

Our School

Fortnightly News: 9th February 2024

Welcome to The Bridge SEN School Newsletter

As we pause for the half-term break and also in the spirit of Valentines Day, I want to express my gratitude and admiration to each and every one of you. Let's also take a moment to celebrate the love and dedication that binds our school community together. Whether it's love for learning, support from parents, hard work from staff, or guidance from governors, it's this love that makes our school a special place. Let's take this opportunity to rest, recharge, and reflect on our achievements so far and return with renewed energy and enthusiasm. Wishing you all a joyful break filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments.

-Edith Eneanya-Bonito – Principal



Educational

The learners have been engaged with lot of fun filled sensory activities and educational activities like shopping, colouring, cooking skills, exploration of collage, swimming, bowling, cycling, fine motor skills and lot more. The learners also made decoration for the Chinese New Year, which they celebrated by cooking some Chinese delicacies.

Chinese New Year Celebration

This Saturday the Year of the Dragon begins according to the ancient lunisolar calendar.

The Chinese New Year festivities provided our learners with a delightful chance to partake in sensory-rich experiences, cultural education, and social bonding.

They relished in dishes like chicken chow Mein noodles and fried rice, clearly enjoying the celebration.

Additionally, they actively participated in crafting decorations for their classrooms and doors, spreading awareness about this special occasion through art. To practice their fine motor skills, some learners have been attempting to write the characters for 'autism' in simplified Chinese:

自闭症

New Therapeutic Puppet Aids in Tele-Delivered Autism Therapy

Amidst the transformation of therapy due to the pandemic and telehealth options, a unique approach has emerged: PeerBOTS, a telehealth app developed by Fine Art Miracles and the Autism Science Foundation.

This innovative tool utilizes a two-foot-tall stuffed toy with a digital animated face to engage children with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) during therapy sessions. Controlled remotely by therapists, PeerBOTS functions as a friendly digital puppet, aiding in communication and social skill development.

With its open-source availability and proven potential, PeerBOTS stands as a promising resource for therapists and families seeking effective tele-delivered therapy for children with ASDs.

To read more: [Here](#)

Source: Autism Spectrum News.



Activities & Advice

Tips for Making Valentine's Day Special for Your Autistic Child

As store shelves burst with pink and red, anticipation and apprehension fill the air as Valentine's Day approaches. This day, with its mix of joy and complexity, can pose challenges for many, including our autistic loved ones. Here are some strategies that could help:

Prepare: Anticipate potential challenges your child may face and equip them with necessary skills in advance. Whether it's practicing valentine exchanges or discussing dating etiquette, preparation is key to ensuring a smoother experience.

Accommodate: Recognize that some challenges cannot be solved with skill-building alone. Explore creative accommodations to enhance your child's enjoyment of the day. Whether it's arranging special treats for dietary restrictions or opting out of traditional activities, prioritize their comfort and happiness.

Love: Valentine's Day is an opportunity to express love and affection. Show your child how much you, whether it's through thoughtful gifts, quality time, or incorporating their interests into plans, prioritize their happiness and well-being.

Connection: For autistic children, Valentine's Day can bring pressure and uncertainty about social acceptance. Reassure them of your unconditional love and acceptance, emphasizing the value of their unique connections.

Self-care: Lastly, remember to show yourself some love. Parenting is demanding, and you deserve recognition for your efforts. You play a vital role in your child's life, and this Valentine's Day, celebrate your dedication and love for them by prioritizing your own well-being. May your Valentine's Day be filled with love and cherished moments.

To read more: [Here](#)

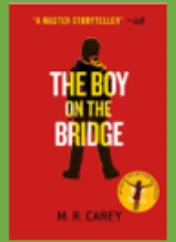
Source: Sparks

Stephen Greaves from *The Boy on the Bridge*

In this sequel to Mike Carey's *The Girl with all the Gifts*, the central character is a young man who is a scientific genius that helps humanity defend itself against the encroaching "hungries" yet is treated with suspicion and occasional contempt by the other characters.

Although he is never described as having autism, Greaves is similar in many ways to Christopher Boone in Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. He struggles to communicate, approaches everything with a scientific methodical approach and is uncomfortable with physical contact, uncertainty and untrue statements.

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



“Being Autistic is like when a Feather Falls from the Sky. It is something Special and Beautiful.”

Millie, a member of the England Athletics Club, shares her journey of self-discovery and the power of exercise in building confidence.

Despite struggling with communication as a child and receiving an autism diagnosis at 13, Millie found solace and strength in running. Through her passion, she organized fitness classes, embracing virtual sessions to accommodate those uncomfortable with crowded environments. Running not only improved her physical health but also provided a platform for mindfulness and confidence-building.

Millie's story highlights the uniqueness and beauty of being autistic, showcasing resilience and a unique perspective on the world.

To read more: [Here](#)

Source: National Autistic Society.

New Teacher at The Bridge SEN School

This coming half term, the school is excited to welcome an addition to our team. Matilda will be joining the teaching team to help prepare our learners for their studies and life beyond the school. We look forward to welcoming her to the school and are excited for the support she will bring.



Our Activities Centre

This fortnight, the clients have been engaged with lot of activities both indoors and outdoors like colouring, painting, puzzles, cooking, baking, board games cycling, yoga, visiting the museum and bus rides. The clients seem to be having lots of fun.

-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

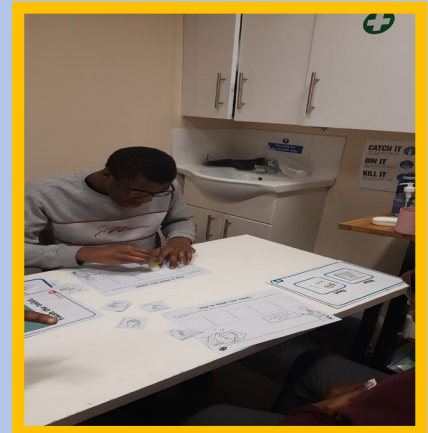
- Half Term Break: 12th – 16th February 2024
- End of Term: 28th March 2024

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

ACTIVITY CENTRE

Our activity centre in Foulsham Road is open throughout the year,

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 operates. 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 illiterate of the future will not be the person who cannot read. It will be the person who does not know how to learn."

- Alvin Toffler-