



THE WALNUTS SCHOOL

AUTUMN TERM DECEMBER 2017 Issue 43

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Headteachers News- pg 1
 Parent Programme—pg 13
 Other Information—pg 11
 Friends of Walnuts—pg 12

HEADTEACHERS NEWS

As we move towards the end of the autumn term, pupils and staff have settled into their new classes and teams and many activities, events and opportunities have been experienced which the class contributions to this newsletter will expand upon. I think reading this newsletter demonstrates the tremendous commitment that staff, in their various capacities, make and I have to say it is a privilege to work with them and to see the children and young people progress under their expert guidance.

This has been a long term with two half terms of seven weeks and a not inconsiderable amount of illness, which has led to both pupils and staff becoming very tired. Hopefully, the Christmas break will give everyone the opportunity to relax and re-charge their batteries as, with multi-cultural week to look forward to in January and Book Week at the end of February, next term promises to be equally busy.

You will have heard by now that next term will be my last at The Walnuts as I shall be leaving at the end of April. Although I shall be sorry to leave, I know that I am leaving a great school in the hands of great staff and I will be working closely with the governors to ensure a smooth transition to my successor.

I hope that by the time you read this your Christmas preparations will be well underway and would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families an enjoyable Christmas and a happy New Year.



Best wishes
Jo Yates—Headteacher

HEADTEACHER NEWS	1
POINTS OF INTEREST	1
PINE GROUP	2
CEDAR GROUP	2
ASH GROUP	2
LAUREL GROUP	3
HOLLY GROUP	3
CYPRESS GROUP	3
SYCAMORE GROUP	4
CHERRY GROUP	4
ROWAN GROUP	4
HAZEL GROUP	5
OAK GROUP	5
MAPLE GROUP	5
CHESTNUT GROUP	6
WILLOW GROUP	6
BIRCH GROUP	6
REDWOOD GROUP	7
POPLAR GROUP	7
BEECH GROUP	7
UPPER 1	8
UPPER 2	8
UPPER 3	8
UPPER 4	9
UPPER 5	9
UPPER 6	9
SIXTH FORM	10
OTHER INFORMATION	11+



PI NE GROUP



Pine Group has had a fantastic first term at school. Our new Foundation children have settled into the routines and are greatly enjoying all school has to offer. We have spent this term getting to know each other and finding out about ourselves and the things that make us happy. We have found that we really enjoy lots of active play outside and have had great fun exploring the climbing frame and other playground equipment. Messy play has proved very popular too and we are becoming really good at playing alongside each other when we explore the sand and water trays. We are also becoming very good at finding our way around school with the help of our transition objects and symbols, and we become very excited on our way to soft play and PE! At the moment we are beginning to think about Christmas. We are learning some festive songs and enjoying lots of glitter and glue!! We wish you all a very Happy Christmas.



CEDAR GROUP



It has been such a busy term in Cedar Group this year; we can't believe how quickly the time has flown. Our learning has kept the children very engaged and they have particularly enjoyed our topics on some of the celebrations we have in the autumn. We embraced Diwali the week before half term and learned about Rama and Sita and the Goddess Lakshmi. We tried Indian food - thanks to our new Teaching Assistant Bhavna - and tried on traditional Indian Clothes. We made firework pictures and even tried to learn a traditional Hindi song all about Diwali. **After half term we had 'Spooky Week' and learned a skeleton dance, the skeletons in the song helped the children to learn all about our body parts. Of course we couldn't leave out bonfire night. We had great fun making fireworks biscuits, but even better fun eating them!** We are all looking forward to when we begin celebrating Christmas at school. It has been so good to see our children really settle and change this term, every day seems to bring something new in their learning and they all deserve a Christmas break. Cedar Team wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year - we thank you for all your support this term.



