



NEWSLETTER

Monday 14th February 2022

Dear Friends and Families,

Everybody is really looking forward to half term. We have been blessed with some kind weather this week. Learners have participated in a variety of activities such as a visit to a local trampoline park, walks around the centre and our own in-house café experience. We are busy planning for World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March. Each class group will be dressing up as characters from their preferred choice of book.

We welcome Robert Masunga, College Lecturer, who joined the team on Monday 24th January. He replaces our colleague Anne Davis who many of you know retired in December.



We will be sad to say goodbye to Paul Garnar in March. He is leaving us to go to another provider and we wish him every success in his new role. We have been working with our therapy colleagues to provide visual support through social stories and are working with all of our learners to support them, as Paul's departure may cause some anxieties for them. Please be assured we are actively recruiting and we will be able to update you soon with the outcome of interviews.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us, details can be found on the final page.

Best Wishes

Teresa

Groups 1 and 2

In Music and Movement sessions the past two weeks we have been exploring a range of exercises, including arm extensions, spins, and yoga and chair exercises. In Therapeutic Communication sessions we have continued with our 'come dancing' themed massage set. We've explored a range of massages, like tango, waltz and jive, and learners have been encouraged to say whether or not they've enjoyed them.

We've also worked with our peers to paint large sheets of paper which will be cut up and used in a collage to decorate the classroom windows for World Book Day. In our English sessions we've listened to stories about animals, including 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', and made alphabet caterpillars and animal masks out of paper plates, pens and coloured card. We've also explored vowels by matching animal names to their pictures. In Sensory Journey sessions we have continued on the theme of animals by exploring Chinese New Year and which animals we are.

In Sports sessions we have practiced hitting a soft foam ball back and forth on a ping pong table, as well as basketball, taking brisk walks around the centre and counting our jumps on a trampoline. For our Community sessions we have listened to music, gone for walks around the site and played in the park. In the café element of the Community session, we have chosen what we wanted off the menu. During our Music sessions with George we have been dancing to disco reggae songs, playing the guitar and beating a drum along with our peers.

In our Sensory Story session, we have been listening to the story 'Webster Witch's Ugly Potion'. We enjoy exploring the props of a wig, smashed avocado, a spray bottle and a brush, among others. In our PDBA session we have learned about the colours and senses of spring, taken photos on an iPad of flowers and bulb shoots outside and made daffodils out of paper.

Kind regards,
Adam and Emma O

Group 3

During the Health and Wellbeing sessions the group have worked together to make a large heart filled with their hands cut out. They then thought of and selected images and symbols showing how we can be kind to each other.

Last week in Current Affairs we looked at the Winter Olympics, the learners matched symbols to photos of different sports from the games. They then researched how each sport is played by watching it on YouTube. This week we looked at the Queen and the learners selected her photo from a choice of pictures. They then answered true and false statements about the Queen using a picture to help them decide if the statement was true or not. Next they looked at and sorted the new Queen stamps onto a timeline.

This week the learners participated in an Enrichment day. For Enrichment the group completed a number of different experiments to see what would happen next. These included the Skittles Rainbow experiment, the Cinnamon and Water experiment and the vinegar/bicarbonate soda balloon experiment. All learners seemed to enjoy being scientists.

During the English sessions the learners have been looking at the themes of food and animals. We have predominantly been working towards their speaking and listening unit

for City and Guilds through a range of activities such as reading stories and group discussion/work. The learners have also been practicing, and developing, their pen control and writing skills.

Kind regards,

Corrina and Robert

Group 4

Group 4 have had a good week. We have been making our costumes ready for World Book Day in creative art. As a class we have chosen to look at the story of The Wizard of Oz, we have created mood boards for each of the characters and we are looking forward to dressing up for it in March.

We have been decorating biscuits and cakes with a Valentine's Day theme. Learners enjoyed choosing their icing and decorations, they also enjoyed tasting them!

The learners have enjoyed their music sessions over the last few weeks, they have all had 1:1 sessions with George and played instruments and engaged in interactive games on the whiteboard.

In outdoor learning we have painted clay tiles with impressions of objects found outside. This week we looked at the Julia Donaldson story 'Stick Man' then we collected some sticks and created our own stick men.

In English the learners have been looking at the alphabet and different animals and objects which match with different letters.

Kind regards,

Emma B

Group 5

As the first part of the spring term comes to an end, Group 5 have continued to enjoy their topics and have produced great pieces of work for display and towards their units.

In English, we have focused on the topics of food and animals and learners have been completing differentiated work to develop their reading and speaking and listening skills. The group especially enjoyed reading stories in relation to the topics and practicing their comprehension skills.

We continue to keep up to date with current affairs and enjoy watching Newsround each morning to discuss the day's events. The learners have especially been enjoying looking at the Winter Olympics and the different events that are shown.

The learners have worked well together throughout the last couple of weeks and have shown good team work in sessions such as sport and music.

The learners have also been good at making positive comments to each other and what they like about each other's work. To finish the half term, the learners enjoyed their Enrichment Day in which they had a 'teddy bear's picnic' with fun and games.

Kind regards,

Paul Garnar

Music

During the music sessions, learners are encouraged to make choices about what kind of activities they would like to take part in. Communication, through the use of symbols and signing, is the most important focus of these sessions and the structure and consistent approach aims to give learners an understanding of what they can expect. The learners have had opportunities to participate in a variety of other activities which include drumming circle with rhythmic games, choosing songs to listen and dance to, composition using Garage band on the iPad and relaxation/meditation.

Kind regards,

George Chrysostomou

Useful contacts

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