

Collett Catch-Up



The Collett School
Special Educational Needs

Friday 25th November 2016

Group Work in Sensory Space

Mrs Blackman was making the most of the sensory area outside her classroom Monday morning. Owls Class had been looking at the book 'Tuesday' by David Weiner, a group of frogs and their journey from the wetlands to the nearest town. It is mainly a picture book with only six words and three points that determine the time of action. Mrs Blackman had a small group of pupils in the sensory area writing about the story and shape coding sentences to retell the story.



Small group work in Sensory area

Rebound Therapy

The pupils are really enjoying and benefiting from the Rebound Therapy that Miss Maloney and Mrs Grey are doing. During our Staff Meeting, Tuesday evening, we were given details on the programme that the pupils follow. Some of the teachers even took the opportunity to volunteer and be the pupil. Each pupil that takes part in Rebound Therapy is introduced to the trampoline at a pace suitable for them. We are very aware that some have never been near a trampoline before and that is can be a frightening experience. Once the pupil is happy on the trampoline there are three grades of exercises that they can progress through.



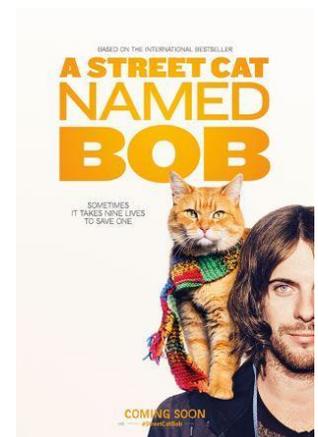
Rebound Therapy



Hawthorn Class

The pupils of Hawthorn Class have been very grown up in their learning this term. As part of their PSD (Personal Social Development) they have been looking at some very serious topics like bullying, mistreatment of others because the person is different and homelessness. Tuesday, the class went to the cinema and saw 'A Street Cat Named Bob'. The film is based on a heart-warming true story of a cat who saved a homeless man's life.

"James Bowen (Luke Treadaway) is in a bad place. Addicted to drugs from an early age, the Covent Garden busker lives a chaotic life and has endured periods of homelessness. But his life changes when a stray ginger tom cat turns



up in his supported housing complex. He names his new feline pal Bob and the duo soon become inseparable, giving James the motivation to turn his life around. Based on the inspirational bestseller of the same title, which was credited with changing public perceptions about the homeless, this is a moving, uplifting and often humorous story of hope. Director Roger Spottiswoode filmed in the actual London locations and when it came to casting the adorable feline lead, no other cat would do: it had to be the real Bob!”

After the film the class visited McDonalds. Each pupil ordered their own food and paid for it with their money. So not only did Hawthorn Class have a lovely visit to the cinema, they also enriched their learning about homelessness and people’s perception of the homeless; watched the construction of a story; participated in social situations and used their maths skills to order and pay for their food. Who would have thought a visit to the cinema was so educational?

College

On a Tuesday, Aspen Class go to Oaklands College where they have been learning animal care. This week it was the turn of the chickens. They cleaned out the chicken coops, fed and watered them, collected eggs, cleaned and boxed the eggs ready for sale. Miss Town had a moment when one of the chickens flapped by her head, which of course amused everyone around. Ms Wells was not very impressed with the smell or volume of excrement.

On Wednesday’s, pupils from Hawthorn and Juniper go to West Herts College in Watford. There is always lots of excitement in the morning and it is not surprising, they have been using Publisher to design and create calendars for 2017.

Cookery

This week the smells coming from the Cookery Room have been delicious. The pupils have made glorious pumpkin soup, cheese scones and chocolate chip cookies. By the number of pupils that have been walking around munching on their cookies and scones, I guess they tasted as good as they smelt.

Holes

The pupils of Mulberry and Olive class have been busy digging holes this week. This is not a new type of sensory activity or punishment, they have been planting trees. The trees have been donated to us by the Woodlands Trust and the pupils have worked well in teams to dig the holes and plant the young saplings. They are very keen to check on them hoping for a growth spurt!



Cleaning the Chicken Coop



Tree Planting

'I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here'

Juniper Class took part in a 'Bush Tucker Trial' this week. Their 8 camp mates were starving and have not had food for days. Could they finally bring them a meal to raise their spirits? They had to answer a series of questions; each correct answer won them a star which equalled one meal. How would you get on?

