

News Hub



December 2023

Headteacher Update



Dear Oak Tree School Community,
As we wrap up this incredible year, I wanted to take a moment to share some of the wonderful festivities and accomplishments happening at Oak Tree School. The halls are buzzing with the joy of the season, and our students have been embracing the Christmas spirit wholeheartedly.

Our recent Christmas party lunch was a fantastic success! Students and staff came together to share laughter, delicious food, and spread the warmth of the holidays. The school was alive with the sounds of cheerful chatter and the sight of beaming smiles - truly a heartwarming sight.

Amidst the excitement, our students have been diving into various Christmas games and activities, making the most of this joyful time. From crafting beautiful decorations to participating in festive games, their enthusiasm has been infectious.

The anticipation for our Christmas shows is building, and our students are eagerly preparing to showcase their talents. It's a joyous time where creativity and enthusiasm take centre stage, and we can't wait to witness their incredible performances.

In the spirit of giving, our school recently celebrated Christmas Jumper Day! It was fantastic to see everyone embracing the festive season by wearing their most colourful and creative jumpers. The joyous atmosphere and the sea of vibrant colours truly brightened up our school.

Beyond the celebrations within our walls, our students have been making strides outside the school premises. They've been actively engaging in community activities, practicing essential skills such as managing money in shops and learning how to navigate public transport. It's a crucial part of their growth, and we're immensely proud of their progress.

I'm thrilled to announce that we've now accepted our 2024 cohort of students! Next year our primary classes will be at full capacity, and we'll have the privilege of guiding one Year 7 class. We're committed to continuing our unwavering support for all our students, ensuring their unique needs are met as they embark on this educational journey with us.

As we approach the end of this year, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, our supportive parents, and, most importantly, our incredible students. The Oak Tree community continues to shine brightly because of your unwavering support and dedication.

Abi Davis
Headteacher



OAK TREE
SCHOOL

Christmas Jumper Day!

On Thursday 7th December, Oak Tree School held a Christmas Jumper Day with both pupils and staff participating. Everybody looked so wonderfully festive!

We also celebrated Christmas Jumper Day by hosting a special lunch for the pupils with lots of fun party food for them to enjoy! The children also had the opportunity to wear Santa hats and pull on Christmas crackers.



Speech and Language Therapist Update

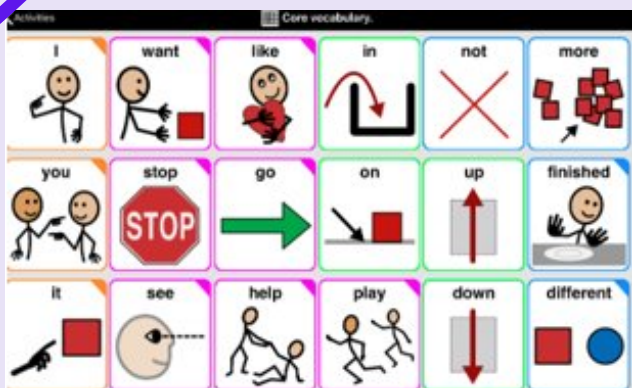


Dear families,

I hope you are keeping well.

This week, staff have had two clinical trainings on the importance of using visual supports with our students here at Oak Tree School. Neurodivergent individuals often show strengths in understanding and processing of visual information (pictures, gestures, diagrams, signs, symbols, etc!) and this is one of the reasons why Oak Tree School adopts a Total Communication Approach.

On Monday, staff learned more about Proloquo2go. Proloquo2go is a communication app for iPads which can support students to communicate using symbol-based language. It can also be used by class staff to model language to the students. Class teams learnt how to use the app and practised setting up boards for different topics.



On Thursday, staff learnt more about how visuals are crucial when students need support with their emotions. Quite often, our students will not want to verbally speak to us when they are upset and will struggle to understand instructions from supporting adults.

Chloe Jenner

Speech and Language Therapist

Across the term, students have been having access to weekly 'Word of the Week' lessons where they are supported to learn new vocabulary related to either key concepts in the class book or the maths content for that week. Students enjoy these engaging lessons and I have included a few pictures for you to see what they have been learning about!



Ash class learnt about 'dark'.



Sapling class learnt about 'through'.



Elm class learnt about 'up'.

