

# Collett Catch-Up



The Collett School  
Special Educational Needs

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016

## Festive Season

Voles Class ensured that Christmas has arrived at The Collett School this week. Wednesday morning they went shopping for a Christmas tree that is taller than Mr Hoult-Allen. The pupils from Voles Class then helped Mr Hoult-Allen cut off the netting and the true beauty was then revealed.

Thank you Voles Class for helping make our Reception area so amazing.

## Post 16

Our Post 16 students have been really busy during their two days a week with us. They are continuing to extend their travel training and have also been setting up their own personal websites. Having had the opportunity to look at a couple of the sites I was not surprised when Mr Tomlinson said that they have been able to teach him a few new tricks which he will be using for his own site. Charlie is a member of our Staff Transport Team and helps with the transport at the end of the day. He holds one of our big lollypops which shows if the taxis are able to drive down onto the playground.

All parents of our Post 16 Students should have received a letter explaining that they will be following the College term dates. This means that their last day will be Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Have a good Christmas everyone!

## Cookery

I learnt a very handy tip from Mrs Curran this week. Do you know that if you warm the milk before adding it to your scone mixture it activates the other ingredients quicker?

When I popped into the cookery room this week there were three boys making scones, two of them completely by themselves. The scones were not only beautiful but huge and apparently the trick is the warm milk.



Christmas has arrived!

## Science

Mr Linford has struck gold with one of his Science lessons again. Instead of just talking about digestion and how the human system works, Mr Linford turns it into a practical and films it. The pupils start by cutting a slice of bread into a bowl which simulates biting off pieces of food. The bread is then mashed with a potato masher for the effect that chewing has before the bread is then spooned into a plastic bag (the stomach). Coke was then poured into the bag as the stomach acids and the pupils then mixed the coke and bread together to simulate the stomach churning. The mixture was then poured into the leg of some tights to represent the intestines. Mr Linford then squeezed the liquid out of the bread which would be the absorption and then finally the excretion (the bread is squeezed out of the end of the tights).



Digestion

## College

When Aspen Class went to College on Tuesday they very generously brought everyone a gift back. Unfortunately, some of us did not appreciate the gift especially when we had to sit in Aspen's classroom for a meeting. Ms Wells, Miss Town and the pupils had enjoyed a lovely walk with the college dogs but had also mucked out the pig pens. As you may have guessed it was the aroma of the pig pens that they brought back to school and it was not faint, you could smell them as soon as they walked in the door. Ms Town ended up throwing her trainers away as she could not get rid of the smell and we are hoping that Ms Wells has done the same with her boots and jeans as she smelt the worst by far. Sorry Ms Wells!



Smelly Gift

## Pantomime

Thursday afternoon the pupils and staff enjoyed a pantomime production of Aladdin. It always amazes me how a group of four people can put on such a great show. It was also great to see a number of staff joining the cast. Mrs Hicks, Mrs G Smith and Samuel took part in 'Geni Says' which was very funny. Miss Weston and Mr Price took to the floor for some dancing which was hilarious. Perhaps one of our next events should be 'Collett Come Dancing'?



Aladdin

## Celebration

Voles Class have been learning about 'Celebration' and you don't need a bigger excuse to have a party. This afternoon the pupils and staff of Voles Class celebrated the birthday of their Beat Baby. They decorated biscuits, took turns playing 'Pass the Balloon' and even made up their own party game. A lovely Daddy made a special birthday cake too, which everyone loved – Thank you!



## Uganda

Many of you will remember that last year and this year Miss Davey's Classes have held cake sales to raise money for a school in Uganda which paid for a roof. We have also collected and sent out new toothbrushes, letter from our pupils and some more money that will help buy a water filter. The filter will remove sand from the water enabling it to be drunk. We have received letters from the staff and pupils in Uganda expressing their thanks for our support. We also received a picture, which I am sure you will agree is amazing.



Thank you!

## Carol Singing at Tesco

All parents of Lower, Middle and Upper School should have received a letter regarding the carol singing at Tesco, Jarman Park on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Lower School will be at Tesco from 9.15am until 10:30 with their performance starting at 10:00am.

Middle School (without swimmers) will be at Tesco from 10:30 with their performance starting at 11:00am.

Lower and Middle School parents can take their child to the coffee shop for a drink if they wish between arrival and performance (drinks are not provided by school).

Upper School (including swimmers) will be at Tesco at 1:30pm and starting their performance straight away. Parents can take their child to the coffee shop for a drink after the performance at 2:00pm (drinks are not provided by school).

All pupils will be back at school by 2:30pm ready for afternoon transport.



Carol Singing

## Coffee Catch-Up

This Friday after assembly - come and join us for a coffee, cake and chat. Don't forget to wear a Christmas top!

## Exciting News!

THE COLLETT SCHOOL SEN has just joined [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

In a nutshell, it's a really easy way for us to generate free donations whenever our supporters shop online.

Here's how you can help:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofcollett> and join for free
2. Get shopping at over 3,000 shops and sites – including Sainsbury's, John Lewis, Argos and Amazon
3. Feel great, because every time you shop, you'll collect a donation for Friends of Collett



It doesn't cost you a penny extra, when you shop the easyfundraising way the retailer pays a commission and this gets turned into a donation for us!

