

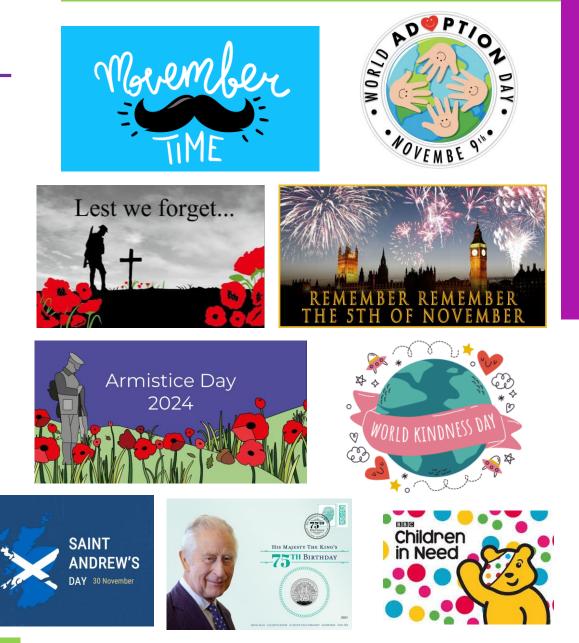
# September 2024 Newsletter

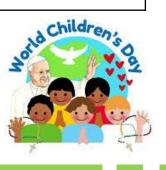
The Forum School



## **Upcoming Events in November**

1<sup>st</sup> - Movember / World Vegan Day
5<sup>th</sup> - Bonfire Night - Fireworks from 6pm in the garden
9<sup>th</sup> - World Adoption Day
10<sup>th</sup> - Remembrance Sunday
11<sup>th</sup> - Armistice Day
13<sup>th</sup> - World Kindness Day
14<sup>th</sup> - HRH King Charles III Birthday
15<sup>th</sup> - Children in Need
20<sup>th</sup> - World Children Day
30th - St. Andrew's Day





## **Upcoming Events in November**



## **The Forum Stars!**

Shout out a staff member that has gone above and beyond for a young person, yourself, your team or the school. Email Forum.Stars@cambiangroup.com with a sentence about why a colleague is amazing and they'll be entered into a draw. There will be 4 winners. 1 from Care, 1 from Education, 1 from nights and 1 from everyone else! The winners will receive a £10 Love2Shop voucher and Employee of the month for your department!

# Upcoming Birthdays



## November

Kelly Foster Mary Cuss Natalie Harcom Verna Edward Emma House **Nick Stevens Carissa Ealson** Kerry Byron





**Training Opportunities** 

We are eagerly looking for staff members across all departments to train in;

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)

The teaching of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. All grant-aided schools are required to have an RSE policy that is based on consultation with parents and pupils.

Please let Melissa McCarthy know if you are interested, this can be booked as part of CPD.







# AQA

### Awards achieved so far this term!

SSI

Recognising Coins Visiting an Outdoor Activity Centre Introduction to Cooking Using an Exercise Bike Taking Part in a Museum Visit Watching a Performance at a Theatre

JCv Effective Learning and Playing (Unit 3)

> **RS** Going Shopping

JH Visiting an Outdoor Activity Centre Introduction to Outdoor Activities

TF Visiting an Outdoor Activity Centre Modelling with Air Hardening Clay Watching a Performance at a Theatre

KAM Modelling with Air Hardening Clay

KAC Modelling with Air Hardening Clay

**OH** Visiting an Outdoor Activity Centre

#### **KT** Visiting an Outdoor Activity Centre Modelling with Air Hardening Clay

#### MJP

Taking Part in Basic Transitions Eating in a Sociably Acceptable Manor English – Sensory Story Exploring Sound and Rhythm Fine Motor Skills Development Introduction to Using a Swimming Pool Listening and Responding to a Story Making Choices for Leisure Activities Picking a Drink and Snack at Break Time with Assistance Rebound Therapy Sessions Life Skills – Understanding Cleanliness Watching a Performance at a Theatre

