



Clarity Independent School

12th November 2021

Dear parents and care-givers,

News update

I hope you have had a wonderful half term break.

We have been really enjoying having the children back in school after half term and have been enjoying working with them again.

The children did incredibly well on their trips this week and it seemed to be enjoyed by all attending. We do intend to do more trips and activities, now that restrictions are easing and looking to stay that way.

I wanted to update you about our staff team, following on from Mrs Ailara's email sent on the Friday when we broke up from school. Sadly, the SEN Teaching Assistant we recruited on Thursday 21st October 2021 was no longer able to continue with her application, so will not be joining us next week after all. However, we are still having applicants contacting us to work here, and will be interviewing again as soon as we have appropriate potential applicants. It is really important that we keep to the same existing high standards of staff in our team at Clarity, so that the children receive the best support we can offer, but this takes time to attract and find the right people, and we do appreciate and thank you for your patience and your standing with us in this.

Although staff numbers are currently lower than we would wish, I want to reassure you that we do have sufficient staff to cover the roles here, but we usually like to be over staffed so that we can have lots of supervision and offer more individualisation in learning and choice than would be usual in our type of school. Therefore, we will continue to push recruitment until we have the numbers of staff we would prefer. I will keep you updated with this as things unfold.

I would like to introduce some 'special interest' days coming up in school, which we have been busy planning towards the end of last year, to make sure we had things booked in ready for this year.

Sadly, the Cartoon Manga workshop arranged for October was cancelled last minute due to illness, but we are in contact with the artist and he has promised to let us know as soon as he is well enough to come and do our Cartoon drawing masterclass. We will keep you informed about this.



Approved Assessor for
Disabled Students'
Allowance



Guild Member
Assessment Practising
Certificate holder



INPP
Practitioner



AMBDA Status

We are looking forward to our Christmas Pantomime trip on 15th December with the children in the Chelmsford Theatre. We will be sending more information about this nearer the time.

We are also arranging some parents events, which we will be providing more information about as soon as we can when Jenny is back (she has been poorly for a while.) These will include some time to meet together face to face and will be coffee-and-cake style parent information afternoons, each with a focused information sharing session on some of the rationale behind therapeutic interventions that we use across our school, so that you have more information about how they work and why we use them. You can join us in implementing these too if you wish, in the support you provide for your children at home. There will also be opportunities to see your child's work, and their classrooms, and meet their teachers face to face now that we are leaving the restrictions of the pandemic behind us. We will also try to have online methods of joining these events, so that parents who may not be able to get here can still take part.

We have been arranging the following to start with and will send confirmed details as we have them:

- 'Therapeutic approach to behaviour and relationship building' with Essex Steps (ESSET Trust)

This will be a focused intervention delivery of different strategies in building positive behaviour, which builds relationships between pupils, staff and can also be very useful at home or elsewhere. There will be time for questions and answers too. This approach is at the heart of our behaviour policy.

- E-Safety 'The Two Johns' parent information and advice session

This will include the most up to date information about the latest online trends and the risks posed as well as how to keep your child safe on the internet at home. This parent event will follow on from staff and pupil training during the day about safe school internet use. There will be time for questions and answers as well.

We are hoping (not finalised yet) to also have another focus event 'Restorative Justice, what it is and why we use it in school'.

We will also be looking for ideas of other events we can arrange to allow our school community to begin to have face to face contact again after this pandemic, so if you have any suggestions of what you would find useful and interesting, please let me know.

I wish you all a very pleasant rest of the week and weekend,

Yours sincerely,



Debbie Hanson, Head Teacher and Director
BSc (Hons), QTS, PG Dip (Dyslexia and Literacy), AMBDA, APC
Member of the Dyslexia Guild
Associate Member of SASC (SpLD Assessment Standards Committee)