



# SNOWFLAKE NEWS

The Termly Newsletter of Snowflake School

DECEMBER 2017



'Improving the quality of family life'



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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Introducing... 2

Farewell  
Snowflakes 3

Training up-  
date 4

Parents 7

Bag Books 8

The last word 10



## 'When our staff do well, the pupils do well too!'

Snowflake School's Headteacher has often been heard saying 'when staff do well then pupils will do well too' and this may seem obvious, but it is not an automatic event.

At Snowflake, the Trustees and the Leadership Group recognise that we need to invest significant time and money into training our staff to enable them to have the skills and knowledge to enable pupils to make outstanding progress.

Training at Snowflake is delivered through whole school training days, 'Tuesday training twilight sessions, on line training and 'on the job' supervised practical work.

Training is normally led by the Headteacher, Teacher or Supervisors, but our ABA/VB consultant, Speech and Language therapist and Occupational therapist have all given their input

over the course of this last term. Snowflake News asked David Haswell Headteacher what he felt were the biggest challenges in the way of achieving all the training laid out in the training plan.

David said "This term we started with more than half the staff being new to Snowflake and that is one reason why we took the decision to have 4 training days in one go and booked Carole Roxburgh to be our lead trainer."

"The staff have done really well, we have pushed them very hard but they have risen to the challenge and there is a great team spirit as we approach the end of term"

"I want to thank all the staff that have completed the online training in their own time that's awesome!"

# Introducing.....

“Welcome to all of our new tutors who joined Snowflake in the Autumn Term



Angie



Bianca



Holly



Italia



Konstantina



Muna

## Breaking News!

We look forward to welcoming new tutors Robyn and Spiridoula who will be joining Snowflake at the start of the new term in January.



Milena

Milena will be leaving us at the end of this term. We all wish her the very best

10 new tutors joined the staff team since June this year. All came with varying levels of experience of ABA and all have worked hard alongside the supervisors and existing tutors to improve their teaching skills.



Denise

Denise will be leaving us at the end of this term to study. We all wish her the very best

# Farewell Snowflakes



We believe that beginnings and endings are very important and that we should celebrate when new staff and new pupils join our school and also we ensure that we recognise and celebrate the achievements of the children and staff that leave us.

This term we would like to wish all the very best to Sam Sullivan Sam has been at Snowflake for 7 years, firstly as a tutor and more recently as a Supervisor. Sam qualified as a Board Certified Assistant Behaviour Analyst earlier this year and she has made an enormous contribution to the school.

Sam is moving on to a new challenge working as a Behaviour Analyst with adult services in the NHS.



We will also be saying good bye to Tomas (photo on the right with mum Laura ).

We wish Tomas every success in the future and we are sure that he will enjoy his new school and do really well.

**All at Snowflake will miss Sam and Tomas very much.**





## Pedestrian Training

This term pupils have taken part in Smart Walk Pedestrian Training sessions.

Pedestrian training sessions have been provided to us by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for many years.

These sessions are run over a 3 week period and help to teach our children about the hazards of the road.

All instructors are qualified, experienced and know Snowflake well.

The children are encouraged to look for moving cars on the road as well as learning how to cross the road safely.

When teaching 'life skills' Snowflake uses the Essential for Living functional skills curriculum.

To find out more visit;  
[www.essentialforliving.com](http://www.essentialforliving.com)

*'It is so rewarding to see the children learning functional life skills that they can generalise and use in their daily lives. Essential for Living is perfect for this'*

*Tara Morgan  
 Supervisor*



## On line training is a great success

In September 2016 Snowflake School established an on line training centre. This online platform is provided by Educare who are experts in safeguarding and Duty of Care training.

Training modules are assigned to staff by the school leadership group and staff work through the high quality modules at their own pace ending up with a certificate on satisfactory completion of end of module tests.

Modules completed this year have included Child Protection in Education, Fire Safety, First Aid, Health and safety in Education, Data Protection, Food Hygiene and Safer Recruitment.

The training platform is accessible to Trustees as well as staff and is also proving to be good value for money.

Siddiqua Hassan School Administrator said; "The Online Learning Centre is really good and I can easily produce training reports and certificates. "

David Haswell Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead said; 'Online training is not appropriate for every area of training as often it is important to put learners into groups for tasks and discussion, however it is a very useful tool to supplement our overall training plan'

## Team Teach Training



Snowflake staff are team teach trained. Team Teach aims through the promotion of de-escalation strategies and the reduction of risk and restraint, to support teaching, learning and caring, by increasing staff confidence and competence, in responding to behaviours that challenge, whilst promoting and protecting positive relationships. For more information visit.....

<http://www.teamteach.co.uk/>

**“The best thing**  
about being at  
Snowflake is being  
able to make a  
difference. I can see  
for myself the  
progress my key  
child is making and  
that is really  
**awesome”**

Konstantina (Tutor)



## Keeping the focus upon Learning

As you would expect we are always striving to improve the learning environment.

We have a new School Development Plan and while we continue to seek to find new premises, in the meantime we must ensure that we maximise the potential of what we already have.



In January we are launching new arrangements for the learning environment with new desks, tables and interactive resources. We will also be establishing three class groups each led by a Supervisor and we are confident that improved organisation will enable children to continue to make outstanding progress



**Are you a parent?**  
Have you heard of Parent View?

Parent View is an online questionnaire for you to give your views about this school at any time of the year.