#### DJ

Visiting an Outdoor Activity Centre Modelling with Air Hardening Clay English – Sensory Story Making Choices for Leisure Activities Listening and Responding to a Story Choosing a Self Regulation Activity Life Skills – Understanding Cleanliness Taking part in Basic Transitions Eating in a Socially Acceptable Manor Sensory Seasons – Autumn Exploring Sound and Rhythm Tactile Experiences Vocational Studies – Helping to Clean and Tidy in a School Early Writing Skills Fine Motor Skills Development Improving Social Skills Picking a Drink and Snack at Break time with Assistance **Rebound Therapy Sessions** Sensory Introduction to Numbers

BOC Modelling with Air Hardening Clay

#### JT

Visiting an Outdoor Activity Centre Modelling with Air Hardening Clay

#### LMT

Horse Riding Skills Introduction to Pony Riding (Unit 1) A Bug Adventure with Support Effective Learning: Playing and Exploring (Unit 3)

> AT Modelling with Air Hardening Clay

> DH Modelling with Air Hardening Clay

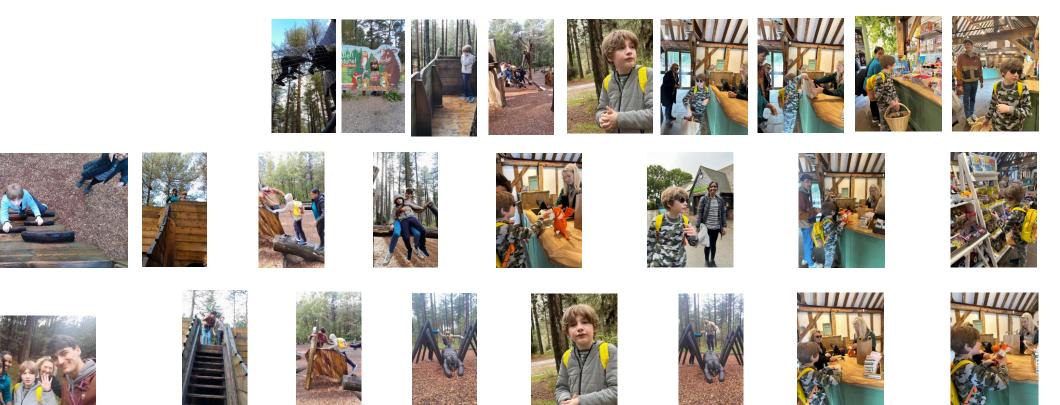
#### JC

Modelling with Air Hardening Clay Preparing to Ride a Horse (Unit 1) Making Choices for Leisure Activities Picking a Drink and Snack at Break time with Assistance Swimming Activities (Unit 1) Choosing a Self Regulating Activity Eating in a Socially Acceptable Manor Improving Social Skills Life Skills – Understanding Cleanliness Taking Part in Basic Transitions Rebound Therapy Sessions



A big walk on the Gruffalo trail before a spot of Shopping.

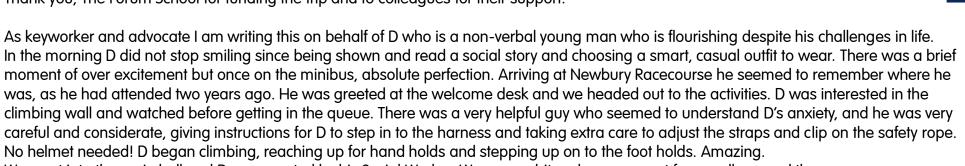






### Learner Achievement Award for your very own young man

Thank you, West Berkshire Council for the invitation and presenting D with the Personal Achievement Award on Saturday 19th October Thank you, The Forum School for funding the trip and to colleagues for their support.



We went into the main hall and D was greeted by his Social Worker. We were a bit early so we went for a walk around the racecourse enclosures.

When we went back to the dining hall, the Social Worker was there to help us find a table. We joined another group of people on a big round table, at the side and front. There were speeches and Introductions before names were called out. D watched as each person went up to collect awards, He joined in with clapping and listened to music. When D's name was called, D immediately stood up and went to receive his award by himself. The award was in a white envelope and D perhaps couldn't understand what this was for, so he handed it back and returned to his seat. We retrieved it for him and tucked it away for later.

