



This week saw the second group of Year 6 pupils taking part in bikeability sessions. Again, all of them did extremely well and the instructors were impressed with how well everyone listened and followed instructions.



Jill Scarborough from Midsomer Norton library came into our assembly today to launch the 'Summer Reading Challenge' which begins on July 13th.

This year's theme is all about arts and crafts. A poster with further details will follow shortly. Jill advised that our school traditionally has one of the best participation rates in the whole of BANES. Let's hope that the trend continues this year! She also reminded children about the library van that visits Clutton every other Tuesday at 2.45-4pm in the Railway Inn car park. Children can sign up for the summer reading challenge here as well as any library in BANES.

We're looking forward to sports day next week. Our younger children have been busy practising their races and house activities and are raring to go so fingers crossed for nice weather. We will make a decision by Wednesday morning at the latest as to whether it can go ahead or not. This will be based on ground condition as well as the weather forecast. If for any reason we have to postpone, a Teacher to Parents message will be sent.

A reminder regarding parking - please do not park at the Soap Bar.



The children in Ruby House had a great time at their house treat on Tuesday. They scooted, played games on the astro and had squash and biscuits. Well done Ruby!



School Uniform

Please can we ask you to check that your child's uniform is clearly labelled with their name. On just one day this week more than 12 jumpers and cardigans were collected from the playground after lunch time, and not one of them had a name in. So none could be returned to the owners. There are still 5 in the office now.

Head Teacher Award



Congratulations to Henry, Sammy, Noah, Charlie, Jack and Katie for receiving the Head Teachers Award this week.

Doodle Maths

Well done to everyone who completed their Doodle Maths and Doodle Tables this week.
The children with the most stars in their class this week are:

Doodle Maths - Keira, Molly, Nina, Stanley, Rueben, Johannes, Abel.

Doodle Maths Effort - Harry H Ellis, Molly, Harry B, Noah.

Doodle Tables - Louie, Max, Hera, Freddie, Alfie.

Doodle Tables Effort - Livie, Joshua, Delilah, Pippa.



Other Awards



Charlie and Sophie showed their football awards. Delilah, Hera, Phoebe and Elijah shared their gymnastics achievements.



Notices

- **Absence** - if your child is unwell and cannot attend school, please leave a message with the details of the illness, so we do not need to contact you to clarify. We need this information to update registers and for attendance meetings with the EWO.
- **Absence from school during term time request** - If you are planning for your child to be absent from school during term time you will need to complete an absence request form no less than 3 weeks before the planned absence. You will then get a reply to say if your absence has been authorised or not. The forms and the absence policy is available to download on the school website, or you can pick up a copy from the school office. Thank you.
- **Jewellery** - small stud earrings only please.
- **Long hair** - should be tied back at all times.
- **School Day** - Begins at 8.45am and ends 3.15pm. The gates close at 8.50am each morning.
- **School Pick up** - Please remember to inform the school if collection arrangements are different from normal.
- **School Shoes** - If your child is unable to tie their own shoe laces, please can we ask that they wear velcro strap shoes or trainers to school that they can fasten themselves.
- **Please do not allow your child to climb on the school wall, fence or gates. Thank you.**

Diary Dates

JUNE

Wednesday 19th	Sports Day (weather permitted) 1-3pm @Clutton FC
Friday 21st	Year 6 trip to Techniquet
Thursday 27th	Willow Class Learning exhibition to parents @2.30pm
Friday 28th	PTFA Summer Fayre after school

JULY

Wednesday 3rd	Summer music trumpet assembly (invitation only)
Tuesday 9th	Synagogue visit for Year 3
Wednesday 10th	Year 6 production @ 6pm
Thursday 11th	Year 6 production @ 6pm
Wednesday 17th	Talent show final - KS1 am/KS2 pm
Friday 19th	Year 6 Leavers Assembly



Clutton Primary School

News from The Den

June 14, 2024

Over the coming weeks, there will be a spotlight on various different things such as diagnosis, tips and strategies and where to find support. The spotlight this week is on Autism.

What is Autism?

Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) is a lifelong spectrum of developmental conditions that affect how people communicate and experience the world around them. It is not an illness to be cured; instead it means that your brain works in a different way to other people.

Autistic people may share some characteristics and they might have strengths and weaknesses in different areas. Common signs include:





Supporting an Autistic Child

A guide for parents:

GIRLS AND BOYS

There is usually a difference in the way Autism looks in girls and boys. Girls are often better at 'masking' or hiding aspects of their Autism than boys are. They may appear to cope better in social situations and hide their feelings. Because of their more subtle presentation of Autism, it can be very difficult to diagnose and therefore their needs may not be addressed as quickly.

WHAT CAUSES AUTISM?

It is unknown what causes Autism. It is thought to be a combination of genetic and environmental factors affecting brain development and function. Traits can often be seen in family members, so it is thought that it can be passed down genetically.

Autism is not caused by bad parenting. It is not caused by vaccines or a poor diet. You can't 'catch' Autism as it is not an infection.