ASH GROUP



Ash Group have had a super first term. All the children have settled into the routine and have already learnt so many new independent skills. The children are all using their individual schedules to move around the school independently which is a great start to the year. In swimming this term we have been working on our water skills to earn a duckling certificate. Well done to Daniel and William who have both achieved one so far. **All the children's water confidence has improved greatly and nearly all of them are entering and exiting the pool safely.** The children loved receiving their certificates at group meeting. **All the children are enjoying our weekly trip to Slated Row's Forest School** where the children are experiencing some forest school activities such as leaf throwing and puddle jumping. At first a few children were less than keen to join in, but it did not take long before everybody was joining in. Lots of fun is being had by all. As we approach the festive season we are looking forward to the Christmas stay and play with all the families and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas.





LAUREL GROUP



Laurel Group have been very busy this term. The children have settled well into their class routine. Our first topic was *all about me*, which enabled the children to learn more about their new peers, finding out that everyone enjoys taking turns to choose a number song!

This half-term our topic has been *foods and feasting*. We have been learning about the British explorer Captain James Cook who sailed off East many years ago. Laurel Group have enjoyed making foods associated with sailing, such as jelly sailing boats and fruit swords - to protect the explorers from pirates! The Laurel Group team would like to wish everyone a very happy and restful Christmas break.



HOLLY GROUP



It has been a fantastic first term for Holly Group this year! The children have all settled in well and have begun building relationships with those in their class. We have enjoyed sharing information about ourselves in our *All About Me* topic and learning about how we are all different. Differences were also noticed during our Food and Feasting topic where, apparently, not all of Holly Group like chocolate!!

A memorable experience from our first half term would be **Holly Group's visits to Slated Row's Forest School. We certainly made the most of the Autumn sun; making crowns, creating our own bubble blowers, using a colour wheel to identify the variety of colours in the wood as well as singing woodland songs!** It was fantastic!

From all of us in Holly Group, we wish our families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you in the spring term.



CYPRESS GROUP



Cypress group have had a wonderful Autumn Term, and the children have engaged really well with our topic *Food and Feasting*. We have really enjoyed looking at where different food comes from and making food in our cooking sessions. We have also loved reading our favourite stories such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

Cypress group have been lucky enough to go to forest school this half term.

We have absolutely loved getting messy whilst learning in the forest, whatever the weather! One of our favourite activities was making clay faces on the trees and some of us love climbing the trees too. Cypress group are now really enjoying making cards, decorations and practising for the Christmas concert. We wish you all a very merry Christmas! The Cypress Team.





SYCAMORE GROUP



Sycamore Group had a busy start to the year. They loved their weekly visits to Forest School in the first half-term, making stick men, clay faces, leaf crowns and much more! In Science and English the children used their senses to explore all sorts of different sounds, sights, textures and tastes, and through poetry they have learnt new vocabulary to describe them. They loved our cooking sessions, making a variety of savoury snacks. One of the favourites being Cheesy Feet!

In Geography they loved using Google Earth and Google Maps to find out more about where they live. In computing they learnt about algorithms and practiced using them to program the Beebot floor robots. They have loved using the digital cameras to take photos to use in their own PowerPoint presentations. The children have done some amazing art work taking inspiration from the work of famous artists including Andy Warhol. We are very proud of their fantastic multiplication work using arrays. One of the highlights has been watching them working together to build gigantic piles of leaves, and then running through them scattering leaves everywhere!

Have a wonderful Christmas break, from us all in Sycamore Group.



CHERRY GROUP

This term Cherry started by learning all about themselves. They enjoyed singing songs about their body and any songs that had actions. Their favourite song was the *Happy Song* by the Learning Station. We spent a lot of time getting to know each other and finding out about our new friends. We have been playing and sharing new toys and activities with each other. This half term Cherry have been learning about different food. They have been looking at where food comes from and how some food is made. They enjoyed making their own meals and choosing what they would like for their dinner.



Cherry have really enjoyed going to Forest School and exploring the woods. They have been following paths and looking for objects hidden in the trees. They had great fun playing with all of the leaves that had fallen from the trees and made pictures from the objects they found. Cherry have enjoyed swimming each week and the children are getting more confident in the pool. Merry Christmas!

