north east autism society

THE VOICE OF Mackenzie Thorpe Centre

NEWSLETTER | 2023/2024

Autumn Term 2023

WELCOME

Important dates

- Return to school for term 1.2 on 6th November
- School closes for Christmas break on 19th December

Dates to remember

- Halloween 31st October
- Bonfire night 5th November
- Remembrance day 11th November

Themes of the Month:

- Pupil induction
- British values
- Black history month
- Halloween
- Bonfire night

Upcoming Themes:

- Anti-bullying
- Children in Need
- Christmas



Welcome Back

The new academic year has been fantastic so far with learners confidently settling in to new class rooms, new routines and some, with new teachers. We have welcomed some new learners into school this year and are enthralled to see them fitting in like they have been here forever!

We have seen some changes over the summer with Mark Ellison taking on the role of Principal and Tracey Clements taking on the vacant Vice Principal position. Along with Corrina, they have made some wonderful improvements to the school environment and are keen to see our learners succeed to the very best of their ability.



Welcome back to the Mackenzie Thorpe Centre.

It has been an amazing start to the new school year. All of our learners have returned and settled in to their new classrooms.

Over the holidays, many of our classrooms have been re-decorated and we have started work on growing the provision by creating extra classrooms and developing the outdoor area- I am hoping I can bring you more news on this development at the end of next term!

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Mental Health Day

Learners have been promoting their mental health and well-being through the medium of animals this term. Learners have accessed a dog rescue charity, Maxi's Mates, and helped to exercise the dogs. Learners have linked positive mental well-being to spending time with animals in the great outdoors.



Local contacts for safeguarding:

Redcar & Cleveland Multi-Agency Children's Hub (MACH)
Telephone - 01642 130700
Email - RedcarMACH@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Middlesbrough Multi-Agency Children's Hub (MACH)
Telephone - 01642 726004
Email - MiddlesbroughMACH@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Safe place in School

We promote a safe place for everyone in school to talk about anything that concerns them and we are all here to listen. We have a team of Designated Safeguarding Leads to promptly act upon any concerns that may be reported to them, supporting the welfare of our learners and placing them at the forefront of everything we do.



Sarah Huntley
Safeguarding Officer
sarah.huntley@ne-as.org.uk



Mark Ellison
Principal
mark.ellison@ne-as.org.uk



Corrina McEwan
Vice Principal
corrina.mcewan@ne-as.org.uk

Furthermore, we offer in school nurture sessions which run in 6 week blocks to offer additional support. Michelle and Jacqui offer amazing listening services and helpful strategies to help our learners progress.



Jacquie Wilcock



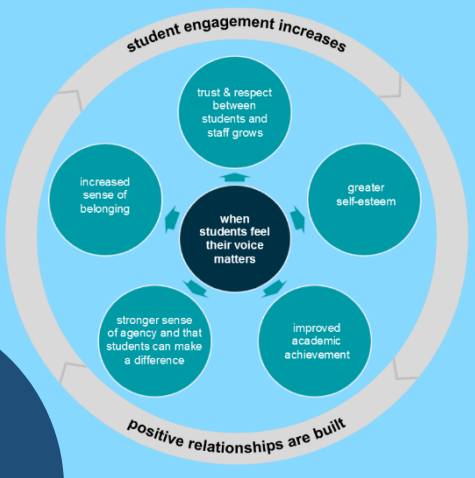
Michelle Ireson

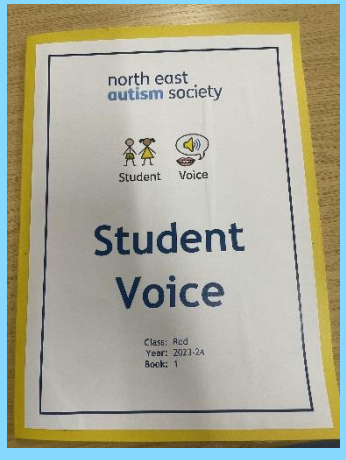
Student Council

Our first Student Council meeting was held this half term with candidates from each class attending to put forward their ideas and views of our wonderful school.

Each candidate was given a book to return to their peers in class. This gave everyone in the class an equal opportunity to voice their opinions and ideas to further improve the school or to ask for new resources and engaging activities.

We are looking forward to the next meeting to discuss and create a plan to implement any ideas that learners have had.





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Community Inclusion

We are lucky to be able to offer a community programme to some of the learners in school and it is wonderful to see them thrive in an environment that is suited to them.

Our community learners have been developing their independent living skills, researching recipes, creating shopping lists and buying the ingredients. Learners have then accessed our independent living space in school to create the recipe.

Well done, a chef in the making!

Butterfly World

Griffin Purple and Green class had the opportunity to explore Butterfly World this week as part of their community inclusion curriculum.

The pupils were fascinated by the many types of butterfly and learned about their life cycle, including examining the butterfly larvae. They also met some other curious creatures as they helped feed the fish that call the centre's ponds their home.



Black History

Each year we celebrate Black History in school. We explore a range of black history stories and think of the opportunities given to everyone in current times regardless of your skin colour.

Phoenix Red class enjoyed learning about the story of heroic Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat on a public bus just because of the colour of her skin. Learners took part in sensory activities through an Attention Autism approach to understand the difficulties Rosa Parks once faced whilst she was fighting for equal rights.



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Halloween Spooktacular

Learners have been getting excited about the upcoming event, Halloween!

They have been decorating their classrooms and making papier mâché pumpkins ready to decorate for the school Halloween Party.

The school Halloween Party is always a huge success with learners delving into disgusting themed sensory activities such as slime making and baking delicious goodies to share with their peers.







Recycling Week

Learners have been exploring the importance of recycling and the effects it has on our planet. We have focused on the reduction of waste products, and researched what we can do to support reducing waste, such as using reusable cups and straws and refillable containers. Learners even researched microplastics, and found out that there are traces of plastic in the Antarctic and the deepest parts of the ocean. It's safe to say our learners are keen to save our planet and are promoting recycling in school.







Bouncing into the new term

Learners have been working on their fitness regime and have taken part in weekly trampolining sessions at Velocity trampoline park. Learners have been discussing the importance of physical activity to improve their fitness and overall health. Trampolining provides a new set of skills for the children to learn, not to mention the essential sensory regulation that is provided. Take a look at some action shots below...