After the ceremony D had his meal before saying our goodbyes and heading off home.

I want you to understand how brilliant this all is. To self-regulate D spins his body or toys, and sometimes spinning items inappropriately; he can get stuck and sometimes worries about busy and noisy environments.

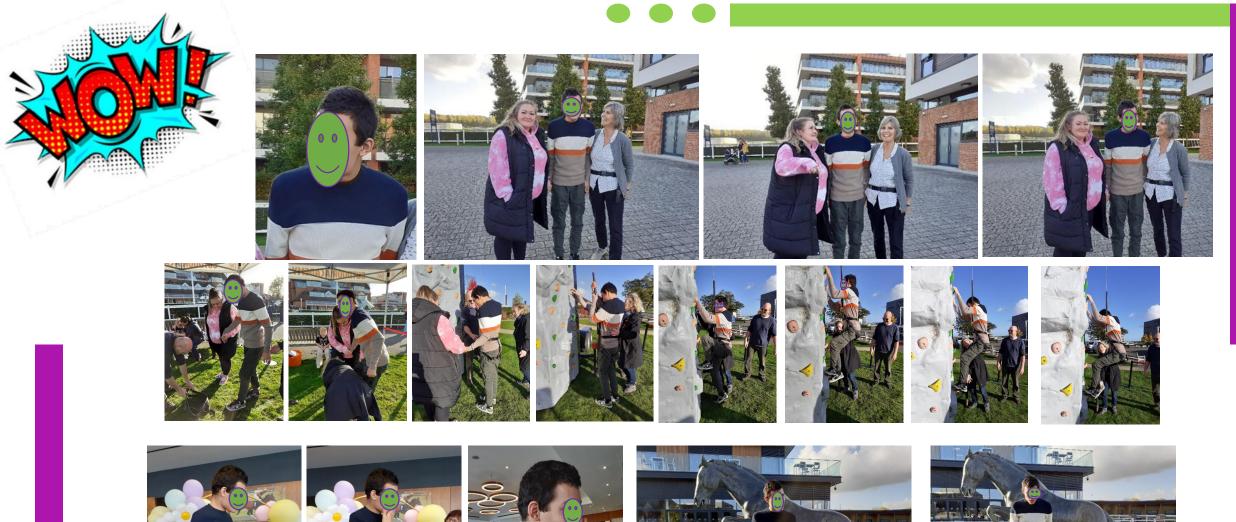
Events such as this show that D is maturing, managing his needs and feelings. He has shown immense progress in his level of understanding, what is being said to him and knowing what to do when out in the community.

PTO for photo's...

West Berkshire

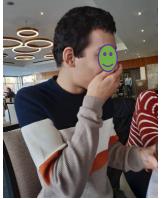
achievements of adult learner

Well done!















## Days out with Hambledon













































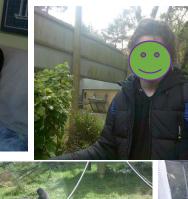


## Days out with Laurels























Days out with Waters End











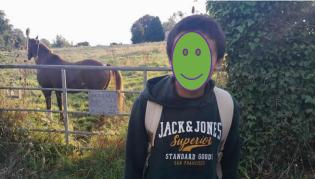
























Days out with Willow's





































## Wellbeing Wednesday

The new Head of Education has been reviewing the wellbeing policy for the school. On the last Wednesday of each term we are having a Wednesday well being session for the education team. We also played a game and had a good laugh



Go shorty it's ya birthday, we're gonna party like it's ya birthday!















