

Pathway 1 Newsletter

Spring 1 / 13th February 2026 / Issue 4



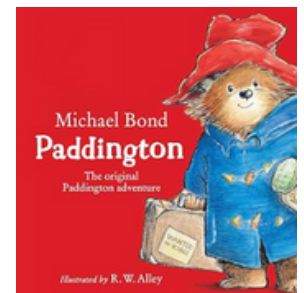
Spring Topic: Animal Kingdom

Pathway 1 students have loved exploring our new topic, Animal Kingdom, through sensory, practical and highly engaging activities that support curiosity, communication and independence.



Alongside this, students have been immersed in the story of Paddington, using it as a meaningful way to build early learning and independent-living skills. Classes have created their own mini rainforests to link with Paddington's journey from Peru, exploring leaves, water sprays, rainforest sounds and textured materials. Students have also been busy making and tasting marmalade, using it in sensory story sessions to explore smell, taste and sticky textures. With the spare oranges, students used a juicer to make fresh orange juice—an excellent opportunity to learn about tools, cause and effect, and healthy choices.

Students have been engaging with the story through role play, using switches, exploring props, and making choices by recognising symbols from a choice of two. These hands-on, sensory experiences have made the topic deeply meaningful and accessible, helping students develop communication, independence and engagement whilst having lots of fun.



Parent/Carer Engagement

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Festive Performance in December — it was wonderful to welcome so many of you into school and to share learning together as a valued part of our school community.

Thank you as well for your engagement in this week's Parent Progress Meetings. We appreciate the time you take to work with us to support your child's learning and development.



Key upcoming dates:

Friday 13th February—Last day of Spring 1 half-term
Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February Half-term holidays
Tuesday 17th February - Pancake Day
Tuesday 17th February - Tuesday 3rd March - Chinese New Year
Tuesday 17th February - Wednesday 18th March - Ramadan
Monday 23rd February - First day of Spring 2
Thursday 5th March - World Book Day
Sunday 8th March - International Women's Day
Friday 20th March - Red Nose Day
Monday 23rd March - MATP day - parent/carers invited into school
Friday 27th March - Last day of Spring 2 half-term
Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April - Easter holidays
Sunday 5th April - Easter Sunday
Monday 13th April - First day of Summer 1 half-term



Curriculum Showcase

In the following pages, you'll find highlights from this half-term's exciting learning. Every student has experienced a broad and balanced range of subjects across the Preparation for Adulthood pillars, and each class has selected one of the four pillars to showcase and celebrate.



*Forming friendships, Learning beyond the classroom,
Making choices, Creating memories*



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Preparation for Adulthood Pillar: Community Inclusion



Class 1

Class 1 have had a fantastic start to the New Year! Students have been enjoying a wide range of opportunities designed to promote and develop Community Inclusion, helping them learn alongside different peers, staff and environments.



Community

Each Monday morning, we join Class 2 for Rebound Therapy in the hall, which the students are loving. In the afternoon, the whole department comes together for MATP (Motor Activity Training Programme). This has been a wonderful chance for students to work with new partners, practise personalised physical skills and celebrate their achievements. Over the past couple of weeks, MATP has been linked to Burns Night, and everyone enjoyed taking part in ceilidh dancing and even throwing the “haggis” in fun, accessible activities.

This week, Class 11 invited us to a parachute play session, which was such a success that we plan to meet every Tuesday afternoon to continue this shared activity. The students were fully engaged and had great fun working together.

Finally, although the winter weather has paused our weekly woodland walks with students from Classes 8 and 13, we are hopeful that after the half-term break the conditions will improve so we can return to exploring the woods together.



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Preparation for Adulthood Pillar: Health



Health

Class 2

Class 2 have been engaging in body-awareness sessions throughout our exciting Paddington Goes to Peru topic. The students have shown wonderful enthusiasm as they practise key physical skills such as grasping, lifting and stretching. It's fantastic to see their confidence grow as they explore movement in fun, imaginative ways inspired by Paddington's adventures.

