



# NEWSLETTER

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Dear Friends and Families,

The learners have had a busy start to the Summer Term and everyone has settled in well and adapted to their new timetables.

As restrictions continue to ease on site we are beginning to increase the number of community visit sessions taking place for learners.

I am pleased to announce that we welcomed Victoria Ingram, College Lecturer, who joined the team on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April.



We have made some adjustments to learner groups 1, 2 and 5. Victoria Ingram will be the key lecturer for groups 1 and 2 and Adam Holmquist will be the key lecturer for group 5.

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**

We have had a very busy 2 weeks in groups 1 and 2. The learners have been enjoying a range of physical activities in Music and Movement and sports. Collectively, their particular favourites were Yoga and dancing to different genres of music. It is always nice to end these sessions with some calming meditation.

In English, the learners have been particularly enjoying the Roald Dahl story – George's Marvellous Medicine. They have used this to inspire their mark making and development of their writing skills.

In Creative Arts, the groups have been further developing their mark making techniques through printing. Using their emotions as their inspiration they chose an emoji to create their own mono-print. We have started a new Tac Pac theme in the last 2 weeks. The learners are engaging really well. It is helping to support their sensory and communication needs.

Groups 1 and 2 had the pleasure of welcoming George into the classroom for Music. They each explored a range of songs and musical instruments. It was lovely to see each learner engaging and making musical choices based on their preferences.

We have been enjoying our local community visits to Harlow. The learners have been visiting local coffee shops to have a drink and snack. We have been impressed by their development of independence skills in asking for their order using a range of communication methods.

Kind regards,

Vicki

## **Group 3**

During the Health and Wellbeing session, learners completed their Brain Gym exercises and made fruit eggs. This involved chopping fruit (into egg shapes) then drizzling them with greek yoghurt, honey and sprinkles. Overall, the snacks were a hit!

In Current Affairs last week, we considered the importance of trees. This was because George Ezra and YouTube have donated thousands of trees to the National Trust. The learners also answered multi-choice questions about this story. This week, learners used the internet to research different dances from around the world. They typed the name of the dance into YouTube, watched the dance and identified a picture of the dance, which they then placed on the map to show where in the world the dance originated.

In maths the group used their motor skills in arranging numbers in order of value, counting items and objects from 1 – 10. We also counted chairs in the room, counted empty plastic bottles and used counters in subtraction. We also practiced whole number subtraction within 10 and 20.

In music and movement the group used kinaesthetic skills to practice a variety of yoga exercises. We used YouTube to help us search for simple routine yoga exercises that the learners could follow. We then listened to pop music of choice. We finished off by listening to 'peace out' and 'rain ball' meditation as part of their cooling down activity.

In the World Around us session we explored Egypt by locating it on the map, learned about food the Pharaoh ate, practised walking like an Egyptian and appreciated Egyptian music.

Kind regards,

Corrina and Robert

#### **Group 4**

Group 4 have had a good couple of weeks, in PDBA we have learnt about Saint Georges Day and Eid, we have tried different foods and answered comprehension questions about what we have learnt.

Some learners have participated in trips out into the community, visiting Tesco to do some shopping and going to cafés to sit and have drinks and snacks together. Some of the learners visited Grange Paddocks in Bishops Stortford and enjoyed using the adventure playground and outdoor gym.

In our English session we have been looking at texts relating to changes and transitions, we have been thinking about next steps and any questions or worries the learners may have.

In creative art sessions we have been exploring printing, creating mono and screen prints, we have created different backgrounds to print onto. Learners have enjoyed working with different tools.

For Earth Day we planted sunflower seeds and wrote pledges about how we would try and help protect the planet. We have created a sunflower diary to track the progress of our plants. As part of outdoor learning we have also planted basil and wild flowers.

Kind regards,

Emma Baldock

#### **Group 5**

The past two weeks have been busy and full of activities.

In our Current Events session we have continued learning about the war in Ukraine and talked about the Queen's diamond jubilee. In mathematics, we have been using bricks to cement our understanding of addition concepts, and in English we selected a book from the library and answered some questions about the author and the characters in it before reading it for 15 minutes.

We prepared a healthy chicken pasta bake and a vegan sausage casserole in our cooking sessions, and in PDBA we painted a dragon for St George's Day and talked with our peers about Eid al-Fitr and Ramadan. In our sports session we have continued practicing upper and lower body stretches and beat our lap time which we set last week for walking around the centre.

Last week we set up our email accounts for our Interview and Job Skills session, and this week we used email to apply for a 'job' (voluntary, at the onsite shop, Handy & Candy). We have our 'interviews' planned over the coming weeks. In our Planning for the Future sessions we have talked about some positive employability skills and traits that would be useful in getting a job and discussed which ones we possess, and which we'd like to develop. This week we're going to take a walk around the site to see all of the facilities (like the chapel and the therapy rooms) which are available to learners to help us progress through our studies. We learned about the difference between health hazards and safety hazards and practiced identifying them in Work-Related Learning, and this week we will focus on the importance of keeping the workplace clean and tidy.

Kind regards,

Adam

### **Useful contacts**

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