ROWAN GROUP



Rowan has had a great autumn term, we have enjoyed accessing the community to buy snack from different shops; we have also been developing our social skills by playing in parks and walking around garden centres and superstores.

We have explored the water cycle topic through various art activities and we looked at where water comes from. Rowan class enjoyed examining the history of toys and investigating what toys and equipment require electricity to work.



Rowan have been focusing on developing our independence skills by completing work tasks and individual personal hygiene programmes. We have explored the topic 'Ourselves', our personal appearance and activities/foods that we like. We explored how different actions may make us feel sad or happy.

Rowan group have been celebrating Christmas by making cards and creating decorations. From everyone in Rowan group we hope you have a very happy Christmas holiday.



HAZEL GROUP

It has been a brilliant start to the term in Hazel Group. We have settled well into the class routines and have enjoyed getting to know one another. This term our topics have been Castles, The Water Cycle, Electricity and British History. We have enjoyed learning about the different types of Castles and even went to visit a Motte and Bailey Castle in Berkhamsted. Within our British History topic we have been learning about Crime and Punishment through the ages which the children have really enjoyed! As part of our student teachers enrichment project she organised our local police officer to come in and discuss how crime and punishment has changed. This half term we have been developing our communication skills whilst visiting local cafes. The children have really enjoyed working out what items they can buy with their money and going to buy the items themselves.



We are looking forward to all the Christmas events coming up and wish you all a Happy New Year.

OAK GROUP

Oak group have been busy this term, learning about the water cycle and electricity in Science. In Maths we have been practicing our number work and identifying patterns in numbers and shapes. In English we have read and written some poems, enjoying the shape poems the most! We have been recounting our class trips.

We have really enjoyed our trips to the park and our class trip to the cinema and McDonalds. We have been very active this term having lots of fun swimming and riding the bikes.



We have enjoyed doing things together as a class and look forward to more adventures in the new year. Happy Christmas.

MAPLE GROUP



It has been an exciting first term in Maple group, and the boys have settled well into their new class. Our topics this first term were British History and Settlements, The Water Cycle and Electricity. We have enjoyed our history topic and been out and about looking at different historical sites around Milton Keynes. We visited a roman villa and Bradwell windmill, and looked at Tudor houses in and around Milton Keynes.



We had fun creating our own water cycle in class and have been able to make a simple circuit to light up a bulb or start a motor. We have enjoyed joining in at the Pantomime, Christmas concert and the Christingle service over the last few weeks. Have a wonderful holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year! from Georgie, Sharon, Lydia, Freddie, Isobel and Gwen.

CHESTNUT GROUP

Chestnut group have had a very busy first term! The children have settled in to routine and are making good progress with transitioning independently between the different areas. We have enjoyed creating simple poems based on our initial topic of 'Water'. We learnt about different weather and identified appropriate clothing required. Our current topic is 'Electricity'. We have enjoyed making simple circuits and have been identifying which items around us use electricity and which don't. The children have loved being hands on during their weekly cooking sessions. We have had lots of practice, weighing, mixing, whisking, pouring and kneading! Thank you for your continued support over the term and we wish you a very Merry Christmas! The Chestnut Team



WILLOW GROUP

It has been a good start to the term and the children have been working really hard on the topic 'Seasons and weathering'. In Literacy, we have been looking at rhyming words and which cvc words rhyme. At first the children struggled to understand but then they started to recognise the same letters in some rhyming words. They enjoyed playing the rhyming games on the interactive whiteboard and were able to match the words with the pictures. We also looked at upper and lower case letters and where we used them in a sentence. Some children were matching the upper case letters to the lower case letters and other children were writing sentences with the upper case letters in the correct places. In Numeracy, we started looking at ordering numbers and filling in the missing spaces. Some children worked on ordering to 10 and some on ordering to 30. We looked at

making amounts and which one had more and which one had less. We used numicon to help see the difference between the two groups. We then started to look at 2D shapes, naming them, counting the sides and corners and making patterns. The children enjoyed the interactive games with finding the shapes in a time limit.

