

# ❄️ Snowflake School News ❄️

Safe, Understanding, Patient, Enthusiastic, Respectful



Mahamood posing for a photo in front of his Funfair welcome sign!

## A message from Kerry, Headteacher

Another year over and all of our pupils have made so much progress and taken part in so many fun activities.

We were so proud of Ismaeel and Taylor who represented all the pupils beautifully at our opening reception for the secondary site in May. If you telephone the school, Taylor's voice is the one you will hear answer the phone. We think it tells people what a pupil-centred school we are. If you haven't looked on our website, please do so and see the extraordinary videos of the primary and secondary pupils which were made by our staff members Raquel and Miguel. I still feel emotional when I watch them.

We have been thrilled to welcome Fernanda as a Speech and Language therapist for our secondary site and recently Divya who has joined us as a highly specialist Occupational Therapist from India. Charlotte has qualified as a



Congrats to Aleks!  
Who has been promoted to Supervisor @ Secondary



Welcome to Divya,  
Our new Occupational Therapist.



Welcome to Kathleen,  
Our new Supervisor at Secondary.



Well done Miguel!  
On becoming Assistant Occupational Therapist

1

INSET

1st - 5th September  
2022

2

PUPIL'S FIRST DAY

Tuesday 6th  
September 2022

3

HALF TERM

24th -28th October  
2022

music therapist and will be with us 2 days a week from September and Chris our fantastic drama therapist will also be returning to us, along with Miguel who will be training with Divya, we are building a strong therapy team.

I am delighted to tell you that Molly has qualified as a teacher and will be making sure all the secondary pupils have a full teaching programme. You may even receive reading books to practice at home.

Leah has completed Year 1 of her Early Career teaching programme and will be leading the teaching in Primary.

Maddy will be starting her teacher training in September and teaching PSHE supported by Leah, as well as primary groups.

We will be sorry to say goodbye to Victoria, the pupils have benefited a great deal from her imaginative physical education and yoga lessons. We will miss her very much, as well as Sam and Aibhin, going onto bigger and greater ABA positions and all the tutors who are moving on, some to teacher training, some to therapeutic roles, study and other work. We wish you all lots of luck in the future and thank you for your hard work.

I would like to say a big thank you to Catherine and Andrea, the assistant heads and Tara, Leah and Jody, supervisors, therapists, tutors and teachers who along with all the administrative support and Fay keeping us all on our toes, enables me to work effectively leading our wonderful school to ongoing success for your sons and daughters.

Have a peaceful summer break. I can't wait to see what your sons and daughters will do next.

## A MESSAGE FROM PRIMARY

### **Dear Parents,**

It's been a wonderful summer term, we have seen all of our pupils grow and make great progress that we have shared with you during our annual review period. We have had a few very successful school celebration days that we have been able to share with you once again, The most memorable one being our usual end of year Sports day and Graduation day. We are very sadly saying goodbye to two of our pupils, all grown up and ready to move on to secondary, we wish them lots of luck and hope to see them again soon! All the best to Atticus and Leo!

### **Reports, Classes and Homework**

We will be sending End of Term reports and change of keyworker letters home for each of our pupils, please keep an eye out for these in the bags. As you know in order to facilitate generalization across people and settings we usually change key workers for each of our children at the end of each term and at the end of the year classroom allocations as well. The latter is due to some pupils moving on to secondary and us as school ensuring that our grouping in classes are based on similar skill levels and abilities. We do this very carefully and systematically, with plenty of time for handovers and training across key workers. A change of key worker letter will be sent out towards the end of this term to all parents. Upon receiving this, please let us know if you have any questions.

In September we are kindly asking all parents to send in a bag of spare clothes for all of our pupils. These should be clearly labelled with your child's name. These will be kept in school to be used in case of accidents and your child's keyworker will be in touch if we have run out.

### Staffing Updates

Sadly this is the time of the year when staff decide to move on. We are sadly saying goodbye to: Abas, Charles, Izzy and Sam. We wish them all the best in their new endeavors.

### And Finally...

I am sure you will join me in thanking both students and staff for an excellent half term's work. I wish your family an enjoyable, restful and safe break.

