



Nova's Deaf Hub Newsletter



Welcome to the First Newsletter from Nova's Deaf Hub!

We're excited to share all the amazing activities our Hub students have been involved in this term and give you a sneak peek at the upcoming events the children can look forward to.

Spring Term

Nova Primary Academy



1 - Some of the Hub children meeting Kitty the Hearing Dog: [Apply to be a Volunteer Dog Trainer](#)

Some of the exciting things we have been up to this term include:

- A Visit from the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People charity
- Spring Forest School
- Launching our Big read Project
- Mrs Worrall's trip to Heathlands School
- Visit from Ewing Foundation's Audiology Technician
- QToD Visits and Interventions
- Martha's Vineyard Event at St John Fisher
- Rocksteady Event at Nova
- BSL Club

Nova's Rocksteady Event



The event was a great experience for our Hub children. All children were clapping, dancing, and signing along to the music. Everyone had a chance to play a musical instrument and we were delighted to welcome more deaf children from other schools, who joined in the fun with the help of sign language interpreters and the powerful vibrations of the music. It was a truly inclusive and inspiring event, showing how music can bring everyone together. A huge thank you to the band and everyone who helped make this unforgettable day happen!









We are excited to announce that Rocksteady will join forces with Nova after half term to get a Deaf Hub band together weekly. More information about this coming soon!



Nova's BSL (British Sign Language) Club has been a fantastic addition to our school community this year! Students from all year groups are able to learn BSL, gaining valuable communication skills. We are excited to see the club grow and look forward to more students joining in the future to make our school a more inclusive place for everyone!

Martha's Vineyard Workshop at St John Fisher



dive!



St John Fisher
Catholic High School



SJF
Deaf Hub

Martha's Vineyard The Journey

The Martha Vineyard **Deaf History Literacy Project** is a unique opportunity that combines Theatre and Art workshops in **British Sign Language (BSL) with English** to **explore** and **celebrate** the **rich history of the deaf community**.

More Information

Suitable for:


Students in year 6 and 7

Wednesday 19th March

St John Fisher Catholic High School

9:00am - 3:00pm

Art, Drama and writing activities



If you would like to **reserve a place**, please **contact SJF Teacher of the Deaf, Lucy Lester**. Include communication preferences, additional needs and the name of the support staff who will be accompanying the student.



