

## News from Radlett

### Parent Network:

I hope that you all had a relaxing break. Thank you all for your support over the last term and am looking forward to catching up with you all soon.

Our first Parent Network meeting this term will be on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 11.30am**. The meeting will be via Teams and will focus on Intensive Interaction, led by our Speech and Language team. Intensive interaction works on early interaction abilities and develops the fundamentals of communication. I do hope you will be able to join us. More information to follow.

Over the holidays I have had chance to catch up on programmes that I have missed or want to re-watch. This month I recommend watching **"Inside our Autistic Minds"**.

Chris Packham helps autistic people illustrate how their minds work, helping them connect with their family and friends in a more authentic way.

There are 3 episodes and really well worth a watch on BBC iPlayer.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p0bbnh47/inside-our-autistic-minds>

Finally, my book of the month:

### **Explaining Humans – Dr Camilla Pang**

Diagnosed as Autistic at the age of eight, Camilla struggled to understand the world around her and the way people worked. Desperate for a solution, she asked her mother if there was an instruction manual for humans. Without the blueprint to life she was hoping for, Camilla began to create her own. This is a fantastic read!



### Principal's Perspective.....

Happy New Year!

Last month we launched our "Friends of RLS" to acknowledge all our community partners who offer support and opportunities for our pupils and recognise that this is not just a place where they are educated but nurtured, encouraged and given the opportunities they deserve. We are looking forward to expanding our network of "friends" this year to continue to offer even more real-life experiences which open up each pupil's world to new and exciting opportunities.



2024 will be a year of celebration for our school as we mark our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. The school opened in June 1974 with just 11 pupils. The ethos of the school has remained the same, to ensure every pupil feels part of our Radlett Lodge family and is allowed to be the best version of themselves.

More news on the celebrations to come.....

### Events for January

**19<sup>th</sup> January – National Popcorn Day**

**28<sup>th</sup> January – International Lego day**

**25<sup>th</sup> January – Parent Network meeting**

**26<sup>th</sup> January – National Fun at Work Day**

**31<sup>st</sup> January – National Hot Chocolate Day**

**31<sup>st</sup> January – Music day with Rocksteady**

### Spotlight on Mars Class:

Mars class used music last term to discover what types of sound could be made with different instruments. We learnt how we could alter the sound if we played them in a different way.

The music theme continued with the class singing and dancing to songs from the past; their favourite was "Rock around the Clock".



In the garden we have been preparing for Spring, clearing the leaves and planting new vegetables and flowers.



We have been out and about in the community visiting the shops each week. It is so fantastic to see how independent the pupils are becoming.



This term in Literacy we will be reading stories about the senses (links below). We will sequence events that have happened, using colourful semantics to answer questions, write captions and describe characters, adding actions to familiar and unfamiliar words. Finally, creating our own version of the stories.

Charlotte and the Quiet Place:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgBFJyFPoM>

When Things Get Too Loud:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGEhTk62yMM>

### Our Focus of the Month is: Positive Approaches:



- Use **positive** approaches with **high expectations** to enable **success** and **wellbeing**.
- Focus on **strengths** and **interests**.
- **Motivation** increases engagement.
- Keep activities varied, learning from different **experiences**.
- Ensure **sensory needs** and differences are accounted for.
- Adjust your **communication**.
- Promote **independence and freedom of choice**.

### What has been happening around school?

As you have read the school is celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday this year and as part of a heritage project, Angie, who has been at the school for 43 years shared some of her recollections:

"During a visit by the Princess Royal in 1977 a pupil commentated that she could not be a princess as she was not wearing a nice long dress. She answered by saying that you don't always have to wear a dress as sometimes it gets in the way."