Yours faithfully,

Andrea Moldovan-Grunfeld, BCBA Assistant Head of Primary Site

## Diamond Class News

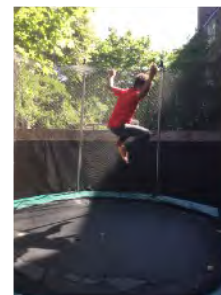
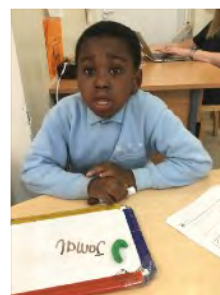
Diamond class have all had an excellent summer term, and it has been wonderful to enjoy the progress that all of the pupils have made over the last academic year and to celebrate their successes - both small and huge steps of progress.

Every day we come together and enjoy Attention Autism as part of our registration, and everyone still loves the bucket sessions, as well as enjoying the Attention Building stage 2. We have also all been continuing to enjoy stories and reading in our daily reading sessions. This term, a favourite has been The Gruffalo.

Summer has been full of celebrating and sharing our cultures. This term we have celebrated Eid with our friends - we listened to the story of Eid and shared different foods and sweets. We also celebrated Pride where we dressed in rainbow colours - celebrating being ourselves and the things that make us who we are. We have also been taking part in festival week and enjoying the summer weather - the paddling pool has been a huge hit during the heatwave!

Lastly, we have also been celebrating the successes of two of our Diamond Class pupils who will be transitioning to Secondary in September. Leo and Atticus - we are so proud of everything you have achieved so far, and we wish you the very best for your new adventure in September!

*(Jessica, Diamond Class Supervisor)*



## Reading Round-up

Our pupils have been working extremely hard on their reading skills this term. All pupils spend 15 minutes every afternoon reading a book of their choice with their tutor. We have completed phonics assessments for the term, and we will be working on the Read Write inc. phonics scheme from September. **We are expanding our school and class libraries for next year so if you have any books you would like to donate, please send them in to school.**

Some useful tips to help encourage reading during the holidays:

<p><b>Play 'I Spy' games</b> - can you find words beginnings with...? Can you find a picture of a...? How many... can you see?</p>	<p><b>Ask questions</b> about the story as you read it e.g. What is the story about? What animals can you see? What do you think will happen next?</p>
<p><b>Read everything out loud!</b> Books, poems, nursery rhymes, newspapers and magazines, food labels, tube stops.</p>	<p><b>Choose a time and place</b> - have a special space or a specific time when you read together.</p>

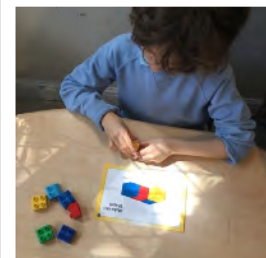
## Sapphire Class News

This term has been super fun, we have all learnt new skills and had fun with our tutors. As always, the tutors have continued to make sure that each pupil's targets are being run in fun teaching sessions!

Vivian ran super fun Attention Autism sessions which everyone enjoyed (including the adults). Harry & Wali enjoyed the parachute game in P.E run by Victoria. Harry loved being a Rock Star in the class music sessions with Charlotte. Yasna and Harry love going to Nevern gardens every day at lunchtime. Mahamood has enjoyed jumping on the trampoline and watching cool bus journey videos on YouTube when he has his snack and lunch with Sam. Matthew and Yasna enjoy singing to us in registration and circle time with their beautiful voices. Joaquin continues to make everyone happy and laugh with his instructions, especially when he is sitting at Sam's desk pretending to be in charge.

This year has been amazing, the staff and pupils from the Sapphire class make every day fun. All of our pupils have made amazing progress and it has been amazing to watch them learn and succeed every day! This is my last year at Snowflake and I will miss everyone enormously! I'm sure everyone will do amazingly next year! I wish parents and pupils an amazing summer. *(Samantha, Sapphire Class Supervisor)*





## A note from our Emerald class...

As we come to the end of another fantastic academic year, it is with great pride that I can look back at the many achievements of the children this summer term. They have all worked so hard!