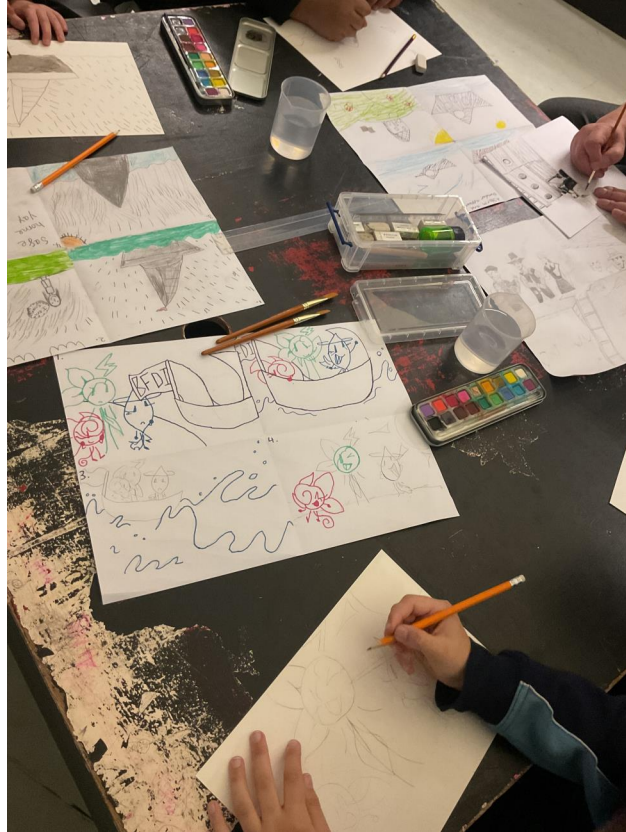
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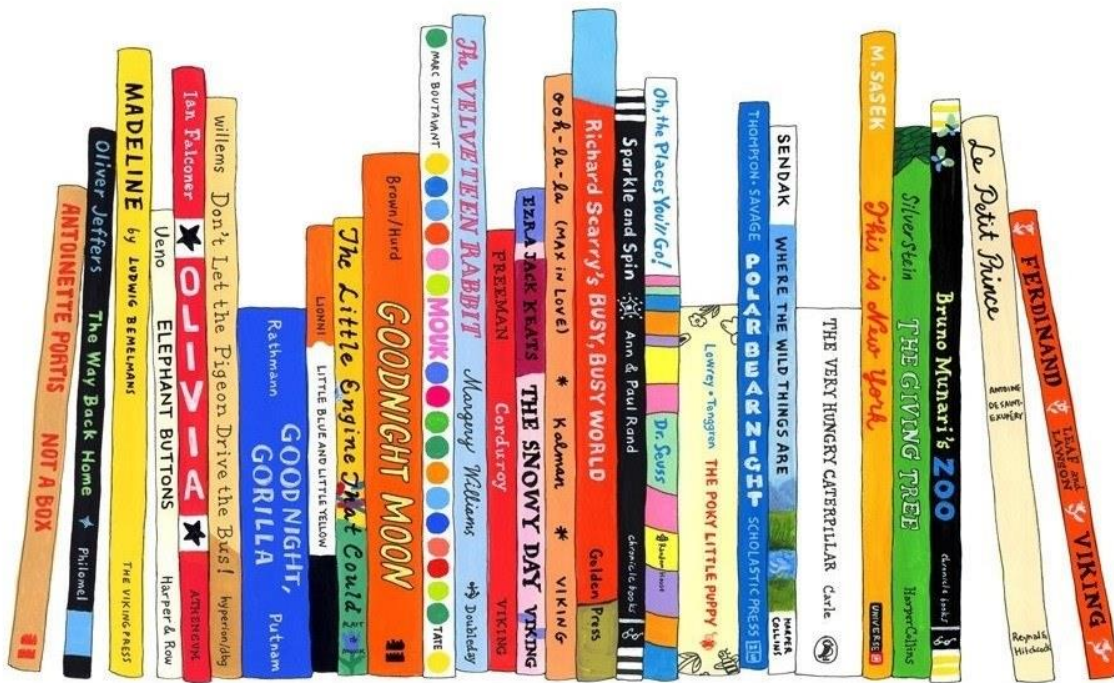
Our year 6 Hub student had the exciting opportunity to attend a Martha's Vineyard drama workshop at the Secondary School Deaf Hub. Led by experienced drama instructors from D-Live, the workshop provided a fun and creative environment for students to develop their confidence, teamwork, and performance skills. It was a wonderful chance for them to express themselves, collaborate with others, and gain a taste of what drama at the secondary school level is like.





Did you Know: Martha's Vineyard is a special island off the coast of the United States, and it has an important place in deaf culture. A long time ago, many people on the island, both deaf and hearing, used sign language to communicate with each other. In fact, Martha's Vineyard was one of the places where Deaf culture and American Sign Language (ASL) grew and became important. This is because a lot of families on the island had members who were deaf, and everyone learned sign language to talk to one another. It was a place where being deaf wasn't seen as different; it was just part of life. Today, Martha's Vineyard is still remembered for how it helped shape the way sign language is used and celebrated in the deaf community.

Nova's Big Read Launch in the Deaf Hub



Did you know: reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income.

We hope you've been enjoying the books we send home with the children and the new QR codes to stories read in sign (some are in BSL, some are in Signed Exact English)



2 - Here's another story to enjoy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-Z19hpAcJE&list=PL7zNI2HpED2imeU0ZDV3W6BF4DiISUAEq&index=7>

The Deaf Hub's Spring Forest School



The children had a fantastic time taking part in our **Spring Hunt**, spotting and noting down the signs of nature's new beginnings.

They also enjoyed an **egg scavenger hunt**, with the older children working together to unscramble letters and reveal a special springtime phrase.

At the **craft activity in the Hub**, children created something to take home, while our older signers had the chance to teach younger ones some seasonal signs—a great way to share and learn together!

Following the success of our **Christmas event**, we brought back the **signed story session** in the outdoor shelter. Mrs Wheeler shared another wonderful book, and each child enjoyed a little chocolate egg while they watched and listened.

It was a fantastic celebration of spring—thank you to everyone who took part!









Other News



Every child in the Hub this term has had weekly 1:1 reading time with our amazing volunteer Sandra.

The QToDs from the Local Authority have visited every child, every week to lead their intervention sessions and to catch up with the children's teachers and TA's.

We've had a visit from the Ewing Foundation (which is part of the Council's SAPs offer) and the technician checked the children's technology at school.

Many of the children have had a visit from the Speech and Language Therapist this term to check their progress and provide the Deaf Hub with specialist advice.