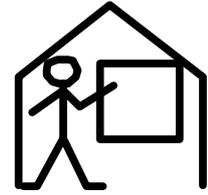


Friday 21st September



Dear Parents and Carers



Thank you to everyone who participated in Jeans for Genes day by sending their child in jeans today, it is very strange seeing pupils and staff in jeans (not usually allowed for staff) but it is for a very good cause. We will let you know how much we have raised next week.

New Pupils

We have had more new pupils start this week across school, all seem to be settling in well and beginning to understand the way our school works, which is very different to lots of other schools! It is great to see happy smiling faces. So welcome to all of our new friends, here are just a few of them.



Work Across School

It has been a very busy week as it usually is in school, we have been working hard learning about India, which is our topic this term. We are also focusing on outdoor learning, this is different to Forest School. We have groups going to Basil's Barn (Sharon's Farm) learning to care for animals and for some being able to ride on a horse. For some of our pupils work is about being curious about our environment or responding to it.





Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festivals at St Mary's church are only a few weeks away. For our new parents it is one of the highlights of the year, when class groups walk through the orchard to the church, where we sing our favourite harvest songs, and bring produce to give to the Salvation Army. We ask parents to send donations of packets of food, tins, jars, pasta, rice or whatever foods you would like to send in. Class groups then decorate the boxes to put the food in and then our Transitions students take the boxes to the Salvation Army for them to distribute to families. As in previous years we will be holding two Harvest Festivals.

Wednesday 10th October the following groups will be going to the church for Harvest - Wrens, Doves, Wavendon, Woburn, Wolverton, Mercedes, Jaguar, Stewart, Furzton, Willen and Arrows.

Thursday 11th October the following groups will be going - Pirates, Dragons, Whaddon, Woughton, Brabham, Linford, Aston Martin, Caldecotte, Red Bull and Transitions.



Focus of the Week - Therapies

Physiotherapy At The Redway School

At the Redway School, the physiotherapy team is responsible for providing assessment, treatment and management of physical difficulties the pupils may have. We look at:

- Pupil's abilities and the way they move, their 'gross motor function'
- Muscle and joint ranges of movement, liaising with the orthopaedic team to limit musculo-skeletal problems
- Positioning to provide postural care throughout the school day
- Equipment to assist with maintenance of ranges of movement, positioning and mobility, like splints, gaiters, wedges, standing frames, walkers and gait trainers.

The Redway physiotherapy team works with the children, school staff, families and other health professionals to maximise each student's physical potential.

The team works with children on a one-to-one basis as well as making recommendations to school staff and families on how to integrate therapy into the school curriculum or family schedule. Many of the pupils are provided with an exercise and positioning programme for both home and school.

Sensory Integration Therapy at the Redway School

Sensory integration therapy was introduced to the Redway School in 2011 to provide new learning opportunities for its students. The service is led by an advanced sensory integration practitioner, working in close conjunction with class staff.

Hydrotherapy at the Redway School

Hydrotherapy sessions at the Redway School are planned and delivered by members of the physiotherapy team working in conjunction with class-based staff. Each pupil is individually assessed and then encouraged to work towards carefully graded goals and challenges in the water using their own pool programme. The structure and format of sessions varies depending on the age and level of functional ability of pupils within the group.

Meet the Sensory Impairment Support Team

We are a team of teachers and STA's who work across school supporting children and young people who have visual and hearing impairments. We work alongside staff and parents and have close links with the hospitals and clinics that your child may attend.

