



28TH JANUARY 2022

NEWSLETTER

office@linkprim.org.uk
office@linksec.org.uk

020 8688 5239
020 8688 7691

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wednesday, 2nd February 2022
Parent Information and Coffee Morning - Understanding Myself and Others

Due to our current covid guidelines, this session will be cancelled and re-organised at a later date.

This session is open to all parents across both schools.

14th - 18th February 2022
SPRING HALF TERM - No School

Friday, 1st April 2022
END OF TERM - EARLY CLOSURE FOR PUPILS

4th April - 18th April 2022
SPRING HOLIDAY

Tuesday, 19th April 2022
INSET DAY - staff only

Wednesday, 20th April 2022
SUMMER TERM COMMENCES

27th - 3rd June 2022
SUMMER HALF TERM (incorporating Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum

For those of you who celebrated Burns Night earlier this week, we hope you have a wonderful time and enjoyed your festivities.

Burns Night celebrates the famous Scottish poet, Robbie Burns and started in 1801 with five of his friends marking the 5th anniversary of his death.

Nowadays Burns Night is celebrated across Scotland and in many other parts of the world, bringing alive his poetry and works every year.

Auld Lang Syne - the song we all sing the new year in with, is probably his most well known piece.

Poetry, with the frequency of rhyme is a perfect way to develop phonemic awareness - the ability to hear and manipulate sounds in language.

Reading poetry and singing nursery rhymes helps children with their voice, pitch, volume and inflection. Whilst these are mainly functions of speech, they're also incredibly important when learning to read, as speech patterns can also give children cues to the words on a page.

"Poetry is the rhythmical creation of beauty in words" - Edgar Allan Poe

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL?

This week Helen Evans, one of our Speech and Language Therapists explains all about **Intensive Interaction and Interactive Music at the primary school**

Intensive Interaction is an approach that is used with many of our children at the Primary School. It has been developed to support people at the early levels of communication, those with severe, profound and complex learning difficulties and those with autism. Intensive Interaction works on the 'fundamentals' of communication; skills that are vital to a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. For example, being able to understand and use eye contact, facial expression, vocalisations leading to speech, and taking turns in 'conversation'. It supports people to learn to enjoy being with others, to relate to others, to interact and practise communication routines.

When doing Intensive Interaction, the adult works on the basis of following the child's lead and responding to their behaviours. The approach works by progressively developing enjoyable and relaxed interaction sequences between the adult and child. Over time, the

'fundamentals' of communication and rehearsed and practised. Exchanges of communication can sometimes go on for a while as the child and adult are having such a great time!



Alex and Siobhan enjoying intensive interaction together



Raihaan having a great time on the seesaw whilst engaging in Intensive Interaction with Lynda.

Interactive music is an approach used in some classes in the school, which uses many of the same techniques as Intensive Interaction. The approach is also aimed at people with learning difficulties and those with autism

and promotes communication and social interaction at a fundamental level. During Interactive Music however, songs and activities are used to support the development of communication. Our children often engage in Interactive Music as part of a group session. Here in Acorn class, the children are having a great time in Selina's Interactive Music session!



For more information on Intensive Interaction and Interactive Music please speak to the Speech and Language Therapy team.

The following website also has a lot of useful information and videos of Intensive Interaction:

www.intensiveinteraction.org

Acorn Class have been brushing up on their life skills as they learn how to take care of their teeth.



Emma from our OT team was involved too, monitoring fine motor skills and helping to persuade proper grip.



Our child centred approach not only helps our learners focus, it can help develop talents and interests.

Pine Class have been thriving and their love of the arts is fast becoming evident.

Jack, under Judy and Fraser's tuition is becoming a very good pianist. His musical ear is remarkable and we are sure his talent can only flourish.



Pine Class have also been honing their numeracy skills, especially in respect of subtraction. Using a board game is fun and helps Lucas and Leyland to reinforce their skills.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND AND ABOUT?

This weekend is the RSPB's 'Big Garden Bird Watch' and across the country, people will spend an hour birdwatching in their gardens or local open space counting the different species and reporting back to the RSPB

Maple Class are fully prepared, having made some bird feeders that they can hang in their gardens, balconies or in the park.



AND FINALLY

Our thanks to everyone who is sending in their their old crisp and popcorn packets. Lucinda made her first delivery to the Terracycle station at Sydenham High School on Wednesday this week.

Please carry on sending them into school - such an easy way to help save the planet.