What can I do to support my child?

• **REDUCE THE UNKNOWN**

Many Autistic children like routine: not knowing what is going to happen next or at a particular point during the day can be daunting, as can visits to unfamiliar places or new people. As far as possible, you can help your child to overcome some of their anxiety by talking them through their day. If there's a visit to a doctor on the cards, talk about how you'll get there, what the waiting room is like, how you'll book in and what the doctor might ask or do. Use [visual timetables](#) and ['Now and Next' boards](#) to help your child to see what their day looks like and deal with transitions between activities.

• **MODEL CLEAR COMMUNICATION**

If your child is having difficulties with communication, make sure you model to them what good communication looks like. To get their attention, say their name. Speak slowly and clearly so that your child understands what you have said. Use language they know. If your child is finding it hard to communicate, you could use some sort of [visual clue](#) to help. [Visual support cards](#) can be used to help manage behaviour too. These types of visual clues can also help them to communicate with others. Give them time to process what has been said rather than expect an answer or an action straight away.

• **CELEBRATE EVERY SUCCESS**

It's easy to concentrate on negative traits when you have an Autistic child. But look at what is in front of you - your child will do things every day that are great and show progress for them. Celebrate those small things that other parents might take for granted. Your celebration acts as an encouragement to your child to keep going and will motivate them to recognise their own successes.



- **BE PREPARED TO HAVE BOUNDARIES**

Make sure you set boundaries for your child so that they understand what is acceptable and what is not. Those boundaries need to be consistent so that your child understands your expectations. Your child is likely to thrive on having boundaries in place because otherwise they may feel out of control and overwhelmed.

- **EDUCATE YOURSELF AND OTHERS**

You'll want to read up as much as you can about Autism and how it can present in different ways for different people - this is a natural reaction. However, despite so much media attention on Autism in recent years, many people still do not really know what it is. Most people will not have the understanding or experience that you have. You may come across individuals who wrongly believe that your child is just being awkward deliberately or that they need telling off if they have an extreme reaction to something. Don't accept that these individuals are just poorly educated in Autism; if you are able to, explain the difficulties your child has so that they understand a little more.

Make sure that any adults coming into contact with your child know that they are Autistic. Giving them some information about your child's needs will help that person to support your child and give your child a better overall experience.

- **SHOW RESPECT**

Your child's difficulties might seem insignificant to you. You might even think of them as 'silly'. They're not. They are extremely important to your child and they can't just 'get over' them. Autistic children require respect for their needs and wishes and an understanding that their brain works in a different way. You're not there to judge their actions and reactions to things; you're there to support them to live their best life.

- **BE FLEXIBLE**

Life might look a little different from how it did before - and that's not a bad thing; it just requires a degree of flexibility. Special days - such as birthdays, **Halloween**, **Bonfire Night** and **Christmastime** - might need to be adjusted in order for your child to feel comfortable and that's fine.

If you're taking your child along to a party, for example, your own expectations about arriving at a certain time, playing rowdy games, dancing and eating food together might not work with your Autistic child. You might find that arriving at the start of a party is too overwhelming for them and you might suggest arriving slightly later. Similarly, with party games and dancing, you might realise your child finds these uncomfortable due to loud noises and lights. That's okay - have a chat to the party organiser to see if there's a quiet place your child can retreat to. If your child uses noise-reducing headphones, they might like to take them along. Eating unfamiliar foods with lots of noisy children might be very challenging, so could you bring along a few foods you know they'll enjoy? Just because your child's experience of the party is different, it doesn't mean they'll enjoy it any less.

- **FIND PATTERNS IN THEIR BEHAVIOUR**

You might find that your child reacts in a certain way to a particular social situation. You might see that they find their birthday overwhelming and need extra support. Observe carefully to see if there are any patterns so that you can start to plan for any difficulties they may have.

- **LOVE AND ACCEPT THEM**

Ensure you show your child that you love them and tell them often - even if they might not reciprocate. Your child does not need to be changed - this isn't the intention of a diagnosis. They just need some support to overcome challenges. You can help them do this.



SUMMER FAYRE

Friday 28th June
3.30pm – 6pm

CLUTTON
SOCIAL CLUB & FIELD

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

BBQ and bar
Ice cream
Soak the teacher
Bouncy castle
Face painting
and so much more!

Hosted by
the PTFA and
Clutton Social Club



 **DOWNSIDE SCHOOL**

SUMMER NETBALL CAMP

22nd July - 23rd July 24

Experienced coaching by

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Ages 9 - 12

Join us for a fun morning of coaching!
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For more details, please contact Richard Staines
enterprises@downside.co.uk
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summer

HOLIDAY CLUB

£35
a day

Ages
5-10

Run by Joely and Emilie at
Farrington Gurney Village Hall



- ✓ Outdoor activities
- ✓ Arts and crafts
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- ✓ Playing, exploring, learning, relaxing



Every Tuesday and Wednesday throughout
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8.30am - 4.30pm

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