

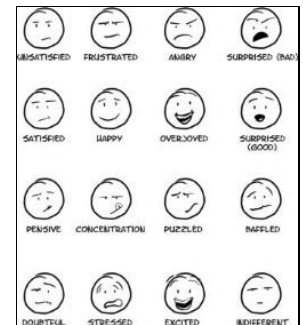
Collett Catch-Up



Friday 16th September 2016

Drama

Mrs Brenham has been teaching many of the classes Drama and is really impressed with the pupils. Before the summer she taught them the Hello song with some of the sign language and they have been brilliant at remembering it. All the pupils have been participating in the group, responding to others and taking turns. They have been doing a variety of things including making facial expressions and re-enacting stories. I walked through the hall earlier in the week and Mrs Brenham was working with a group from Middle School. Everyone was standing in a circle and they were taking turns to clap to someone on the opposite side of the circle. There was lots of smiles and excitement. Drama is a great way for the pupils to learn social skills and have fun whilst doing it.



Facial Expressions

Swimming

The Lower School started their swimming again this week. They have their lunch and then go in their groups to a local school on the minibus. It is lovely seeing them all walk out in line carrying their little swimming bags. I'm sure we will be seeing swimming awards later in the year as they learn to swim. This term some pupils from Middle School will also be going swimming but these sessions will be used for a sensory benefit. I am interested to hear how they get on at their first session next week.

Cookery

Working in an office close to the Cookery Room has benefits and draw backs. Mrs Curran has been working with all classes and the smells coming from the kitchen have been amazing. The pupils in Voles Class enjoyed making fruit smoothies earlier in the week and Upper School have been frying onions etc for their bagel bruschetta. But cookery is not only about cooking, the pupils learn about healthy living, food choices and kitchen equipment and safety.



Fruit Smoothie

A Very Busy Day

We all knew Tuesday was going to be a busy day with Parents' Evening but we did not expect the fire alarm to go off before 9 o'clock in the morning. Pupils were still arriving when one of the classes decided to test the system. I am pleased to say that the system does work, in fact I would like to go further than that - it was brilliant.

As I was in the school office when the alarm sounded I left the building by the main entrance. There were a number of cars arriving to drop pupils off so it was explained to the parents/carers and taxi drivers that the alarm was sounding so pupils could join the Lower School on their playground area. The class teachers took their register and also registered anyone joining them. For some pupils this was an unusual part of the school but they were all calm, standing or sitting, chatting to their friends. Two mums, who had just arrived as the alarm sounded, commented on how calm the pupils were. On the main playground, the pupils lined up with their class adults where their registers were completed, including any visitors that were in school. Again everyone was calm and organised which was excellent. Our new pupils were brilliant considering they have only been with us for two weeks, well done everyone! I am pleased to say that there was no fire or damage, just a rather dark waffle.



Fire Alarm

Parents' Evening

As you are aware, we have introduced a new online booking system this year, which I am pleased to say was very successful. Several parents commented on how quick and easy it was to log in and book appointments. There were a few parents who experienced problems but on the whole it was a success.

The evening ran well and I hope you found it informative. I would like to thank our School Nurses, Speech and Language Therapists, Youth Connexions, Governors and Angie Grange from the Friends of Collett for joining us. Many parents also took the opportunity to visit The Hive, exploring our new sensory equipment and to admire the new entrance/reception area.

Balmy Weather

The weather has again taken us by surprise this week. For some it has been glorious and for others it has been too hot and uncomfortable. By Wednesday pupils and staff were struggling. It did not matter how much cold water you drank or how many fans were in the classroom/office it was too hot. The pupils were very sensible though and tried to stay in the shade when possible.



Hot Sunny Days

Then early hours of this morning everything changed, heavy rain with thunder and lightning. That will teach us to complain about the weather! Neil did a good job when he arrived at school early this morning. He cleared several drains which allowed the rain water to run away. We appear to have fared better than other schools in Hemel today, thank you Neil. Well done also to all the staff and parents who have managed to get to school, the roads and driving conditions have not been good.

Parents' Listening Service

Thursday morning was the first session, this term, of the Parents' Listening Service. They are two lovely people who have first-hand experience of what it is like to have a child with special needs. They understand how difficult, frustrating and isolating life can be at times. All the 'Listening Ears' have completed a course with 'Families in Focus' and will be available in school between 9:00 and 11:00 am on 29th September, 13th October, 3rd and 17th November. This is not a counselling service but they may be able to pass you the details of people who can help. The service is however, confidential and independent from school so if you have had a stressful week, are worried about something or would just like to talk to someone because you feel alone and isolated then please come along. The kettle is always on for a cup of tea or coffee. If you would like further details or more information please email parentlisteners@collett.herts.sch.uk.

Fun Run

Unfortunately, due to the horrible weather this morning, the Fun Run was cancelled. Although the rain had eased, the field and playground were still extremely wet and slippery.

Blue Forms

It is a statutory requirement for us to update pupils' details on an annual basis. The 'Blue Forms' provide us with up to date contact details, medical information and parental consent. Without a parent's or carer's consent, pupils are not allowed to leave the school premises for local trips and activities like swimming or the park. Please ensure you complete and return the form. If you have mislaid the form or would like another copy, please contact the school office.