This is what we do

- Assess how well children can see and hear and offer suggestions on how to encourage maximum use of available sight and hearing
- Encourage the wearing of glasses and hearing aids

- Test hearing aids and train staff how to carry out daily checks
- Offer staff and parents advice and support on the best materials, approaches and activities for children with sensory impairments
- Early intervention, helping to promote visual and hearing development
- Develop strategies to support children (and their families) with conditions where vision and hearing are likely to deteriorate over time
- Individual sessions in the classroom and dark room offering visual stimulation
- Provide training to all staff on awareness of sensory Impairments and how they affect learning and development. We offer suggestions on approaches and strategies in order to ensure that children have the best possible opportunities to access all areas of life both at home and at school
- Offer story massage sessions (individually and in groups) to help promote the development of body awareness and positive touch

Please do get in touch if you want to have a chat about your child

Email: ruth.jay@theredway.net

Ruth Jay, Specialist Teacher for Multi-Sensory Impairment
 Jenny Berry, Teacher (training for MSI additional qualification)
 Becki Campbell and Lisa Hollands, Specialist Teaching Assistants

Speech and Language Team

Communication is central to all learning and is vital for children with learning difficulties. At The Redway School this fact is respected and as such communication development is highly valued.

The Communication Team consist of two Speech and Language Therapists, and two Speech and Language Therapy Assistants. Families, classroom staff and the Communication Team all share responsibility in enabling a child to achieve the best possible communication in all situations.

Meaningful communication takes place throughout the day, so we work closely with the students and the teaching staff in their class environments.

- We work alongside all classroom based staff to support the child's communication goals in the classroom
- We help to establish and maintain 'communication friendly' environments within the school
- We provide individual sessions for students where appropriate
- We provide training to staff, parents and carers in all aspects of communication
- We support and run groups where appropriate
- We assess advice and support children who have eating and swallowing difficulties
- We provide training for staff, parents/carers to support feeding difficulties

The Redway School believes in Total Communication meaning pupils are encouraged to use every available form of communication. This may include informal methods such as facial expression, body language, gestures and vocalisations, together with more formal communicative methods such as words, signs, symbols and speech output devices.

Most children's communication needs are met within the school environment. Some children may need specific input from the communication team; this may include learning to use alternative and augmentative communication systems.

Specialist communication systems available to our children:

For those children whose cognitive skills far exceed that of their expressive language skills, a high-tech communication device may be required. The school has access to specialist external agencies, who can assess, advise and supply children with dedicated high-tech communication aids. A range of high-tech communication equipment is available to our children including: our eye gaze machine, I pads and communication vocabulary packages and a variety of switches with switch accessible software.

Hello from our new Speech and Language Therapist

I wanted to introduce myself to you as the new Speech and Language Therapist with a specialism in supporting children and young people with autism.

My name is Hayley and I will be working in school on Monday and Wednesday each week and mainly working with the following classes:

- Pirates
- Wavendon
- Whaddon
- Woburn
- Wolverton
- Woughton
- Aston Martin
- Brabham

I have been working as a Speech and Language Therapist for the last 12 years and have recently completed a Masters in Education for Special Educational Needs, specific to autism.

I also direct a service called Let's Talk Autism which focuses on providing specialist support for children, young people and their families.

My journey with special educational needs and communication has taken me through working for the NHS to working abroad and now finds me directing my own company.

I believe in autism as a difference and not a disorder. I strongly value the principle of neuro-diversity or seeing children and young people as individuals with strengths that should be developed and encouraged.

I am trained in the use of the SCERTS assessment framework and am passionate about providing interventions which enable students with autism to successfully communicate and regulate to the world around them.

Most importantly, I am the sibling of a young man with severe learning disability associated with a syndrome called Cornelia de Lange. Matthew has been my inspiration to work closely with children with special educational needs and their families. At home I like to bake cakes, read books and horse ride. I am currently training my new puppy to be able to work with me in therapy! He is called Hendrix and is a very cheeky dog who is keeping me very busy.

I really look forward to meeting and speaking with you all very soon and would like to wish you all a fantastic year ahead! You can email me at hayley.best@theredway.net



On Friday 28th September The Transitions Café will be hosting a Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan. Please come along and support the Café and this worthy cause, we will be having a raffle to raise extra funds for this fantastic charity, if you would like to donate anything, cakes or raffle prizes please send them in on Friday morning, we look forward to seeing you all.

Have a good weekend
Rachel

