

## Dear Parents and Carers

As ever, this half term has been action packed and there's lots of good news to share.

I hope that most of you have had an opportunity to spend some time in our beautiful new Family Room. The room has a lovely homely feel and includes a new sofa, arm chairs and coffee table as well as a meeting table. The intention is to provide you with a welcoming, comfortable and relaxing space when waiting for an appointment or school event. We will also use the room for Transfer Review or Person-Centred Review meetings. The key for the room is being held by reception; they also hold the room bookings information. If you would like to use the room, please ask for the key from reception and they will let you know if it's available for use. If you have any ideas of how we can make the room a more useful and comfortable space for you, please let us know by phoning or emailing my Executive Assistant, Deborah McQuade for details. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Deborah very much for her thoughtful work in creating such a warm and inviting space for families.



Becky Jones

Secondly I'd like to thank parents and siblings for attending our Open Evening on 23rd September. We had very positive feedback about the event. We are aware from your feedback that the time didn't work for everyone, however we also know that for some, attending an evening event is easier than taking time off work—our intention is to provide a variety of ways and means of sharing information with each other. An updated Parent Handbook will be shared with you shortly after half term.

At the Open Evening, we shared information with families about our clothes labelling 'service'. Pupils in our Office and Administration vocational pathway have the equipment and skills to make name labels for clothes. These are fabric labels that can be ironed or stitched into clothes. A leaflet about the clothes labelling service is available in the Family Room. There is a small charge for the personalised labels to cover costs. We hope it's a 'service' you find useful.

Rehearsals, script writing and set design are well underway in preparation for this year's Christmas Show, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. Do save the date in your diary as it's always a wonderful event with lots of space to meet with other families and carers. Other important dates for your diary are also included on the back page of this newsletter.

Finally, if you're a driver then you'll know how difficult it can sometimes be to see pedestrians wearing dark clothes at night or when visibility is poor. A helpful message when we're out in the dark is to remember to 'Be Bright, Be Seen' and it's important that you as a parent or carer help your child to be easily seen near traffic, as well as set an example to your child by wearing something bright or white too. The link to the government 'Think!' website below has lots of practical ideas and resources to help young people develop their road safety. It also includes some homework activities which some of you may like to try with your son or daughter.

<http://think.direct.gov.uk/education/early-years-and-primary/>

With best wishes for the half term. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back to school on Monday 2nd November.



The Treehouse Occupational Therapy department are delighted to announce the beginning of an exciting group being offered to all upper school classes, OAK and ELM. The group is called "Sensory Circuits" and involves the whole class participating once per week in this "circuit" in the Occupational Therapy room. This group is being piloted with these classes at present, but has the potential to be offered to more classes in the near future.

### What is a sensory circuit?

A Sensory Circuit is a series of exercises that the pupil works through in a specific structured order, similar to circuit training that you might do at a gym.

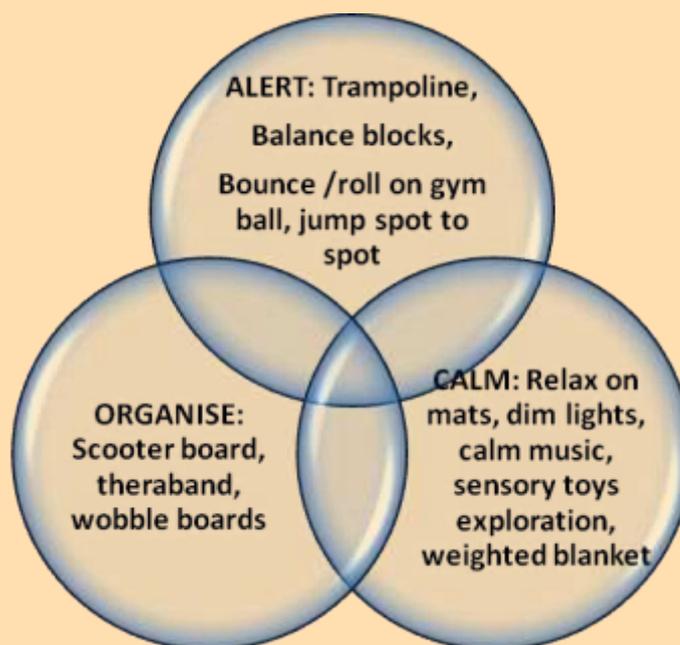
There are 3 types of exercises:

Alerting- which wakes the body and the senses up.

Organising- which requires the pupil to organise their body, plan their actions and do more than one thing at a time.

Calming – which provides sensory input to the body to calm and ground the pupil.

### What equipment is involved?



### Why do it?

The aim is to help the child to be in optimum state ready to learn, so neither over stimulated nor under stimulated. Regular participation in the sensory circuit can improve skills such as attention, fine & gross motor skills, motor planning, confidence and social skills.

Hayley Moore & Nicola Moore (Occupational Therapists, Treehouse School)

## Parents Evening on 23 September

Thank you to those 21 families who came to our Parents Evening. We hope you had a good opportunity to meet with your child's team. And thank you to all the staff who stayed and made the evening a success.