## Cake anyone?





















Award	Nominations
Children's Champion Award	Steven Lee
Children's Champion Award	Sylvie Sweet
Educator of the Year	Arun Sajeev
Educator of the Year	Jon Jones
Educator of the Year	Saba Gilani
Educator of the Year	Saba Gilani (2nd nomination)
Educator of the Year	Stephen Lee
Educator of the Year	Stephen Lee (2nd nomination)
Educator of the Year	Vanessa Lloyd
Educator of the Year	Will Etherington
Experienced Support Worker of the	
Year	Jessica Hinds
Experienced Support Worker of the Year	Kelly-Marie Foster
Experienced Support Worker of the	
Year	Khevlinn-Jo Goodall
Newcomer of the Year	Oliver Handibode
Newcomer of the Year	Rebecca Savoury
Newcomer of the Year	Soniya Joseph
Newcomer of the Year	Soniya Joseph (2nd nomination)
Support Team of the Year	Renea Gascoigne & Samantha Fry
Support Team of the Year	TFS Core Team
Team Leader- Deputy Manager of the Year	Yadu Kulambil

## Steve Lee

## Nominated for Educator of the Year!



## NOMINEES FOR EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Kerry Byron Molly Andrews Vanessa Lloyd Claire Dominy Holley Meadus Debbie Tubb Steve Lee Helena Griffiths Adam Mabon Happy Ngulube Lynn Fox Thomson Joseph **Desmond Sarpong** 

Hannah Everard Kelly-Marie Foster Kerrie Hutchings Yadu Kulambil Khevlinn-Jo Goodall Sylvie Sweet Jon Jones Kerrie Hutchings **Denise Fowler** Paul Kerby Julie Walker Yadu Kulambil Holley Meadus

**Carol Tickner** Steve Lee Paul Kerby Arun Sajeev Jessica Hinds Will Etherington Sory Diallo Debbie Tubb Peter Piper Victoria Williamson Sam Bailey Sory Diallo Sally Chambers

Mark Rogers Hannah Everard Helena Griffiths **Cerys Simmons** Vanessa Lloyd Sylvie Sweet Sally Chambers Holley Meadus Claire Legg Kerry Byron Jane Halloway Michael Metu Keep Up the Good Work!

## Shout Out's!

Shout out to Kelly Foster, Thank you for all of your help and support with implementing the paperwork systems in education Thank you, Melissa McCarthy

> Shout out to *Molly Andrews,* Thank you for stepping up this term and for all your support! Thank you, *Melissa McCarthy*

Shout out to Steve Lee, Thank you for hosting the most amazing EHCP review. Your power point was a huge testament to the progress J has made in such a short time. Thank you, Melissa McCarthy

Shout out to Kerrie Hutchings, Thank you for all of your continued hard work in Dragon Fly class. Thank you, Melissa McCarthy Shout out to Kerry Byron, congratulations to Kerry Byron for 25 years service at TFS! Thank you, Melissa McCarthy Shout out to Ness Lloyd, Thank you for hosting the most amazing EHCP review. Your power point was a huge testament to the progress J has made in such a short time. Thank you,

Melissa McCarthy

Shout out to Hannah Everard, congratulations to Kerry Byron for 20 years service at TFS! Thank you, Melissa McCarthy

> Shout out to Paul Kerby, Thank you to you and the night team for all of your help and support with the recent Ofsted inspection. Thank you, Melissa McCarthy

Shout out to Yadu Kulambil, Congratulations on your promotion to home manager. Thank you, Melissa McCarthy

Shout out to Arun Sajeev Congratulations on your promotion to home manager. Thank you, Melissa McCarthy

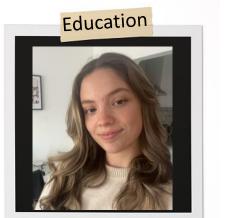
> Shout out to Holley Meadus, Congratulations on your promotion to deputy manager. Thank you, Melissa McCarthy

Shout out to Khevlinn Goodall, Congratulations on your promotion to deputy manager. Thank you, Melissa McCarthy

Shout out to *Claire Dominy, T*hank you for all of your help and support with the recent Ofsted inspection. Thank you, *Melissa McCarthy* 

## CONGRATULATIONS - EMPLOYEE'S OF THE MONTH!





Helena Griffiths



Julie Walker



Khevlinn – Jo Goodall



Happy Ngulube



# Outdoor Learning

Dates for your diary

August term 1 – It's a bug's life

August term 2 – Forest Feast

Spring term 1 – Wild Weather

Spring term 2 – Natures Nursery

Sumer term 1 – Field Folk

Summer term 2 - Treetastic





### Hi.

We are a very busy team of two at the Forum Farm that consists of myself - Renea, I am the animal lead and a qualified animal assisted therapist and Sam, who is my right hand woman and is the animal therapy assistant. I would like to introduce you to the many ways we work with the students here at the Forum School. We currently have two horses, eight guinea pigs, three rabbits and a bearded dragon and we are based on a 28 acre site.



