

# NEWSLETTER

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## Dates for your Diary

Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November -  
9.30am

**Parent Information & Coffee Morning -**

**Supporting Parents' Wellbeing**

Parents from all sites are welcome - being held at the primary site.

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December

**PARENTS' EVENING -**

**Secondary Site**

**More information to follow**

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

12.00pm - 3.00pm

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

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December

**LINK SCHOOL CAROL**

**CONCERT - details to follow**

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

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

Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January

**Spring Term begins**

13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> February

**HALF TERM**

Together, with the rest of the OHCAT family, we have been participating in Anti-Bullying Week this week.

Across the country, many have worn odd socks over the past 5 days, a symbol of Anti-Bullying Week, encouraging everyone to celebrate each other's differences.

A nationwide event; this year's theme was "Reach Out".

We focused on 'Being Kind' and we can certainly vouch for the fact that we most definitely have a lot of kind students here at The Link. We witness many examples of kindness (and not just during this week).

Part of our school development plan focusses on behaviour, attitudes and personal development and this is reviewed constantly not only by staff working at the school, but by our Governing Body.

Our Governing Body ensures our values, aims and objectives are aligned with OHCAT and they also check the progress towards our targets, ensuring the school's performance is the best we can be, helping The Link and it's learners move from strength to strength

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor (from the secondary or satellite site) and if you feel you would really like to get involved and would like to learn more, please do not hesitate to contact Sandy to discuss this.

Annual Review meetings have been arranged for the academic year ahead. To help parents prepare for these meetings, Anita Clay, Senior Leader at the primary site provides the following advice.

### Preparing for an Annual Review or IEP meeting

Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) are reviewed annually. This process is important. It is when any changes to the document are proposed. The EHC Plan is a working document prior to the review meeting, where proposed amendments are discussed together. The document is then sent back to the Local Authority for official changes to be made. EHCPs are most valuable when they contain relevant and up-to-date information about the child /young person. The EHCP document is far more than a just report from school. Your input is key. So, please come to the review prepared to discuss and amend as needed.

#### All about me

Use this opportunity to update Section A to reflect what you want to say about your child/young person.

It is helpful to have a bit of history to give an overview, as well as current information.

You may want to add any changes that you have noticed in your

child/young person's strengths or barriers to learning?

You might also want to note recent progress that you have seen.

#### Education

As a class team, we will update on the child/young person's strengths and barriers to learning, using our professional judgement, observations and assessments. In some school years, class teachers and therapists will collaborate to write directly into the EHC Plan. In other years, for example, at points of transition, therapists may write more detailed stand-alone reports.

#### Outcomes and provision

As teachers and therapists, we aim to set appropriate outcomes for the child/young person, which can be worked towards in a timely manner. All the necessary provision to enable progress towards these outcomes, will be specified in the EHC Plan.

#### Health

Please share the most recent information about your child/young person's health needs. It is important to update the EHC Plan to include any relevant health professionals or specialists working with your child /young person.

#### Social Care

Please come prepared to talk about the support that you have as a family which enables your child/young person to have

different social opportunities and community access.

Think about whether you feel that you can continue to manage this for your child/young person, or whether some additional support would be beneficial. It is possible to apply for support from other local services and we can help you with that.

### Transition

If your child/young person is at a transition point e.g. preparing for Secondary School (Year 5) or preparing for Next Steps (Years 10 or 12), it would be useful to come to the review meeting with some possible options that you have considered which we can discuss together.

In addition to annual reviews, if your child /young person is at the Primary or Satellite sites, we will meet with you to review and set new targets for Individual Education Plans. (IEPs) These meetings are also a great opportunity to share any updates, instead of waiting for the annual review.

Students at the Secondary site do not have IEP's, but their EHCP provision is delivered through the Link Priorities and other Interventions. The secondary site offers termly Parents' Evenings.

If you feel that you need support before your child/young person's

next IEP meeting, Parents' Evening, or Annual Review, please do contact the school and we will aim to signpost you in the right direction. [aclay@thelinkschool.co.uk](mailto:aclay@thelinkschool.co.uk)

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

Our focus on 'Being Kind' brought a lot of smiles to our faces this week.

In Willow Class Malieta shared the trampet with Rayen - a wonderful act of kindness.

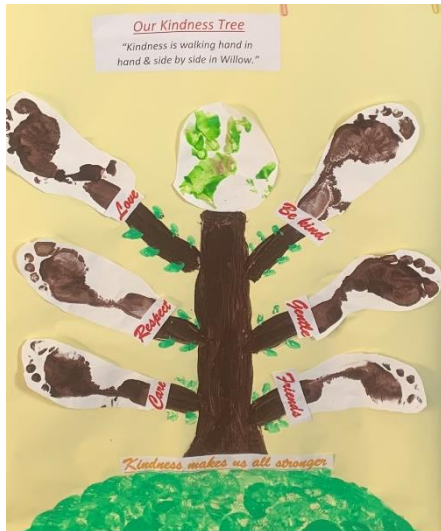


After filling their kindness line with pegs, Maple Class enjoyed a meal at MacDonalds (still the unanimous choice when asked what they would like for a treat!).