In Topic, we learnt about the seasons and were able to name them. We looked at different weather and when we might see them during the year. The children were able to pick out the correct clothes for winter and the correct clothes for summer. We also looked at the colour changes of the leaves on the trees. We used a resource called 'Mr Tree' where we put on the correct leaves for the correct season. The children enjoyed having this visual aid to help them recognise how trees look in different seasons. We linked art to Topic and made different types of trees. In PSHE, we have been working on 'It's good to be Me'. We spoke about the differences between the children and that everyone is different and likes different things. In cooking, we have been experimenting with different ingredients, we have made biscuits, scones, cupcakes, short bread, rice krispy cakes and marshmallow cakes. We are going to start on some savoury foods next term. Well done Willow group.



BIRCH GROUP

The students from Birch have made an excellent start to the new academic year! We focused on poetry during the first part of the half term, where the children learned about the features, wrote and performed a range of poetry styles from acrostic, kennings to free verse. During the second part of the term, we focused on the characteristics of non-fiction texts. When learning about this, the students looked at the difference between the features found in fiction and non-fiction books, they also had the opportunity to write various types of non-fiction texts, such as non-chronological reports, recounts and persuasive and instructional texts.

Birch visited the Buddhist temple at Willen Lake where they had the opportunity to learn about the symbols used in this religion, and what these objects represent.

Our mathematics concentrated on the number operations of addition and subtraction, we also learned how to measure length and mass using a range of units. In learning these functions, the students were also given the opportunity to apply these skills during our visits to the supermarket where they worked out total cost of the class shopping, and find the weights of a range of fruit items. This term's topics covered 'The Seasons and The Tudors', where the students learned about what causes the different seasons, and what life was like during the times of The Tudors, looking at areas such as the clothes they wore and the food they ate. Our science theme focused on the area of light. This gave the students the opportunity to identify different sources of light, investigate which materials were best in reflecting light, and explore the difference in the materials that do and don't create shadows. Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support this term, and would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a peaceful new year. The Birch Team .



REDWOOD GROUP



We have all had a good first term in Redwood Group and everyone has settled into the new routines really well. We have been finding out about the things we enjoy and make us happy. We have focused a lot on developing the pupils' language skills in all areas of the curriculum. We have all made huge progress with our independent skills.

Everyone has also made huge strides to increasing their repertoire of language or language and symbol use by using subject, verb, and object (SVO) cards. In ICT we have explored the use of Word Document.

In PE, our pupils have been encouraged to develop and enhance their gross motor skills.

We celebrated Harvest by weaving paper to make baskets and gluing on pictures of food. We have had lots of fun in music and cooking lessons. Next term our topic is: Sun, Earth and Moon.

We hope you all have a good Christmas time.



POPLAR GROUP

Students in Poplar class have had a fantastic start to the new academic year. Everyone has settled in really well. In literacy this term we have been looking at non-fiction text, we have been focusing on developing our comprehension skills and how to find the information we need. We have been very busy in maths learning about addition, subtraction, shapes, fractions and time.

In science we have been looking at light, we have been learning about different light sources, sun safety and shadows. The children had lots of fun playing with torches. In topic we have been learning about the Tudors. Everyone has enjoyed learning about what it was like in Tudor times with no electricity and no plumbing. I think all the students would agree that they prefer to live in the present, especially as **Tudor schools didn't have summer holidays!**

On Tuesdays we have been going out and about. We have visited many parks, which the children have enjoyed exploring.

Hope you all have a merry Christmas and a happy new year from the Poplar Team.



BEECH GROUP



Beech has had a good autumn term. We have explored the water cycle topic through various art and sensory activities and we looked at where water comes from. Beech class enjoyed examining and using different toys and sensory materials.

We have enjoyed looking at big books and have based our literacy tasks on different stories.

In Maths we have looked at different coins and sorted them.

We have been encouraging our pupils to have a relaxation time after lunch and have developed the use of the quiet room with lights and blankets to provide a relaxing environment.