I'd be thrilled if you joined, your help will make a real difference.

## 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 16<sup>th</sup> December, just in time for a Happy Christmas!



Adult Advent Calendar

## Christmas Jumper Day

As requested by the School Council, on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December, we will be having a non-uniform day where everyone can wear a Christmas Jumper. If you do not have a Christmas Jumper you can still take part by wearing a bright coloured jumper. The idea of the day is to raise money for Cancer Research, so it is asked that if possible a donation of £1 is given to the class teacher on the day.

The School Council will also be selling mince pies for 25p each, Christmas biscuits for 25p each and will be doing face painting for 50p.

In the afternoon there will be a movie with popcorn for those pupils that wish to attend. It sounds as if the day is going to be lots of fun.

## Gade Schools Families Support

The latest Gade Schools Families Support Newsletter is on the school website under 'Latest News'. The newsletter covers the period of January to April 2017 and has details of a variety of courses that may be of interest. The course titles are:

***3 Steps to Managing Family Challenges***

***Families Feeling Safe Course***

***Becoming a Digital Parent***

***Autism Support – 1:1 Advice Sessions***

***Managing Anger in the Family***

***Managing Behaviours of Teenagers with Additional Needs***

***Family Toolkit (Deadline to book is Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017)***

## KIDZONE

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

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December (4:00 pm to 5:30 pm) and

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@thekidzone.co.uk)



KIDZONE

## Carib Chil Runninz Event

### ***LAST FEW TICKETS AVAILABLE***

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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, 25<sup>th</sup>** 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

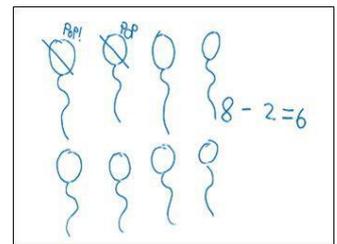
- ✓ Strategies, solutions, tips and ideas on managing behaviours that challenge.
- ✓ Issues siblings may experience as a result of living with a sister/brother with additional needs/challenging behaviours.
- ✓ Tried and tested communication techniques to reduce angry outbursts
- ✓ Techniques to manage conflict and so much more....

## Curriculum Focus

### Maths

This week I have loaded onto the school website under 'Latest News' the 'Collett Calculation Guidance'. [http://www.collett.herts.sch.uk/?page\\_id=38](http://www.collett.herts.sch.uk/?page_id=38)

This guidance outlines the school's agreed progression through written strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, beginning with CAPPS 4 and progressing to CAPPS 23. Children should work through the progression in order that they can use, understand and explain a compact standard method for each operation by the end of CAPPS 23. Although the progression is broken-down into CAPPS groups, children should of course move at the pace appropriate to them. The guidance also includes examples and diagrams of how the calculations are taught and laid out in school.



Subtraction

## Achievements and Results

### Achievements

**Bronze Award** – Logan, Edith, Kian, Lewis, Josh, Dominic, Sajad, Charlie, Emily, Martyn

**Silver Award** – Harry, Hannah

**Silver Award** – Andy

**Reading Achievement** – Miles, Sophie, Andy

### Friday Assembly

This morning's assembly focused on Advent and patience. Mr Hoult-Allen discussed the significance of the Advent Candles for Christians and how Advent builds anticipation, makes us think, makes us thankful and reminds us to be patient. He also spoke about how the Christmas lights switch on builds anticipation and excitement. We then had our very own lights switch on ceremony with our resident celebrity – Mr Neil. Unfortunately, it did not go quite to plan and only the bottom half of the tree had lights that worked on, but I am assured that this will be corrected next week.



Advent Candles



Regents Street Lights

The Spotlight this week was on the Wednesday college group. Crystal and Andy told us that they have been working in the film studio and editing suite. They have learnt how to work the cameras, film each other and edit it. What a brilliant opportunity, can I come next time?

Crystal then amazed us again with her song 'Don't Let me Down' by the Chainsmokers. She stood and sang every word from memory, a talented girl. We then said goodbye to Mrs Evans who left us today after working at Collett for one and half years. We wish her well in her new adventures.

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **December Events**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December** – Carol Singing at Tesco

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December** – Coffee Catch-Up after assembly

**Week of Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Theme Week

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December** – Boccia at Garston Manor

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** – Assembly and Staff Pantomime

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Dinner for Staff and Pupils

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** – School Disco and Santa!

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December** – Lower School Nativity Play 1:00 & 6.00 pm

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Service at St Mary's Church 10 am

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – School Closes 1:00 pm for Christmas Break

### **January Events**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January** – INSET DAY (School Closed to Pupils)

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January** – INSET DAY (School Closed to Pupils)

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January** – Pupils Back to School

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January** - Table Tennis Senior (9,10,11) Hailey Hall

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January** - Basketball Senior (9,10,11) The Valley School

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** - Girls Basketball All ages The Valley

*Mrs Rachael Lampey*

*The Collett School*

[www.collett.herts.sch.uk](http://www.collett.herts.sch.uk)