

# Collett Catch-Up



The Collett School  
Special Educational Needs

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

## **Gravity Force**

Mason celebrated his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday with his friends by taking them to Gravity Force in St Albans. When his mum asked him what he wanted for his birthday party he replied "I'd like to go to Gravity Force with my whole class and the teachers". So mum spoke to Mrs Self and on Thursday, Pine Class went and had great fun at Gravity Force. Mrs Self said that everyone's behaviour was excellent, even when they played adults against pupils dodge ball and the adults were very competitive. When I asked if they took any pictures Mrs Self said "No we were too busy playing".



Gravity Force

## **Occasional Days 2017 - 2018**

Everyone should have received a document printed on yellow paper regarding the six occasional days that we can choose when to have. The options are an additional five days on the October Half Term or an additional five days at the beginning of the Summer Holiday or an additional five days on the May/June Half Term.

If you have an opinion on where these additional days should be placed, please return the document indicating your preference. **All replies should be received by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.**

## **Cookery**

This week we have been very busy making- mackerel pate, cod fish cakes, vegetable stir fry, pizza, pasta salad and Singapore noodles. In our after school club we made gooseberry crumble.

We have been discussing why fish is good for us, what types of fish are in our favourite dishes, sustainable fishing and how to buy fish responsibly-looking for the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Logo.

*Mrs Curran, Cookery Teacher*



Vegetable Stir Fry

## Post 16

In Post 16 this week they have been looking at tables and how to read the information they contain. Tables are used a lot to convey information to the public, for example a bus timetable, a catalogue with item details and price. Our Post 16 students know the difference between columns and rows, and how to read a bus timetable to find out what time the bus they need is due.

## School League Tables

All children at The Collett School have complex learning disabilities, working at or below the second percentile. It is therefore fantastic news when our pupils achieve GCSEs, BTECs and Entry Level qualifications that recognize the progress they have made by 16 years old. The newly published Progress 8 league tables rank schools in order of pupils achieving 8 or more Grade C GCSEs in specific subject areas. This summer we had our best GCSE, BTECs and Entry Levels successes, including one pupil achieving 8 GCSE grades B-G. Progress from pupils' starting points is outstanding when comparing our children's attainment with national data. We're rightly proud of making the League Tables, acknowledging the ranking will only ever be 'Below Average' as a result of the cognitive disabilities our pupils have. Well done our children, parents and staff!

## Valentine

We are sharing the love at Collett School in preparation for the Valentine's Disco. On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February between 6.30 and 8.00 pm pupils can dance the night away. Siblings are welcome to attend. Parents must stay and are welcome to enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat unless you want to join us on the dance floor. There will be a tuck shop selling sweets and drinks. Glow sticks will also be available for £1.

## Family Craft Morning

Gade Schools Family Support are hosting a Family Craft Morning at Micklem Primary School on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February between 10:00 am and 12.30 pm. Activities are aimed at families with children aged 3-12 (younger siblings are welcome). All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and children aged 8 and under must be supervised by an adult at all times. There will be a small entrance fee of £2 per child per family or £5 for a family group with 3 children and £1.00 per child thereafter.



Valentine



## Parent Network Drop-In

The Parent Network in partnership with Families in Focus CIC has a Drop-In session on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January at the South Hill Centre between 9:30 – 12:30. More dates will follow.

## Sainsbury Active Kids

Sainsbury are running their Active Kids scheme again this year. The vouchers are available from stores from the 25<sup>th</sup> January. We will be collecting the vouchers again this year, so please, if you shop in Sainsbury send your vouchers into school. If you also have any family and friends that have any vouchers, we will gladly put them to good use.

## 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)***

## 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.



In partnership with  
Families in Focus



Sainsbury Active Kids



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....

## Great Savings

Why not check out the big savings you could make on Easyfundraising. They have some fantastic offers from leading utility providers.

### Ways you can Compare and Raise...

				
Car Insurance	Home Insurance	Broadband and TV	Gas and electricity	Mobiles
Up to £40	Up to £40	Up to £54	Up to £25	Up to £20



You can also book all your holiday essentials through easyfundraising and make the World of Difference to The Collett School.



					
Accommodation and hotels	Flights	Package holidays	Car rental and parking	Activity and adventure	Ferries and cruises
Book now »					

Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofcollett> and join for free. 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!

# Curriculum Focus

## The Importance of Art!

Did you know that the involvement in the arts can increase student's achievement across all subject areas, as well as social and adaptive skills? This is partly due to the multi-sensory nature of the arts. Memory and cognition can improve when academic content is combined with colour-coding, movement, rhythm, sound phrases, textures and other sensory outputs.

Art opportunities are endless; they surround us on a daily basis and can be done both at school and at home.

A little helping hand - have a look at some of these website for FANTASTIC art ideas.

[www.kinderart.com](http://www.kinderart.com)

[www.lovethatmax.com](http://www.lovethatmax.com)

[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)

HAVE FUN!

## Achievements and Results

### Achievements

**Bronze Award** – Mahnoor, Isobel

**Silver Award** – Abigail

**Gold Award** - Harry

**Reading Achievement** – Sevda, Olivia, Logan

### Friday Assembly

What is normal? The majority, most, ordinary. When someone stands out from the crowd as different it can mean that they suffer prejudice. Martin Luther King had a dream that his children would not be judged on the colour of their skin. Donald Trump is saying unkind things about people and wants to build a wall to split America and Mexico.

**A poem based on the work of Martin Niemoller, a Christian who stood up to Hitler:**

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the gypsy traveller, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a traveller.



Importance of Art



Then they came for people who are gay, and I did not speak out-  
Because I am not gay.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—Because I am not  
a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

***Thought For The Day: Holocaust Memorial Day***

*Today we remember the victims of The Holocaust, where millions of  
people who were 'different' were killed by the Nazis. It all started with  
name calling and bullying.*

*We celebrate our differences and, we chose to be kind to each other.*

In the Spot Light today were Ellie and Mahima for their fantastic work on  
Shakespeare's Macbeth and Nicky for his hard work with his reading, spelling  
and numbers, he has made a big improvement. Nicky is very proud about how  
he has been helping the primary classes at break times.

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **January Events**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January** – Chinese New Year Dinner

### **February Events**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – Owl Class to Gravity Force

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February** - Pupils' Valentine Disco

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February** - Basketball Junior (7,8) The Valley School

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February** – Spring Half Term, School  
Closed

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February** – Hawthorn Class to Gravity Force

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February** – Art Theme Week

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February** – Sycamore Class to Gravity Force

*Mrs Rachael Lampey*

*The Collett School*

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



Holocaust Memorial  
Day