



ADDINGTON

NEWSLETTER

Oct 2015

HELLO EVERYONE!!

As this is our first newsletter of the year, I would like to start by saying welcome to all our new families. Term has started well from a school point of view and everyone is settling in to their new classes and routines. One of my favourite parts of every day is meeting and greeting pupils on their way into school. My day mostly starts with lots of smiles which sets me up for the day. The photographer was in last week so I am hoping that he has captured those lovely smiles for you to have in time for Christmas.

We have been fortunate to start our new project with National Grid this term and four of our young people are spending their last year with us, as Interns in a very real work environment. The project has started well and we hope that more companies will get involved in EmployAbility in future years.

Our Young Entrepreneurs have once more opened the "Shuters" cafe in Shute End on Thursdays. The staff there are now very disappointed if the cafe isn't open as they have grown to expect their Thursday cake. It is lovely for me to meet professionals who always comment so positively about the young people, and of-course the cake.

On a similar note, we raised £353.55 for the MacMillan coffee morning so thank you to everyone that was able to join us for coffee and cake.

We are currently in the process of designing a new website, which has been a long time coming. It is almost ready and we hope to go 'live' after half term. When it is up and running I would very much appreciate your feedback.

Please find attached to the newsletter, the term dates for 2015/2016 and 2016/17. We always try to publish term dates early so that you can plan your family holidays ahead. The government are very clear that pupils should be in school during term time and even in our specialist environment we can only authorise absence in very exceptional circumstances. Please respect this and do not plan holidays in term time.

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor and Bethan, the Clerk, will be soon be sending out nomination forms. We really do value our Parent Governor Representatives and I would like you to consider putting yourself forward to join us. We try to keep our meetings focussed and to time, working hard to ensure that the role is not too onerous for anyone. Please feel able to give me a call to discuss further, or if you would like John Prior, our chair, to call you.

I wish you all an enjoyable half term break.

Liz Meek
HEADTEACHER

SPORTS PAGES



Sailability at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre

On 17th September, pupils from key stage 4 classes attended the Sailability day at the Bisham Abbey Sailing School. The pupils learnt how drive a powerboat and sail a boat safely and correctly.



Primary Boccia tournament at Bulmershe Leisure Centre September 2015

Three of our students competed against students from five other local primary schools. Having lost the first two matches, the Addington team then went on to win the next three and finish 2nd in the tournament! Well done to the team who showed great sportsmanship throughout and were delighted with their silver medals.





Football Tournament

On the 1st October, Addington attended an SEN tournament at Reading Football Club training centre.

Two teams were entered, an Amber and a Green team. The Green team came 3th and our Amber team came 4th! It was a great day, with the pupils really enjoying themselves. Clive Soutter was top scorer with 5 goals.

After School Golf Club

This term Golf has been the focus of our after school club and we have been very fortunate to have a pro golfer come and deliver the sessions. We were granted £250 from the Golf Foundation which allowed us the opportunity to acquire the services of Symon, the Golf pro from Sand Martins Golf Club, to come and deliver five sessions at our after school club. One of which being delivered at Sand Martins Golf club, was a fantastic opportunity for our students to see a real golf course and give them a chance to have a go on the driving range at the club.

We have been able to establish a good link now with Sand Martins Golf Club and would encourage any students to attend the Saturday sessions that Symon will be running.

Sand Martins will be delivering another five sessions at an after school club later in the school year and it would be fantastic to have some new faces to share the same experience.

A huge thank you to Symon and Ian for running the sessions and welcoming us to the club.





The Music Page



The start of a new school year is always very exciting in the Music Department. Our theme this term is 'United We Stand' and classes have been exploring how we work together in music, through playing pieces such as 'O Fortuna' and 'Ode to Joy'. 'We are the Champions' is also proving to be a favourite! Our students on the access curriculum have been going on a river journey in their sensory theatre music sessions and some of our younger students have been singing songs about changes.

Our instrumental lessons have all started well, with many students continuing their lessons and some students having the opportunity to try a new instrument. This year we have new cello teacher Tom to welcome onto the team. There is always a waiting list for lessons but if students are interested please let us know as places can often become available over the course of the year. We have a system here of offering free lessons for students to try out an instrument and if they choose to continue these lessons are then privately funded.

Lunch time clubs are underway and accumulating good attendance. Our Afterschool clubs are going well too with Theatre Club with Chris being oversubscribed (again) this year and our Addington School Band who are already starting to rehearse for their first performance of the year in December!

Arts Award

Last year some of our students were the first to complete their Bronze arts award. They worked hard to produce a fantastic portfolio showing research into their inspirational figures, their experiences of the arts and their progress in their art form of choice. The files were sent away for moderation and we are delighted that all students passed.

Well done and congratulations to Thomas Alford and Stuart Waters and Phillip Spriggs.

School Production

Planning is now well under way for the next school production. This year we will be performing 'Oliver!'. Auditions have already begun and we aim to have fully cast the show by mid-November. Rehearsals will then begin ready for the performances in April.

We hope you all enjoy half term!