Beech have been focusing on developing our independence skills by completing work tasks, focusing on fine and gross motor skills alongside our topic work. Beech group have been taking part in different art activities, enjoying autumn leaves to create pictures and prints. We have also enjoyed going for walks in our local community along with Chestnut class.

From everyone in Beech group we hope you have very happy Christmas holiday.

UPPER 1

Upper 1 class have been working on using a community facility over a period of time.

Opportunities were created for the students to develop their community participation skills by visiting a selected supermarket each week to do their weekly snack shopping.

The students developed their independent skills by following verbal and visual instructions to do their shopping and to pay for the items.

They had opportunities to observe simple conventions to use the supermarket i.e. waiting patiently in a queue for their turn to pay, waiting for receipt and packing their bought items. Happy holidays.

Upper 1 Team.



UPPER 2



This has been a busy first term for Upper 2. We have had students that have transitioned to Upper school from Middle school and have worked on many turn taking and social skills based activities to establish the new class group.

During the first half term we focused on the topic 'Transport'. We looked at different types of transport and have sorted them into their categories. We also focused on comprehension and language skills in English. In Maths we worked on our number identification and quantification, also developing our addition and subtraction.

This term we have been shopping to the local Sainsburys to develop our skills in the community. We have been

using the self-serve checkouts and ensuring we only buy the items on our list. We have also had weekly swimming sessions at Woughton Pool where we have been developing our water confidence. **This half term our topic has been 'Different Jobs' where we have looked at a range of jobs within the local community such as a farmer, doctor, dentist and builder. We have all enjoyed dressing up in clothes associated with the role and our English lessons have been based on stories involving these jobs.** Thank you for all your continued support this term. Have a fantastic Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.



UPPER 3

Upper 3 have had an enjoyable term with a focus on keeping fit. In the first half term we accessed lots of the local area with our walks on a Wednesday. We walked around Furzton Lake, Oakridge Park, Howe Park Wood and Great Linford. This term we have started each day with our daily brisk walk around Oakhill. We are working hard to get quicker each morning and have cut our time down from around 17 minutes to nearer 13. We have also been bike riding on the ball court and doing circuit training in PE.



We started our Food Tech lessons cooking Caribbean dishes to tie in with our Windrush history project. This half term we have been focussing on cooking and shopping on a budget with the pupils choosing which dishes we cook. **In Geography we have been looking at 'Where we live'. We have conducted traffic surveys in both CMK and Newport Pagnell and looked at our own homes and local areas whilst learning some essential map skills. We enjoyed using public transport to travel to the cinema to watch the Batman Lego Movie.**

We are busy getting ready for Christmas and the boys are busy organising their stall on the School Fair and their in class talent show. We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.



UPPER 4



This term, the students in Upper 4 have all settled well into their new upper school class. We have been looking at number and money in Maths. In English, some of us have been looking at celebrities to do a small research project and writing a short story, focussing on using adjectives. Some of us have continued to practice our handwriting and communication skills. The students in upper 4 have made great progress with their communication skills through small group activities and class activities such as lego therapy and turn taking games. The class make their own lunches once a week. We have begun with making a selection of different sandwiches and toasties. We prepare the tables and sit down to eat our lunches together in class, washing and drying up afterwards. The students are all developing their independent skills and life skills by taking more responsibility for class jobs, cleaning jobs and making

more independent choices. We have also looked at topics in science including light and sound and also looked at what extinction means and finding out about animals that are extinct or endangered. In History, we have compared our daily life to the children in Victorian times and in Geography we have looked at our town, Milton Keynes. The class have worked extremely hard on producing a collection of sculptures that will be displayed around school for a sculpture walk quiz during our Christmas Fayre. They have worked together as a team to produce their sculpture collection including a large colourful canvas, a totem pole and a fabric piece. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from all of Upper 4.