Hamdaan has started to play more independently with toys, and he now can independently write his own name.

Zohair has been learning to take turns whilst playing game with his friend Hamdaan in emerald class. Lukas has made incredible progress this year, he has been accessing all his groups which is a phenomenal achievement!

Iqlas has made progress in communicating her needs and wishes and has attended swimming lessons! Mariam's highlight of the year was attending swimming and learning to name all letters of the alphabet and beginning to sound out the letters!

Ali has enjoyed music and PE lessons and has started to use two-word requests! We have ended the term by having drama lesson where all pupils joined in which was amazing to see!

This progress would not be possible without all our dedicated tutors! I would also like to thank all parents for your support this year. Finally, I would like to wish all children who are transitioning to our secondary site all the very best on their journey. Have a wonderful summer holiday and I look forward to seeing you all again in September. *(Paulina, Emerald Supervisor).*

## 5 ideas to smooth the summer

The summer holidays can sometimes be challenging, but they are an occasion to spend quality time with your families, try new experiences and make new memories. Here are some ideas and advice to help you plan your summer time with your kids.

### Encourage movement

In the sunny weather, it may be a good idea to take your child to burn off some energy outdoors every day, which will boost their wellbeing and make your life easier as they get calmer at home. It could be as simple as a stroll in the park or to the local playground, where they could run and enjoy the company of other children. If they like activities such as swinging, riding a bike, swimming, climbing or playing tag, you could schedule some time at the local playground or the swimming pool every week.

If your child is not used to getting outside, you could start slow and take a brief walk every day, maybe just before another indoor activity they enjoy. And if you are staying indoors, many children enjoy music and would love a dance party at home!

**Get crafty**

You could encourage your child's passion for colours or messy play by signing them up for art classes or setting up an art corner at home. Make sure they experiment with different materials and textures. If they have sensory issues or tend to eat inedible items, use safer tools such as paper, crayons, and safety scissors.

**Schedule chill-out time**

Allow rest before and after an activity daily and encourage them to engage in their special interests and independent play. Time to decompress is essential to recharge and enjoy the rest of the day, especially after a new activity which isn't usually part of their routine. They will enjoy chilling just as you will!

**Hatch out a plan for new experiences**

Summer is an excellent time to try new experiences, such as visiting museums, a local farm or an amusement park. Try and attend a few events with your children, where they can be surprised and experience the wider community. Hiking and playing in nature or dancing at open-air concerts are also great ways to spend a day off.

Organising activities in the community might be challenging; as you know, everything needs to be planned in advance and according to your child's needs. Preparation is key, and children will benefit from being told what is coming next. Try and use visual aids, social stories and timers to prepare them for the next thing. For example, if you are meeting someone you could show them their photo or the photo of their house. If you plan to visit a new place or spend the night at a hotel, you could arrange a viewing or look at some photos online, so your child will know what to expect.

Even during a special day, try and follow their daily routine as much as possible: try and respect their lunchtime and bedtime, for example, and after a busy day, nothing beats a lazy one to recharge.

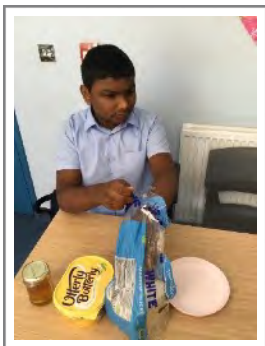
**Keep structure and expectations on**

All children thrive in routine and benefit from a few rules and expectations. Keeping their routine in place could help smooth their transition to the summer holidays. A few ideas include getting the children dressed in the morning even if you are not planning for them to leave home, keeping their days structured, and scheduling a few school activities during the day.

Keeping a few rules in place is also advisable. Try and set a couple of expectations for your child during the summer - like tidying up with you after playing or time limits to tech access, for instance - and reinforce any positive behaviour with regards to their targets with social praise or access to favourite activities. It will help them understand that a few rules are still in place at home and possibly ease the transition back to school in September! (*Martina Lossi, Wellbeing Lead*).

