

Our School

Fortnightly News: 11th January 2024

Welcome to The Bridge SEN School Newsletter

Welcome back to all learners, parents, staff, and governors of The Bridge SEN School! I trust you had a well-deserved break and are now ready to dive back into the exciting world of learning. We're excited for a new term and year filled with opportunities, growth, and success after the festive. As we set our sights on the opportunities and challenges that the new year may bring, let us do so with a sense of unity, resilience, and optimism. Together, we can make 2024 a year of achievement, growth, and memorable moments. Wishing you all a fantastic start to the New Year!

-Edith Eneanya-Bonito – Principal



Educational

The learners are back to school happy and they are settling in very well. These past days, the learners have been engaged with sensory activities and educational activities like shopping, colouring, cooking skills, exploration of collage, swimming, bowling, fine motor skills and lot more. A new learner also joined the school after the break and he is settling in well with the environment.

OFSTED REPORT

We are thrilled to share a momentous achievement with you all – The Bridge SEN School has officially been declared "GOOD" in our recent OFSTED report!

This recognition is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our incredible staff, students, and supportive parents. The report highlights significant improvements in teaching practices, student achievements, and the overall positive learning atmosphere.

The report will be publicly available on the OFSTED website on the 19th of January 2024 but you read it now on the [school website](#). This is a great boost of confidence for the New Year! Thank you for your ongoing support!

LEARNER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The learners enjoyed a festive party at the Bridge SEN School at the end of last year. Staff and students all wore Christmas jumpers to celebrate the festive holiday and listened to carols as they ate their slap-up Christmas food.

Ellie Middleton: 'Learning the way my brain works has changed everything for me'

Ellie Middleton who is an activist, speaker and writer from Yorkshire UK, celebrated her "second birthday" in October, marking the day she received her ADHD diagnosis, followed by an autism diagnosis six months later. Now she is known as Ellie 2.0, she has garnered over 400,000 followers online, given a TEDx talk, and published her first book, "Unmasked: The Ultimate Guide to ADHD, Autism and Neurodivergence." Before her diagnoses, Ellie faced challenges in education and employment, dealing with bullying and mental health struggles. The diagnoses allowed her to understand and work with her brain, leading to positive changes. Ellie emphasizes the importance of support for those receiving late diagnoses, especially women and marginalized groups. Despite challenges, she remains hopeful about her ongoing journey of self-discovery.

To read more: [Here](#)
Source: BBC News



Activities & Advice

Simple Seasonal Sensory Activities

Simple seasonal sensory activities can play a crucial role in the well-being and development of autistic young adults especially during these peaks of winter.

Here are some activities that could be done:

The Frozen Treasure Hunt: This involves freezing seasonal items in water to create a block of ice. Children use tools like droppers, spoons, and toy hammers to dig for treasures. The activity enhances sensory experiences, fine motor skills, critical thinking, and introduces a mini science experiment.

Fake Snow: This is made by combining baking soda and hair conditioner, providing a fun and mess-free sensory play. It promotes exposure to different textures, temperatures, and scents, fostering brain function and sensory tolerance.

Winter Sensory Bags: This involves creating a sealable plastic bag with a winter or holiday design, filled with hair gel and various items. Kids manipulate the bag to explore textures and colors, making it suitable for road trips.

The Cotton Ball Snowman: This activity uses a clear container with a drawn snowman. Children fill the container with cotton balls, practicing fine motor skills with spoons and tongs. It provides an opportunity for counting, color discussion, and sensory exploration.

Ice Cube Transfer: This is a twist on the traditional sensory bin, where children transfer colored ice cubes between two bins using various tools. This outdoor-friendly activity promotes scooping, stirring, and imaginative play, with potential for messy fun in warmer climates or in a controlled indoor environment.

You can read more by using this link [Here](#)

Source: Hope bridge Autism Therapy Centre



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

Billy Craston (The Blue Power Ranger)



One of a group of teenaged costumed superheroes, Billy Craston was the 'Blue Ranger'. Often considered the brains of the Power Rangers, Billy Craston the alter ego of the Ranger was played by David Yost and then Later by RJ Cyler.

David Yost's portrayal was of the archetypical "geek" while RJ Cyler's declares outright that they are on the spectrum in the 2017 movie. In the movie Billy's autism was portrayed as an asset, not a liability. His meticulous attention to details and obsessive interest in scientific phenomena, proved not only useful but crucial. Another common misconception about autistic people is that they lack empathy. However, Billy's character showed that once he had understood the emotions of his friends he responded more empathetically and actually, helped his companions form emotional bonds with one another. However, you feel about the Power Ranger franchise, this is a refreshing and largely accurate portrayal of autism in a mainstream movie.

Mascot with autism gets support from Slough Town Football club

In a gesture of support, football player Josh Jackman from Slough Town FC wore ear defenders during a match to show solidarity with Roseanne, a young fan with autism who wears them to manage noise and stay calm. Roseanne's mother expressed gratitude, emphasizing the positive impact on Roseanne's confidence. Jackman stated that he aimed to reassure Roseanne that she is not alone in using ear defenders. Slough Town FC highlighted their commitment to inclusivity for individuals with disabilities, running sessions for children facing barriers to mainstream football. The club encourages acceptance of tools like ear defenders, emphasizing it's okay for children to use them in public.

To read more: [Here](#)

Source: BBC News.

Our Activities Centre

The learners are happy to resume the activity centre after the Christmas break, they are happy to meet their friends too. They have been engaged with lot of activities like colouring, painting, puzzles, cooking, baking, board games and bus rides. Even though the weather remains chilly the learners are braving the cold to go cycling again.

-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: 8th January 2024
- Half Term: 12th – 16th February 2024

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.

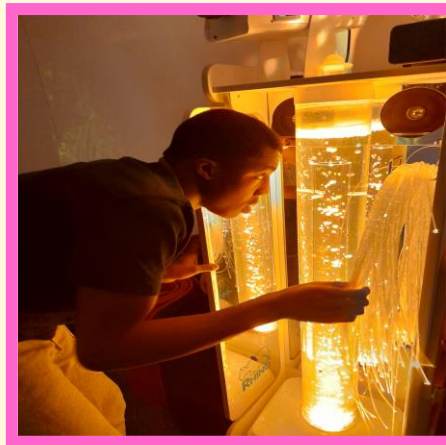
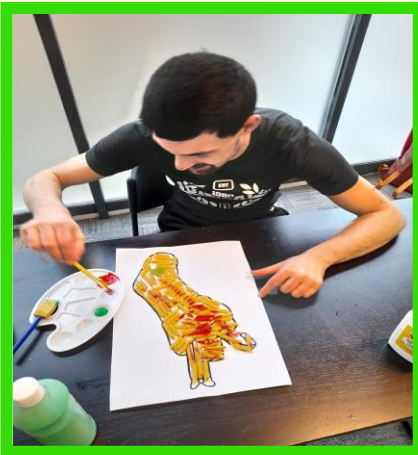
COVID 19

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
"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows".

-Sydney J. Harris-