Question 1 – Toucans lay eggs once a year, either 3 or 4 eggs each time. You count 25 Toucan eggs. How many female Toucans have nested in the area?

There are two possible answers.

The Bush Tucker Trial was challenging but all the pupils did really well using the division method they had learnt.

Chuff Off

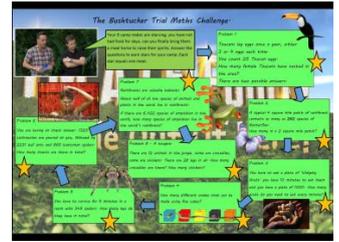
Thursday morning we received a delivery from Experia, the IRiS Sensory Express. The Sensory Express is designed to be fun, exciting and educational and contains state of the art sensory equipment specifically designed to develop life skills such as cause and effect, colour recognition, vocalisation, tracking and much more. It features a wide range of options to control sensory equipment via colour, noise, movement and vibration controllers, suiting a wide range of ability and requirements. Designed to stimulate, calm or develop a person's skills regardless of age or ability.

Frank

Before the Charity Dinner Dance, each class wrote on silver stars what they would like for their classroom. The stars were then tied onto a small tree, 'A Wishing Tree' and during the Dinner Dance Evening people read the wishes and removed any that they would like to purchase. It was great to see that all the stars were removed. This week we saw the first wishes arrive at school, a brown hamster named 'Frank'. This wish came from Danny in Juniper Class and everyone was delighted to see Rose, an ex-pupil and her mum, arrive with a cage and a very special little cardboard box. Rose had initially called the hamster 'Spiderman' as he likes to climb the bars of the cage. Frank has settled in well and Mrs Sewell has been nominated to take him home this weekend.

Thanks Giving

Olive and Mulberry Classes enjoyed a 'Thanks Giving Party' this afternoon. They had decorated Olive Classroom with red, white and blue bunting, made American Flags, iced biscuits and even listened to the American National Anthem.



Bush Tucker Maths Challenge



Frank

Easy Fundraising

We have registered with 'Easy Fundraising' to help raise additional funds which will not cost parents, carers, friends and family any money. It is a very easy system to use. Easy Fundraising is a website that you login to and then access high street stores and websites, for example; Argos, John Lewis, Debenhams, Apple. There are high street stores, insurance companies, travel and hotels, phone and broadband and many more. Each time you purchase something from one of the stores via Easy Fundraising a percentage will be donated to the school and it will not cost you anymore.

Another bonus, the system is easy to use. Go to the Easy Fundraising website <http://pages.easyfundraising.org.uk/> and select 'Find a cause to support'.

Search for Friends of Collett and then click 'Join Us'. Complete the registration details and you are then ready to start raising funds for the school whilst doing your normal or Christmas shopping.

Adult Advent Calendar

Tickets have gone on sale this week for the Adult Advent Calendar which has 25 bottles of alcohol including Red and White Wine, Whiskey, Vodka, Mulled Wine and Champagne. Tickets are £5.00 each and will be drawn on Friday 16th December, just in time for a Happy Christmas!

Family Night In

How better to spend an Autumn evening than with the contents of the luxury 'Family Night In' hamper. It is packed full of goodies; drinks, nibbles, double DVD and the must have game 'Pie Face Showdown' complete with squirty cream. Tickets are on sale now until the end of Friday 2nd December for £3.00. It will be drawn on Monday 5th December.

Apology

A couple of weeks ago I stated that our Dodgeball Team came second out of six teams. I would like to correct myself; our team came second out of **seven** teams. They won 3, drew 1 and lost 2. Every member of the team behaved perfectly and performed enthusiastically. Thursday morning they were each presented with a certificate.



