

Our School

Fortnightly News: 7th September 2023

Welcome to The Bridge SEN School Newsletter

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits as we prepare to embark on another existing academic year. It gives me immense joy to welcome each and every one of you back to our school after the well-deserved summer break. First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to all the parents for entrusting us with the education and well being of your children. To our dedicated and passionate staff members, thank you for your hard work and dedication during the summer months to ensure that our school is ready to open its doors once again. To our cherished learners, I hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer break filled with adventures and relaxation. We believe in each and every one of you and know that you have the potential to accomplish great things. These academic promises to be filled with exciting challenge, opportunities for growth and memorable experience. Once again welcome back to school! Let us embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead with enthusiasm and determination. -Edith Eneanya-Bonito – Principal



Educational

The staff came back to school earlier than the learners in order to prepare their scheme of work, arrange their classrooms and do some refresher trainings. This academic year has lot of educational activities packaged for the learners including some revised schemes of work for each subject. Some of the activities are emotion check-in, art & craft, sensory exploration, movement & dance and lot more. This helps them ease back into learning routine and learn self-expression.

New Educational Psychologists from Sterling Practice

We are happy to continue our partnership with Sterling Practice by welcoming a new Educational Psychologists to our school from Sterling Practice. Judy has joined us this week and has been meeting each of the learners and will soon be providing invaluable support for the teaching staff in support of the learners. We are very happy to welcome Judy and her valuable insight.

Summer Activities

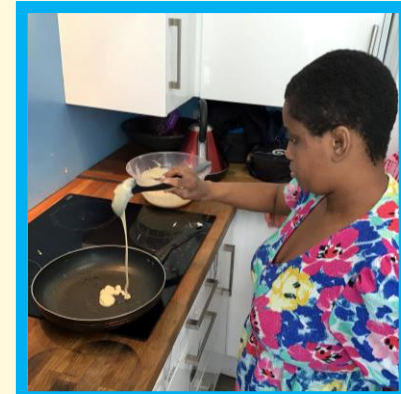
Although the weather this summer has not been the best, there has still been plenty of opportunity to enjoy it. During the summer break we organized a fun-filled summer of activities for our learners and other clients from the parent company care home. They engaged with so many indoor and outdoor activities which they really enjoyed. This activity was concluded with a barbeque party for them. Despite the rain, it was a great success.

DJ Hypester- Harry Frost

DJ Hypester, also known as Harry Frost, who is 12-year-old thrilled the crown with a 30-minute drum and bass set at CarFest in Overton, Hampshire, on Sunday night. His performance was described as “amazing”, and Chase and Status, a prominent UK drum and bass act, hailed him as a “legend in the making”. Harry, who has DJing for five years, attended the festival with his parents and had the opportunity to play after holding up a “Let me DJ” placard. He has autism and ADHD, which his mom believes benefits his music due to his fantastic memory. Harry hopes to return to CarFest in the future for a longer set.

Source: BBC News

To read more: [Here](#)



Work Underway on New School Site

Work has begun in earnest on the new school site. While a completion date is unclear, we are still optimistic about our transition to the new site occurring next school term. We hope to be able to share pictures soon.



Activities & Advice

Autism-Friendly Activities for Autumn

The changing seasons, particularly the transition to autumn, offer delightful sensory experiences like pumpkin spice lattes, pecan pie, colourful leaves, football and Halloween costumes. However, children with autism spectrum disorder may struggle to grasp these seasonal changes and challenges like daylight saving time. There are enjoyable ways to help them embrace and appreciate the beauty of autumn.

1. Visit a pumpkin patch: Autumn and pumpkins go hand in hand, and while you can find various types in stores, nothing compares to the experience of a pumpkin patch. If your child has a sensory sensitivity or is uncomfortable in crowded spaces, consider visiting a quiet street-side display on a less busy day
2. Pick apples: The fall season, often associated with apple season, offers a delightful opportunity for kids to connect with nature. It allows them to learn about the origins of their food, make choices and immerse themselves in the vibrant colours, sight and flavours of this season
3. Rake leaves: This might seem like a chore, but it's actually enjoyable in our vision. The fun part comes when you have gathered them into a pile and it's time to jump on together, taking turns. You will hear and feel the satisfying crunch of the dried leaves and watch as they float back down when tossed in the air.
4. Roast Marshmallows: S'mores are delicious treat enjoyed year-round, but they are especially delightful in the fall when the cool weather encourages marshmallow roasting. This activity is a sensory experience that engages and encourages discussions about each of the five senses.

