

# NEWSLETTER, October 2021



Dear All

It was amazing to see so many carers and parents at our coffee afternoons at the beginning of this month. We hope you enjoyed these events and that they gave you an opportunity to meet Class Teachers/Tutors, members of our Senior Leadership Team, Governors and other carers and parents.

We welcomed James Sunderland MP to the school for a tour of our Secondary Department and the Woodlands Hub. During the visit we had useful discussions about SEN provision in the borough. We are hoping that James will come back soon to tour the Primary Department.



We also had a our first 'STEP' visit of this term, (Standards and Effectiveness Partner), conducted by the Local Authority, which focused on our pre-formal curriculum and learning and assessment within The Woodlands Hub. The visit went well and we are looking forward to receiving our official feedback.

The building works are taking a lot longer than we had hoped, however, it is anticipated that our new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) will be completed soon after ½ Term and for all the building works in Primary to be completed by the end of the term.

Unfortunately, we have been dealing with a rising number of complaints from local residents regarding parking in Kennel Lane. We are addressing these on an individual basis and have asked colleagues to be mindful when parking for the day. However, some issues are clearly during drop off/pick up times and some carers and parents are parking on the double yellow lines, ziz-zags and bends. We will be asking Civil Enforcement Officers to patrol more regularly during peak traffic times and please also be aware that should you park dangerously or illegally, some residents have warned us that they will either be reporting these cars to the council and/or Police, or taking matters into their own hands by damaging cars deemed unsafely or illegally parked. There is no easy solution to this, as with all roads near schools across the country, parking is very difficult. I would ask that you respect the Highway Code at all times, to try to appease our neighbours but if your car is maliciously damaged, please report immediately to the Police. Thank you.

I hope you all have a marvellous half term break and we look forward to seeing your young people back in school on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Kind regards  
**Jenny Baker**  
**Headteacher**

## **ACE Assessment**

The ACE centre - a charity specialising in Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and Assistive Technology (AT) - came into school on 28<sup>th</sup> September to assess four learners for high tech AAC equipment. We are happy to say that all young people have been approved for their own communication devices!



This has been enabled by class teams systematically working with the learners to develop their communication skills, collecting a range of evidence, Hollie (SaLT) completing referral forms and collating paperwork to send off to ACE.

Well done to all – the AAC devices will enable these learners to fulfil their communication potential both at school and within the wider community.

## Ruby's Ramblings



Ruby has enjoyed getting back to work. She has a full timetable on the two days she visits classes. She has been using her buttons to communicate, enjoyed being brushed by the learners and listening to readers.

Some learners in Primary who are nervous of dogs have managed to touch her tail and be close to her. Well done!



## Where does honey come from?



Bees are an essential part of our world, they help to pollinate plants that create the food we eat. Many of you will know that honey is made by bees, but how does the honey reach the jar, and more importantly, your toast? Zeljana, one of our teachers here at Kennel Lane, took up bee keeping during the first lock down and has managed to make 20kg of honey this year as well as introducing a new colony to her existing hives. Here's how she does it.

To extract honey, you need to first clear the honeybees off of the frames. This is done by placing a 'clearing' board under the box of frames that you want to clear of honeybees. A clearing board has little doors that bees can exit through but not come back in. After a day or two, the beekeeper arrives back to find the board cleared of nearly all the honeybees and ready to be taken off to be harvested. The few bees that remain are easy to gently brush off.

It is important to use a closed room with ventilation that insects can't come through. When extracting honey, the aroma can attract local honeybees from different colonies which can be a problem. The first step in extracting honey is to 'uncap' the honeycomb. Bees fill the little hexagonal



cells with honey and then seal them with beeswax until they need to dip into their stores. Traditionally beekeepers use an uncapping knife but it's far easier to use an uncapping comb which gently pulls off the caps.

The next step is to spin the honey out of the comb (photo left). Most small-scale beekeepers do this with a manual hand-powered extractor. It's a messy job so the best place to do this is in the kitchen or garage with layers of newspaper or cardboard on the floor to catch any drips. All the honey can then be poured into clean jars and stored until you want to eat it. Yum!



## Back in the Saddle

In Key Stage 2, some of our learners were once again able to go to Lands End Equestrian Centre to participate in RDA (Riding for the Disabled) recently.

For parents and carers who are not familiar with this charity, the website explains: "RDA is an inclusive and diverse organisation. We welcome clients with physical and learning disabilities and autism, and there are no age restrictions. Through our network of member groups, RDA is at work in every corner of the UK, in our cities and remote rural areas, bringing the therapy, achievement and fun of horses to as many people as we can". For more information see [Lands End Equestrian Centre](https://www.landsendecentre.co.uk/).



## Parenting Special Children

We have been asked to share this information about support groups on behalf of 'Parenting Special Children'.



- A support group for family members who have children/young people with additional needs living within the community of Bracknell. A safe and supportive space for sharing experiences and gaining support with the unique challenges faced by families of children with additional needs.
- Each session will include a half hour talk about being a parent of a child with additional needs. The remainder of the session will be for discussion of the topic and social support time.
- Sessions are free and refreshments are provided.

**Dates:** 18 Nov; 9 Dec; 13 Jan; 10th Feb from 12:30 – 14:30

**Venue:** Hall 2, The Square, Great Hollands, Bracknell, RG12 8UX

**Contact:** Charlie Taylor on 07810 689679 or email [charlie@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk](mailto:charlie@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk)

## Governor Update from Bev Mitchell-Wright, Chair of Governors



This month, I'd like to draw your attention to something very important that will be happening after October half term. We will be holding elections for a Parent Governor to join us on the governing board. Please can I ask you all to take a couple of minutes to read the message below from our Clerk, Fiona and do please consider whether you could be the person we are looking for.

The carer/parent perspective is crucial to the way that the Governing Body works!

We don't have a current carer/parent on the board – could you join us and make an important contribution to the future of our learners?

We are looking for a carer/parent to join our governing body as a Parent Governor. It is vital to have someone that knows how our decisions may affect carers and parents – there are no formal qualifications required, just a commitment to helping our learners achieve their best. As a governor group we are friendly and welcoming, we take what we do seriously, but we also do it because we enjoy it - so we have some fun as well.



After the October half term, we will be holding an election for a Parent Governor to join us. Each person with parental responsibility can nominate themselves to stand and/or vote in the election and will need a verified email address to do so. The election will be electronic and although School Gateway only allows one email address per household, we can manage multiple addresses for the election. If you are unsure if the school holds your current email address, please email [secretary@kennellaneschool.com](mailto:secretary@kennellaneschool.com) with your young person's name and class.

If you have any questions about the elections or the role, please do not hesitate to contact me [fiona.stanton@kennellaneschool.com](mailto:fiona.stanton@kennellaneschool.com). Thank you.

## Morrisons 'Good to Grow'

We are still collecting tokens via the 'MyMorrisons' app. Thank you for your help – we'll update you once we have been notified of our total after the collecting period closes.

## Attendance Matters

We are fortunate to have really good overall attendance here at Kennel Lane but your young person's own attendance percentage can also be affected by a number of late arrivals to school in the mornings. These figures explain how much school can be missed even with a high attendance.



## Dates for the Diary

Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	HALF TERM	
w/c 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Science Week	
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	BBC Children in Need Day	
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Virtual Christmas Fayre – details to follow	
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day	