Adult Advent Calendar



'Family Night In' Hamper

School of Foundation – Open Day

Tuesday 29 November between 5.30pm - 7.30pm

- Speak to teachers, support staff, current students and past students
- Find out about the full range of courses and support that we offer within the School of Foundation
- Learn about how we are working with the SEND reforms to raise aspirations of learners
- Opportunity to apply for courses
- Refreshments available

Find out more at westherts.ac.uk or give us a call on 01923 812004

Oaklands College Twilight Taster Sessions

A great opportunity for Year 11 students to gain some hands-on experience in a taster from a wide selection of subjects and find out what college life is really like. Booking is essential. For further details and to book a place, email sue.mckinnon@oaklands.ac.uk or call 01727 737561. There are different curriculum areas held at the two sessions, check our school website – Latest News for further details.

St Albans Campus – Wednesday 30th November 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Welwyn Garden City Campus – Thursday 1st December 4:30 – 6:00 pm

KIDZONE

Christmas Disco with DJ, festive dancing, fun and games.

Thursday 8th December (4:00 pm to 5:30 pm) and

Thursday 15th December (5:00 pm to 6.30 pm)

Tickets £7.00 pre booked or £8.00 on the day (Price includes play entry)

Tel No. 01442 878441 email: info@thekidzone.co.uk



KIDZONE

Carib Chil Runninz Event

On Friday 9th December there is a Carib Chill Runninz Event at the Old Verulamians Rugby Club from 7:00 pm to midnight. There will be food, music and a bar with special guests on the nights. Entry and Food is included in the ticket, Adults £20, Children (U16) £8. Tickets available via email

champmw1@icloud.com. All money raised will be donated to The Collett School.

Balloony Xmas Workshop

With TV award winning balloon artist Lisa from inspiredBalloons.co.uk

A three hour course that starts with the basics – inflating, tying knots and twisting balloons – shows you how to make a balloon Christmas wreath, provides a short break for refreshments and then teaches you how to sculpt a one metre high Santa!

Great value at £35 per person or bring a friend and pay £60 for two. Children under 11 must be accompanied by a fee paying adult who would be expected to help them.

Limited spaces! To book your place ring Lisa on 07952 113735 or Artshed on 01920 466 446.

Families In Focus

A Complete Guide to Parenting Children with Additional Needs – for parents caring for children under 11 years old with any SEND. A diagnosis is not needed to book a free place on this course. The course will be running at Collett and we are happy for parents with children attending the school to have priority booking. Dates and times: **Wednesdays** 7pm to 9pm January **11th, 18th, 25th** February **1st, 8th, 22nd** March **1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd** (no session over half term).

This popular, tried and tested parenting course is facilitated by Francine & Lesley who are experienced and qualified trainers, one of whom has a son with Autism and challenging behaviour. Ten sessions of two hours sharing tried and tested techniques and strategies to parent children with a range of additional needs and/or disabilities effectively in the 21st Century.

Topics included:

- ✓ Exploring the challenges and stresses of parenting children with additional needs.
- ✓ Gain understanding and build resilient family relationships by sharing the emotional journey of parenting children with SEND.
- ✓ Strategies, solutions, tips and ideas on managing behaviours that challenge.
- ✓ Issues siblings may experience as a result of living with a sister/brother with additional needs/challenging behaviours.
- ✓ Tried and tested communication techniques to reduce angry outbursts
- ✓ Techniques to manage conflict and so much more....

Curriculum Focus

Useful Maths Websites

Last week I gave you a number of Maths Websites that you may find useful and entertaining for your child(ren). This week I had the opportunity to observe a maths lesson in Hawthorn Class, Upper School. They were continuing some work on measurement. Mrs Brenham started the lesson by going back over what they had learnt previously. The pupils were able to answer her questions of; What does mm mean? What does cm mean? What does m mean? The class then discussed what they used to measure in each of the measurements. A small ruler for mms, a tape measure for cms and a trundle wheel for ms. The pupils then explained what they would measure, for example a rubber using a small ruler for mms, a bin using a tape measure for cms and the playground using a trundle wheel for ms. The class then split into two groups with those who measured in metres last time using centimetres this time and visa versa. One group went out onto the playground where they learnt how to use a trundle wheel and were asked where the best place would be to start measuring. They took it in turns to set the metre wheel up ready and measure a small section of the playground. Once they were confident they measured the length and width of the upper school playground before returning to the classroom to record their results in their books. The Learning Objective (L.O.) of the lesson was To Learn To Measure Accurately. At first they wrote the measurements in a sentence and then drew the playground, writing the measurements along the appropriate side.

