

Family Update

19th January 2024



Updates

Hello everyone, we hope you've had a lovely week. It's all 'go' here with our new themes for this term. Explorers dept are focusing on **'People Who Keep Us Moving'**; Investigators dept **'Inventors'**; Adventurers dept **'Engineers'** and Towards Independence dept are balancing their focus between **working out in the community** with a variety of organisations and **studying for qualifications** such as English, Maths, Science, Skills for Living and Work and they are exploring new courses such as Digital Media and Art & Design. Wherever possible we would love families to support their children's learning at home in these topic areas. If you would like to know more about any of these themes, please contact the class teacher via their school email address or through EFL.

Good news about Sleepover Club!, it has been reported in Lichfield Live this week that the council have made their decision around Staffordshire's residential special schools: *"Plans to continue funding an overnight residential service in Lichfield for children with special educational needs and disabilities have been approved."* [Read the full article in Lichfield Live.](#) The funding reported here is almost double that already in place for the 5 schools so it will be interesting to hear from the LA their ideas to move the service forward and to work together to see how we can best implement them.

Please see the Smartbox page below if your child uses AAC. Smartbox are looking into reasons why people stop using their AAC and hoping to find remedies (see attached survey). As a school we subscribe to **Picture News**; they provide us with resources to make the news more accessible, I have added a **Home Project Page** at the end of this newsletter which you may want to encourage your child to engage with at home this weekend (especially if it is too cold or wet to go out) :) **Please note - we are closed to children on Friday 26th Jan, for a staff inset training day.** Wishing you a fabulous weekend, from Your Leadership Team.

Key Contacts

Physio Team:

Tel: 01889 572021 / Email:
paedphysiosouth@mpft.nhs.uk

Special School Nursing Team:

Tel: 07811487429 (Nicola Ball)

Email:
saxonhillnursingteam@mpft.nhs.uk

Facebook: [Staffordshire Special School Nursing Team](#)

Key Dates

Friday 26th January—**Inset Day (school closed to pupils)**

Friday 2nd February 1:45-3:00—Explorers Valentines Parent Workshop

Monday 5th—Friday 9th February—Children's Mental Health Week

Friday 9th February—Valentines Disco

Monday 12th February—Friday 16th February—Half Term

Monday 11th March— Friday 15th March—British Science Week

Friday 15th March—Red Nose Day



Contact us

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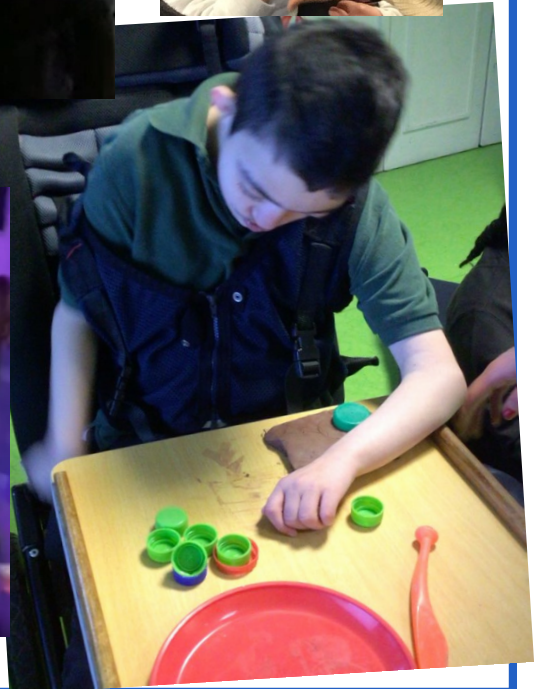
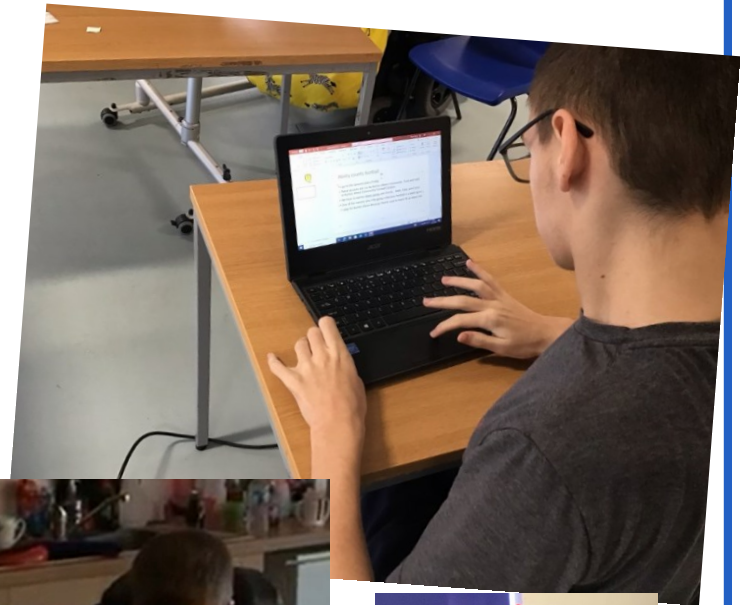


Headteacher: Melanie Newbury

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Kim Thomas

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Melanie Newbury & Helen Bowers

What we have been up to this week ...



Rotary Club

A big well done to some of our Towards Independence pupils for supporting the Rotary Club to raise £450 with Santa's Sleigh at Planters Garden Centre before Christmas. It took lots of courage speaking to customers. Also, a thank you to the Rotary Club for supporting our pupils with this.



Sleepover Club Highlights





Can you help us?

We want to better understand the factors that might cause people to stop using their AAC device.

To explore this we have created a survey and are looking for people to take part in some interviews with us. We're particularly keen to hear from:

- People with complex communication needs
- Family and friends supporting people with complex communication needs
- Professionals who have worked with people who use AAC, including those who have started on their AAC journey but for some reason have not continued

[Complete the survey](#)

Are emojis an important part of communication?

In the news this week

10-year-old Teddy Cottle from Oxfordshire has launched a petition calling for Apple to change the glasses emoji, also known as the 'nerd' emoji, as he says it gives the wrong impression of glasses-wearers. Teddy decided to write a letter to Apple requesting the design be changed, asking his classmates and French teacher, Lisa Baillie, to sign it. She suggested instead that it should become a petition and it was launched on petitiononline.co.uk.

Things to talk about at home...

- > What do you know about emojis? Do you ever use them?
- > Talk to someone else at home. Do they use emojis?
- > If you could design a new emoji, what would it look like?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