To read more: [Here](#)

Source: Hope Bridge Autism Therapist Centre



Eric Gibb

A New feature, where we examine fictional representations of autistic people.

In 1986's *The Boy Who Could Fly*, Eric Gibb is an autistic young man who lives with his alcoholic uncle and is next door neighbour to Milly Michaelson who is dealing with the recent suicide of her father. He has never spoken a word in his life, doesn't like to be around people, and exhibits bizarre behaviour related to flying. Also, as the title suggests, he can fly. The film covers the growing relationship between the neurotypical Milly and the autistic Eric, covering their growing attraction and appreciation of one another. It's a well-intentioned film that deals with weighty subjects but never becomes too gloomy. In the era of *Rain Man*, the film portrays an individual with autism in a sensitive way but also perpetuates the stereotype of those with ASD having remarkable abilities this time through the realm of the fantastic.

Three Sister are set to raise awareness of autism at Camp Bestival in Midlands.

The Stencils Pencils, a band consisting of Indiana (age 8), Kale (age 12), and Johnson (age 13), use their music to raise awareness about autism and disabilities. Kale, who has been diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, inspired the band to promote diversity and inclusion through their music. They are set to perform in the Big Top at Weston Park as part of a three-day festival, joining other artists like Rudimental, Sophie Ellis-Bextor, and Primal Scream. They are known as "the world's youngest autism band." The band's journey began in the 2020 when they were given a homework project to create a poem or song about the pandemic. They have since performed in their town, Milton Keynes, appeared on ITV's Scrambled show, and auditioned for Britain's Got Talent Camp Bestival, where they will perform in Shropshire, offers over 100 activities, including a silent disco, yoga sessions, a craft village, and wild swimming.

To read more: [Here](#).

Source: BBC News.

Our Activities Centre

The activity centre was on-going during the summer break, lot of summer friendly activities both indoor and outdoor activities like bowling, trampoline, yoga, boat trips, cooking and lot more were been carried out which made it fun for the clients. We also joined the school-organised end of summer barbeque! –

Activity Co-ordinator

The Bridge SEN School admits students all through the academic year between the ages of 14-25. If you are interested in placing a student at the school or obtaining more information, please contact admin@thebridge-school.co.uk or Tel: 02077038587

THE BRIDGE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

EDUCATION

- Term Begins: 4th September 2023
- Half Term: 23rd – 27th October 2023

Please visit our website: www.thebridge-school.co.uk for full Academic Year 2023/2024 Calendar)

ACTIVITY CENTRE

Our activity centre in Thornton Heath is open throughout the year, Except on Bank Holidays.

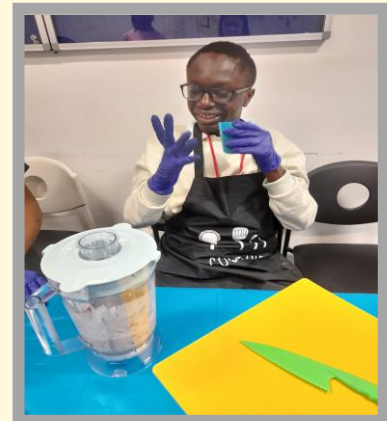
COVID 19

We are in regular contact with the local authorities to ensure that we react appropriately and in a timely fashion to any development. We observe the most up-to-date rules concerning COVID 19.

- Weekly tests are carried out on learners and staff
- Social Distancing measures are in place
- Regularly handwashing is mandatory
- NHS Track and Trace QR Code are signposted around the school.
- Face masks are worn throughout classes

Our Full Policy is available on our website

Drawings/Pictures of the month



OPENING TIMES AT LIRAL VEGET COLLEGE LONDON

Liral Veget College Limited is the sister company of Right Support Management, under which The Bridge SEN School is now operating. We offer a variety of **English language courses**, **After School Club** and **Life in the UK Preparation classes**. Our current opening times are 8.30am – 18.00pm Monday to Friday and 10.00am - 14.00pm on Saturdays.

Academic Manager - James Nuttall.

QUOTE OF THE FORTNIGHT

“ A person who won't read has no advantage over a person who can't read.”

Mark Twain.