Thunder & Lightning

Parking

It is very sad that local people are still experiencing problems with cars parking on pavements and/or blocking driveways. The roads around our school are extremely busy at drop off and pick up times so having cars parked on corners or blocking pavements means that people have to walk in the road. This is particularly dangerous especially if they have young children, a pushchair or are in a wheelchair. Please park considerately, we do not want anyone getting hurt.

After School Clubs

Due to a lack of interest the ACTIVITIES AFTER SCHOOL CLUB will NOT BE RUNNING this term.

The Boxing and Football Clubs will continue as planned. Please pay Dan Stocks £4.00 at the beginning of each session. Parental Consent Slips must be returned for each pupil wishing to take part.

Medication

If your child needs medication during the school day, please ensure that it is in the original box. If you have any queries regarding medication please contact Mrs Weston in the school office.

Thank You!

This morning a big thank you was given to the brave people who volunteered to Wing Walk and Sky Dive to raise money for the school. Unfortunately the bad weather meant that some could not join us for assembly but those who did reach us were called to the front of the hall and everyone gave them a big round of applause. In total six people Wing Walked and seven Sky Dived, together they raised £8,000. Karen Knight, the aunt of a pupil, raised an amazing £3,000. Congratulations to our brave volunteers.

Chatterbox Meeting

Tuesday 20th September there will be an informal drop-in session between 1:30 and 2:30 pm where parents can come and see our new sensory equipment and extended learning area. You can also find out more about Rebound Therapy and meet new parents.

Next term, once our new pupils and families have settled in, we hope to have a meeting on social stories, what they are and how they can help.

Chatterbox Meetings are open to all parents and carers so please come along to any that interest you.



Wing Walk



Sky Dive

Harvest Festival Lunch

On Thursday 22nd September there will be a special Theme Day for school dinner. There will be Meat Cobbler or Cheese and Onion Slice (V), Roasted Vegetables and Sweetcorn with Apple Peasant Pudding and Custard. If your child does not currently have school dinners but would like to have one to celebrate Harvest, please complete the form on the back of the flier send home today and return it to the school office with payment. A Primary school dinner is £2.35 and a Secondary school dinner is £2.45 per day.

A letter will be sent home shortly with details of our Harvest Festival Celebration.

The Collett Day

Our annual autumn event will be held on Saturday 8th October from 4:00 pm. We are hoping to raise enough money for a trampoline for the Upper School playground. To help raise the money we are asking for Raffle Prizes, Bottles and Gifts for the Tombola and sweets or other small gifts, all donations are gratefully received. On the day there will be a Cake Stall, Hot Dogs & Veggie Burgers, Sweet Stall, Refreshments, Hoopla, Bottle Tombola, Name the Bear, Ball in a Bucket, Lucky Dip, Raffle, Face Painting, Punch Balloon Stall, Trampoline and Hollywood Bowl's Bouncy Castle Bowling. Come along and have some fun!

If you are able to help setup, man a stall or clear up after please contact Angie Grange on 07999 910799 or angiegrange26@hotmail.co.uk If many people can help for a short time it means everyone can enjoy the day with their family.

Winter Nasal Flu Vaccine

The School Nurses will be in school on Tuesday 1st November to administer the Winter Nasal Flu Vaccine. All parents/carers (excluding Aspen Class who will receive theirs on Monday) should have received a leaflet with details and a letter of consent. Please sign and return the consent in the envelope provided next week, as the school nurses will be collecting them the following week (starting 26th September).



Many Hands Make Light
Work

Achievements and Results

Friday Assembly

When I first started working at The Collett School, Mrs Mills and Mrs Weston told me to go to one of the Friday morning assemblies because they were like no other. So my first Friday I went and have been to every single one since, they are amazing!

Today's was a prime example of how within the space of five minutes you can feel happy, sad, amazed and proud. Aaron went up to the front and explained that he wanted to sing a song for his Granddad who sadly passed away four months ago. Just telling everyone why he was there made Aaron upset, but he was determined to sing and he sang 'Danny Boy' beautifully. Everyone fell silent and many of the staff reached for their tissues, it was amazing.

Jack then came up and sang 'Black Magic' by Little Mix. This got everyone clapping and dancing in their seats. Elisha came up to sing 'Let it go' from Frozen but got a little lost with the words so Crystal went up to help. Before long there were about eight pupils (big and small) up on stage singing with Elisha. All the staff are so proud of the pupils and amazed because both Aaron and Jack only joined The Collett School two weeks ago and they felt comfortable and confident enough to stand in front of a hall, full of pupils and adults, and sing. Thank you so much for sharing your songs with us this morning.



Beautiful Song

Achievements

Chef of the Week – Lower School - Noah, Middle School – Abi, Upper School – Zak.

Forthcoming Events

September Events

Tuesday 20th September – Chatterbox Meeting 1:30 to 2:30 pm, all parents welcome

Thursday 22nd September – Harvest Festival Lunch

Friday 23rd September – Coffee Catch-Up after assembly, all parents welcome

Oaklands College

Sign Up Saturday (WGC) Saturday 17th September 2016

Oaklands College Welwyn Garden City Campus (10.00am - 1.00pm)

October Events

Thursday 6th October – Donkey Sanctuary Visit

Saturday 8th October – Collett Day 4:00pm till late

24th – 28th October – Half Term Holiday (School Closed)

Mrs Rachael Lampey

The Collett School

www.collett.herts.sch.uk