



SNOWFLAKE NEWS

The Termly Newsletter of Snowflake School

MARCH 2018



'Improving the quality of family life'



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Learning in Groups 2/3
- Life Cycle 4
- Encouraging Reading 6
- ABA/VB teaching 7
- The last word 8

New Data Protection Rules Bring Changes

Snowflake School is getting ready for GDPR. From 25th May 2018, the Data Protection Act (DPA) will be replaced by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – meaning that the way we manage all data and information within our school will change. Stuffing paper into filing cabinets, keeping records and databases of student and staff information, monitoring what's happening day-to-day on the premises through CCTV – today's educational landscape is packed with data. With the GDPR coming into effect we will have an increased responsibility to ensure this information – regardless of what form it's kept in – is managed in the right way in compliance with this new regulation.

Non-compliance can currently see fines of

up to £500,000 being imposed from the Information Commissioners Office (ICO), as well as Ofsted ratings being seriously affected if there aren't correct policies and procedures in place when it comes to data and IT security. Put simply, the GDPR is a new data protection regulation that's designed to strengthen and unify the safety and security of all data held within an organization.

Snowflake School has appointed a Data Protection Officer, Faryaneh Akhavan (Chair of Trustees). WE have written the new policies necessary and we will carry out training for all staff and trustees to ensure that the school is compliant.

The school will write to parents before the 25th May with further information.



“Its our aspiration for all pupils that they can experience enjoying being together in groups. We aim to teach the skills necessary to make this a reality”

“Sometimes

Snowflake School is described as a school where the pupils and staff work 1 to 1 all the

time....that’s

inaccurate and

frustrating”

David Haswell

Headteacher

Group Learning

As you would expect we are always striving to improve the learning environment. In December Snowflake News reported that the school would be launching new arrangements for the learning environment with new desks, tables and interactive resources. There were also plans to establish three class groups each led by a Supervisor .

These changes along with a new timetable are now well embedded and the response from staff and pupils has been very encouraging.

On entry to Snowflake School children typically have yet to develop the prerequisite skills to learn effectively in groups. Each child has an Individual Education Programme which is based on a detailed assessment of needs and if a child needs full 1:1 attention then this is provided. All pupils start with

one to one tuition and support but the school’s aim is to teach the skills to enable children to eventually not require 1:1 support.

On the back of the success of the new timetable and classroom organisation the school will now be seeking to maximise opportunities for learning in groups where appropriate.

To this end, Lead Teacher Catherine Stephenson will next term be joined by Leah Jasubhoy who will be act as an additional teacher, following the ‘Assessment only route’ towards Qualified Teacher Status”. This is an exciting development for the school and for Leah individually. Leah is a very experienced Tutor and will also be able to put a focus upon improving Reading Skills across the school



Here are some images taken from lessons with Catherine Stephenson, Snowflake School Lead Teacher. We think these photos capture the pure joy of learning and achievement



Life Cycle!

As you can see the theme of these two pages are bi-cycles.

This Spring Term Snowflake pupils were able to gain cycling skills expertly taught by our friends from Bike-Ability sponsored by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. All of us will remember what an important milestone it is in life when you ride your first bike.

And once again we were fortunate to be visited by the Smoothie Bike where pupils were able to use their kinetic energy to create delicious and healthy drinks



Making healthy Smoothies by cycling





Bike Ability



Learning skills to safely ride a bike with our specialist 'Bikeability' trainers



World Book Day 2018



It has become a Snowflake tradition for us to dress up as characters from our favourite books on World Book Day.

Everyone enjoyed dressing up and we all gathered together to hear the Headteacher read 'We're all going on a Bear Hunt'



Drawing upon Expert Advice and benefitting from sharing ideas



Carole Roxburgh BCBA

Carole Roxburgh our ABA/VB consultant has worked with Snowflake School since the school was established and Carole makes regular visits to train staff, observe practice and make recommendations to shape Children's Individual Programmes.

During Carole's recent 3 Day visit on 14-16 March one focus was to evaluate Programme Books. Snowflake News asked Tom Dibb Supervisor why this is important. Tom said "Programme Books are vitally important because they enable us to track pupils progress and identify areas where we need to change our approach. They are such an important component of our practice"

Carole reported that our Programme Books continue to improve with some outstanding examples of neat and well organised work.

Linking with other ABA Schools

Snowflake is always keen to learn from other schools and we have been fortunate over the years to establish links with local mainstream schools, special schools and providers both in the UK and abroad.

This term we have entered into a partnership with Beyond Autism during which Snowflake managers along with their counterparts at Tram House School have carried out joint assessments of teaching performance.

Supervision and Support

Sarah Rehman Tutor said, "The Tutors at Snowflake take our practice very seriously and we always want to improve. It is great to have the support and guidance of an experienced consultant and the Supervisors work with Tutors to help us succeed. It's good to feel completely involved in shaping the child's Individual Programme rather than just being told what to do. My Supervisor, Tom Dibb has enabled me to be an effective tutor and it has been great to see my 1:1 child achieving so much."

The last word

So we have arrived once again at the end of another term. Snowflake has been open for ten years now and I am privileged to have been able to be a part of it for nearly five of those. Throughout these years pupils and staff come and go and we always strive to make improvements in every way we can.

One thing that never changes though is the incredible Snowflake Spirit, visitors remark on the happy and positive atmosphere and despite the challenges we inevitably face we retain a focus on children doing really well and then learning the skills they need to have a happy and fulfilling life.

This kind of spirit does not develop overnight. It is the product of the fantastic support from parents, the guidance of our Trustees and the amazing people that choose to become our staff all acting together for the sake of the children.

Have a very happy holiday and we look forward to welcoming the children back on 17th April

David



Dates for your Diary

Summer term 2018

Term Starts Tuesday 17th April 2018 (Bank Holiday Monday 7th May 2018)

Last day of half term Friday 25th May 2018

Half term Monday 28th May 2018 - Friday 1st June 2018

Term Resumes Monday 4th June 2018

Last Day of Term Tuesday 24th July 2018

**World Autism Day
Monday 2nd April**

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

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- Mahnaz Kamel

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