

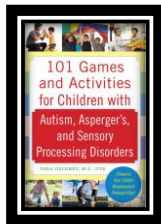
News from Radlett

Happy December!

I can't believe that we are nearly at the end of our first term. There has been so much going on around school and we are not yet at the end of term. With that in mind I do hope you will join me for our Parent Lunch on the 13th December at 12pm, followed by our Winter Wonderland production showcasing our amazing pupils.

My book review for this month is a "must have", especially for creating activities during the holidays.

101 Games and Activities for Children with Autism, Asperger's and Sensory Processing Disorders – Tara Delany



This book is full of interactive games that are easy to learn and will provide fun and stimulation for your child. In addition, many of the games can be played both inside and out.

Community Dentist:

All of your referrals have now been passed on to the dentists, however, if you need to contact the special dental care and are not based in Hertfordshire, please use the following email addresses:

[Bedfordshire-Referral-Form.doc \(live.com\)](mailto:Bedfordshire-Referral-Form.doc%20(live.com)@bedswhittington.nhs.uk/mini-apps/default.asp?page=Paediatric_Dentistry/Default.aspx) Beds
whittington.nhs.uk/mini-apps/default.asp?page=Paediatric_Dentistry/Default.aspx – London

It has been great to meet so many of you at our Parent Network meetings this term hope and to see you all on the 13th.

Kind regards, Mary

Principal's Perspective...

As we near the end of a calendar year I am thankful to be able to reflect so positively on my first year as Principal. In many ways January seems a long time ago but in other ways it has flown past. Some big changes, such as the residential element of RLS closing, were ones we had to deal with and this period really highlighted the amazing staff team we have here at school with so many examples of care and consideration shown to effected pupils, families and other staff. It is just one aspect which makes me so proud to be associated with Radlett Lodge School.

2024 is all about creating more opportunities for our pupils and we are planning many new and exciting initiatives, events and activities for that common goal.

In the meantime, I want to draw attention to a highlight from this last month. '**Music with Ste**' as it's affectionately become known, are the music sessions all classes have been receiving this term. Ste Parsons, one of our very talented Lead LSAs, has taken charge and both the group and individual sessions are having amazing feedback from staff and pupils alike.



Events for December:

4th – 6th December – Autism Accreditation.

5th December – International Volunteer Day.

7th December – Christmas Jumper Day.

13th December – Parent lunch and Winter Wonderland Production.

20th December – Last day of term (School finishes at 1.30pm)

What's been happening in Neptune Class:

Neptune Class have been having a wonderful time this term. We have welcomed new pupils this term to our class and enjoyed getting to know our new friends. As a part of our rich curriculum we have visited the young V&A museum to look at toys from the past and the Natural Museum at Tring to investigate the features and classification of animals.

This half-term we have been looking at Religious stories and have looked at the Story of Rama and Sita and learned about how Diwali is celebrated. Neptune class have sculpted their own Diya lamps and decorated them beautifully, we have created our own Rangoli patters looking at repeating patterns and symmetry and crafted our own cards and decorations. We planned and designed our own vegetable curry dishes and enjoyed peeling, chopping and slicing different vegetables before cooking our curries. We are now learning about the story of Hanukkah and how Hanukkah is celebrated. We have made our own Hanukkahs and learned about the significance of the candles. We will continue to learn about Religious stories with the Nativity story and how Christmas is celebrated.

Neptune class have been learning about sound in Science. We have explored identifying different sounds, loud and quiet sounds, high and low pitch. We have recorded our own sound clips and this week we will investigate how sounds can be changed.

November was Children in Need and Neptune class enjoyed a day of fun Pudsey activities including Pudsey PE with Joe Wickes, a group collaborative collage of Pudsey and making our own Pudsey masks and ears.



Focus of the Month: Empathy

December can be a challenging month for an autistic person with so much going on. Bright lights, songs, clothing with different textures and patterns, decorations around the house and school and sometimes many visitors.

We need to **Prepare** our autistic children for those changes by using their preferred means of communication, for example a simple timetable or photos of the decorations or who is visiting.

For some this may be too much so use sensory equipment to ensure their space is safe and comfortable. Pop up tents, or blankets make fantastic dens for a quiet, calm and safe space!

Always respect and accept the individual's preferences.

Not everyone enjoys celebrations or wants to take part.

And finally...

Our classes have begun to plant our pots and baskets in our garden at school, along with holiday decorations. helped by the pupils. We are hoping they will be ready to sell at our Winter Wonderland production on the 13th December.

