



# NEWSLETTER

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022**

Dear Friends and Families,

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Easter Holiday.

The end of term celebration of learners took place this afternoon and certificates and awards of recognition were handed out at the event. It was a lovely opportunity to come together safely and enjoy each other's achievements.

We welcome Joe Baker, Learning Support Assistant, who joined the team on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March. He replaces our Learning Support Assistant, Figen Kaplanbasoglu who is leaving us today.



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 our Music and Movement sessions we have continued our enjoyment of dance and playing ball sports to music. In Therapeutic Communication we have been evaluating dance-themed massages. In English we have been practicing pencil control and forming letters using Makaton hand signs, and in Developing Learning Skills we have been engaging with the Harry Potter sensory story by trying on the costumes and listening to the theme music. TacPac sessions have involved experiencing a range of materials and sensations to matching music. In Creative Arts we have participated in a sensory art circuit in the sports hall and made Easter cards. For the World Around Us session, we learned about Brazilian Carnival masks and samba music and dance. We have twice visited the café at the Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre in Bishop's Stortford for our community visits, and enjoyed exploring instruments and requesting songs in our music sessions with George. Last week we celebrated Literacy Day by meeting in the sports hall with the whole college. On offer were games of hangman and Countdown, a corner where they could listen to a staff member read a story, and a sand pit where they could dig out plastic letters to spell words.

Kind regards,

Adam and Emma

## **Group 3**

In our Wellness sessions we have been using our senses to stay in the moment. We have taken walks and spent time in the classroom, identifying what we can see, hear, touch and smell. During Current Affairs the group found out who was on the UK's Under 30's rich list, using the internet the group watched videos to see what the people were famous for and then looked at data from the list counting the number of male and females, sorting by profession and putting the people into age order. This week, in preparation, the learners watched trailers from up-coming films (in case they want to go in the holidays) we then looked at the Oscar's that happened this week. As part of our Going Places sessions the group have been to Tesco's once to buy Mother's Day presents and again to buy an Easter egg. This was followed to a visit to Costa Coffee, where learners made choices about what they would like then ordered at the counter.

In the Issues and Interests sessions each learner made a card for their mum, which they then posted home. This week, the group have played Easter Games together, such as "Build a Bunny" where it was necessary for the learner's to recognise numbers, gain information from a table as to how to build their bunny.

In our Maths sessions, the group counted objects using counters to help them with adding and subtracting. We have also learned to use +, - and = signs in our calculations. We then learnt about 2D shapes and used the IPAD to help us in identifying and naming different 2D shapes.

Kind regards,

Corrina and Robert

#### **Group 4**

Group 4 have had a good couple of weeks, last Thursday we had 'Purple Day' on site which raises awareness of epilepsy, we dressed in Purple and made super hero masks for the day. On 'Purple Day' we had a nice long walk around site in the glorious weather, this week we have even had a bit of snow!

On Friday we had a literacy day, the whole college engaged in games and activities in the sports hall, we played 'Countdown' and read stories. We have been on a couple of trips to Sainsbury's and Thorley Park and this week we went bowling. Staff and learners enjoyed bowling and the scores were very close.

Today we have celebrated the end of term by making Easter cakes and participating in arts and crafts, printing bags and decorating wind chimes. All of the college groups met in the sports hall with George and we enjoyed dancing, singing and playing the drums together. Learners all received certificates for their achievements and collected a chocolate to enjoy over the holidays. Happy Easter everyone!

Kind regards,

Emma Baldock

#### **Group 5**

In World Around us session we learnt about towns and cities. The focus was mainly on our 'local town' and discussed activities that we do when we visit our local town e.g. shopping, walk, swimming, hair and beauty. We answered questions based on the activities we do in our local town. We then watched news round and appreciated our local culture and music.

During mathematics learners completed single digit number additions with the help of counters. We observed learners completing tasks and took pictures for their folder evidence. We then played Top marks addition games, in which learners identified numbers and practiced addition of objects. Finally, we used craft foam shapes to make flowers, animals and people.

In current affairs over the past two weeks, the group found out who was on the UK's Under 30's rich list, using the internet the group watched videos to see what the people were famous for and then looked at data from the list counting number of male and females, sorting by profession and putting the people into age order. This week, in preparation, the learners watched trailers from up-coming films (in case they want to go in the holidays) we then looked at the Oscar's that happened this week. The group discussed the behaviour of Will Smith and what should happen as a result. During the Outdoor Learning sessions we listened to a presentation from RSPB about local springtime birds and went on a bird spotting walk around the centre. We saw many pigeons, robins and blue tits. For our Reading for Pleasure sessions we chose from a selection of travel, nature, automotive and film books and read them with staff, then listened to the lecturer read from Danny Champion of the World. In Sports we participated in a circuit of activities set up around the sports hall.

### **Useful contacts**

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