We have a very busy timetable including student 1-1 sessions, outdoor learning, lunchtime club, after school activities, we also encourage drop in sessions at any time. We have our 'Guinea Pig gang' where students can sit with the guinea pigs. This has two bucket seat chairs, a bookcase and fairy lights. Our 'Warren' has our rabbits. There is a table for students to work at, as well as homemade rabbit games for them to play!





## The Forum Farm... Continued

We have four different curriculum-based courses, all of these have 12 stages to complete and each stage is broken down into 10 bite sized achievable sections. When the students complete a stage, they are presented with a booklet and certificate acknowledging their achievements.

**Horse Riding** – This is for students to experience our horse-riding sessions which helps to improve their core muscle groups, coordination, balance and sense of wellbeing.

**Yard Management** – This is designed for our students who are not keen on riding the horses but enjoy the yard environment. They learn skills such as feeding, grooming and basic first aid for all of the animals in our care.

**Equine Adventures** – Some of our students enjoy being around the horses on the ground rather than riding them. This allows students to learn about care of equines and how to interact with them. This is the students first steps into horse care and leads onto Stable Management.

**Stable Management** – This is similar to Equine Adventures however it focuses more on the horse's health and wellbeing, including tack care, vet responsibilities etc.

## **Outdoor Learning**

We believe that outdoor learning has a valuable impact on our students learning and there has been many studies that place a high importance on its many positive values including social skills, special awareness, ownership of work and overall mental wellbeing. We have designed a yearly planner that ties in with our curriculum, with myself and Sam working closely with the teachers and T.As. It has also enhanced our wider community ties with local businesses donating some of our supplies and creating a wider community spirit.



### **Drop in sessions**

Some of our students from time to time need a place to reflect or relax. They are always encouraged to visit whenever they feel the need to and we have found that some of our students like to just pop in to say hello to either myself and Sam or the animals. It is always nice to see the students on the yard and we understand the importance of them being able to do so.

### **Lunchtime Club**

This is our latest idea for the yard and we wanted to give our students a place to blow of some steam or be creative and make different art/crafts. It is held in the indoor arena every day and is for all students to drop in as they wish.

### **After School Activities**

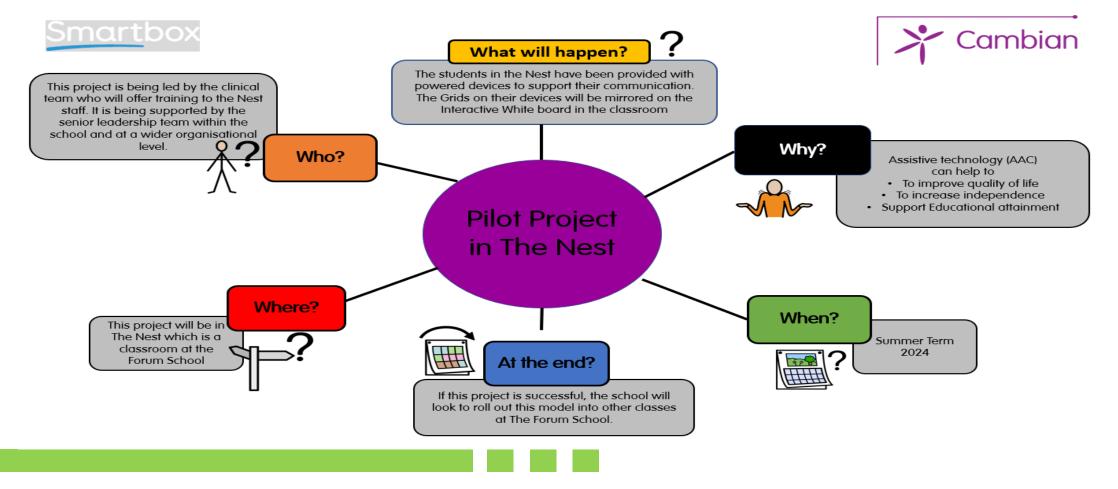
Our indoor arena is always accessible to our residential students. Mondays are our sensory play activities and Wednesdays are for arts and crafts, however, we are happy for any student to enjoy the facilities at any time.

