



12th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

A Happy New Year to you all. I hope 2024 has started well. We are pleased to welcome back Harriet, our family support worker. She will be with us every day this term. Do give her a call if there is anything you need. She will be based in the reception office to see you all and to get to know any new families and pupils who joined us this academic year. The New Year is also a good time to remind you of some key information.

Attendance and Punctuality

It is vital all pupils attend school regularly. Since COVID, all across the country, there has been an increase in the number of pupils missing school. All pupils are expected to attend unless they are unwell or have an appointment. If your child is not well enough for school please call the office and let them know the reason. We will also call you to check in when your child is unwell.

We cannot authorise holiday leave in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. In these instances, you must make an appointment to meet with me, Erin and Harriet to discuss the details so we can make a plan with you.

Routine is key for people with autism. The routine for the school day starts with registration and pupils need to be on time. Here's a reminder of key times for the start of the day:

Secondary pupils

8.55 Gates open
9.00 Pupils go up to class
9.05 Gates are locked

Primary Pupils

9.25 Gates open
9.30 Pupils go to class
9.35 Gates are locked

If you arrive once the gates close, the reception team will call your child's class and they will come around into the playground to meet you. We know managing mornings can be a challenge at home so do let us know if there are visual schedules or other resources we can provide to help. Please do speak with one of us if there are specific challenges.

Autism and communication

All our pupils need support to develop communication skills and many can find it hard to filter out or ignore background noise. Please don't use your phones once you come on to site at the start and end of the school day. It's a really important time to communicate with each other.

Using the library

We have a beautiful library which is really well used by all our pupils. If you have any books at home please return them so others can use them too. Let us know if you have any favourites.

This term we have two different classes visiting Camberwell Library each week. It's great to see the pupils accessing the community so well.

Training for families

We are starting our Spring Term training programme for families. The first RSE for KS3 parents is on Tuesday January 16th at 2.30 with Erin.

We have put together a survey for you to choose the most useful training sessions. Please follow the link or scan the QR code to share your views and ideas. You are welcome to speak with any one of us too if that's easier.

[Family Training Survey](#)



Spring Term Events

We have several enrichment events for pupils this term. Secondary pupils and families have been invited to see Beauty and the Beast at the Peacock Theatre. All the pupils will have a chance to take part in our Circus Skills workshops on Monday January 29th. The Living Eggs arrive later this term and our dance showcase week will take place in March.

There is an update form the Thrive to 25 programme attached at the bottom of this letter.

Have a good weekend and stay warm,

Steph Lea

Steph Lea
Executive Headteacher

VoiceAbility Thriving Together - Shared learning event - 17th January 2024

VoiceAbility will be hosting a shared learning event which will include training sessions, including introduction to Makaton, communication and behaviour, facilitating activities for SEND young people. For more information please email thrivesouthwark@voiceability.org.

Resource for Autism - New Social Group

Resource for Autism will be starting a new social group for young people from **the 8th of March 2024**. For further information please contact Nazia at Nazia@resourcesforautism.org.uk by 1st February to secure a place.

Resource for Autism are also delivering an online parents workshops which are available to all parents or carers of a child or young person with autism. These workshops help parents with a range of topics including **sleep, diet, behaviour management, school provision, EHCP plans, girls with autism**. For further information please contact Nazia at Nazia@resourcesforautism.org.uk.

Bolton Crescent Adventure Playground from OasisPlay (former Charlie Chaplin site)

Bolton Crescent Adventure Playground is an open access adventure playground with lots of exciting indoor and outdoor activities. The site is very accessible and even has a Changing Places toilet for children and young people that may need access to a changing bench or hoist for their personal care needs. The site is just over the border in Lambeth, near Kennington Park, but is open to Southwark children for stay & play. This means children aged 6-16 can attend for FREE with a family carer or support worker.

For more information visit: <https://oasisplay.org.uk/come-and-play/boltoncrescent-adventureplayground/>

Special interest groups and social clubs for 16-25 year olds

There are a number of new activities being piloted for 16-25 year olds as part of the Thrive-to-25 programme, including:

FLIP THE SCRIPT - SEND CLUB photography and video project

This group for 16 to 25 year olds, will continue to offer drama, creative expression, personal development and life skills, as well as adding photography & video production. To book email rhythmandviews@yahoo.com.

Black Stock Media / Rhythm & Views presents



FLIP THE SCRIPT - SEND CLUB

13th January -
2nd March 2024
Theatre Peckham,
221 Havil Street,
London SE5 7SB.
1.30pm - 4.30pm

Free photography & storytelling for young
people with special needs (SEN) aged 16-25

To book, email rhythmandviews@yahoo.com
Tel/Txt: 07808 603499

