



12/20/2024

# NEWSLETTER

December 2024/2025 Academic  
Year

<https://thebridge-school.co.uk/>

## Our School

Fortnightly News: 20<sup>TH</sup> Dec. 2024

### Welcome to The Bridge SEN School Newsletter

As we close this year, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our staff, parents, governors, and learners for your support and contributions. You have all been vital to our success. This year has been one of growth and collaboration, and I am excited about what the future holds. Let us carry forward the spirit of excellence and inclusivity as we face new opportunities and challenges.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May the holiday season bring joy and renewal. Here's to a bright year ahead.

-Edith Eneanya-Bonito – Principal



## Educational

*Our learners have been actively engaged in a variety of educational activities, including outdoor and indoor. They have shown a proactive attitude and remarkable progress throughout these activities. With the festive season upon us, the learners are excited and fully aware of the upcoming Christmas celebration. They have been creating crafts and decorations, which not only add to the festive spirit but also serve as valuable sensory exploration experiences. Their happiness is evident, and they are eagerly looking forward to their party.*

### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FOR LEARNERS AND STAFF

The school organized a joyful Christmas party for the learners, where they were dressed in their festive Christmas jumpers, adding to the colourful and beautiful atmosphere. It was a fun-filled day because the learners enjoyed plenty of snacks, food, and drinks, spreading festive cheer, and received gifts that made their faces light up with happiness.

We wish them a restful and peaceful Christmas break.

In addition, the school held an end-of-year party for the staff, celebrating their hard work and contributions throughout the year. The staff had a wonderful time, indulging in lots of food and drinks, exchanging gifts through Secret Santa, and receiving vouchers as gifts. Their joy and gratitude were evident as they enjoyed the celebration and took many pictures.

We wish them a restful and peaceful Christmas break and look forward to seeing them revived and refreshed in the new year.

### UPDATE ON THE NEW SCHOOL

We are excited to inform you that The Bridge SEN School will be moving to a new location in Thornton Heath towards the end of January 2025, pending final approval from Ofsted. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this transition may cause and are committed to keeping you informed every step of the way. Your patience and understanding as we finalize the move are greatly appreciated.

We are truly grateful for your continued support and cooperation throughout this year. We look forward to welcoming all our wonderful students back in the new year and embarking on this exciting new chapter together.



# Activities & Advice

## Autism and Christmas: Creating an Enjoyable Environment

Christmas, while joyful for many, can be overwhelming for autistic individuals due to sensory overload and disruptions to routine. Autistic children may experience stress from stimuli like bright lights, loud music, strong smells, unexpected changes, and social gatherings. To support them, parents/guardians can plan and adapt the environment to minimize triggers, maintain routines, and create calm spaces.

### Key Strategies for Parents/Guardians:

1. **Understand Needs:** Recognize stressors and sensory sensitivities (e.g., sounds, lights, smells).
2. **Plan Ahead:** Visualize events, schedule breaks, and prepare the child for any changes.
3. **Adapt Environment:** Limit intense stimuli (e.g., scented candles, flashing lights) and accommodate stimming or sensory aids.
4. **Communicate with Relatives:** Share the child's preferences (e.g., food, gift expectations) and request adjustments in social settings.
5. **Focus on the Child's Comfort:** Prioritize their rituals, involve them in decisions (e.g., choosing gifts), and create quiet, Christmas-free spaces if needed.

The essence of Christmas peace, thoughtfulness, and small gatherings can be autism-friendly. With mindful planning and understanding, the season can be an enjoyable experience for both autistic children and their families.

Source: Autism Spectrum News

Our regular feature, where we examine fictional representations of autistic people.



## The Quiet Clarity

**Elliot, an autistic man, found comfort in his routines, like sketching patterns in the park from his favourite café seat. One rainy day, Cara, a stranger, asked to sit at his table. Though hesitant, he allowed it.**

**Intrigued by his sketches, Cara asked about them. Elliot explained his fascination with patterns the way trees leaned, benches were spaced, and people moved. Cara listened without pressuring him to speak more.**

**As she left, she thanked him and said she'd look for patterns too. For the first time in a while, Elliot felt at ease, realizing the world could offer quiet connections.**

## Early Support Pilot Program

Kenton Mee, a parent whose son faced challenges with neurodivergent needs, is now advocating for early support for children awaiting formal diagnoses for conditions like autism and ADHD. Mee is the CEO of the North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together group, collaborating with health providers, charities, and schools on a six-month pilot program in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, and North Somerset.

The initiative uses a new profiling tool to identify and address children's needs without requiring a formal diagnosis. Supported by Sirona Care & Health, the program operates in 42 primary and secondary schools and aims to provide early intervention strategies. For example, at Herons' Moor Academy, the tool helped a child improve their sleep using a mindfulness app, demonstrating early positive impacts.

Donna Harris, the school's assistant principal, praised the ability to engage professionals before a diagnosis and hopes the program extends beyond March. The pilot's results will be evaluated by local health providers to determine its long-term effectiveness. Mee believes this approach could significantly benefit children, families, and communities by enabling better access to education and support systems.

To read more: [Here](#)

Source: BBC News.

# Our Activities Centre

The learners have participated in a variety of sensory activities, such as taking bus rides, bowling, cycling, and visiting the park. They have also enjoyed indoor activities like creating Christmas decorations, and attending the school's Christmas party.

-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](mailto:admin@thebridge-school.co.uk) or Tel: 02077038587

## THE BRIDGE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

### EDUCATION

- End of Term: 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024
- Inset Days: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025
- Term Begins: 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Please visit our website: [www.thebridge-school.co.uk](http://www.thebridge-school.co.uk) for full Academic Year 2024/2025 Calendar)

### ACTIVITY CENTRE

Our activity centre in Foulsham Road is open throughout the year, Except on Bank Holidays.

## 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

*"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out."*

— Robert Collier