



Alternative Provision  
Nurturing Growth,  
Inspiring Potential

# END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER

## End of Year Message from Vicky & Laura

As we reach the end of our very first academic year at New Leaf Centre, we are both incredibly proud and genuinely moved by what has been a meaningful and rewarding year.

Since opening in September 2024, we've worked hard to create a safe, inclusive and nurturing space for young people many of whom have found mainstream settings too challenging. This year has been about building trust, establishing positive routines and supporting every learner to grow in their own individual way – to feel Safe, Secure and Happy.

We've enjoyed an exciting and enriching year, full of creative learning, community visits, achievements and progress. Whether it's gaining an ASDAN award, joining in a group trip, trying a new food, or simply showing up on a difficult day, every step forward has been celebrated and each experience has helped shape confidence, community and belonging.

**To our parents and carers**, thank you for your ongoing support and trust. We hope you've noticed growth in your young person. If you haven't already, please do take a moment to complete the Parent Feedback Form, emailed on 11th July.

**To our learners**, we are so proud of you. Your individuality, honesty and humour is what makes New Leaf special. You've taken on new challenges, supported one another, and given it your best. We hope you enjoy a well-earned break.

**To our staff**, thank you for your commitment. You've helped create a culture that prioritises wellbeing and growth and we're excited to continue building on that together. We also hope you find time to rest and recharge over the summer break.

**Looking ahead**, we're excited to welcome back many of our current learners as well as some new faces joining us in September. With admissions now full and the launch of our new Functional Skills programme, next year promises even more opportunities to support each young person's journey.

With warmest wishes

Vicky Hunter – Operations Director

Laura FitzGerald – Head of Provision

## ASDAN SUCCESS

We are proud to celebrate the achievements of our learners who have successfully completed or are working towards a range of ASDAN-accredited courses this year.

These achievements reflect the hard work, dedication, and individual interests of our learners, and we look forward to supporting their continued success.

### Subject-Specific Awards:

- Personal Finance: Oscar
- Food Wise: Ryan
- Construction: Ethan
- Expressive Arts: Reese

### Continuing Progress towards:

- History: Amelia
- Food Wise: Jack P
- Construction: Leo
- Uniformed Services: Jacob
- Animal Care: Brooklyn

### Volunteering (Lowther Big Dig):

Demonstrating commitment to community engagement

- Ethan
- Amazon
- Charlotte McLachlan
- Jack P
- Max



## CUMBRIAN HISTORY LOWTHER BIG DIG

We were honoured to be exclusively invited to participate in this exciting archaeological project. The learners took part in a live excavation project of what is believed to have been a Norman settlement gaining hands-on experience using real archaeological tools and techniques. This was a great opportunity to discover and be a part of Cumbrian history.



## TULLIE HOUSE DINOSAUR DISCOVERIES

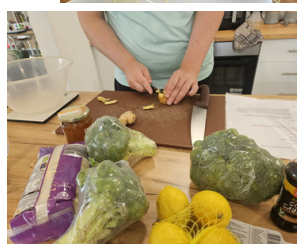
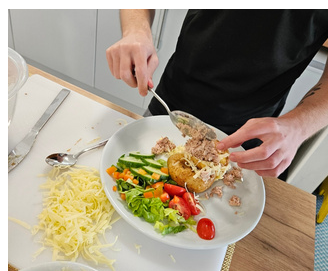
Learners enjoyed a trip to the newly refurbished Tullie House Museum in Carlisle. The visit offered a range of exhibits, with particular enjoyment of the dinosaur display. The trip allowed learners to explore natural history, art, and science in an interactive environment.



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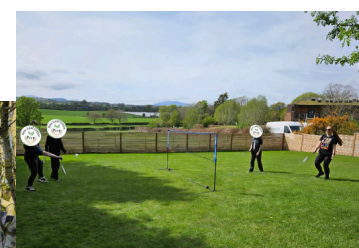
## WENDY'S KITCHEN – CULINARY DELIGHTS

This year has seen fantastic progress in the New Leaf Centre kitchen, where learners have been working towards their ASDAN Food Wise and other life skills. Sessions have included a balance of practical cooking and theory base learning, supporting both academic progress and independence. Learners have enjoyed preparing a variety of themed foods linked to seasons and celebrations throughout the year. The kitchen has become a valued space for building confidence, teamwork, and essential everyday skills. Thank you to Wendy for also providing our learners with varied, healthy and delicious lunches. And we hope our families have enjoyed sampling the culinary creations their young people have prepared at the centre.



