

NEWSLETTER, November 2018



Welcome to our November newsletter, I'm sure you will all agree that this month has been exceptionally busy! This month we welcomed some of the Headteachers from the other special schools across Berkshire to join us for the day and to look at how we have begun to start ensuring that Total Communication is an integrated part of the curriculum for our young people. They provided us with some great feedback including, 'Teachers and support staff across the school were observed using signing, visual support and the spoken word at an appropriate level with learners'. One of our key aims is to ensure that this is consistent across the school by the end of this academic year.

Some of you may have already seen the article in the Bracknell News, and I am absolutely delighted to inform you that we have been successful in our Healthy Pupil Capital Fund bid. This means the Local Authority has awarded us £109,577.00 to refurbish our school swimming pool - this resource is invaluable to our learners. We will communicate the design plans for this area with you in the Spring Term once they have been finalised.

Kind regards
Jenny Baker
Headteacher

Key Stage 1 Pyjama Day



On 6th November, Key Stage 1 (Sapphire and Topaz classes) had a "Pyjama Day" to launch the topic for this half term "What happens when I fall asleep?" Class staff and learners wore pyjamas, dressing gowns and slippers and were



encouraged to bring a teddy or soft toy to school. Activities were planned during the day to enhance the experience including listening to 'How to Catch a Star' by Oliver Jeffers and sorting day and night pictures. Everyone stayed awake (including the staff!) and had a wonderful day.

Brookfields Swimming Gala



A group of four learners from Primary recently attended a Swimming Gala held at Brookfields School in Reading. This was attended by several other SEN schools from across the Borough. The learners took part in single races and team races, it was a lovely opportunity for them to meet and engage with



learners from other SEN schools. All of the learners thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we are hoping to run another Swimming Gala in the New Year.

Foxes Academy



Some learners in Key Stage 5 visited Foxes Academy and Hotel in Minehead last week. Foxes Hotel is a training hotel for young people with learning difficulties. Our learners spent time working in different areas of the hotel, cleaning their rooms and bathrooms - even the toilets! Later they worked in the kitchen and learned how to set the tables for guests.



We also had a tour of one of the houses where Foxes learners live during their time there and where they learn independent living skills. Our learners enjoyed all the lovely food and their down time in the evenings. They were a credit to Kennel Lane School and are keen to visit again!

Pudsey visits Kennel Lane



Pudsey Bear found time in his busy schedule to visit us again this year and together we raised £154.40 for Children in Need. Thank you for your continuing support for this very worthy cause.

SEN Schools Football Tournament

Big congratulations to our KLS Green League silver medallist boys football team led by Captain Carl who played at Reading FC on Thursday 8th November. Fantastic team work and sportsmanship was shown by all, resulting in second place missing out by just one point to Addington School. Well done boys!



World of Work Day



On 14th November the Primary Department took part in a 'World of Work' day. Learners from across the Department explored three different jobs.



The first was a 'Chef', with learners having the opportunity to use the Secondary Food Technology room to make fruit salad to share with others. The second was an 'Artist' and activities included clay model making, portrait drawing/painting and still life. The third was a 'Vehicle Technician'. We were very fortunate to have a technician visit from Jemca Toyota, the sponsors of our 9-seater minibus, who delivered three workshops. The learners particularly enjoyed exploring the tools and safety clothing.



Year 11 Working Experience Week



Year 11 learners enjoyed their working experience week in which they visited Jealott's Hill Land Share and 3M in order to complete tours of the businesses and see people at work. When at 3M they were given the challenge of working as a team in order to create the best paper airplane. They learnt about "going back to the drawing board" when designs don't work very well, and the importance of persevering until they get a better final product. At Jealott's Hill the young people learned about the volunteer opportunities that are open to them, and why gaining experience is very positive when looking for work. Our learners also had a visit and talk by the community police officers about the jobs that they do. The learners asked some really good questions and gained a real understanding of what it is like in the world of work.

Autumn Harvest Festival



On the 17th October, we were super excited to be asked to attend the Autumn Harvest Festival at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park. Learners from Key Stage 2 classes had loads of fun viewing seasonal vegetables and squashes, had experience tasting English apple varieties and attended cookery demonstration. They listened to the story of Johnny Appleseed and took part in apple bobbing – great fun! Finally, learners had the opportunity to collect seasonal colours for their own colour palettes. Everyone enjoyed the experience and we are very proud that Kennel Lane got an informal reward for being the most polite school visiting on that day. ☺



EpiPen and Inhaler Information

You may be aware that schools can now buy their own spare EpiPens and Inhalers. As a school we have made the decision **not** to purchase our own EpiPens and Inhalers because all of our learners who require them have their own, with the correct dose, relevant to their specific needs. Kennel Lane School does not have spare EpiPens or Inhalers for learners to use. Therefore, if your young person requires an EpiPen or Inhaler please make sure that we are aware and that we have the relevant quantity in school to cover your young person's specific needs. All medications to be used in school should be prescribed by a medical professional and be accompanied by the packaging, including a description of the drug, dosage, and name of the learner.

The Red Box Project



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We are hugely grateful for the generosity of The Red Box Project, a community run scheme which aims to quietly ensure that no young woman misses school or suffers embarrassment during her period.

The Red Box Project gives young women in need – whether for financial or social reasons – the reassurance that their sanitary needs will be provided for them, meaning no tearful panics in the loo or missing lessons. If this affects you, please do not worry – your daughter will be discreetly and gently reassured. For further information on the scheme, follow them on Facebook (The Red Box Project Reading & Wokingham) or email redboxprojectreadingandwokingham@outlook.com.

Traffic on Kennel Lane



May we respectfully ask that you take care whilst driving on Kennel Lane, observing the speed limit, reducing speed as you drive onto the school site and parking considerately. This helps to keep our staff, learners, parents and carers and local residents safe, especially during the busy drop off and pick up times of the day. Thank you.

Staff News



We bid a fond, temporary, farewell to Carla (Secondary Teacher) as she starts her maternity leave, and look forward to meeting her new baby in the Spring Term.

End of Term Arrangements



If you have not yet returned the slip acknowledging the new end of term finishing time of 1pm, please do so as soon as possible. If you have misplaced the letter sent on 19th October, please contact Sam Morgan via the school office as soon as possible to request a replacement. Thank you.

Dates for the Diary



Friday 7th December	FOKLS Christmas Party (tickets available on the door)	5.00pm – 8.00pm
Tuesday 18th December	Secondary Production Primary Production	10.00am 1.30pm
Wednesday 19th December	Reindeer Visit	All day
Thursday 20th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch	12.00 noon
Friday 21st December	Learners' end of day	1.00pm