The second group stayed in the classroom and measured each other's height. To make it fun they took turns to lay on the floor and their friend drew around them with chalk. When there was a row of four outlines on the floor it was time to start measuring. Again the pupils were asked what they should use to measure their height and they all agreed that a tape measure with cms on it would be best. 'Where should we start measuring?' was another question along with 'How do we use the tape measure?' The pupils were able to find the 0 on the tape measure and place it at the top of the head outline. They took it in turns to measure their own outline with the help of a friend. All of the pupils were taller than 150 cms, so they were then asked what they should do next. Some drew a chalk mark at the end of the tape measure, one got a second tape measure and added it onto the end and the last one asked Mrs Carter to place her finger at the end of the tape measure as a mark and then moved the tape down. Each pupil then had to add the 150 cm and the second measurement together to get their height. Once everyone had completed the measuring they



Ruler



Trundle Wheel



Tape Measure

were asked; Who is the smallest? Who is the tallest?, Who is the second tallest? etc. The pupils then recorded the results in their books.

Thank you Mrs Brenham and Mrs Carter for allowing me to watch your maths lesson. It was very informative and lovely to see the pupils really enjoying maths. They were all engaged and participating.

The terminology used was; tallest, smallest, length, width, mm = millimetre, cm = centimetre, m = metre, more, less.

Achievements and Results

Achievements

Silver Award – Charlie, Lewis

Bronze Award – Cameron, Billy, Shannon, Lee, Darrah, Zak, Ian, Ricky, Kiera, Joshua, Leo, Jordan,

Reading Achievement – Gene, Coral, Alfie, Phoebe

Bronze Buddies (0, 2, 5 & 10 Times tables) – Andy, Andrew, Connor, Danny

Silver Squad (3, 4, 9 & 11 Times tables) – Andy, Andrew

Gold Gang (6, 7, 8 & 12 Times tables) – Andrew

Platinum Posse (12 x 12 & Division Facts) - Andrew

Friday Assembly

Mr Hault-Allen may have got your children a little excited this morning. He started off by talking about how the weather has changed and we are now waking up to frost in the mornings. He then went on to explain that Christmas is on its way and we shall be having a Christmas Theme Week beginning Monday 12th December. I apologise if this means that you now have excited children who keep asking how long until Christmas.

The Spotlight was on Miss Maloney this morning. She spoke about the Rebound Therapy that she has been doing with some of the pupils. There were a lot of hands raised when Mr Hault-Allen asked who had tried it.

Darrah treated us to a dance routine that he choreographed himself to Deep Shadows from Hunger Games.

Forthcoming Events

November Events

Wednesday 30th November – Junior Football (The Valley School)

December Events

Thursday 1st December – Aladdin Pantomime

Friday 2nd December –Advent Assembly

Thursday 8th December – Carol Singing at Tesco

Week of Monday 12th December – Christmas Theme Week

Monday 12th December – Boccia at Garston Manor

Friday 16th December – Assembly and Staff Pantomime

Friday 16th December – Coffee Catch-Up after assembly

Friday 16th December – Christmas Dinner for Staff and Pupils

Friday 16th December – School Disco and Santa!

Monday 19th December – Lower School Nativity Play 1:00 & 6.00 pm

Tuesday 20th December – Christmas Service at St Mary's Church 10 am

Tuesday 20th December – School Closes 1:00 pm for Christmas Break

January Events

Thursday 5th January – INSET DAY (School Closed to Pupils)

Friday 6th January – INSET DAY (School Closed to Pupils)

Monday 9th January – Pupils Back to School

Wednesday 11th January - Table Tennis Senior (9,10,11) Hailey Hall

Tuesday 17th January - Basketball Senior (9,10,11) The Valley School

Monday 23rd January - Girls Basketball All ages The Valley

Oaklands College

November Twilight Taster Sessions

Wednesday 30th November 2016 **St Albans Campus (4.00 – 6.00pm)**

Thursday 1st December 2016 **Welwyn Garden City Campus (4.00 – 6.00pm)**

Mrs Rachael Lampey

The Collett School

www.collett.herts.sch.uk