

Our School

Fortnightly News: 12th November 2021

Welcome to The Bridge SEN School Newsletter

Greetings to you all. Today is the final day of COP26, the official United Nations' climate summit. Over the past two weeks delegates from around the world have debated the most pressing issue of our time: the future of our planet. While the negotiations have been predictably Business As Usual, we would be wrong to lose hope. We owe to our children a better, brighter world than the one we inhabit. Government inaction is contrasted sharply with the efforts of young climate activists who are speaking truth to power both inside and outside COP. These people are an inspiration. Let us not forget that perhaps the most well-known, Greta Thunberg, is herself an autistic person. A passionate and eloquent speaker, she is a shining example of what can be accomplished. Let us be inspired by her and others like her as we move forward on the road to justice and peace. **-Edith Eneanya-Bonito – Principal**



Educational

This week the learners are doing activities to explore the concept of time by recognising the changes in the times of the year and special events. They are exploring significant events and how they can make us feel differently. This allows them to explore and identify emotions and learn strategies for dealing with when they are uncomfortable. This also allows them to consider other's feelings and be more empathetic.

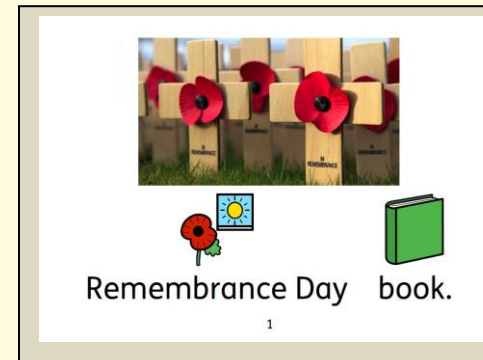
NEW VOLUNTEER SPORTS TEACHER

This week the Bridge SEN School has welcomed a new volunteer member of staff. Malachai MacNamara is a young man with autism who will be providing weekly sporting activities for the student body at the school.

From this week he has become a regular volunteer for the school providing both engaging sporting activities for the student body and a positive role model for the younger learners. Malachai has aspirations to become a full time sport's coach and we hope his time at the Bridge SEN School will help him out on his road to achieving this.

The Bridge SEN School to Provide Home Tuition from this Term

School can be particularly challenging for children and young people on the autism spectrum. Identifying the 'right' learning environment for these students can be equally complicated. [Satellite classes](#) often allow young people the opportunity to study in an autism friendly environment to prepare for mainstream inclusion, and home tuition allow those who struggle in more conventional settings to still have access to educational opportunities. From this term the Bridge SEN School has started providing home tuition lessons allowing young people unable to travel to the school to still receive the same care and support that their peers receive.



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@thebridge-school.co.uk or Tel: 02077038587

Activities & Advice

Remembrance Day

This month is the 103rd anniversary of the end of the 1st world war. On the streets many people are wearing poppies and there are ceremonies occurring on the TV and around the towns. This is a solemn time of year when we remember those that made a great sacrifice for their country many years ago. However, explaining such a huge abstract concepts such as war, peace and sacrifice to young people with autism can be daunting and challenging, not to mention the additional problem of the concept of the past. Comprehending something that occurred a hundred years ago can be very difficult for many people with autism who struggle with the concept of time. It can help to find a familiar concept that the person can relate to in order to help them understand and to start asking questions. [This father](#) used his son's familiarity with Super Mario Bros to help his son start to understand.

Even if many young people struggle with the final concept, the visual image of the poppy and the strong central message of thanking others for their sacrifice are positive things to focus on. There are many artistic possibilities available from making your own poppies to designing posters of thanks or writing letters of thanks to soldiers that can be explored.

Additionally, as Remembrance Day is a community event celebrated by the whole country, it can create a sense of belonging and participation for students and enable them to show their thanks and support.

Please check out these websites that have some fun and practical ideas and resources for exploring Remembrance Day:

[Artistic activities](#)

[Inclusive SEN activities](#)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meal	Pancetta and cavolo nero with penne	Sausage quinoa with aubergine and peppers.	Pancetta with fresh tomatoes and rigatoni	Quinoa with broccoli and fresh herbs	Sausages and mashed parmesan potato.
Vegetables	Fresh Salad	Fresh Salad	Fresh Salad	Fresh Salad	Roasted onions and broccoli.
Desert	Orange, almond and polenta cake	Fruit with Greek yoghurt	Fruit with Greek yoghurt	Fruit with Greek yoghurt	Chocolate fudge cake

DINOSAUR

BBC Three has produced a short pilot called *Dinosaur*. It follows, Nina, an undiagnosed woman with autism (played by the excellent Ashley Storrie) who steps out of her comfort zone into the strange world of dating in order to find someone to come to her sister's wedding. The 22-minute comedy is written by Elizabeth McGovern and Matilda Curtis, and produced by Two Brothers Pictures who created the BBC's *Fleabag*. The short film is a promising concept; a compassionate examination of those with autism, allowing us to laugh with Nina rather than at her. With any luck the BBC will commission a full series allowing us to see more of Nina. Until then, please see the full short film [here](#).

Our Activities Centre

This week in the activity centre the clients are exploring more of the community. They are visiting different sites that provide not only physical and sensory stimulation but also allow them to practice life skills such as handling money, transitioning between locations and interacting with others.

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

- End of term 17th December
- Beginning of New Academic Term 3rd January

Please visit our website: www.thebridge-school.co.uk for full Academic Year 2021/2022 Calendar)

ACTIVITY CENTRE

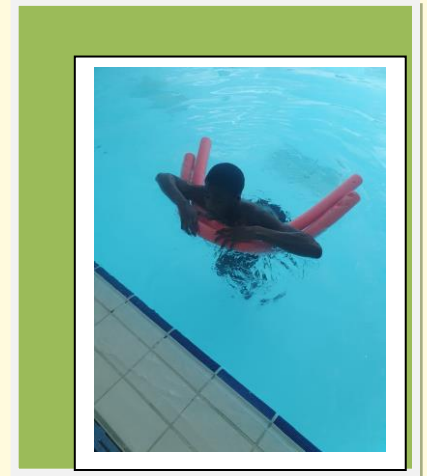
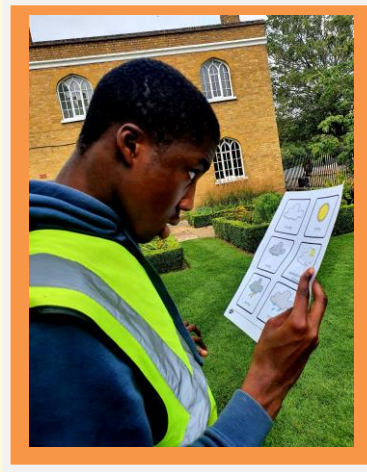
Our activity centre in Thornton Heath is open throughout the year, Except on Bank Holidays.

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

“Just imagine how you felt when you did something really anxiety provoking such as your first public speaking engagement...Now just imagine if you felt that way most of the time for no reason.”

– Temple Grandin