

OCTOBER 2017

Newsletter



Headteachers Message

Welcome to our half term Autumn Newsletter. As usual, we have had a busy half term, learning lots and having fun. We have been raising money for the Macmillan Cancer Support by holding a Coffee Morning, where we raised almost **£100**.

More details and photos inside this newsletter and on our website.

The first ever Macmillan Coffee Morning happened way back in 1990. It was a rather small affair with a simple idea: guests would gather over coffee and donate the cost of their cuppa to Macmillan in the process. It was so effective, that they did it again the next year – only this time nationally. Since then, Coffee Morning has raised over **£138** million for Macmillan! So thank you to all parents and of course pupils, staff and governors who took part.

Later this month we will be celebrating Black History Month as always, and welcoming One Drum drumming group and Abe Gibson and Baden Prince, spoken word artists who will be attending assembly and visiting classes to promote black history and share their poems with pupils. Our friends from St Gilda's local mainstream primary school will be attending our drumming assembly too, so we are looking forward to seeing them. We will share the photos from these visits in our next newsletter.



Please see link for autism friendly cinema screenings for families:

<https://www.dimensions-uk.org/families/autism-friendly-environments/autism-friendly-screenings>

Also, below is a link to purchase Christmas raffle tickets from the National Autistic Society, which cost £1 each. You could win **£2,500** and would also be supporting autistic people and their families.

https://www.raffleplayer.com/NASautumnraffle?utm_source=clwebsite&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=autumn2017

I would like to wish you an enjoyable and restful half term holiday.

We look forward to seeing the pupils after their half term break, on Monday 30th October 2017.

Part of the Acorn Group



Therapy articles

Multi-Disciplinary Team

PARENT WORKSHOPS

The MDT has started doing workshops for parents and family members of children with Autism. Anne Wagner (Assistant Psychologist) did the first workshop on 26.09.2017 themed 'Encouraging play with you child with ASD'.

Her session was a great success and parents reported that it was a fun learning experience and that they had learnt something new!

COMING UP:

14/11/2017 at 13:00 – Parent-child interaction presented by Saffira Mattfield (Speech and Language Therapist)

12/12/2017 at 13:00 – Topic to be confirmed

Expect to learn a lot of new and practical tips from the MDT on how you as a parent can support and interact with your child. You will also get the opportunity to meet and chat with other parents.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch. Marzena, our Higher Learning Teaching Assistant at the school, is going to look after your 1 to 3 year olds.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Anne, Bridget and Saffira



News from the Multi-Disciplinary Team

RESEARCH COLLABORATION WITH CITY UNIVERSITY LONDON

This term, Kestrel House School is collaborating with City University London to carry out a study to better understand how we can encourage children with ASD's learning through rewards and ensure their emotional well-being. In September, Dr Sebastian Gaigg (the main researcher) and Anna Lambrecht (his research assistant) came to the school to present their research activities to Roz, Kairi and Anne, and to discuss practical ways on how and when to conduct the research activities at the school. Our main concern was to ensure minimal the changes for participating children and no changes for non-participating students during research days (3-4 over the present school year).

We would like to sincerely thank the parents of the children who kindly agreed to fill out some questionnaires, allowed for the researchers to read over their child's EHC plan and who gave written consent for their child to take part in the 30 minutes research activities. We have arranged for a first research-day to take place on November 3 (Friday) and we will send a reminder to parents of participating children closer to the day. Anne will help facilitate a smooth transition between the pupils' familiar activities and the new unfamiliar research activities; she will stay as a familiar face with each child while Anna conducts all the fun research activities. Please remember that children who do not participate in the study will follow their timetable as usual.

Kind regards,

Anne Wagner, Assistant Psychologist

Roz Norton, Head teacher

Kairi Reiter, Lead for Teaching and Learning



Training for all teaching staff:



BUILDING INTERACTION AND LANGUAGE SKILLS FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Throughout the Autumn term, all teaching staff including LSA's and teachers will be attending the weekly More Than Words™ Program.

The More Than Words™ Program will give teaching staff practical tools to help our students at Kestrel House to communicate and interact.

More Than Words emphasizes the child's everyday activities as the context for learning to communicate. In addition, More Than Words incorporates current best practice guidelines, highlighting the importance of affect, predictability, structure and the use of visual supports to enhance learning in children with ASD. More Than Words also recognizes the unique needs of children with autism spectrum disorder and helps teaching staff understand their child's sensory preferences and sensitivities so these can be accommodated during everyday interactions.

Most important of all, More Than Words™ helps build positive interactions between teaching staff and child, reducing frustration for both and increasing the child's opportunities to learn to communicate in real life situations.

All students at Kestrel House have been allocated a staff member to work with, whereby all staff members will learn to select communication goals for their allocated "student" and then practice and implement interaction/communication strategies within a naturalistic environment.



New Music Therapist

– Joseph Jezard

Hello, my name is Joseph Jezard and since the start of the term I have taken on the role of Music Therapist here at Kestrel House. I completed my training with Nordoff Robbins (the Music Therapy charity) in September 2016 and since then it has been a privilege to work across various settings including a hospice, a hospital, a care home and neuro-rehabilitation unit. I am very pleased to add Kestrel House to that list. We also have a Music Therapy student on placement here; Charlotte is observing and working in the music as part of her own training. It has been a pleasure to meet and work with the students and the staff and already I can see how music will be of great benefit.



New Yoga teacher

– Viera Labathova

Hello! My name is Viera Labathova and I am the new yoga teacher at Kestrel House School. I am qualified with Rainbow Kids Yoga and Yoga for Autism. I have been teaching at after school clubs and privately since 2014.