As part of the Preparation for Adulthood – Health pillar, students have been developing their physical wellbeing by building strength, coordination and confidence in moving their bodies. These sessions help promote healthy habits, self-awareness and positive engagement in physical activity.

We have also been taking part in MATP (Motor Activity Training Programme), where students practise personalised physical skills through motivating, achievable activities. MATP gives each learner the chance to experience success, celebrate their abilities and enjoy being active at their own level.



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Preparation for Adulthood Pillar: Independent Living

Class 4

In Class 4, we are developing our Independent Living skills through meaningful, hands-on activities linked to our learning stories. In this lesson, we watched Paddington overflow a bath and create plenty of chaos! Inspired by this moment, students used foam, warm water and soft sponges to bathe a teddy bear.



Independent living

This playful, sensory activity helped students practise important personal-care skills such as washing, wiping, squeezing, and cleaning. It also supported turn-taking, communication and following simple routines. The students showed great engagement as they explored different textures and worked together to keep their teddy clean. Experiences like this build confidence and help learners understand real-life hygiene routines in a fun and accessible way.



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Preparation for Adulthood Pillar: Learning for Life

Class 6

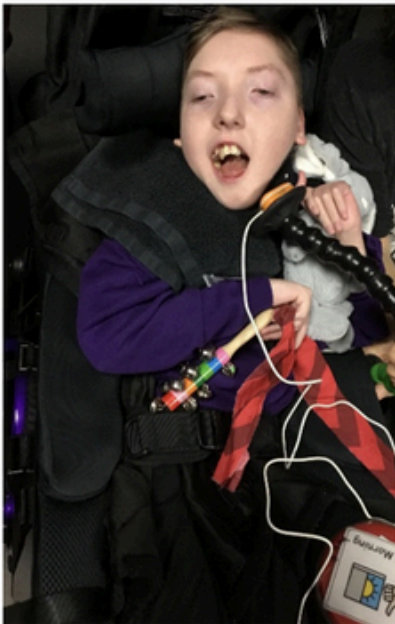
During the spring term, Class 6 have been working hard to develop 'Learning for Life' skills. Students have used switches, the eye gaze and the sound beam to make choices, build emerging communication and share attention with others.



Learning

Students are beginning to request 'more' and 'stop' when working in groups or with communication partners. Students have particularly enjoyed experiencing the wintery weather as part of Outdoor Learning. This is helping us to understand our world and our place in it.

The term highlight was taking part in the RSPB big bird watch. Students made feeders using honey and bread then took part in bird and sound hunts in the school grounds. It was a wonderful way to connect with nature and practise listening, noticing and exploring skills.



Listen



Touch



Explore



Outdoors



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Futures Week: Monday 27th April - Friday 1st May 2026

We are hosting Talbot's first ever Future's week and we would love for you to be involved!

We're looking for people from a wide range of roles to visit at any point during the week and help our students discover what different kinds of work look like.

Your contribution can be simple and flexible, such as:

- Talking about your job
- Showing tools, equipment or resources
- Supporting a short, practical activity



Futures

Please contact Holly Rea or Helen Philliskirk if you are able to support us with this exciting week!

hrea@talbot.sheffield.sch.uk hphilliskirk@talbot.sheffield.sch.uk

We are looking forward to sharing all of the learning that has occurred during this week with you.

Reminders:

- The school day starts at 9am
- The students start to leave from 3pm



Please ensure your child's clothes and belongings are labelled with their name, including:

- appropriate clothes for all weathers swimming costume/trunks and towel for swimming
- wellies for Outdoor Learning
- change of clothes (as needed)

School information:

- Check on Evidence for Learning for regular updates
- Use ParentPay to make payments and access letters
- Join the 'Families of Talbot' Facebook group



ParentPay

School contact details:

Talbot Specialist School,
Lees Hall Road, Sheffield,
S8 9JP 0114 – 2507394;
enquiries@talbot.sheffield.sch.uk



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