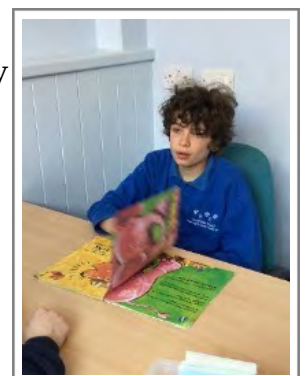
## Supernova Class News

**It has been a great term in Supernova class. We have been very busy, with lots of 1:1 work with tutors, as well as lots of groups, and some lovely trips out and about.**



All students have been working hard at their ITT targets as well as on NET targets, along with weekly Speech and Language Therapy input from our therapist Fernanda. All pupils in Supernova have been working very hard on independent and daily living skills for example; applying deodorant, brushing teeth, and making snacks!

As usual Supernova pupils have been participating amazingly in groups, with all students doing PE, drama, music, Attention Autism and PSHE sessions this term. As well as this, some pupils have been participating in a phonics group, working on blending sounds with our teacher Molly. Through these sessions, students have been working on group skills as well as phonics skills, it has been great to see the progress pupils are



making. Additionally, all students have been doing some reading with their tutors on a daily basis, it has been so lovely to see pupils having some relaxing reading time on a daily basis. Both students and tutors have really grown to enjoy this activity.

We have had lots of fun this term; making some fun trips out to the cinema, to the park, to the shops, and our school trip to Hanwell zoo towards the end of term. It has been great seeing all of the pupils make progress in their IEP goals, as well as enjoying themselves, building rapport with their tutors, and spending time in lots of groups with their peers. We have had a great term all around, and I wish all of the students and their families a great summer, and all the best in the future! (*Aihbín, Supernova Class Supervisor*).

## A MESSAGE FROM SECONDARY

I hope this end of term letter finds you and your families well. As I write to you, I reflect on the term that has gone by and consider what the future has in store for us.

It has certainly been a busy term with many achievements and successes for our young people and our school community.

We celebrated the opening of the secondary site in Acton which was opened by Lord Lamount. It was a wonderful evening in which staff were able to meet the schools' trustees and those who work within the Local Authority.

We had many other occasions to celebrate including festival week where the pupils took part in some amazing crafts, cooking, water play activities and a wonderful trip to Hanwell zoo. Students were fantastically behaved and happy memories were made! Parents also had the opportunity to come into school and see their son or daughter's work.

Pupils have been cooking up a storm making yummy and healthy dishes. Pupils also made shopping lists and picked up the ingredients they needed in Morrisons. We then had a picnic in the park with all the food pupils made themselves. I hope that these activities have encouraged independence at home.

We had a fantastic World Book day with a celebration of reading. Staff and pupils dressed up as book characters and it was a roaring success.

HSBC came into school to speak to our pupils about financial responsibility and we hope to have them come in again after developing a relationship with them.

We also had many other wonderful activities which ranged from cinema trips, sports day, cultural celebrations, Shooting Stars extravaganza show and Pride.

Our new reading area has also been a hit with the students, and we hope to encourage a love of reading and books.

In the next academic year we hope to do up our playground and chill out room.

Finally, I wish you all a safe and happy Holiday. We look forward to seeing your child/ren return to school for the start of the Autumn Term.

**Catherine Stephenson - Assistant Head of Secondary**

## SHOOTING STARS CLASS NEWS



Shooting Stars have had a wonderful summer term. The boys have had an amazing term and it has been a joy to watch their relationships flourish. In maths we have been working hard on developing everyone's skills with money and we have been making sure that everyone has been able to get out in the community to purchase resources for food prep and get the chance to try and generalise these skills. In literacy we have not only been working on comprehension and

building on their amazing work on the spring term but we have also been working on creative writing.

Particular highlights of the term have been seeing their hard work come together for the 'Shooting Stars Summer Spectacular' which we are all so excited for everyone to see. They have been singing and dancing and I'm sure you will love what they have put together. For the hottest day of the year the boys took part in a water play day and they enjoyed it so much! It really bought home the hard work they have put in with regards to their social skills as it was special to see how they played, talked and shared. Festival week has also been another joy. Games, activities and trips out (especially to Hanwell Zoo) have been great for our learners and it has also given us the chance to work on independent learning skills ie travel training.

