

Our School

Welcome to The Bridge Newsletter

Fortnightly News: 6th November 2020

Half-term is over, and we're back at school. That said, Britain this week is entering its second Covid-19 lockdown. This has been a gruelling year, and everybody has experienced some form of stress, anxiety or uncertainty, but solidarity is key here and we continue to work together, to work towards our vision and to provide the best education and best service we are humanly capable of. The interest of our learners and their continued development is and always will be our number one concern. Let's stay strong and work together! And happy Bonfire Night!

Edith Eneanya-Bonito – Principal



Educational

This week to prepare for the new lock down rules, we have been refreshing the learner's awareness of social distancing rules and respecting other's personal space. We have also been learning about Guy Fawkes' night and helping the learners prepare for an exciting evening and to stay safe at the same time.

Guy Fawkes' Night

In 1605 Guy Fawkes was one of a group who conspired to overthrow the English government by blowing up the Houses of Parliament. He and his conspirators stored kegs of gunpowder under the building. The intention was to blow up Parliament and kill King James I. But the night before, an informant led the authorities to the gunpowder, and the conspirators were arrested, then sentenced to death.

Execution for this crime (treason) was especially gruesome: the guilty were hung, drawn and quartered. Unlike his conspirators, Guy Fawkes actually escaped this fate on the day of his execution – he jumped from the scaffold, broke his neck then died.

Ever since that day, 5th November has been celebrated as Guy Fawkes' Day, or Bonfire Night. Effigies are burnt in giant bonfires across England and fireworks are a key part of the fun. Despite its gruesome origins, Bonfire Night is a beloved annual festival, filled with bright colours, sounds, smells and a feeling of

community. Obviously, this is a lot of sensory information and people on the autistic spectrum can find Bonfire Night challenging. But that doesn't mean they can't join in. Actually, there are a number of ways to mitigate sensory overload, so that no child or young adult need be excluded.

Planning is key – preparing your child will help them know what to expect. This may include showing them videos of previous Bonfire Nights, taking them to friends' smaller celebrations earlier in the week. If your child is sensitive to noise, earphones may help so they can listen to soothing music while enjoying watching. Maybe the best way to manage a situation like this is have your own Bonfire Night - that way, you control the action and ensure your child is safe.

Here's a link to some practical advice about Bonfire Night and autism:

<https://www.priorychildrensservices.co.uk/news-blogs/part-2-bonfire-night-an-autism-guide/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/50173040>



The Bridge SEN School runs an **ASD Activity Club** on **Saturdays**, 10am to 4pm. 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@thebridgeschool.co.uk or Tel: 02077038587

Our Activities Centre

For the last two weeks we have focussed on the use of our visual schedules, using them to let our learners understand what is prepared for them each day. This method helps reduce the anxiety many autistic learners feel about their day and helps them to have a clearer idea of what to expect. We are also using similar methods to help them prepare for unexpected changes. As well as this we have helped the learners maintain their safety when out in the community with the new covid 19 restrictions in place.



- **Geovanessa Wedderburn Activity coordinator**

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.

Remembrance Day

In Autumn 1918 after 4 years of devastating war, Germany was on the verge of economic and social collapse. All hopes that Germany could win the war were lost. The Allies began the offensive on the Western Front. Facing total defeat, the German government were willing to accept the severe conditions proposed by the Allies, who forced Germany to surrender. A document was signed, and the Armistice came into effect on 11th November 1918, at 11am. Despite the arrival of peace, soldiers were still dying, and over 3,000 men were killed on the final day of the war alone.

Nowadays, 11th November is a day of national remembrance for those who lost their lives in the First World War. The symbol of this day is the Flanders Poppy, the flower which began to grow back in the earth that had once been the battleground of the trenches.

In 1921 the British Legion adopted the poppy as a symbol of remembrance and hope and is worn every year around the time of Remembrance Day. In recent years, however, the poppy has

become controversial, with figures as diverse as football players and politicians refusing to wear it, arguing that it has become a symbol not of hope, but of unjust British military interventionism.

But whether you'll be wearing a poppy yourself or not, it is clear that this year's Remembrance Day will not be going ahead as usual. Instead, due to Covid, a hybrid event will be broadcast online from the Chamber at City Hall. Details are here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/events/2020-11-06/remembrance-day-2020>

It can be a rewarding experience for autistic and learning disabled learners to experience Remembrance Day and have some historical understanding of the country they live in. Here are some [creative ideas](http://www.teachingautism.co.uk) from www.teachingautism.co.uk to help learners become aware at home.



THE BRIDGE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

EDUCATION

REMEMBRANCE DAY – Wednesday 11th November 2020

END OF TERM – 18th December 2020

Please visit our website: www.thebridge-school.co.uk for full Academic Year 2020/2021 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.

- Social Distancing measures are in place
 - Regularly handwashing is mandatory
 - Tracing apps are in place
 - Face masks are worn throughout classes
- Our Full Policy is available on our Website**



The current pandemic is negatively affecting almost everyone and the families of autistic people are no exception. Many are reporting the struggle of having to take time off work and coping with feelings of isolation and loneliness. To help, five leading autism organisations have teamed up to launch the Left Stranded campaign that aims to provide to support autistic individuals and their families and addressing existing inequalities in support services. Learn more [here](#).

Drawings/Pictures of the month



OPENING TIMES AT LIRAL VEGET COLLEGE LONDON

Liral Veget College is the sister company of Right Support Management Limited, 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 WEEK

'Reacting in anger or annoyance will not advance one's ability to persuade.'

– The late Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Court Justice, reminding us that patience is the key to education and communication.