Thank you for allowing us to show what we do here at the Forum School Farm, we are always busy and exhausted but we do have a great time here. If you would like any more information please do contact us at any time. Renea and Sam xxxx Renea.Gascoigne@cambiangroup.com Samantha.fry@cambiangroup.com



### The Nest Project:

The Smartbox Nest initiative is successfully operational, with devices distributed in May and already gathering positive responses from the class adults. Currently, the emphasis is on encouraging students and adults to get comfortable with the devices by engaging in playful exploration. This phase is crucial as it helps students form a connection with their device, fostering a sense of ownership.



## Speech & Language Focus of the Month



This month we are focusing on AAC. AAC stands for 'Augmentative and Alternative Communication', which encompasses all forms of communication (other than oral speech) used to communicate thoughts, needs, wants, and ideas. For example:

- •Sign
- •Gesture
- •Body language
- •Emails,
- •Electronic device
- Texting
- •Choosing boards
- •Symbols
- Writing
- pictures

To support you, Smartbox offer free online mini courses which are very helpful to get you started or to refresh your skills. At Smartbox academy you can sign up and have the choice of online courses. I recommend:

- •Introduction to AAC (FC01)
- •Introduction to Grid for iPad (SC16)
- Developing communication partner skills (FC09)
- •Short course Personalising Super Core in Grid for iPad (SC04)

Time for these courses range from 40 minutes to 2 hours, you can download a certificate of attendance at the end if you wish too.

Use this link to direct you to the academy sign up: Free online AAC training on Smartbox Academy (thinksmartbox.com)

#### Key things to remember:

- •Learning a new language takes time, it can take months to years.
- •Allow time for exploring

•SHOW – before we can expect someone to use a symbol to communication (paper based or electronic) we have to show them how.

•MODEL, MODEL, MODEL in all situations and environments

•Be Interesting: follow a YP interests (films, books, songs, TV shows etc), sensory and play.

A study of young children who were learning to communicate showed that 20% of what they communicated was requests.....so what about the other 80% (Smartbox, Simple AAC, 2024)



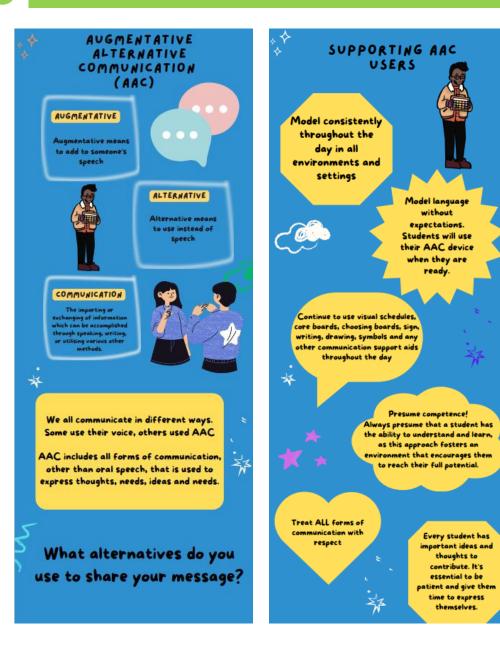
## Speech & Language Focus of the Month

It's October, and for our \*\*Focus of the Month\*\* this time we are expanding on visuals and want everyone to think about how we all communicate differently by focusing on AAC!

