north east autism society

THE VOICE OF Mackenzie Thorpe Centre

NEWSLETTER | 2024

WELCOME

Autumn Term 2024

Important dates:

- Break up Friday 25th October for half Term.
- Return to school Monday 4th November.
- Winter Fete and Parent Progress afternoon: 18th December.
- Break up for Christmas Friday 20th December.

Whole school events:

- Children in need fundraiser 17th November.
- Christmas Jumper Day 7th December.
- Christmas Lunch 12th December.
- Break up for Christmas Friday 20th December.

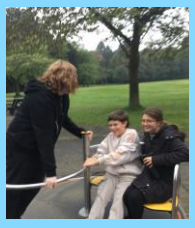
What an amazing half term we have had....

From Roald Dahl Day to Halloween celebrations and everything in between its been a busy half term for our learners.

With some changes of classroom and teacher for some learners they have coped amazingly and all settled into their new routine brilliantly. Take a look at a roundup of what they have been up to..






Macmillan Coffee Afternoon








This half term a Macmillan Coffee morning was arranged at school in line with the national Coffee morning event, the event was a great opportunity to catch up with parents alongside raising money for the amazing Macmillan Charity, staff baked some wonderful cakes and learners artwork was showcased for parents to see.

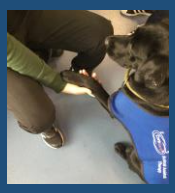
A great successful event!

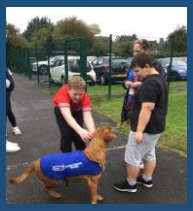
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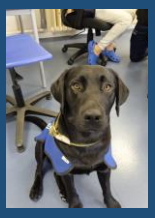
Therapy Dogs

Proving to be one of our most popular days of the week the therapy dogs have been in multiple times over the half term.

The learners love meeting the dogs and giving them some attention and it always proves to be a lovely fun morning.





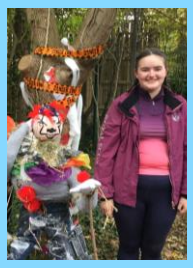


Local contacts for safeguarding:

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

Scarecrow Competition

















This half term we have held a scarecrow competition, our theme was Halloween and all the learners joined in with the designing of the scarecrows and making them. They did a great job with some very spooky looking scarecrows!! Purple class was the overall winner with their amazing clown scarecrow!

Mental Health

At Mackenzie Thorpe Centre we pride ourselves on the importance of protecting our own and our learner's mental health and wellbeing, we have systems in place for our learners that require support with their mental health and wellbeing including many targeted activities throughout the term and staff that are designated mental health leads.

To mark World Mental Health Day on the 10th October we encouraged our pupils to engage in friendship bracelet making with peers or just a cake and a juice with friends.

Below is a range of resources available and if you require any other support for your child class teachers and staff are always available to speak too. All resources are available on the North East Autism Society Website.

Alexithymia.docx Introduction to Anxiety.docx Top Tips for Boosting Self Confidence.docx









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Spooky Halloween Sensory Walk

Another NEAS site New Warlands Farm have created a FREE event perfect for families of autistic young people to enjoy during the half term holidays!

There is a number of sensory installations to explore along with refreshments available.

- The event is running from Saturday 26th October – Friday 1st November
- 10am – 6pm each day.
- New Warlands Farm, Holmside Lane, Durham, DH7 6EX.

Email kerris.bewick@ne-as.org.uk for more information and with a preferred date and time.





World Animal Day





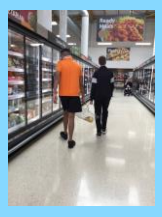




On October 4th it was World Animal Day and to celebrate we had a visit from the animal club! They brought all sorts of wonderful creatures including snakes, mice, snails, lizards, geckos, frogs and stick insects. All the children were very brave and enjoyed feeling and holding the different animals. The learners also asked lots of questions about careers and job roles within the animal industry and the whole day was very informative and fun! A lovely experience.

Community Inclusion

Lots of our pupils have done work within the community this half term, they have visited museums, libraries, completed work experience at a local dog shelter, been shopping and completed cookery, visited local sports halls and been litter picking in the local area. Completing community activities is a great way to help build real work resilience, independent living skills and confidence.










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Transitions and Seasonal Transitions:

This time of year can be challenging for all people particularly those that are neuro diverse.

With changes to the environment, weather and usual routines these times of the year can create periods of uncertainty and anxiety for our learners.

Attached is a document with some things to try if your child is struggling with seasonal changes:

Seasonal Changes.docx

In addition, attached are some resources from the North East Autism Society website about specific events this time of year to try and make this time as relaxed as possible. They also include some easy sensory activities that some of our learners enjoy!

I'm Autistic and I love Halloween

top tips for bonfire night

Christmas resources

If you need anymore support don't hesitate to contact your class teacher and they can offer assistance.

Student Work

Our students work so hard every week to achieve some amazing targets and work, this is sometimes out in the community, within independent living skills or educationally.

We asked Sophia Luker our student representative what she has been doing this half term and she was very keen to update us:

"I love riding Georgie the horse and I enjoy jumping with her. In school I'm doing a project on K-pop. Right now, I'm making a poster on Rose from Blackpink, she is my favorite member."

Here are some pictures of Sophia doing her favorite activities.





Welcome Back Tracey Train...



This half term we have welcomed back Tracey Train as our principal, she was with us back in 2023 and left to go work at another NEAS site however she is now back and will be returning as our full time principal over the coming months.

We couldn't be happier!