinary skills, immersing themselves in the rich flavours and techniques that make Greek cooking so unique. The kitchen has been alive with creativity as they master new recipes and refine their abilities.

**Bobby and the OTF team.**