Below are some of the comments we have received:

"The Parents' Evening was a great opportunity to see the classroom set up and look through examples of classwork. It was just important to meet the team and discuss elements of the programmes in place and ask questions about classroom activities. Looking forward to the next one." - Parent of a child in Lower School

"It was brilliant to be able attend the inaugural parents' evening this term. I was very grateful for the opportunity to meet all the class staff early on in the year and put faces to the new names in the home-school book. Thank you to all the staff who devoted their evening to this." - Parent of a child in Lower School.

### Drama in the local community.

Doing anything new can be scary; new faces, new rules and new challenges. This term I want to celebrate one of our 6<sup>th</sup> form pupils who has done something especially new and exciting.

This term Charlie has joined an amateur dramatics club with Barnet Mencap working alongside other adults in the local community to learn about drama and acting and are working towards putting on a completely original show later in the year.

He has taken a huge leap from working on solo projects at school, to being part of a group of 25 adults to create new and exciting theatre; a big and exciting challenge that has taken great courage to achieve.

I speak for myself and his class team when I say that we couldn't be more proud of what Charlie has achieved so far. We hope this is one stepping towards helping Charlie achieve his goals when he graduates later next year. He is a star in the making!

Kirsty Allnutt—Vocational Specialist Performing Arts



## Parent Information and Support

Some of our families have already started the process of transferring from a Statement to an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). For those who have not, we are holding a talk on EHCPs on Friday November 13<sup>th</sup>, so that parents and carers can be prepared for the changes to the SEN Statement system and find out how to make sure your child's EHCP is as good as it needs to be.

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December we have our last parent surgery of the term, so please email [bblank@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk](mailto:bblank@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk) or call 0208 815 5145 if you would like a face to face meeting with Belinda to ask about any family support matters.

Please keep 9<sup>th</sup> February free as well for our next parent seminar on Transition to adult life. Looking forward to seeing you at the events.

**Belinda Blank (Information and Family Support Manager)**

## Dates for your diary

2 November	Term starts. School open to pupils from 9am.
11 November 9.45 - 12	Wendy Bellis, Dentist, in school
13 November 10 - 1	Parent Transition Talk— EHCP
8 December 10—3	Drop-in Family Support Surgery
9 December 9.45 - 12	Wendy Bellis, Dentist, in school
16 December 9 - 14.00	Christmas Show (Whole School)
21 December - 1 January	School Closed - Christmas Holiday
4 January 2016	Term starts. School open to pupils from 9am

### Staff Updates and Development

This Term we have introduced a new role of Lunch & Leisure Assistants into our school structure. Colleagues in these roles are supporting children and young people during mealtimes and their play/ leisure time. We are really pleased that these roles have created opportunities for people with a passion, interest and skill in working with children and young people with SEN and who live locally to the school who may want more flexible work hours to meet the needs of their own family—a great opportunity to enrich our diverse workforce.

We have also expanded our Admissions Team this term with the arrival of Hannah, who will work together with Linda Crewes.

We also have exciting news to share about our Training and Consultancy Team, which Esther Thomas will join on secondment for a year as Senior Behaviour Analyst— Assessment and Consultancy. She will be involved with developing an Early Years Assessment Service, amongst others.

#### Welcome to...

Joseph Feldman, Trainee ABA Tutor  
Alice Turner, Trainee ABA Tutor  
Kelsey Dunn, Trainee ABA Tutor  
Rosie Driscoll, Trainee ABA Tutor  
Siobhan Kennedy, Trainee ABA Tutor  
Paige Seemungal, Trainee ABA Tutor

Nathan McCalla, ABA Tutor  
Sara Rosenblum, ABA Tutor  
Paul Holland, Behaviour Analyst  
Janet Ferguson, Key Skills Teacher  
Hannah Glennon, Admissions Officer  
Kate Bearryman, School Office Administrator  
Franki Williams, Preparing for Adulthood Lead  
Dipika Limbochia, Lunch & Leisure Assistant  
Ana Dellar, Lunch & Leisure Assistant  
Sanela Gunic, Lunch & Leisure Assistant  
Gurdeep Kaur, Lunch & Leisure Assistant  
Anna Kent, Lunch & Leisure Assistant  
Lorna Burke, Lunch & Leisure Assistant

#### Congratulations to..

Lee Dorrill, Behaviour Analyst  
Alison Hogan, Senior Behaviour Analyst  
Rachel Holgate, ABA Supervisor  
Monika Jakubecka on the safe arrival of her baby girl Amelie Nell

#### Goodbye to..

Katherine O'Donnell, Behaviour Analyst  
Chelsey Beaney, Trainee ABA Tutor  
Emily Hinett, Trainee ABA Tutor  
Vikki Roper, Trainee ABA Tutor  
Kelly Green, Trainee ABA Tutor  
Rachel Venning, Trainee ABA Tutor  
Laura Hobday, ABA Tutor  
Trinidad Lopez, ABA Tutor  
Anna Pichierri, ABA Tutor



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