



Clarity Independent School

21st July 2023

Head Teacher's Newsletter Summer Term 2023

Dear parents / care-givers,

What a fantastic end to the term we have had! From water play to London Science Museum visits, Maldon Park to Police Headquarter visits, including police car sirens, police dogs, drones, body armour vests, handcuffs and firearms!

I can honestly say I could not have been prouder of the children this term. They have represented the school at these different events fantastically, with such confidence, exemplary behaviour and support for each other and the staff, we could not have asked for more. They have also had such fun!

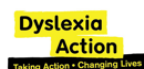
Several children have surpassed milestones in their own personal achievements; being able to travel across London on the underground trains, being in a noisy and busy place and being able to apply their strategies to stay calm, collected and safe. Some children have become more accustomed to being around dogs whilst visiting the police Headquarters, or around items which could have previously triggered their anxiety, and have been able to remain composed. Others have conversed politely and / or shaken hands with professionals they have not met before, have asked very sensible questions to learn something new and have been able to listen to responses and join these to further conversation. Others, again, have contained their excitement and been able to be sensible and safe around demonstrations of police weapons, vehicles and sirens, and more specialized kitchen equipment in cookery. Social friendships have deepened between the children, and stronger bonds between children and staff. We are so proud of the children in all the ways they are developing and progressing, in addition to their academic learning.

Children's Placements

I have been able to secure trusting relationships with 2 other new Local Education Authorities and we have welcomed the first of our new pupils into the school 3 weeks ago, a boy in year 10. In September, we will welcome four more children to start their journey at Clarity; two girls into year 9 and 10, a boy into year 11 and a second boy into year 7. I am still in consultation over the remaining 3 places with the expectation that all our places will be full again by October half term. We will keep you informed about this progress. Your keyworker has already been in touch to let you know about our new starters in September and to ask for your permission to include information about your children in a social story which we will send to the new children joining us, so that they can get prepared for the new term and



Approved Assessments for
Disabled Students'
Allowance



Guild Member
Assessment Practising
Certificate Holder



INPP
Practitioner



AMBDA Status

know who their new friends might be. This social story will also be on our website (with your children's photo and details removed) so you can view it, although I will be sending it out to you to view with your children over the holidays to keep conversation going and give opportunities to put any anxieties at bay before returning to school on Friday 8th September.

Uniform

Please see our uniform policy on our website for any reminders of what the children may need during their usual week at Clarity. Please note, the children have PE on Friday afternoons down on the village sports field, but we do *not* usually ask them to change into their PE kits, as they go from here straight home for the weekend, where their uniform can be washed in time for the new week. Therefore, currently, we do not ask for PE kits to be brought in to school, but we will let you know if this changes. Also, a gentle reminder about pierced ears, any earrings / studs will need to be removed for PE lessons (and swimming in January); therefore, if you are thinking of your child getting their ears pierced over the summer holidays, please do so in good time for them being able to be removed safely and independently in the new term. Similarly, if your child is considering dying their hair, thank you for ensuring the colour washes out before returning in September.

Excellent Work

We have been so proud of our older children who have sit their Entry Level and Functional Skills Exams in June. We are extremely excited to hear their results, which will be published to the school on Thursday 24th August! I will be in touch with the relevant parents on that day to share the good news! We are, however, proud of all the children and the remarkable progress they continue to make each day. Well-done everybody!

I have put together some lovely photos of the children's adventures and some of their wonderful work for your enjoyment, on a separate document, which I will upload onto the website for you to view (they are too memory-hungry to send by email attached to this newsletter).

<https://www.clarity.essex.sch.uk/newsletters>

I wish you all a very happy (hopefully sunny!) summer holiday and look forward to seeing the children back on Friday 8th September.

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)

NPQH in progress