Upcoming training for parents and carers:

9 th January 2023	3-4pm	Total Communication Approach for primary
10 th January 2023	3-4pm	Total Communication Approach for secondary
16 th January 2023	3-4pm	Proloquo2go for primary

As usual, if you do have any questions about your child's clinical input, please do not hesitate to direct your queries to me at c.jenner@maidenerleghtrust.org

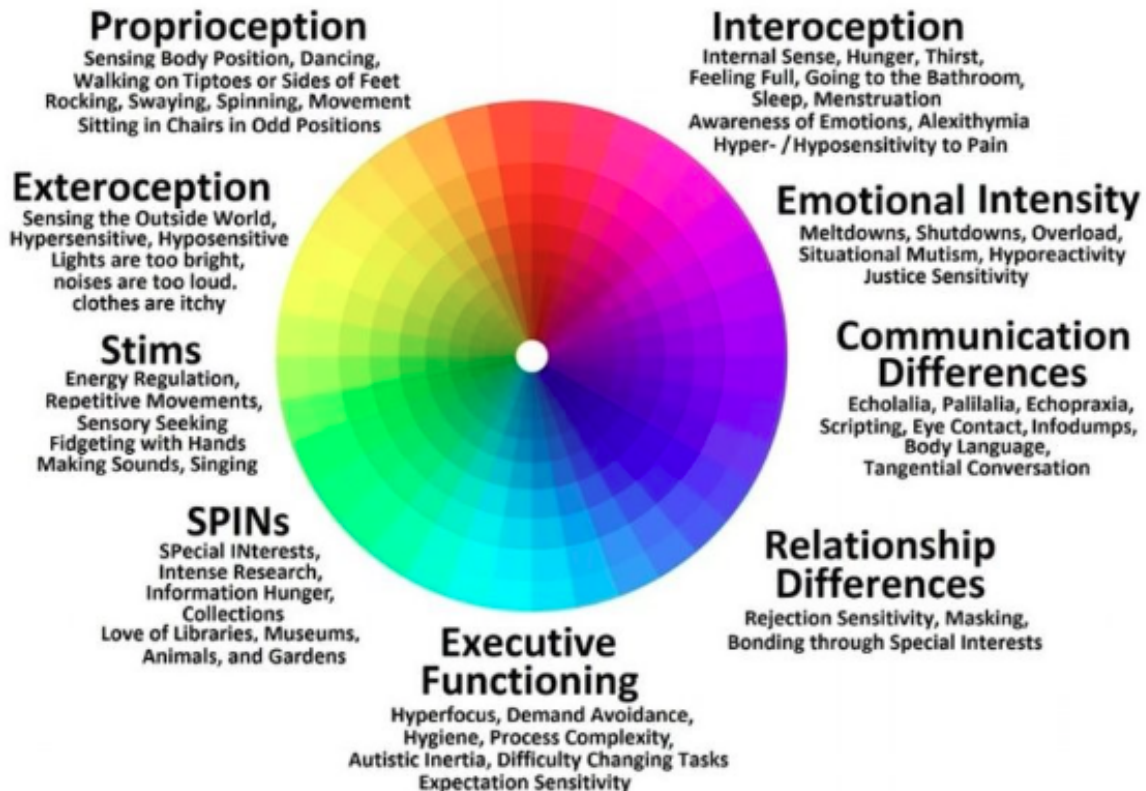
Best wishes,
Chloe

The Autism Spectrum

Child & Adolescent Psychological Evaluations, LLC

Matt Lowry, LPP

MattLowryLPP.com



On Wednesday 6th December Oak tree school held a tour and discussion for our 2024 cohort. During our discussion we presented the above diagram and outlined the role that Oak Tree School plays in supporting the individual needs of all our students, each of whom presents with ASC in diverse and unique ways. At Oak Tree, our dedication lies in adapting to and comprehensively supporting these distinctive behaviours, ensuring that every student receives tailored care to facilitate their academic and personal growth. Although behaviours may be significantly different from those that your child presents, we provide several strategies for your child to feel safe and develop in the school team. Your continued support and engagement are greatly valued.

Primary Update

Children in Saplings, Elm and Ash have had an very busy two weeks. They have been readying themselves for Christmas by performing Christmas-themed activities in their classrooms whilst also rehearsing for the Nativity.

Saplings Class: Over the last two weeks, Sapling class have been looking at 'Stickman' through my communications. Children have created their own Stickman's and as a class have used this through the story. We have also been focusing on Christmas activity such as designing Christmas tree as well as singing Christmas songs to rehearse for the Nativity.