Every class designed a poster for anti-bullying week, each designed with their own ideas and input.



Sandy thought all the posters were very well thought out and the messages within really came through.



Hazel class have been learning about how to reach out to other people, celebrating and thinking about Anti-bullying week. They have pledged to be good friends and kind people. They also thought about which qualities we need to have to be the best we can be.

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

After starting the week wearing their odd socks for Anti-Bullying Week, the satellite site closed the week, wearing their pyjamas as they all raised funds for Children in Need. Pupils arrived to be greeted by the staff team, looking slightly different from normal. Much fun was had by all whilst supporting this worthwhile cause.



Siobhan, Class Teacher in Hubble Class has put together the following piece, which she hopes will help parents to utilise apps which prove useful in back door learning.

### [Learning apps and games for Backdoor learning](#)

At the Satellite site we use a backdoor learning approach to our learners, which involves disguising learning in different ways. We have compiled some apps and online games that we have found really useful to help our young people engage with the curriculum.

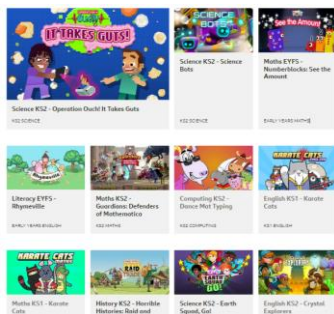
Busy things: This includes fun games and activities that are

suitable from 3 - 11 years old. They are split into the different subjects across the curriculum from English and Maths to early computer coding as well as fun colouring and creating activities. With some of the games, the levels can be adjusted to suit the needs of your child or if you would like to target a particular skill. This does require a subscription and it can be played on the laptop or on a tablet.



BBC games: [Primary games - BBC Bitesize](#)

The BBC website has great games ranging from Early years to KS2. There is a great game called "Karate Cats" that has been a massive hit at the Satellite! Most of the games build up the difficulty slowly and have the best mix of playing a game and answering questions. These are free to use and the progress of your game can be saved to the device you normally use.



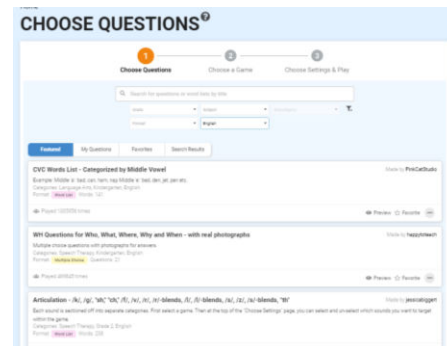
Top marks [Learn to Count with fun Counting Games for KS1 Children \(topmarks.co.uk\)](#)

This is another free resource that has games that are suitable from 3 to 14 years. They are there to help with Maths and English skills and will split things into different topics to help target particular things that they need to practise.



Pink Cat games [Pink Cat Games - Fun Educational Games that Keep Learners Engaged](#)

Some of the content on this site may need a subscription, but some parts are free. It is great for if you would like a selection of games and activities based on a specific target in mind, such as CVC words or the end sound of a word. It usually gives you a selection of games to keep our learners interested.



Vocabulary Ninja [Vocab Ninja Mini Games \(vocabularyninja.co.uk\)](#)

This is a free resource that has a few word games that we play

together with our young learners. They can be a bit difficult as there is a timer, so it is good to be aware that frustrations may arise with a timer.

Youtube - We all know that our young people love YouTube, but there is still a lot of learning that you can gain from watching the videos. Building conversations through questioning can be a great way to engage with our learners. For instance, what is it about? Who made the video? Could we make something similar? What is the story about? Who is the main character? Do you like the video? What do you like about it? Is there anything you don't like?

They may not always want to engage or respond to what you are asking them, as we know it can be a regulating technique for some of our young people, but if their level of anxiety is stable it is an option. Also, they may not know how to answer or what is expected from them, so at times it could be modelling the language for the young person. *"Ooo I really liked that video about ... Because ...", "That video reminded me of this book..."*

- Scratch Jr - It is an app on most of the iPads and involves computer coding. They can create their own animations using existing images or make their own as well as recording their own voices or music to add to it.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND AND ABOUT?

Cognus are once again running their Holiday Activity Programme for those families whose child is entitled to benefits related free school meals. The Christmas HAF 2022 period will be from the 19th - 30th December.

Full information on the programme will be updated on our dedicated HAF webpage [www.sutton.gov.uk/HAF](http://www.sutton.gov.uk/HAF)

All families that are eligible will receive an email and code from Cognus via the school office, during the period 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> November.

If you do not receive an email and believe you may be eligible, please contact

[holidayactivityprogramme@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:holidayactivityprogramme@sutton.gov.uk)

Bookings for the programme will go live on 24th November and are

## AND FINALLY .....

Remember ...

Kindness is free to give

But priceless to receive