



Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends...

Red seems to have been the colour of the term. ...a number of classrooms were decorated with red lanterns to celebrate Chinese New Year and this week there has been a number of red hearts appearing to celebrate (a little early) Valentine's Day as a friendship day. A number of pupils have made friendship cards to post in the post box with appointed post persons making deliveries throughout the day. Our school wants pupils to have happy and fulfilled lives and having a friend, and being a friend, is a central part of such a life. I so enjoy the moments in school where our pupils show their friendship to each other; celebrating a friend getting a certificate in assembly, sharing space or a toy, welcoming a new pupil to class or offering a hug at tricky times. This happens in all classes...our pupils have terrific skills in having and being a friend.

This afternoon I will be awarding Betsy her 'Supergoal Superstar' award in assembly. Betsy now walks into school and home every day (without using her buggy)...and she has actually extended this skill by walking round Tesco! This achievement is the result of shared, high expectations between Betsy's family and school...and lots of practice. Well done Betsy!

That positive and effective home/school partnership is vital in supporting our pupils. On March 7th, we will be holding our second parents/carers evening of the school year between 5.30 and 8pm. I know many of you enjoyed meeting with your child's class teacher in September and letters will come out after half term so you can book an appointment for the 7th. These appointments are 15 minutes long and a double appointment could be offered if needed. The Communication Team will also be at the evening, as will Holiday Club staff who will have information about Holiday Club plans for Easter and Summer holidays. Please note that school will close to pupils at 1pm on March 7th to allow for staff training and to facilitate parents/carers' evening. Home/School transport will run as usual with pupils leaving school at 1pm.

Enjoy half term - Spring is on the way!

Kirsty



Love is in the Air!

We're gearing up for Valentine's Day a bit earlier in school this year and the Valentine / Friendship post box has had a steady flow of visitors this week. This photo shows Tiger (J2) posting his letter, but who will the lucky recipient be?!

Dates for your Diary

Red Nose Day
Friday, 17th March

Parents Evening
Tuesday, March 7th

Communication Workshops
1st, 15th 21st March

Faculty Students Shining a Light on Supported Internship



Reece has been working 3 days a week with local charity Warming up the Homeless as part of Glyne Gap School's supported internship programme. Reece's role is to prepare and make vegetable soup. As you can see he is a very conscientious chef and ensures it tastes as good as it looks! Reece takes great pride in his work, he's learning new skills every day and is very much part of his work team. We're all really proud of you at the Faculty Reece, keep up the good work!

Faculty Art — Ways to Get Paint on Canvas



Last summer Faculty students took part in an art project with artist Richard Phoenix. The work from this project is now being exhibited at Unit 7, Beeching Road Studios, Bexhill on Sea, TN39 3LJ until 5th March.



Oliver and Xavier creating their pieces

“Kung Hei Fat Choy” from Junior2

This term Junior 2 have been exploring Chinese New Year through art, music and stories.

Pupils created the class dragon by printing on fabric and choosing materials to create the head. All pupils experienced dragon dancing, do you recognise any legs?

Chinese Drumming was a big hit! Pupils chose from a variety of drums and used sticks or their hands to create sounds.

Pupils explored a variety of Chinese food using all of their senses and participated in spring cleaning as part of preparing the class for the Chinese New Year linked with their traditions.



Making Choices in the Cafe

Pupils in the Communication Café have been initiating communication and using their communication systems make requests from a variety of drinks and snacks. Biscuits, chocolate and coca cola were on offer this week and it was Lola's turn to serve her fellow classmates their chosen treats!



Nursery—Let's Get Messy!

In Nursery our focus this term has been to use our hands to explore different materials and get messy. Pupils have been using their hands to explore goo; what does it feel like? do I like it? Pupils have been playing with dinosaurs in the mud and sand, making moon pictures with paint, mixing glitter, sequins and water in bowls using their hands, exploring cooking ingredients and having lots of fun!



S3—Learning Life Skills Out in the Community

Pupils in S3 have been completing shopping tasks for our cooking sessions. They are becoming more independent, with staff members hanging back while they complete tasks, e.g. using 'scan as you shop' and paying for and packing their shopping. Liam C took the lead in road safety checks and has shown some amazing competence and confidence during community learning sessions. Well done Liam!



Communication Workshops



These practical and fun workshops are run by the Communication team and cover topics such as:

- How to use visuals (e.g. photos/symbols) with your child
- How to support your child with Communication at home
- Learn how to sign (Makaton)
- Resource making—useful resources to have at home

Next term's workshops:

- ◇ Wednesday 1st March at 10am—Creating Opportunities at Home
- ◇ Wednesday 15th March—Signing workshop
- ◇ Wednesday 29th March—Drop-in Resource making workshop

Workshops are free and a great opportunity to ask questions, get advice and meet with other parents, carers and grandparents.

Seniors — Skills for a Healthy Mind and Body



This term Seniors have been practicing and experiencing chair yoga. They have been working on yoga positions that can be used as movement breaks to help them stretch and feel more awake and focussed.



We have also been practicing pranayama (breathing) techniques. Learning to breathe deeper and slower. Ted from Senior 3 said it made him "feel calmer".



Anyone for Pizza?



Senior 1 have been using their communication along with different forms of choice making to make their their pizza for lunch on a Wednesday. Ollie has been following a recipe to make his own pizza dough to share with everyone. Buon appetito!



COMMUNICATION TEAM

News and Information — February, 2023

Hello to all our Parents, Carers and Families,

Here in school we aim for all of our pupils to be as independent as possible with their communication. One way to support our pupils to do this is to develop the really important skill of learning to gain someone's attention in order to communicate with them. We provide our pupils with opportunities to practice this skill throughout the day and this is something that you can work on at home too. Remember, this is a big skill to learn so breaking it down into smaller steps during teaching will make it more achievable.

Here's are some things for you to try at home....

- ◇ When you give your child a toy or snack, hold it just out of reach so they have to reach towards you, next time stand a few steps away. Gradually increase the distance so your child learns to move towards you.
- ◇ Place favorite items out of reach so your child has to get your attention to get what they want!
- ◇ When you're interacting with your child, at an appropriate time, turn away and pretend to do something to give your child the opportunity to regain your attention. Good luck!

Thank you to parents that attended this terms Parent Workshops, we covered gaining attention and how to create successful and equal communication between ourselves and our pupils in 'Total communication workshop' and how to support our pupils understanding of routines, changes, and accepting a preferred activity has finished in our 'Receptive Workshop'. There was some great discussions between parents and sharing of experiences.

Keep a look out for the family workshop newsletter early next term for upcoming events!

Communication in the community

Here are some photos of our pupils transferring their communication skills learnt in school to the community, to be able to make choices, wait appropriately, understand what is happening now and next and to enjoy eating out with class friends.

Fabulous Work!

