

# Arlesdene Nursery School

## Newsletter

March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As the Spring term comes to an end, we look forward to more daylight and warmer weather. This term although short has been busy and it is wonderful to watch the children grow in confidence. Sadly we are already preparing for their transition to their new setting.

It has been lovely to celebrate Appreciation Week and see many colourful activities throughout the school. A wonderful way to celebrate our amazing Rainbow Group.

Wishing you all a lovely Easter when it arrives.

Best Wishes

Claire Cobain

Headteacher



## MaD Awards

### *Making a Difference*

Our MaD award last month went to Tammy Gurney, Tammy works in both Nursery and our Rainbow room and works extremely hard supporting our children with Special Educational Needs. Tammy has a great calm manner with the children and a wealth of experience. Thank you for everything that you do Tammy.

Please remember that you can also make nominations when you feel staff have made an extra difference to you or your child.

Slips are available in either the Nursery or Pre-school office or you can email a nomination to:

**[mad@arlesdene.herts.sch.uk](mailto:mad@arlesdene.herts.sch.uk)**

Continue to watch this space for our MaD awards.

# Pre-School

## Activities

*We read our last core story for this term 'Snowy Animals' and it was lovely to see so many of you attend the story session with your child at the end of February. These sessions are so beneficial for you and your child and we look forward to welcoming you after Easter.*

*The children have embraced the rainy days with jumping in bubbly puddles with huge enjoyment.*



*We've spent this week creating Easter crafts to take home and share with their families. The children have really enjoyed these activities and shown creativity, using a range of resources and imagination.*



**World**

**Book**

**Day**



## **Red nose day**

*Thank you for joining in with the red theme. The children explored a lovely range of red fruits and vegetables, using all of their senses and extending vocabulary and understanding the world around them. The children also had a go with chopping them up using careful fine motor skills.*





# Nursery

## Reading area

You may have noticed that we have made some changes to our Foyer Area. We have developed a library for you to use with your child. Each of the boxes are labelled into categories of books so you and your child can find the perfect book to share together easily. The library will be open after Easter for you to access at any time. We ask that you borrow one book at a time and please return the books to a member of staff at the gate or the office so that they can be placed back into the correct category. We hope that you enjoy this wonderful resource, happy reading!



## Reminders

Please do not let your child bring toys in with them to Nursery, we cannot always guarantee to keep these safe and children get really upset when they get lost.

Please remember to label all clothing and lunch boxes.

Children do not often remember what belongs to them, to ensure that the right clothing and lunch belongs to them can simply be solved by naming it for us.

Thank you!

## Contributions

A gentle reminder that the summer contribution is due after Easter. It will be £13 and cash only please at the school office.



# PS, N & R

## Appreciation Week

We started our week by inviting all staff and children to wear odd socks to show awareness for Down Syndrome. A child that previously attended Arlesdene has always helped us to remember why it is the 21st March. Thank you Luther

The reason it's on the 21st of March is because Down Syndrome is a 3rd Chromosome of Chromosome 21. So, the 21st, of the 3rd month of the year, (March), and we wear odd socks because chromosomes look like odd socks. Now isn't that clever!!



## Purple Day 26th March International day for epilepsy





# PS, N & R

## Awareness Week

**To celebrate awareness week, I invited some parents to share stories of their children. I'm sure you will agree with me, how beautiful they are.**

Hi! My name is Kurtis, I'm autistic with pre verbal communication. Some might assume that because I'm unable to talk to you that I don't have anything to say and that couldn't be more wrong. You might think that I'm unable to learn things or that I'm in my own world - again, not true at all! I can say the alphabet in English and Spanish ...apparently that's quite impressive?

My brother is also autistic and he has language, because of this people might assume that he experiences 'milder autism' but I know he struggles with other things that I find a breeze (I can unwrap a kinder chocolate bar by myself, not to brag!). Sometimes I won't look at you when you are talking, or if you're like my brother you might not respond straight away to a question - I promise you we are both listening and just processing in a different way, so please allow some time for us to do this. Sensory overload is a huge part of an autistic persons world and can be the difference between being able to function or not. I like to lay on the floor to feel grounded, and this doesn't matter where I am! If you're in the middle of your Tesco shop and I'm trying to ground, don't mind me!

I guess to sum up on this neurodiversity awareness week, my request to you would be to 'always assume competence'. Our brains might be different and our learning may look different to yours but if we're given the tools and the opportunities we can thrive as autistic people in this world!

Thank you

Kurtis



I may not be able to speak to you, but I am ABLE to...

Take you by the hand to show you what I want.

Amaze you with what I know and understand

Yell if I need your help

Light up the room with my beautiful smile

Accept that sometimes I find things difficult

Notice you and others around me

This is ME!! I am TAYLAN!!

A special thank you to Siobhan and Aysen for sharing such wonderful stories about their children.



# PS, N & R

## Staffing update

**Nicole Herrigan** who works in Nursery and lunch club will be leaving us at Easter. Nicole has only been with us for a short while, however will be missed by the staff and children.

**Karen Head** who has worked at Arlesdene since 2018 and worked across both Pre-school and Nursery will be leaving us in July. We will plan something lovely for when Karen leaves us in July. Watch this space. We are looking to appoint a new member of staff to fill Karen's place.

As our SEND provision grows at Arlesdene, the Governors felt it necessary to invest into this further. We have been very lucky to appoint a new Teacher **Charlotte Minoli** who will start with us in September who will train to become the school's SENCo. This will take the pressure of myself as being both Headteacher and SENCo is very consuming. However I would like to reassure all the families that I work so closely with that I am still going to be available and will still be heavily involved in the SEND provision so that Arlesdene can continue to provide outstanding provision for all children, especially those with more complex needs.



## King Charles III

You may have noticed our new portrait of the King in the foyer area of Nursery. This was received by the UK Government free of charge to commemorate the accession of His Majesty King Charles III. This plays an important role in History and Arlesdene are proud to be able to display this in the school.

## Holiday ideas

If you are struggling with ideas over the Easter Holidays, there are lots of great websites that share ideas on what to do in Hertfordshire while the school is closed.

# PS, N & R

## **Easter Challenge**

We are inviting you and your child to take part in our scavenger hunt challenge over the Easter holidays.

Your child will be given a sheet of objects to find over the holidays, we are requesting that your child is sponsored by as many friends and family as possible to find all the items.

Have fun and we look forward to seeing pictures of all the items you find. Any money raised will go towards our new 'nest' a log cabin/additional classroom.

## **Important dates**

Wednesday 27th March—Last day of Spring term

Thursday 28th March—INSET —all school closed

Monday 15th April—INSET day—all school closed

Tuesday 16th April—all children return

Tuesday 30th April—story session

Monday 6th May—bank holiday—all school closed

Friday 24th May—story session,

## **A bio from the Governors**

Ash has been a Governor at Arlesdene since February 2023 and is responsible for holding Arlesdene to account in relation to finance matters.

Ash is a senior investment professional at a private equity firm, investing in private credit across the UK and Europe, predominantly on behalf of pension funds and insurance companies.

Ash holds the CFA IMC qualification and received a BA with Honours in Economics and Hispanic Studies from the University of Sheffield. He is a British citizen and speaks English, Spanish, Hindi and Gujarati.