## FINDING SMALL STEPS IN THE BIG OUTDOORS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & PERSONAL GROWTH

Come rain, sun and snow, our learners have embraced the outdoors with energy and enthusiasm, an incredible step forward for those who once found it difficult to leave the house. From football on the Astro turf to badminton, basket ball and gardening, and peaceful moments in the hammocks, every activity has been an opportunity for growth. Tree climbing, kite flying, countryside walks, and a geocaching adventure up the Beacon, have all supported the development of teamwork, communication and social confidence.

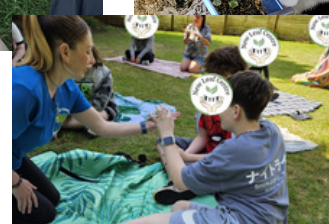




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## FURRY FRIENDS & THERAPEUTIC CONNECTIONS

Animal connections have continued to play a valuable role in supporting emotional wellbeing and regulation at the centre. We have welcomed a wonderful visit from Zoobidoo, giving learners the chance to meet and handle a variety of animals in a calm, therapeutic setting. We were also visited by Calvert Stables, who brought two of their PAT (Pets As Therapy) ponies – Some lovely memorable experiences. And of course, our resident rabbits and guinea pigs remain firm favourites, offering daily opportunities for comfort, connection, and moments of calm throughout the day. Over the summer, we're looking forward to welcoming some feathered friends into the centre ready for learners to meet them in September.



## COMMUNITY, CONVERSATIONS AND DOMINOES

Building intergenerational connections has been a heart-warming part of this year's enrichment activities. A group of our learners visited a local care home where they spent time playing dominoes and chatting with the residents. These moments not only provide a meaningful social experience for both the young people and older generation but they also help nurture empathy, patience, and a sense of community across age groups.



## BUDGETING, UPCYCLING AND CREATIVE PIECES

Creativity, budgeting and sustainability came together during this repurposing mission. Each learner was given a personal budget and went off charity-shop shopping to choose an item of clothing to repurpose. Some opted for bold tie-dye patterns, while others experimented with bleach patterns and every piece turned out fantastically unique. This activity not only encouraged creative expression but also supported life skills such as money management and environmentally conscious thinking.



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## CREATIVE AND PRACTICAL PROJECTS

Our learners have been engaging in a wide variety of creative and practical activities designed to build confidence, encourage self-expression, and develop hands-on skills. In woodwork and construction, learners have built bird boxes, planters and taken on tasks like bench refurbishment and fence repairs, promoting team work and problem solving. Our arts and crafts sessions have included rock painting, mindful colouring, clay modelling, weaving and themed projects like hot air balloons, animal and human anatomy sculptures all supporting regulation and imaginative thinking. We've also explored fun science experiments and created fete games, helping learners connect creativity with community events. These sessions provide calm, purposeful spaces where learners can thrive, learn and enjoy the process of making.



## TRIP TO BLUE JAM, PENRITH

Our learners enjoyed a creative and engaging trip to Blue Jam Arts in Penrith. The session offered a safe and inclusive space for self-expression through music, art and performance, tailored to suit the needs of our learners. Experiences like this play an important role in building confidence, social skills, and emotional well-being beyond the centre.





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## END-OF-YEAR SUMMER FETE

To celebrate the end of a successful year at New Leaf Centre, we held our first Summer Fete, a lovely relaxed afternoon filled with live music, games, food, and community spirit. Families, staff and learners came together to mark the progress made this year and to reflect on the journey so far. For those learners who were unable to attend on the day, we ensured they had the opportunity to enjoy the games and activities later in the week. Events like this not only celebrate our learners' achievements but also strengthen the vital partnerships between home and centre. Thank you to everyone who supported and attended.



## END-OF-YEAR TRIP TO GO APE

To round off the academic year, across 3 sessions our learners took part in an adventurous day at Go Ape. The trip provided fantastic opportunity for team building and pushing personal boundaries in a safe a supportive environment. It was a pleasure to see learners encouraging and supporting one another. From zip lines to high ropes, everyone challenged themselves at their own pace. A memorable way to end the year!

