

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 catch up with you all soon.

Our first Parent Network meeting this term will be on **Thursday 25th 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 the 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 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 expanding our network of "friends" this year to continue to offer even more real-life experience which opens up each pupil's world to new and exciting opportunities.



2024 will be a year of celebration for our school as we mark our 50th 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

28th January – International Lego day

31st January – Music day with Rocksteady

Spotlight on Mars Class:

Last term Mars class used music as part of their learning. In "My World" our pupils used musical instruments to test different impacts we have on how they sound, and we can use the instruments in a different way to alter the sound they have.

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

Our gardening has continued both inside and out, preparing for the spring by clearing the leaves and planting new vegetables and flowers.



This term in Literacy Mars class 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>

We have continued to visit the shops each week. It is so fantastic to see how much their independence has improved.



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 50th 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."