Everyone in Shooting Stars has worked so hard all year and has flourished across the curriculum. We are proud of all students and what they have achieved and would like to wish them a restful summer and we look forward to seeing you back in September.

*(Andrew, Shooting Stars Class Teacher)*



## A Note From Lunar Class...

It's been a busy Summer term in Lunar!

Hassan, Shayo and James have been working on their food program. Hassan has been learning to eat carrots and Shayo has learnt to eat her lunch completely. James has learnt to eat carrots, more fruits and broccoli!

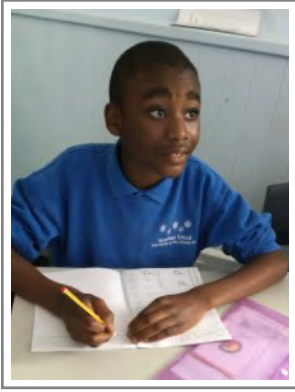
Jaden has been working on phonics and group skills. He has been learning to sound out the letters and blend the sounds. Jaden has also been learning to sit with his peers in group lessons and attend to the teacher.

Issa has learnt to communicate using PECS and vocally. Issa has also been working on labelling different everyday items at the table and labelling familiar people!

Lunar Class went swimming this term and learnt to follow instructions in the pool such as floating on their back and swimming using water noodles. They have all enjoyed the hot weather by doing waterplay as a group, playing with water guns and going in the paddling pool! Lunar Class also celebrated the Jubilee by making decorations and baking scones.

It has been a great term and the whole class has done amazing work! Well done to Lunar. (Polita, Lunar Class Supervisor)





## ***Festival Week: 11th - 15th July***

During the penultimate week of term, pupils got to enjoy a range of activities and excursions. The highlight of this at Secondary was the trip to Hanwell Zoo, where pupil's enjoyed meeting the Flamingos, playing in the wonderful nearby park, and, of course, an ice cream in the sun!



At Primary, pupils, staff and families gathered to celebrate their successes and learning from the 2021-22 academic year at the Primary Fun Fair. Lots of families made time to join this special occasion and the wonderful activities on offer: a music session with Charlotte, getting their faces painted by Leah, and sampling some of Sam's wonderful baking (her Fifteens were my particular favourite).

Jody Tranter - Deputy Headteacher



## Milky Way News

This term Milky Way Class has been busy learning the signs of the seasons and greetings. Ravson has been working really well on his social skills and is learning to interact with his tutors and peers. Cheran has made new friends in his phonics group, whereas Hodan and Adya have been working on their turn-taking skills by sharing lentils. Also, the pupils all enjoyed their trip to the park and cinema with their peers. Milky Way pupils contributed to the Jubilee celebration by participating in making crowns, bunting, banners, and colouring Union Jack flags. *(Poonam Sharma, Milky Way Class Supervisor)*



## OUR AMAZING SECONDARY OPENING & MORE GOOD NEWS!

After opening to pupils in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic in November 2020, we **finally** got to 'cut the ribbon' on our secondary site in a grand opening event on 25<sup>th</sup> May, with Lord Lamont of Lerwick doing the honours.

The school's founder and CEO, Mrs. Faryaneh Akhavan, was delighted to welcome dignitaries, donors, friends of the school, and staff for an evening opening ceremony where pupils greeted guests and staff showed them around the custom renovated building.

The school has also been lucky enough to receive several generous donations this term:

- A monetary donation from PKCF (Popli Khalatbari Charitable Foundation)
- A monetary donation from Bernard Sunley Foundation.
- Health care wipes from Gama Health-Care.
- Several giant beanbags from Flymo.

We are **so grateful** to these organisations for their generosity, which really help us to continue offering a fantastic service to our Snowflake families.

**We were also sent the below photo by Vince Carbone,**

who was presented the "Award for International Dissemination of Behavior Analysis" by The Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis.

- Dr Carbone

*150 individually places we have collaborated with displayed while I gave the would not have been complete Snowflake School and our*



*said "Your photo was among about displayed photos of persons and internationally. The photos were acceptance speech. The record without recognizing you and affiliation over so many years."*