



## NEW YEAR, NEW BALL PIT!

Collett's latest sensory room has finally opened to all pupils! Nicknamed The Hideaway, the sensory room and ball pit has already proved to be a massive hit, with early successes noted by staff. By utilising a calming colour scheme, soft lighting, and spaces to stand on or hide in, The



Hideaway has been designed to help support pupils explore their emotions and social behaviours and, ultimately, self-manage and self-regulate their behaviours. Ball pits are great places for pupils to have fun, learn to relax and are well known for their therapeutic effects, whilst the raised platform is designed for pupils to stand on when they are feeling anxious and overwhelmed. The tunnels below offer a dark space with lighting and mirrors – a true safe space of their own. Head of Therapeutic Interventions, Mrs Gray, said: "The Hideaway has been an instant success with our pupils. Even the year 11 pupils have enjoyed this space and keep coming back for more! In times of distress it will become their go to place when they feel anxious."

"Within every child is a potential waiting to be fulfilled."

Dr Stephen Mark Shore

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup>**

Coffee Morning, 9.45am

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 25<sup>th</sup>**

Understanding the World Week

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>**

Open Morning for New Parents,  
9.30am

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>**

Boxmoor Trust Visit for Lions,  
Parents' Evening, 4.30-6.30pm

### FEBRUARY

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup>**

Cedar Assembly, 8.45am

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday 8<sup>th</sup>**

Careers Theme Week

Visit us for more info. at

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

You can also follow us on

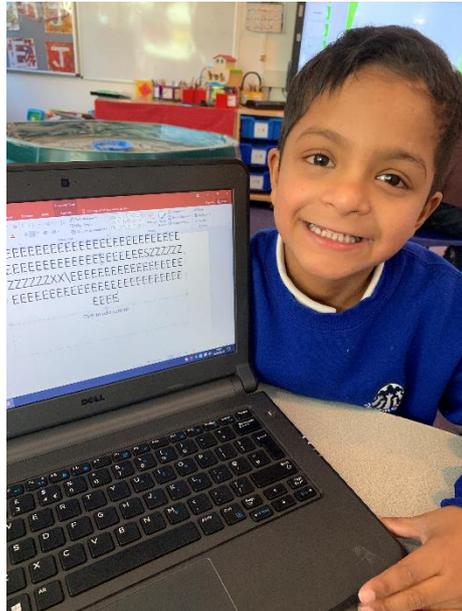
social media, find us on

Facebook, [Friends of Collett](#)

or Twitter, [@CollettSchool](#)

## TIGERS SHOW OFF THEIR DIGITAL SKILLS

On Tuesday, Tigers class had a brilliant IT lesson they all enjoyed and produced some great work! Mr Tomlinson guided the class through how to prepare a PowerPoint presentation. The pupils then had a chance to create their own slide independently – and just look at the results! So wonderful to see our pupils proud of their fantastic work.



## NEW ADDITION TO THE PITOUCHI ROOM

Yes, that's right – another animal joins the Collett family! Here's a photo of Olivia with Poet the Conure.



## THANK YOU FRIENDS OF COLLETT!



Our wish tree lists have proven to be hugely successful this year with both staff and pupils. Lower School Lead Mr Chaplin said: "Lower School would like to thank the Friends of Collett for the new reading

## QUICK REMINDERS

Our current school lunch menu is [available here](#).

**WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL**

## LOCAL COURSES FOR YOU

### FAMILY SUPPORT COURSES

Upcoming Gade Schools Family Support Courses are listed [on our website](#).

### PARENT SUPPORT BOOKLET

We have uploaded a PDF containing local support groups and workshops, [click here to see it](#) or find it on the Parents & Carers page on the website.

### AMBERPLUS – MUSIC FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

AmberPlus details can be found on [their website](#).

### NEW SUPPORT COURSES

There's a host of new courses based in Hemel and Watford – you can find a list of them [on our website](#).

### LATEST DSPL7 NEWSLETTER

Please find this attached to the email edition of this newsletter.

## WHAT'S ON NEAR YOU

### AUTISM FRIENDLY

### CINEMA SCREENING

*How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World* will be shown on Sunday 3rd February at 11am.

### BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH 2019

Take part in the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Help us to

books we received for Christmas. They include some lovely phonics based fiction and non-fiction books that will broaden the reading range available. Thank you very much!"

## **NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF COLLETT & FUNDRAISING**

### **FUNDRAISING UPDATE**

As we have already revealed, the newly named Hideaway is finally complete! In total, we have received lots of resources valued at £2,500 donated to the classes via the wish tree. An extra £400 has been added to class budgets from fundraising and Friends of Collett activities. Plenty of items have been bought too: two vacuum cleaners, face paints, floodlights, heaters and batteries.

### **EVENTS**

Some staff members will be [taking part in an inflatable 5k run](#) on 22<sup>nd</sup> June! More information to follow in the coming weeks – your support will be greatly appreciated!

## **HELP US IMPROVE OUR SCHOOL!**

Each week, we'll be posting a list of items our staff are looking for to improve their classrooms for their students. If you have spare or unused items that match the descriptions below, then please contact the school office on [admin@collett.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@collett.herts.sch.uk) or 01442 398 988. We're looking for the following:

Lockable pedestal filing cabinet / Painters / Playmobil / Baby gate

**Thank you for reading!**

***Mr Harry Crawford***

**Want to share something in the newsletter? Send your news in using the email address below:**

***[harry.crawford@collett.herts.sch.uk](mailto:harry.crawford@collett.herts.sch.uk)***

count the birds that visit the Water Gardens and make your own bird feeder to take home. Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January from 10am–12pm. Free entry. Pre booking required by e-mailing [watergardens@dacorum.gov.uk](mailto:watergardens@dacorum.gov.uk)

## **ONLINE THIS WEEK**

[This company based in Los Angeles is one a handful that employ only autistic people – and with great success.](#)

## **FACT OF THE WEEK**

Epilepsy is usually only diagnosed after a person has had more than one seizure. Not all seizures are due to epilepsy. Other conditions that can look like epilepsy include fainting, or very low blood sugar in some people being treated for diabetes.

*Epilepsy Society*

## **AWARDS**

**13x READING**

**BRONZE**

**1x Cedar, 1x Sequoia, 1x Willow**

**SILVER**

**3x Cedar, 3x Rowan, 2x Willow**