

## Our School

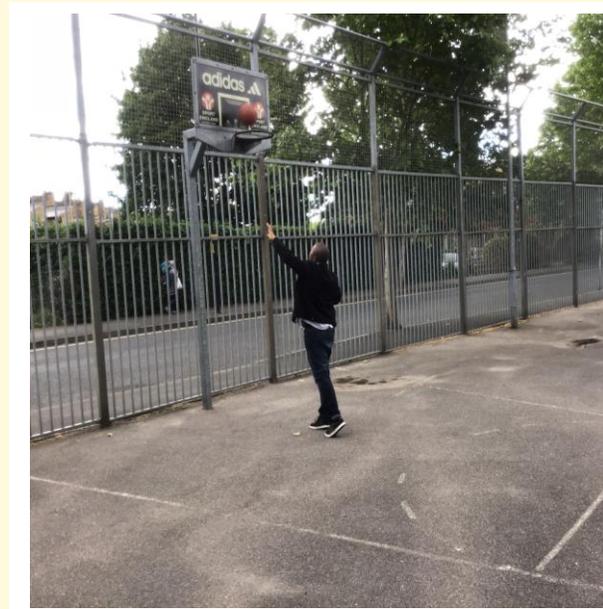
Fortnightly News: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019

### Welcome to *the Bridge's* Newsletter

Dear Parents & Shareholders,

The Bridge SEN School is still reaching out to individuals who are forward-thinking, responsible, energetic and passionate to join its board of governors. As we continue to develop and expand we would like respected individuals in the community ideally, parents, doctors, qualified teachers, solicitors and others that are passionately committed to the education and welfare of young learners, to equality and to the inclusion of vulnerable people in the community, and to society as a whole. If you wish to recommend someone, or to put yourself forward for the role, please contact the school so that we may begin the process. Help us continue to bring the school into the future and help our learners continue to develop as fully as possible

- Edith Eneanya- Bonito – *The Principal*



## Educational

The school went to Stepney Way City Farm this week. Learners were excited by the new environment; they stroked the farm animals and fed them. It is increasingly believed that interactions with animals are beneficial for autistic learners. Learners would have experienced fewer meltdowns as well as reduced stress and anxiety levels. Stroking animals can also help improve their communication and confidence. It was a lovely experience for the learners and we hope to go back soon.

### SUMMER PROGRAMME

Hurray! We are having a summer program throughout the summer holidays commencing on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July to the 30<sup>th</sup> of August. This program will be fully centre based and community based activities, such as: Spa sessions, bowling, swimming, field trips, Kayaking, cooking, visits to the museum, boat trips, day trips and more from Monday to Fridays (9.00am to 3.00pm) including Saturdays (10am to 4pm). Interested persons should please contact the school for more information and referral process. Spaces are limited, please hurry!

### EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGIST

We are sorry to announce that Our Education Psychologist has left to be with her family in Greece. We are currently carrying out a recruitment exercise for suitable replacement. You will be updated once a candidate is selected and employed.

### WEEKLY STRATEGIES

A common challenge for children and adults with autism is their ability to communicate. Many parents and therapist will tell you that "Pictures Cards" are one of the best tools to aid in communication with individuals with autism, whether the individual is verbal or non-verbal. Many people with autism are visual learners, while some respond to spoken words and others to written words.

For those with no spoken language, you can use pictures cards or visual symbols (pending on their cognitive levels) to figure out what they want and help them to let you know their thoughts or desires. Create a visual table of things they enjoy, their favorite activities or upcoming events. Affix Velcro to the back of the picture so that only those selected are an option for the individual to place on the board. This will better facilitate choice making and minimize anxiety or frustration- **Stages**



The Bridge SEN School now runs an **ASD Activity Club** on Saturdays, 10am to 4pm, and Mondays 5pm to 8pm. There are lots of activities available for young learners within the ages of 16 to 25 years. These activities range from bowling, snooker, photography club, Art and Crafts, Museum visits, Cooking, Interior Decoration, etc. We receive referrals from members of the public and local authorities; please contact the school on [admin@thebridge-school.co.uk](mailto:admin@thebridge-school.co.uk) or Tel: 02077038587

# Our Activities Centre

**This week theme** is on **Summer Activities**.

Our Summer Activities Includes: **Arts and Crafts, Dancing, Reading a Book, Going to a movie, Listening to music, Music sessions, visiting Burgess park for a flower hunt.**

We visited Burgess Park for a flower hunt; this is to pick as many spring flowers as possible on the **Spring flowers** list provided; it was all fun! We also continued with Self-care (**Brushing teeth**) to promote independent living for our learners. We have also continued with board games **Snakes and Ladders** and **Ludo** to promote social skills and communication amongst our learners.

- **Gideon (Activity Coordinator)**

*The Bridge 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](mailto:admin@Thebridge-school.co.uk)*

## THE BRIDGE ACADEMIC CALENDER

### **EDUCATION**

HALF TERM – 27th – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019

BACK TO SCHOOL – 3rd June 2019

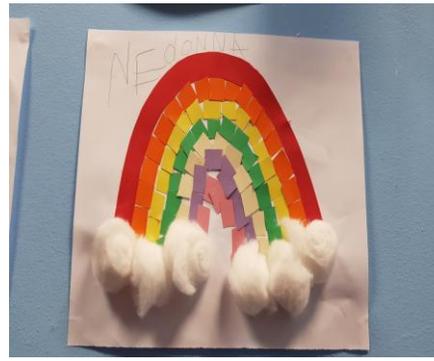
END OF TERM – 23<sup>rd</sup> JULY

### **ACTIVITY**

Our activity centre is open throughout the year, except on Bank Holidays.



## Drawings/Pictures of the month



### **OPENING TIMES AT LIRAL VEGET COLLEGE**

#### **LONDON**

Liral Veget College is the parent company for *London School of English* and *The Bridge SEN School*. It offers a variety of **English language courses, After School Club** and **Life in the UK Preparation classes**. Our opening times are 8.30am – 21.30pm Monday to Friday and 10.00am - 4.00pm on Saturdays. **Academic Manager** - (James Nuttall)

### **QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*“Are your eyes listening? That’s what needs to happen to hear my writing voice. Because of autism, the thief of politeness and friendship, I have no sounding voice. By typing words I can play with my life and stretch from my world to yours. I become a real person when my words try to reach out to you without my weird body scaring you away. Then I am alive”*  
– Sarah Stup, excerpted from “Are your eyes listening? Collected Works”.

We publish our newsletter fortnightly. Copies will be emailed to you and made available on the school’s website on (<https://www.thebridge-school.co.uk/our-school>). Thanks for all your feedback. If you would like to make more contributions to our newsletter, please email me on [admin@thebridge-school.co.uk](mailto:admin@thebridge-school.co.uk) - Maryanne