



Durants News

March 2013

A note from Helen Bruce

We are continually striving to provide the best for our children and young people and one way we believe (this is supported by our Parent Council) is to continue raising the profile of Autism. We are striving to make our community aware of some of the challenges which are faced by some of our young people.

World Autism Awareness Day is a great way of raising awareness. This year World Autism Awareness day is on Tuesday 2 April, however, we will be celebrating here at Durants on WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL. We will send you further information but please join us on the day. We hope that many of you will sell our balloon tags to family and friends. We were amazed when we got a response from Holland stating they had found one of our tagged balloons a few years ago.

It is often difficult for some of our families to take their child for a medical appointment. I have recently heard that the Paediatric Outpatients Department at Chase Farm and Barnet hospitals will ensure more support is given if they know that a patient has Autism, so if you are making an appointment for your child, or if you have been given an appointment, you can phone them to say the appointment is for a young person with Autism and they will try to put measures into place to support you and your child on your visit.

As always we wish you a very happy Spring break and remind you that the new term begins on Monday 15 April 2013.

Helen Bruce
Head of School

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Acute Liaison Nurses

Chase Farm and North Middlesex NHS Hospitals both have Acute Liaison Nurses. They are there to help young adults (**from 16+**) with learning disabilities prepare for hospital visits and overnight stays. They can also help by talking to Doctors and Nurses on your behalf, help book suitable appointments for

things such as blood tests, x-rays etc. They will also make sure you have what you need whilst in hospital.

If you would like any more information regarding this service please contact Karly Barker (Family Support Worker) at Durants School.

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Therapists

Durants is pleased to say that Sally Mordi (Speech and Language Therapist) will be back from maternity leave on the 29 April.

We would also like to take this opportunity to announce that our Music Therapist, Emily Panayiotou is going on maternity leave at Easter! But we are delighted to welcome Alexandra Georgaki (Music Therapist) who will be joining us for two days a week whilst Emily is on leave.

Fiona Hoo (our Dance and Movement Therapist) is also joining us for an extra day a week, ensuring that the pupils can still access a wide range of therapeutic support.

Siblings Group

On Thursday 7 March 2013, the Siblings Group went to TGI Friday's for dinner. Everyone had a lovely time, lots of food, giggles and gossiping!

Thank you to everyone who came along, we will meet up again soon.

'I can achieve'

On Wednesday 6 March, the Jack Petchey Award Ceremony was held at Lea Valley High School. Durants School vote for one pupil winner per term. Last year the three winning pupils were Kevin Harvey, Robert Fawns and Claudia Assiamah. Unfortunately Claudia and Robert were unable to attend. However, representing Durants School on the night was Kevin Harvey. This was a great achievement for him as he finds new things very difficult. Kevin enjoyed the evening, the music, the lights and the dancers.

Silver Class

On Wednesday 27 February, Silver Class attended Enfield Technologies Fair at Southgate College. We spent a very interesting morning looking at stalls set up by many of the colleges and organisations such as Thames Water. We had the opportunity to find out about energy saving, and ways to look after the environment. We finished off the morning attending a hands on presentation about different forms of energy, which everyone found very entertaining.



He took great pride in meeting the Mayor, receiving his medallion and showing it to familiar adults around him.

Kevin is a great example in what the pupils can manage when faced with a new experience.



Cinema Card

This is a national card that can be used to verify that the holder is entitled to one free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema.

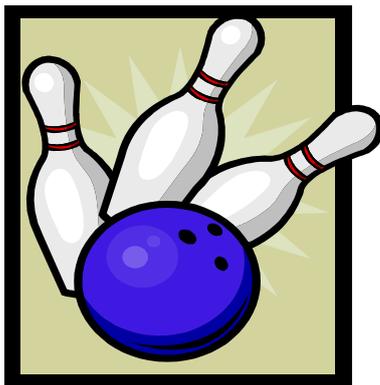
You can download the application form from www.ceacard.co.uk. There is a processing fee of £5.50 per card.

To apply for the card you will need to submit proof to show that you meet one or more of the following criteria:

- A) Be in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowances.
- B) Be a registered blind person.



Gold Class



Gold Class really enjoyed their trip to Hollywood Bowl and McDonalds.

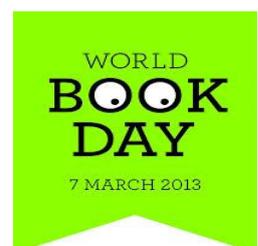
The pupils behaved brilliantly and it was a just reward for all the hard work they put into Valentine's Day enterprise.

Beige Class

This half term Beige Class has a walking challenge to complete. Every Tuesday we are taking the minibus to Forty Hall and walking around the pond. When we have walked around it ten times we will reward ourselves with a snack and drink in the café. So far we have walked around the pond four times, so are almost halfway there!

World Book Day

On Thursday 7 March, the whole school celebrated World Book Day. Each class compiled a page showing aspects of daily events in their school day. The finished book will be on view for all Parents to see whenever they visit the school.



Amber Class

Amber Class were invited to the David Lloyd Leisure Centre on Wednesday 20 March to experience the thrill of playing tennis. They were allocated an indoor court and took great enjoyment in participating in light tennis activities, practicing their hand/eye co-ordination and racket control.

Many thanks to the David Lloyd Leisure Centre for their hospitality, and to Mrs Omer for arranging this wonderful experience.



End of Term

An INSET DAY has been arranged for Thursday 28 March and school will be closed to all pupils on this day.

Therefore the last day of school for pupils this term is WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH and school will finish at the normal time of 3.00pm.

Pupils return to school at the normal time of 8.50am on:-

MONDAY 15 APRIL 2013

Save the Day

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL 2013

9.30AM AT DURANTS SCHOOL