Elm Class: The children in Elm class have been working really well on sharing their space with others when engaging with different construction toys, the children have also enjoyed completing some Christmas themed art work. We have also worked really hard on implementing the use of our communication device and some of the students have really enjoyed exploring this.

Ash Class: Ash class has been decorating the class Christmas tree. They have also been learning about bedtime routines such as brushing their teeth and putting pyjamas on. They have also been learning about money including all the different coins. They've also been very busy practicing for the Nativity!

Pictures Shared From Primary and Secondary Around The School



Secondary Update

Our secondary classes have had an incredibly busy couple of weeks. They have been working hard in their cooking lessons preparing lots of delicious food. They also have had the opportunity to take class trips to the park or to Sainsbury's which the students thoroughly enjoyed! They have also been practicing their Christmas play ready for next week.

Chestnut Class: Chestnut class have been continuing with The Firework Maker's Daughter in English. We have been predicting, writing setting descriptions about the Fire-Fiend's cavern and writing playscripts. In Maths, we are continuing to practice our 3, 6 and 9 times tables through different maths games. In World About Me, we created large self portraits to celebrate and show our differences. We made some delicious nachos in cooking, learning to use an oven. We also had our first trip out of school to the park, which was a success!

Willow Class: Willow Class have been busy preparing for our Christmas production. The children have been fantastic at learning their lines and adopting new roles, performing with great expression and enthusiasm. A highlight has been a repeat visit to Sainsbury's where we played a game of 'Supermarket Sweep', trying to retrieve items from around the store and return them to the trolley in a 2 minute time limit - this was a lot of fun. We are extremely proud of the hard work that Willow Class are putting in.

Beech Class: Beech Class have had successful trips out in the community. The class created their shopping list for the ingredients they needed for their cooking lesson and went to buy these from Sainsburys. They all worked together and solved problems when paying for their items. Beech class have been learning about the world's population in Geography and have been focusing on the factors which affect the world's population. Students have been engaging well during Science where we have been learning about specialised animal and plant cells and their functions.

Maple Class: Maple Class have had two successful community visits over the past two weeks. We have continued to explore cells within science, population and the impact on the world in Geography, develop our functional cooking skills and practicing for our Christmas performance. They are really looking forward to showcasing this next week! We have had a very positive term and all students have made progress in lots of different areas.

Social Media

If you would like to keep up to date with the progress being made at Oak Tree School, follow us on...



@OakTreeSchool



@OakTreeSchool1

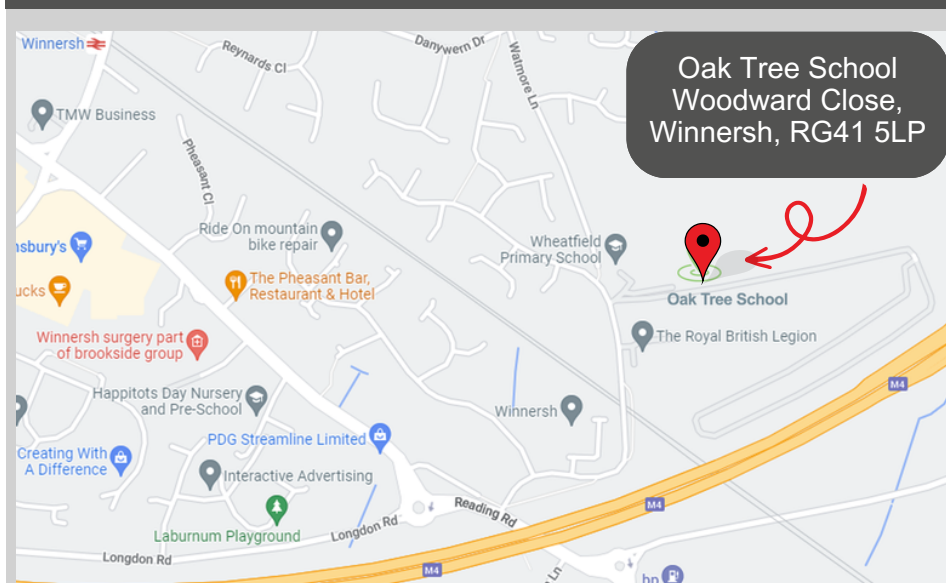


@MaidenErleghTrust



@MaidenErleghTrust

Where to find us?



www.oaktreeschool.org



0118 216 0040



OTS@maidenerleghtrust.org