UPPER 5

In Maths this term Upper 5 have been working on Number and Shape. The students have been solving number problems using addition, subtraction and multiplication. The students have also been identifying 2D and 3D shapes using the appropriate terminology in order to describe their properties. They have been using rulers to measure items and have been practicing drawing straight lines in order to draw 2D shapes. In English the students have studied a range of non-fiction texts in order to find facts. They have all produced their own fact file about a celebrity of their choice. The students incorporated ICT into this project in order to help them find the information they required. This half term the students have been writing their own fictional stories. We have studied various story plans and studied the structure that a story needs in order to include all the necessary elements. The students have created their own characters and settings and have selected and used

adjectives in order to describe them. In our science lessons last half term the topic was 'Light and Sound'. The focus was to understand how we see and hear as well as identifying the major light sources including both natural and man-made. The students have been studying 'Extinction' this half term and have been identifying the reasons why species become endangered or extinct.

They have created fact files about specific animals that are endangered and have included ways in which people can help to keep them safe. All the students of Upper 5 have been enjoying their food technology lessons and this term we have been focusing on using different skills in the kitchen such as kneading, weighing and grating. The students have made a range of savoury snacks and have worked in groups in order to work on turn taking and their communication skills. The boys in Upper 5 have been continuing to enjoy their P.E sessions and the trips out in the community. They have spent this term visiting local cafes and shops to buy their snack as well as visiting IKEA, the local library and the cinema. The students have also enjoyed using the bikes regularly as well as their social skills sessions with our occupational therapist. This has really developed their skills for communication with their peers and to share and develop friendships. Thank you for all your continued support. We wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy new year. Jamie and the Upper 5 team.



UPPER 6

It has been a positive term in Upper 6. The group has settled well and the students have taken part in a range of different activities, both in school and in the community.

We have two Enterprise projects taking place this year. Food Heaven, our coffee delivery business, is continuing to prove successful. The company members have been able to invest in a new coffee machine and are planning on expanding into soups as well. Another group of students have set up a horticulture business called Garden Planet. Their first project has been planting herbs to sell and they have also begun preparing six raised beds at Hazeley for a larger scale gardening project. Both these projects give the students the opportunity to develop a range of skills, including maths, literacy, communication and team work. We wish you all a peaceful Christmas holiday and look forward to welcoming the students back in 2018, from all in Upper 6.



SIXTH FORM



Students continue to use the environment surrounding the Sixth Form site to transfer skills they have learnt in the class to everyday life. We regularly go shopping and purchase different foods for snack, cooking and making our own lunches. Students also use the local leisure centre swimming pool during a public session, this is going really well and we are seen as part of the regular swimming session. We also use Shenley Leisure Centre gym and have recently introduced two new students to use these facilities. Another activity has been going to Emberton Park using their café and the gym equipment at the park, the weather has been kind to us.



During this half term we have had a variety of visitors, enabling us to practice introducing ourselves either using our switches or having cue cards. We continue to work on our life skills and our OCR modules.



Have a good Christmas from Jacqui Kelly and the team.

Hello from Sixth Form. We have spent the term settling into the off-site Post 16 department. Everyone has been getting to know each other and developing some positive friendships along the way.

Students are adapting well to their new learning environment and are enjoying experiencing new opportunities in different locations. The varied timetable is providing students with a wide variety of experiences to further develop their individual academic and vocational skills.

All students have taken part in enrichment opportunities, choosing from a selection of activities to enjoy with other students from across the post 16 department.



Horticulture this term has involved students developing team work skills, picking autumn vegetables and clearing the allotment ready for the spring.

Our Autumn vegetables had been grown from seeds donated to us by Waitrose as part of their grow and sell project. We were then invited into store to sell our grown produce and raised £50.00 towards the further development of our allotment.

Unfortunately the recent strong winds and rain destroyed our previously built poly tunnel so now our funds will start our fundraising off for a new one.

Wishing you all glad tidings for the festive season from Della at all at Sixth Form.



OTHER INFORMATION



NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE

IT ALL
STARTS AT
YES

Parents of 15- 17 year olds.....

