

# NEWSLETTER

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## Dates for your Diary

24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> October

**HALF TERM  
NO SCHOOL**

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November

**Nasal Flu Vaccinations -  
If you wish your child to  
have the vaccination  
administered at school,  
please ensure you have  
completed the electronic  
link detailed in the letters  
circulated from the  
immunisation team by  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.**

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November

7.30pm

**Link Association AGM -  
being held at the primary  
site**

Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> December

**Link Association Christmas  
Fair - being held at the  
secondary site**

Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> December

**Last day of Autumn term -  
early closure**

Who can believe that it's half term already next week!

The first seven weeks of the academic year have flown past with everyone now settled and secure in their new classes.

We would like to thank all parents for their support in working alongside us to reach all of our young people's potential. We will continue to 'dig deep to aim high' to ensure that all of our learners overcome barriers and meet their aspirations.

A number of our learners in our satellite have already overcome a lot of hurdles and barriers and are now happily attending school on a regular basis.

Nic Andrews, Head of our Satellite Site now tells us how the first half term in our new site has gone.

## An Update on our Satellite Site

6 weeks ago our 19 satellite students walked through the gate of a big new adventure for them at their new school site.

The site currently has 3 classes named with a space theme - Hubble, Apollo and Pioneer.

Here's a peek into some of our classes.



Hubble Class



Apollo Class

Many adventures have taken place, imaginary sea adventures have taken place on our playground pirate ship and our scientifically minded adventurers have set up a much loved zip wire. The zip wire project has brought the students together to show backdoor learning in style. Students from Pioneer have discussed physics, maths, economics and design technology to build the zip wire using trial and error. Their project also has led them and others in making progress in social skills and challenging nerves in line with the site's newly formulated Link Priorities. Our link

priorities can be seen on the website curriculum page for the satellite site.



Our curriculum page also allows you to explore our curriculum pathways. Our curriculum at the satellite has 3 key pathways available to our learners which compliments their balance of learning and demands. Our pathways allow our students to access the curriculum at varying degrees of backdoor learning.

Backdoor learning is a key pedagogy approach at the satellite which allows staff to work upon exploring the motivations of our learners and then using these interests to support the curriculum. This allows our students to reduce anxieties related to learning and be able to focus upon new skills acquisition in a calm positive manner.

Pioneer class have enjoyed listening to audio books in guided reading this half term, which they then are challenged to answer comprehension questions about. They have also enjoyed working

upon biographies and each chose a celebrity to study about.

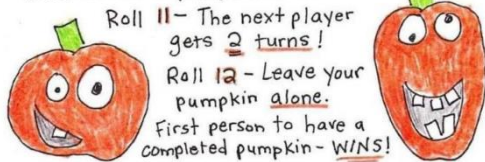
Apollo have a large love of Pokémon, Minecraft and technology and have explored board games for maths and English generalisation skills as well as exploring academic games such as Karate Kats, Busy Things and Horrible Histories.

Hubble have a real love for cooking and top trumps and used this to explore their reading and maths skills. Pumpkins have sparked their interest this week and they put their maths, reading and art skills to work with a pumpkin design game.



For this fun game you will need a pair of dice and each player needs a piece of paper with a pumpkin shape on it (circle, oval - whatever!).

- Roll 2 - Draw 2 eyes on your pumpkin.
  - Roll 3 - Draw a nose on your pumpkin.
  - Roll 4 - Draw a mouth on your pumpkin.
  - Roll 5 - Draw a stem on your pumpkin.
  - Roll 6 - Draw teeth on your pumpkin.
  - Roll 7 - Draw a fun accessory on your pumpkin. Maybe a hat, earrings, scarf, etc.
  - Roll 8 - ROLL AGAIN!!
  - Roll 9 - Write your pumpkin's name somewhere on your paper.
  - Roll 10 - Draw a part that is missing from someone else's pumpkin on theirs.
  - Roll 11 - The next player gets 2 turns!
  - Roll 12 - Leave your pumpkin alone.
- First person to have a completed pumpkin - WINS!



This week we welcomed our new Speech and Language Therapists Holly and Sally to our site and they have enjoyed us showing them our site and finding out how they will be working with us. Our student council met for their first official meeting which was a success for many of our students who have not felt ready to join the council before.

As we dock our pirate ship to have a well-earned half term break, we celebrate our successful voyage in our new site so far and look forward to our next adventures ahead after half term which include a PJ & crazy hair day for Children in Need, beginning to venture out in our local community to generalise our skills, canine therapy and building on our friendships and learning.



Why don't you play the game at home?

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE PRIMARY SITE?

During a community visit this week, Beech Class delivered our Harvest donations to Sutton Nightwatch.

The charity team were delighted with all the donations and said how lovely it was to meet such polite children.

Thank you all again for your donations, which are already helping the homeless in Sutton.



Beech Class have also been working on their life skills, whilst forming friendships within their class.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND AND ABOUT?

One of our parents has been involved with the set-up of a charity which aim to bring together SEND families, lawyers and professionals to share their knowledge around SEND and the EHCP process especially. Their vision is to expand access to education for SEND children and to enable SEND families to engage with education and the legal EHCP system productively, without the need to fight their way through the process. They have harnessed technology to empower SEND families by sharing legal and professional knowledge, to help SEND parents understand the law and feel confident in requesting the help their child is entitled to and have the support they need when they do need to fight. It aims to lift the load from parents and save them time, anxiety and money

Join the community, ask a question, share your knowledge and get involved.: <https://supportsendkids.org/>

Tina (a local Morrison's Community Champion) has contacted The Link Association to ask if any of our school community would be able to support them in raising funds for 'Together for Short Lives' charity.

As Morrisons always supports The Link Association, by donating hampers and prizes whenever we ask them, should anyone would like to learn more or donate a little something, please follow the link below:

<https://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk/>

For Merton parents, there is an opportunity to join an Independent Travel Training zoom meeting tomorrow - Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October.

Independent Travel Training is support to help people to attain skills to travel on their own. Merton Council commissions Merton Mencap to provide travel training to young people aged 11-24 with learning disabilities/autism, helping them to become independent travelers between their home and place of education.

The session also includes a Q & A slot, where any questions about transport can be asked.

Please click the link below to register for this meeting today!

[https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZIlcemsqD8jGNR3tp\\_fQvVhTvmKLXmzzMnV](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZIlcemsqD8jGNR3tp_fQvVhTvmKLXmzzMnV)

## A GENTLE REMINDER

Should your child be unwell and not able to come to school, please remember to let the school office know, either by telephone or email.

Alternatively you can log your child's absence via parentmail.

## AND FINALLY .....

We hope you all have a lovely week next week and look forward to seeing our learners return on Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> October and remember.....

A smile is a curve that sets things straight.