At the time of an Ofsted inspection, parents are also invited to give inspectors their views using Parent View.



**It's easy. It's quick. It's time to log on.**  
<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

Parents and carers can give their views of our school at any time of the school year *and* at the time of a school inspection using an online questionnaire called Parent View.

When our school is notified of its next Ofsted inspection, parents will be invited to give their views about the school to inspectors using the Parent View online facility as this has replaced Ofsted's paper questionnaire. Please make sure we have your most up-to-date contact details.

Please register with an email address and a password at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>.

Once your login has been activated, it only takes a few minutes to complete answers to 12 short questions.

Your views are important in helping inspectors make a decision about our school, and to help us know what is going well and what could be improved.

If you do not have a computer or an email address *or* if you would like help to use Parent View, please come into school and ask Siddiqua our School Administrator.

# What's happening with Parents Group?

Parents of children at Snowflake have always been a powerful force in support of our school's mission to 'improve the quality of family life' Parents are very generous in giving their time and often their money to support the school. Parents Group have held some very successful events over the years however it appears that a term has slipped by without an event or meeting.

Some parents have told us that they are disappointed that Parents Group has not been able to meet this term.

In order to ensure that parents have the opportunity to meet up and perhaps engage a guest speaker we are suggesting that parents put Friday March 2nd 2018 in their diaries.

The meeting will run from 1.30 until 2.45 if parents are in agree-

ment and David will take responsibility for engaging a guest speaker. David would very much like to get your views about Parents Group so please send an email, make a phone call or catch him for a chat when dropping off or picking up your child.

**da-vid.haswell@snowflakeschool.org.uk**  
**020 7370 3232**

# Celebrating with friends at Santa's Grotto

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December Snowflake pupils visited Santa Claus in his grotto at Westfield.

You can see from the faces in the photos on these pages that everyone enjoyed themselves. Earlier this term we celebrated Diwali and we were fortunate to enjoy some amazing food sent in by parents as well as our annual Diwali presentation from Vidushi (Avi's mum).

Earlier this year we celebrated Eid. Next year Eid will fall in August so unfortunately school will be closed during this celebration.



# Westfield



# Brilliant Bag Books

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December we were visited by Nina Martinez from Bag books. Bag books host multi-sensory storytelling sessions at special schools, adult day centres, libraries, hospices and museums throughout the UK. For more information please visit <http://bagbooks.org/>The organisation has a fully funded project which allows them to provide days of multi-sensory story telling in schools free of charge.

Our children loved this visit and were able to listen to a number of stories whilst exploring their different senses.



As part of Anti Bullying Week pupils attended a special screening of *The Ant Bully* at Clapham Picture House. All the pupils watched the entire film and enjoyed their cinema experience.

During Autism Friendly Screenings low lights are left on in the auditorium and the volume of the soundtrack is reduced. It is fine for customers to move around, make noise or take a break during the film.

If you're interested in finding out more or joining the mailing list please email [Ryan Powell](mailto:ryan.p@picturehouses.co.uk) at [ryan.p@picturehouses.co.uk](mailto:ryan.p@picturehouses.co.uk) with your name, your local Picturehouse cinema and 'Autism Friendly Screenings' in the subject line.



Anti Bullying Week ran from 13th to 17th November and the theme this year was 'All Different, All Equal' aimed at promoting difference and equality in schools.

The idea is to help children and young people celebrate what makes them, and others, unique and help them understand why it's important that every child feels included in school able to be themselves without fear of bullying.

The theme is based on the views of almost 600 children and young people who completed an Anti-Bullying Alliance survey.

## Autism friendly Cinema supports anti-bullying message

What is Snowflake School's position on bullying?

*The staff of Snowflake School are committed to everyone within the school community being able to fulfil their potential. We know that progress and achievement will only take place when people are secure, happy and confident in the learning environment. Since the school opened there have been no instances of bullying in line with the conventional definition of bullying. That said, we aim to be vigilant to the possibility of bullying within the school and adhere to our anti-bullying policy.*



# The last word

Over the course of the last two years we have taken part in the Erasmus Programme which is a European Community funded project to enable colleagues from schools in Europe to spend a few weeks at Snowflake learning from our good practice.

Our staff and supervisors have been able to share their good practice with teachers and therapists from Slovenia and from Poland and this has been an excellent way for our staff to learn from them too.

This term four teachers from Gdansk in Poland have visited in two groups each for a week at a time. Next term two further teachers from Gdansk will make their final visit .

Snowflake's mission is to spread the word about how successful ABA can be and we are also fortunate to have a diverse group of staff drawn from many nations and cultures. I very much hope that this will continue to be the case post Brexit.

Wishing you all a great holiday season and a happy new year!

David



## Dates for your diary

### Spring Term 2018

First day of term	Thursday 4th January
Last day of half term	Friday 9th February
Term resumes	Monday 19th February
Parents Group	Friday 2nd March
Last day of term	Thursday 29th March

**World Autism Day Monday 2nd April**

*Snowflake School*

*46a Longridge Road,*

*London SW5 9SJ*

*info@snowflakeschool.org.uk*

*+44 (0)20 7370 3232*

*www.snowflakeschool.org.uk*



Snowflake School for Children with Autism is administered and managed by the Board of Trustees.

- Faryaneh Akhavan
- Shahrokh Bagerzadeh
- Simon Cheetham
- Ardavan Farmanfarmaian
- Mahnaz Kamel

Charity no. 1110687

