

To enable all children to achieve, participate and contribute to their community for life'

Kindness

Inclusivity

Resilience

Respect

Openness

Understanding

Empathy



Newsletter

Monday 26th April 2021.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are enjoying a productive start to the summer term. The sun has been shining and children have greatly enjoyed being outdoors. As we move along the road map out of lockdown, it struck me this week how much all ages have settled so well back to school and appreciate being able to interact with their friends and peers face to face once more. Our secondary pupils are sitting together on the grass at break times, holding dialogues (like teenagers do) and primary children are enjoying playing on trikes and scooter boards, engaging in turn taking, using the outdoor toys and sensory play. Such social interaction and personal skills development are wonderful to observe.

National Autism Awareness Week

As you will know, during the Easter holiday National Autism Awareness week was held. Medeshamstede Academy is committed to making a difference to the lives of children and young people with autism. As part of our commitment to establishing Good Autism Practice, we partnered with the Autism Education Trust (AET) in April 2020. Our Learning Centre will fully launch later this term to deliver training to other professionals and organisations for early years through to post-16 across Peterborough schools and other settings. By adopting the AET frameworks alongside training programmes, we aim to add a real shared purpose to our work. Our vision for the Learning Centre is a voice for children and young people, embedding the AET standards and values across the region and for others to recognise autism as a difference and not a deficit.

Further to this, we are also part of the Skills Builder Universal Partnership, preparing pupils well for their next steps in education, adulthood and employment. The Skills Builder Universal Framework shows how to build essential skills at every stage of life. At Medeshamstede Academy, we believe that employability skills need to be developed early and explicitly taught as part of our curriculum, which is why we are part of this partnership.



Skills Builder is an award winning rapidly growing global partnership, bringing together more than 700 organisations towards a common mission, joined by shared language, principles and outcomes. Over the spring term our pupils have worked on the essential skill of 'staying positive' throughout the pandemic and

teachers have been delivering the lessons to develop and apply this skill through both learning in school and remotely. We will begin a whole school focus on the skill of 'speaking' shortly this term which also aligns with pupils' individual communication and interaction needs. More information can be found at www.skillsbuilder.org/about which gives you details of how employers, schools and other organisations become involved. The website also has a link for parents for how you can support the development of speaking skills related to everyday activities at home.

Lateral flow testing in secondary phase

As pupils in our secondary phase have adapted so well to testing and overcome sensory sensitivities that we were concerned would prevent testing, we now ask you to test your secondary child at home as recommended by the DfE. Secondary pupils should test twice a week on Sunday evening and Wednesday evening or Thursday morning. All staff will also test at home on these days each week, so we have consistency across the Academy. Test kits will be provided through the Academy. For pupils who are struggling to test at home we may carry out testing for them in school. For now, our covid safety controls and operating procedures remain firmly in place across the setting.

Future planning

At Medeshamstede we place real value on working in partnership with other professionals to meet the needs of all pupils. Therefore, we are presently advertising to hopefully create a therapy team for September by recruiting 2 full time occupational therapists and 2 full time speech and language therapists. Therapists will provide 1:1, paired and group interventions both in and outside of the classroom setting. The therapy team will enhance our provision to support pupils with specific areas of difficulty through specialist knowledge to target communication and interaction needs, physical, social and emotional needs. By working alongside teachers and staff teams, we implement a holistic curriculum which integrates therapy into daily curriculum delivery.

Pupil profiles and parents/carers evening

Parents/Carers of pupils in key stages 2, 3 and 4 will receive pupil profiles on Friday this week. Parents of busy bees and caterpillars received these documents earlier. The profile aims to capture the learning progress your child has made in core curriculum areas of reading, writing and maths along with their progress towards meeting individual targets set for the 4 SEND areas of need:

- cognition and learning,
- communication and interaction,
- sensory and physical,
- social, emotional and mental health.

The profile will capture new targets that pupils will work towards over the summer term. These termly targets are the smaller step benchmarks towards reaching the long-term outcomes of individual EHC plans. Teachers have shared curriculum themes that learning will be linked to in the term ahead.

Further to this, teachers will shortly be arranging parents evening meetings with you on **Wednesday 5th May from 2.30 – 6.00 pm**. Meetings will be held over Microsoft Teams.

We look forward to a great summer term ahead.

Warm regards,



Mrs Laura Ives
(Principal)

Pupils of the Week

Hearty congratulations to each of our pupils of the week (ending 23rd April). The following pupils have been nominated by their teachers for effort and skills applied to their learning, living our school values and for expressing themselves:

Name	Teacher & Class	Recognition for ...
Hayden	Ms Webster Caterpillar	Amazing determination and effort to try and then succeed with letter sounds for reading and spelling.
Callum	Miss Callis Butterfly	Being a role model to his peers and including them in his interests. Hayden has demonstrated patience when sharing and showing others how to play new games within a sense of community by helping others.
Callum M.	Ms Humphreys Mouse	Brilliant effort in saying and writing the "th" sound and working so hard all week to contribute to the group (a learning objective from our social thinking curriculum).
Daiton	Mr Humphreys Wolf	Showing courage and determination to complete a set of notes for a structured piece of creative writing based on the events of the Mount Vesuvius volcanic eruption that buried the city of Pompeii.
Connor	Mr Allen Falcon	Returning to school with a positive and mature attitude towards his work. Connor has also managed emotions successfully, appropriately and independently despite challenges.
Braydon	Mrs Kauser Hawk	taking the time to get to know his new classmates and teachers as well as sharing his hobbies, strengths and challenges with us. Braydon has independently kept his work area organised and adapted to a new daily schedule marvellously.
Miguel	Miss Thulbourn Woodpecker	Making smart outdoor choices to have a fun and a positive lunchtime.
Ben	Mrs Dunn Kingfisher	For making an excellent start to the new term and demonstrating maturity and understanding to his work.
Leon	Magpies Mr English	Leon for his smooth adjustment from the transition base and brilliant attitude to his new classmates. Also, Leon has tried hard across all the tasks that have been set for him- well done Leon!
Liam	Ms Walker Robin	For citizenship learning about the Black Life Matters movement and applying this understanding to the reading of Mice and Men.