We will be having an NCS assembly and information evening in the new year, so please look out for the letter, or find out more about the NCS by visiting their website at: www.ncsyes.org.uk



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Have you a few spare hours a week, wondering what to do with your spare time? You could become a volunteer? If you are able to spare some time to help classes when they go swimming or other regular off site activities; or able to help with reading now and again, please contact Andrew Tom-

sett—Deputy Headteacher, or Clara McDermott - Assistant Headteacher at the main school site for further information. Thank you.



IMPORTANT NOTICE — IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL OR NOT ABLE TO COME TO

School makes a lot of additional demands upon your child. If they are not well, they are unable to cope with the demands of a school day which can delay them getting better. In fairness to other children and staff, please keep your child at home if you suspect they are unwell.

Children with diarrhoea and/or sickness are asked to stay at home for 48 hours to help them get better and prevent the spread of the infection. This is in line with Local Authority guidelines.

If your child has to miss school through illness/medical appointment/ other reason, please let the school know as soon as possible with the reason that your child is absent by contacting the site that they are based at — Lower School on 01908 646119, Main Site 01908 563885, Sixth Form 01908 379208.

If your child has transport it is your responsibility to phone and cancel the transport arrangements for the duration of the absence.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.



OTHER INFORMATION



THE THERAPY TEAM

This year the therapy team were delighted to meet some of the new families who joined our school at the introduction to Therapy Team parent session in September.

The team are excited to put in place some new ways of working to provide a better service to our pupils. We have made changes to the therapy provision in response to feedback from parents, teachers, whole staff questionnaires and changes to the structure of the team. While continuing to contribute to the IEP process and Annual Reviews for your child we have extended our in class support sessions to provide input to a wider range of tasks throughout the day and tackle a wider range of challenges. This way of working reduces the need for withdrawal from class for 1:1 work as interventions can be provided in class in a more functional, easier to generalise and timely way for our pupils.

In addition to this we are pleased to be able to offer pupils a range of targeted support sessions if their specific needs are not being met during in class sessions. Targeted support sessions could be 1:1 or small group sessions. The focus of these sessions will be to develop skills which are relevant and priority areas for a pupil. **The targeted support will focus on difficulties which are impacting on and acting as a barrier to a pupil's overall development.** They include sessions such as Rebound, OT groups to target fine/gross motor skills, handwriting/typing groups and social skills groups.

This term the therapy team have enjoyed supporting Jess Honeysett a second year Occupational Therapy student from Northampton University. Jess has run 1:1 sessions and some groups which focused on developing **some of our pupils' fine motor skills. We wish Jess every success in her future career as an OT.**

As always, we welcome you to get in contact with us if you have any questions. Best wishes The Therapy Team.

FRIENDS OF WALNUTS - FOWS - YOUR SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION!

Hi everyone

This term we would like to thank Jack Williams and his family for undertaking a 10K walk - they managed to raise £2400 for us - what an amazing effort, thank you! Also, one of our Teaching Assistants, ran a half marathon to raise money to support the refurbishment of the food tech room at the Hazeley site and raised a total of £400.

Once again a number of our staff were out shaking buckets at the Wolverton Lantern Festival, we managed to collect in the region of £400, half of which will be coming to the Friends of Walnuts. Our Christmas disco was a success as usual, it was great to see so many students turning up for a dance!

Sadly I am no longer able to give the Friends of Walnuts the time it deserves, and so I will be stepping down as the Chair at our Annual General Meeting. In addition to this, we are looking for a new Secretary. We are in desperate need of new parent volunteers to the group to keep it running. If you feel able to help out in any way, please come along to the AGM on 16th January at the Hertford Place site at 9.30am. Please see the attached letter for more details.

Wishing you all a joyful festive season.