As our previous teacher, Emma, relocated to Brighton during the summer holidays, Viera will continue individual 1:1 sessions on Friday afternoons. The students will practice basic yoga techniques, breathing exercises and learn to keep focused and calm.





Class articles

Elm class

Elm class have had a cooking session making bread, kneading and shaping the dough. Then the children very much enjoyed eating the bread!



Arafat, Elijah and Alex Kneading and shaping the dough



The end result of the bread



Elijah using his knife skills to spread the jam

Elm class also cooked pasta with spinach, mushrooms and cheese



Fernando is sorting pictures in science of things that are Alive, Not alive and Never been alive



James and Jessie are busy chopping the mushrooms

Fernando working hard doing antonyms in English



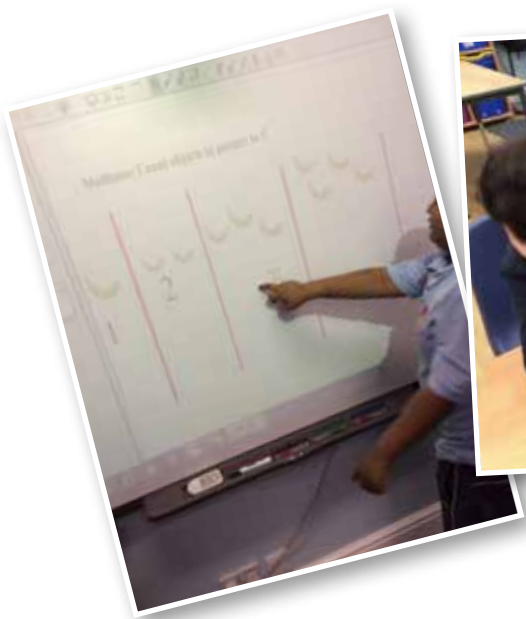
Alex is very engaged in chopping up mushrooms





Chestnut Class

Chestnut Class has been having a lot of fun during the first autumn half term. We have continued with our daily writing and numeracy target led sessions; and also enjoyed science lessons on the growing process of animals and humans and maths activities on capacity. Every Friday we have been having food technology sessions and rock climbing sessions every Wednesdays.





Olive Class

During this half term in Olive class we have studied the Viking Age and how important they are for British History. We have learnt about their culture and traditions. For this reason, in teams, we have made real size and historic patterned Viking shields.



Oak class

Oak class students had a special visitor this half term. During our Science lesson our school dog Piglet came to see us. Our students had the chance to identify different parts of a human and a dog. They completed a worksheet and stuck pictures of body parts on Piglet and Nikki.





Maple Class

In Maple Class this term so far we have been looking at Vikings in History, making papier mâché Viking helmets. We made the helmets by putting papier mâché over balloons, and then once they had dried we painted them and made cardboard horns for them.

In Science this term we are looking at features of the human body and face and looking at skeletons of different animals (including humans) and how skeletons help them to move in the ways that they do.





Other News

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 29th of September we had a successful cake sale at Kestrel House School raising **£93** in donations for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Staff and students baked delicious cakes and Olive class pupils helped to sell them.

A big thank you to everyone who helped to organise this event and parents who sent in cakes. Our local bakery, Dunn's, donated some special cupcakes with the Macmillan logo on - so a special thank you to them too!





Windermere 21 Challenge

Congratulations to Nikki, our Oak class LSA, who has been fundraising for Icandance and Mind charities.

On the 1st September 2017 I Kayaked around Lake Windermere for two charities which are Icandance which helps children with special needs and disabilities (including wheelchair users) gain confidence and express their creative skills through dance and movement, and Mind, which supports people with mental health issues and their families.

It took **7½** hours to kayak all **21 miles** of Lake Windermere.

The total amount I have raised so far is **£643.75**



If you would like to support Nikki and her work with these two charities, please follow the link below and search Nikki Diacopoulos on virgin money giving.

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Nikkifundraiser>

5-a-day

We have been using 5-a-day TV in the classrooms and with some of the students. Providing them with five-minute exercise routines and two minute relax activities, these are packed with high energy, low impact repeated movements and set to music, the children watch, join in, have fun and get fit!



Awards

CLASS	CHILD	DATE OF AWARD	REASON FOR AWARD
Oak	Callum Vaughan	11 09 17	For good sitting during circle time
Olive	Dipo Aderinboye		For settling back in well
Maple	Malcolm Wirekoh		For initiating play verbally
Chestnut	Mark Sado		For staying focussed in lessons
Elm	Elijah Rogers-Barrett		Fro attempting communication with a peer

Oak	Jenny Lin	18 09 17	For independent workstation
Olive	Jediael Ononibaku		For managing his behaviour
Chestnut	Jessica Wembi		For good interaction with her peers
Maple	Aboubacar Fofana		For good listening
Elm	Alex Draper		For good written English

Oak	Yiodi Michael	25 09 17	For using Clevertouch independently
Olive	Rahiem Nelson		For eating oranges, grapes and yoghurt
Chestnut	Medhane Tesfay		For signing days of the week
Maple	Ben Drakes		For good maths work
Elm	James Horton		For matching objects to the sound of their letters

Oak	Yiodi Michael	20 10 17	For good swimming
Olive	Elyon Cudjoe		For signing with words and "5 A Day"
Chestnut	Peter Kwami		For good maths work
Maple	Darius Fwala		For good maths work
Elm	Jessie Ashbridge		For good science lesson

How to get in touch

If you are interested in visiting Kestrel House School, or finding out more about the support we provide, please call **020 8348 8500** or e-mail admin@kestrelhouseschool.co.uk