

News from Radlett

Parent Network:

Firstly, thank you for those who attended our first Parent Network meeting of this academic year. It was fantastic to welcome all of you, some of you for the first time. On the **15th November at 11.30** we will continue with this topic, discussing practical strategies to support our pupils, taken from the SPELL framework which is embedded in the ethos of our school.

Please email me at mary.rogers@nas.org.uk if you would like a Teams invite.

Book of the Month

I always like to share a great read with you all and over the last couple of weeks I have re-read **"Fall Down 7 Times Get up 8" by Naoki Higashida**. Some of you may have already read "The Reason I Jump", which gave an illuminating account of autism from the inside of a non-speaking child. In this book, we learn about life in his late teens and early twenties from school experiences to family relationships. This is one of my favourite books as he aims to ensure that we all have a better understanding of autism. However often he falls down, he always gets back up!

Finally, some of our pupils have been designing a winter poster for our local parish council. As you will see their artwork is fantastic and we won 2 runners up prizes!



Mary

Ps. If you have any pre-loved uniform that you no longer need and are happy to donate back to the school to give to other parents and pupils, please let me know.

Principal's Perspective.....

...I thought it would be nice to re-launch our school's values and ethos here with our new strapline **'Enabling our pupils to be the best version of themselves'**. This sums up the longer wordier version found on our website and gives us all a simple, easy-to-remember, focussed message as staff and leaders of Radlett Lodge School. It incorporates the individual, bespoke nature of our pupils, where to be successful, we have to treat each of our 50 children uniquely. It also meets our desire for progress; for our pupils to achieve through the challenge my staff instil in each task, activity or lesson.

In other news, some school staff attended a charity event in London and were joined by several celebrities **raising over £3K** for our school. It gave us an opportunity to highlight autism, our school and the challenges our pupils face every day.

Finally, I want to bring to your attention a link the National Autistic Society has with **Autism Central** (a new initiative launched by the NHS), full of countless resources and advice providing education for families. I would recommend you find time to browse the site. There is a link on our website or you can find it at:

autismcentral.org.uk

Events for November:

8th November – Hertfordshire Dental Service to see pupils

13th November – Odd Socks day

15th November – Parent Network meeting (via TEAMS)

17th November – Children in Need

29th November – National Chocolate day

Spotlight on Felix Class:

We have been establishing our classroom routines and expectations. The children have been enjoying exploring their new classroom and resources. Together we are beginning to get to know our new classmates and adults, in our learning environment we are developing our learning behaviours which will help support our emerging independence. Our class is structured around direct adult led teaching, linked learning activities scaffolded by an adult and child-initiated learning opportunities. These are all focused around a play centred curriculum, which facilitates experiential and hands on learning experiences.

This half-term we have been discovering all about the season of Autumn, as well as learning about hibernating animals and insects. We have focused our Outdoor Learning sessions around seasonal changes and we have creatively used lots of natural resources in our displays around the school and in our classroom. Observational learning around colours, shapes and early number skills have linked into our investigating different artists such as Van Gogh and Mondrian. Reading has been a big focus in Felix class and it has been wonderful to see the engagement between school and home in the children's Reading Journals.



Our Focus of the Month is: Structure

Structure the activity. Use visuals and **clear** instructions so that the young person knows what is expected of them. Ensure the resources are available and the young person can access them safely.

Structure the person's day, week, month as appropriate. Ensure **routines** are clear for the young person and introduce any changes by allowing the person **time to process** those. Some young people will need longer to understand and accept changes in their routine.

Structure the environment. Ensure the environment is decluttered, **tidy** and areas for specific activities are clearly **marked**. This can be done using furniture, rugs or covers and visual supports (e.g. symbols, labels, photos).



What has been happening around school?

Makaton club has begun! The team meet on a Thursday after school to both learn and refresh our Makaton signing. Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. It supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language and expression.



For more information you can visit; www.makaton.org where you will find lots of free resources.