Clara McDermott-Chair of FOWs



OTHER INFORMATION



PARENT PROGRAMME SPRING TERM 2018

DATE	COURSE	LEADERS & VENUES
JANUARY		
Tues 9 Jan 9.30 - 10.30am	NAS Course Healthy Minds I nformation Meeting. This is a 6 session course for parents of children with autism aged 5 - 12 years, which looks at emotional well being.	Lesley-Ann Martin and Helen Wiles Hertford Place
Wed 10 Jan - 29 Mar 9.30am - 12mid	NAS EarlyBird Course, 8 sessions (fully booked)	Kim Harman and Jo Friday, Education Centre, Galley Hill, Stony Stratford, MK9 3EJ
Mon 15 Jan 11.10 - 11.50am	Yoga: taster session. The physical and mental benefits of yoga are widely known. Try it for yourself! Please wear leggings or jogging bottoms.	Karen Moon Hertford Place
Thurs 18 Jan 9.30 - 10.30am	NAS Teen Life: I nformation Meeting. This is a new course for parents of students with autism aged 12 or above. There will be 6 sessions.	Sara Tunnickliffe Main site
Tues 23 Jan 9.30am - 12mid 6 Tuesdays	NAS Healthy Minds Course, 6 sessions. Places on this course will be allocated after the I nformation Meeting on 9 Jan.	Lesley-Ann and Helen Wiles, Education Centre, Galley Hill, Stony Stratford, MK9 3EJ
Wed 24 and 31 Jan 9.30 - 11.30am	NAS Autism Seminar: Understanding and managing behaviour. This is a 2 part course.	Nikki Slaughter Main site
Tues 30 Jan 9.30 - 11am	Building self-esteem and emotional resilience	Jemma Dolan and Vicky Dengal Main site
FEBRUARY		
Thurs 1 Feb-15 Mar 9.30am - 12mid	NAS Teen Life: Six sessions. I nformation meeting is on Thurs 18 Jan.	Sara Tunnickliffe and Kerry West Main site
Wed 7 Feb 9.30 - 11am	Music every day: intensive interaction and communication at home	Kevin Vicars Music room, main site
Thurs 22 Feb 9.30 - 11am	Life after Walnuts: The Head of Sixth form, an ex-student and his mum will be attending to talk about their experiences.	Della Wheal and Kim Harman
Tues 27 Feb 9.30 - 11am	Reading: Supporting learning at home.	Karen Salamon Hertford Place
MARCH		
Wed 7 Mar 9.30 - 11am	Feeding Training	Therapy Team Main site
Tues 13 Mar 6 - 7pm	Preparing for the future For parents in Y9 or above	Andrew Tomsett and Sara Tunnickliffe Main site
Wed 14 Mar 9.30 - 11am	Toilet training and toileting issues	Beccy Brown, Hertford Place
Wed 21 Mar 9.30 - 11am	Alternative therapies. An experiential session introducing the alternative therapies used at The Walnuts.	Lydia Moran, Sarah Watts and Helen O'Loughlin

OTHER INFORMATION



THE WALNUTS SCHOOL SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2017-2018

Autumn Term 2017

Open on the
Morning of

Close on the
Afternoon of

Pupils finish
Staff finish

Friday 15th December
Tuesday 19th December

Spring Term 2018

All return Wednesday 3rd January
All return Monday 19th February

Friday 9th February
Friday 23rd March

Please note the finish date for pupils

Training Days 2017-2018

Friday 1st September 2017
Monday 30th October 2017
Monday 18th December 2017
Tuesday 19th December 2017
Monday 4th June 2018



PARENTS
EVENING SPRING TERM
DATE

THURSDAY 8th FEBRUARY 3.30-8.00pm



MILTON KEYNES
SEND IAS

Special Education Needs and Disability
Information, Advice and Support Service

For advice and/or support, please contact:

Advice Line: 01908 254518

Email: mksendias@milton-keynes.gov.uk

WALNUTS CARE WEBSITE
REVISED AND NOW LIVE
www.walnutscare.co.uk

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB DATES—2018

Held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Spring Term

Mon, Jan 8th-Weds, Feb 7th.
Mon, Feb 19th-Weds, Mar 21st

Mon, Apr 9th-Weds, May 23rd
Tues, Jun 5th-Weds, Jul 11th.

PUPILS RETURN TO
SCHOOL AFTER THE
CHRISTMAS BREAK
ON:

WEDNESDAY 3rd
JANUARY 2018