Rhona, Sean, Jules and Martin

Dates for the diary:

Carol singing at Woodley Age concert -	Monday 1 st December
School Association carol concert -	Monday 14 th December
School production performances -	Tuesday 26 th April and
Thursday 28 th April 2016	
Proms week -	27 th June - 1 st July 2016

Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome back! It has been fantastic meeting old friends and new this half term and it has also been lovely to meet so many of our new parents at the Foundation stage coffee morning in September.

This half term has seen Addington hosting a four part workshop, run by Dr Fiona Knott from the University of Reading. The workshops, concentrating on supporting youngsters with anxiety and Autism, have been the first that Dr Knott has run specifically for pupils in a special school. Not only has it been a fantastic opportunity for some of our parents and staff, but very exciting to be involved in this brilliant work from the start. We hope this leads to more collaborative work with Dr Knott and her team at the Autism centre in the university.

We have also had a well-attended Makaton workshop, run by our SLT team. There will be another, follow on workshop later in the academic year, open to all parents. Please look out for details coming home.

Next term sees the usual excitement of Christmas, as well as more workshops and the Parent Support Christmas coffee morning - I hope to see you there!

Lucy Sayer - Parent Support Adviser

SCHOOL LUNCH PRICE LIST



Primary Pupils.....£1.95 per day
Secondary/FE Pupils.....£2.15 per day

All monies should be paid in advance.

ONLINE PAYMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE please ask for details

Please remember that lunch MUST be paid for every day.

Calvert Trust Trip

After an amazing year of fundraising by the FE Department; 5 students from Justine's Class were able to visit The Calvert Trust in Exmoor. It was an amazing adventure with everyone including the staff having a go at the many activities available. The activities the students participated in were: Canoeing, Horse riding, Archery, Abseiling, Zip wire, a challenge course, a forest walk and creating a camp fire.

The week was a fantastic experience and an opportunity to have access all the adventurous activities. The Calvert Trust staff and school staff worked hard to make it a week to remember for everyone.





Good Behaviour Award Winners



Congratulations to the following Students who achieved good behaviour awards for the 1st half of Autumn Term:

Meerab Kashif. Lucas Weatherly. Mishika Kachhwaha. Aadish Chandramohan.
Kaylee Machado .Melvin John. Maria Sherwill. Joseph Kenneh. Francis Allen.
Nathan Hunter. Alex Green. Tyler Lynn. Lucas Pidgeon. Ellie Meredew
Harry Robottom. Liam Fuller. Kalem Forde. Tom Goldfinch. Hamza Athar.
Kathryn Beecham. Edward Armstrong. Thomas Miller. Cameron Baxter.

Well done everyone...keep up the good behaviour!

Simone Pengraeve
Behaviour Support Teacher

As part of the national initiative and SEAL, our school will once again be taking part in the 'National Anti-Bullying Week' from **Monday 16th – Friday 20th November.**

We would like the whole school to be involved in this week, as it is dealing with such an important issue. The aim of the

week is to **'empower children and young people to Make a Noise about Bullying – whether it is happening to them or to someone else, face to face, or online.**

Throughout the school week classes will be focusing on the theme in ways appropriate to the needs of the pupils in the group and also participating in a whole school activity which is to make a class piece of music to share in a themed assembly. This may be playing along to a piece of music, through to performing a song or rap the class may have composed. These assemblies will be taking place on Thursday 19th November alongside a non-uniform day.

Non-Uniform Day – 'LOUD' clothing

On Thursday 19th November pupils are invited and encouraged to wear their own **'loud'** clothing for the day. We are looking for bright, bold, clashing outfits so we hope you have fun having a clear out in the back of your wardrobes!!

At the end of the day pupils will receive an Anti-Bullying Alliance sticker and a pencil.

**Make a
NOISE
about bullying**



Addington Association

Christmas Fayre - 28th November 1pm - 4pm

Grand Draw - By now you should all have received your grand draw raffle tickets don't forget to return the stubs and payment before the fayre. If you would like more tickets to sell to friends and family, just pop a note in your child's diary and Barbi will make sure you get some.

Donations - We still need your donations of good quality gifts, toys/games for the children's prize tombola, tins/ packets/ jars/ chocolate for the tin tombola and of course bottles for the alcohol tombola.

Family Portrait - There are still spaces available to have your family photograph taken by Tempest Photography. The session costs £50 and in your allotted time Andrew will take as many shots as you wish. A week after the fayre you will be sent a CD with the images that you can then use/ print as you wish. It makes a lovely gift for family.

Why support Addington Association? Every pound we raise goes towards buying new minibuses which the whole school benefits from. I'm sure many of you don't realise the minibuses, despite being covered in logos for the Lord Taverners and the Variety Club, are only partly funded by these organizations. The association has to contribute a substantial amount towards them - the latest bus cost us £25,000. The minibuses are vital to enable our children to access the community and new learning opportunities.

So please help us to continue supporting your children by: donating items, volunteering at the fayre and attending our events.

Thank you

Natalie Walker

Chair of Addington Association

Addington Youth Club

Managed and staffed by
Wokingham Bracknell & Districts Mencap

Wednesday evening 7pm to 9pm
Fun for all youngsters from Year 9 up

Look out for the activities planned for the autumn term,
come along and try a session.

Contact Wokingham Mencap on 0300 777 8539 for more information.

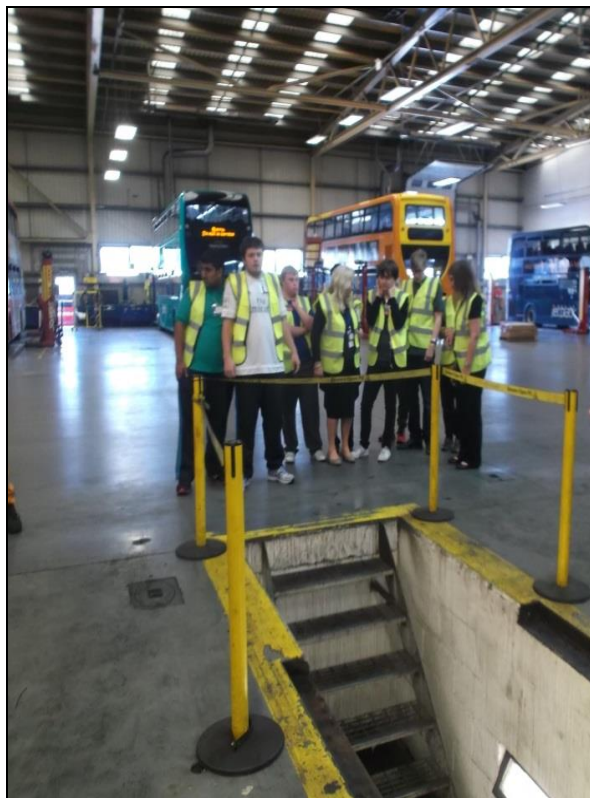
WORK RELATED LEARNING

Work Experience

This half term we have been working with the Education Business Partnership to set up extended work placements for a group of FE students who will be leaving school at the end of this academic year. The students are currently making decisions about the type of placement that they would most like to undertake. We try to ensure that these placements provide a great insight into the area of work that they are considering for the future.

Work Ready Days

Two classes have now undertaken visits to local companies to undertake work activities and to find out about the organisation and how it works. Kelly's class visited the Museum of Rural Life in Reading and William's class have visited Reading Buses. Both visits were very successful and have helped the students to gain an awareness of what is involved in running a business and the opportunities they provide.



National Grid

Our Supported Internship project with the National Grid has now come to fruition and the students have embarked on their first placement. It has been very exciting as well as a steep learning curve for us all. We have been really proud to see how well all of the students have started off, absorbing instructions, working as part of a new team and embracing the workplace with enthusiasm. There is a lot to learn but with the support of the job coaches and line managers, we hope that before too long they will be working confidently and independently.

Career's Fair

Some Key Stage 5 students visited the Wokingham Careers Fair at the Loddon Valley Leisure Centre. It was a wonderful opportunity to find out about local colleges and employers. There were lots of interactive stalls and opportunities to talk to the representatives from the different sectors. Our students took part in some competitions and were really interested in lots of the stands especially those connected with I.T.



City and Guilds – Hospitality & Horticulture

The first group of students have now gained their Certificates and Awards. The External Moderator from C&G visited the group at the café at Shute End to assess their practical skills and also examine their folders. She was really impressed at how superbly the students worked together, their attention to customer service, the quality of the products being served and how confidently each student carried out their individual tasks. A great result!

The Horticulture students have embarked on a project with some students from Bulmershe. They will work together on gardening activities across both the school sites. This is a great initiative and we are looking forward to seeing how it develops in the future.

ASD Family Help have produced a newsletter which outlines the support that they can provide for families, and specific activities available throughout autumn.

*This can be found on their website
www.asdfamilyhelp.org*



ADDINGTON SCHOOL TERM DATES
2015 - 2016

Autumn Term 2015

Wednesday 2nd September – Friday 18th December

Half Term: Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

Training Days for Staff – Tuesday 1st September

Spring Term 2016

Tuesday 5th January – Thursday 24th March

Half Term: Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February

Training Day for Staff – Monday 4th January

Summer Term 2016

Monday 11th April – Friday 15th July

May Day Holiday – Monday 2nd May – school closed

Half Term: Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June

Training Days for staff – Monday 18th - Wednesday 20th July – school closed

190 days for pupils



ADDINGTON SCHOOL TERM DATES
2016 - 2017

Autumn Term 2016

Tuesday 6th September – Tuesday 20th December

Half Term: Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October

Training Day for Staff – Monday 5th September

Spring Term 2017

Thursday 5th January – Friday 31st March

Half Term: Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February

Training Day for Staff – Wednesday 4th January

Summer Term 2017

Tuesday 18th April – Friday 21st July

May Day Holiday – Monday 1st May – school closed

Half Term: Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June

Training Days for Staff – Tuesday 2nd May
Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th July – school closed

190 days for pupils