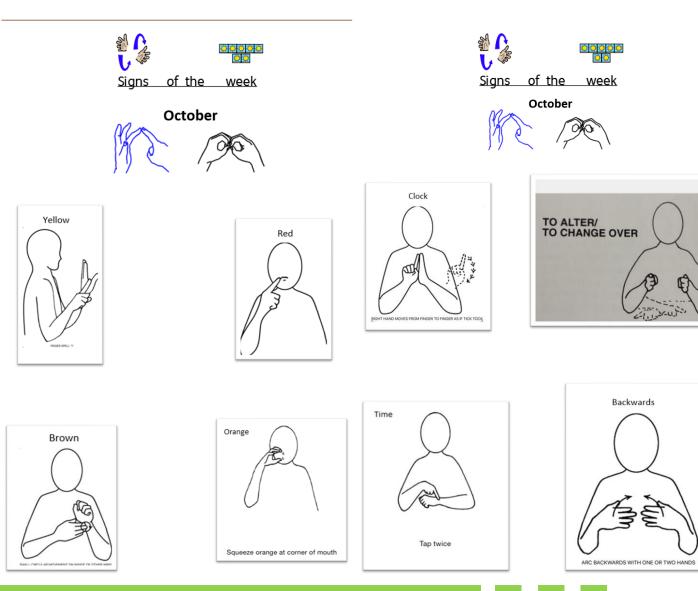
AAC stands for 'Augmentative and Alternative Communication', which encompasses all forms of communication (other than oral speech) used to communicate thoughts, needs, wants, and ideas.

We all use a form of AAC to communicate, emails, text, writing etc. AAC provides a way for people to express their thoughts and feelings, and to build relationships. It also helps to develop communication skills, language building and can be used in combination with other communication methods. AAC can be a powerful tool to increase independence, reduce frustration and improve self-esteem. It can also be used to support learning in the classroom, as well as in everyday life.

Every student has valuable ideas and thoughts to share. Be patient, provided time and as many opportunities for our young people to express themselves.



## Speech & Language





## **Music Therapy**

Hi everyone!

I just wanted to remind everyone that my work with the young people is different from the work that Emma provides.

### Music Therapy with Jasmine on Mondays & Tuesdays

I am a HCPC Registered trained therapist and I use music, talking, art, play and other techniques in young people's Music Therapy sessions. I only see young people who are referred to Music Therapy. Music Therapy is particularly useful for people who struggle communicating their thoughts and feelings using words, as it does is not limited to talking. Music Therapy is a creative therapy and at times it can provide a fun space for self-expression. However, there are often many difficult, confusing and upsetting emotions and feelings which may arise in therapy sessions. This is why it may be inappropriate to say to a young person "have fun" or "have a good session". Music Therapy can provide the opportunity for a person to express themselves which may be particularly important if a young person is dysregulated, so it is important that a young person is still offered the choice if they would like to attend their Music Therapy session when they are feeling dysregulated. It is also important that the music room is accessible on Mondays and Tuesdays for their therapy sessions. I write weekly clinical therapy reports. I have included some more information to this email if you would like to have more of a read about Music Therapy.

### Music with Emma on Thursdays

Emma is a professional musician and uses music as a way to have fun with young people and adults, often these are group sessions she provides and anyone is welcome to join. Emma's music sessions provide a session full of energy and interaction. Emma is not currently a registered therapist and is not providing therapy here.

Hope this clarifies the difference. I'm always happy to answer questions you may have and thank you for being a great team to work with. 🐵

Many thanks

Jasmine Keats

### The Therapy Room has had a facelift...

If you would like to use this room regularly please let me know (bridget.townsend@cambiangroup.com) I will add you to the timetable



### You are welcome and encouraged to use the sensory room during times of quiet: i.e. times not allocated for other students

Below are reserved times for students and are not suitable for a drop in.

	9.30-	10.00-	10.30-	11.00-	11.30-	12.00-	12.30-	1.00-	1.30-	2.00-	2.30-3.00pm
	10.00am	10.30am	11.00am	11.30am	12.00pm	12.30pm	1.00pm	1.30pm	2.00pm	2.30pm	
Monday					Dragonfly	Dragonfly					Meadow
					Dragonfly	Dragonfly					(Badger)
Tuesday					Draganflu	Dressefly					Meadow
					Dragonfly	Dragonfly					(Badger)
Wednesday					Dragonfly	Dragonfly			Kite Class		Meadow
					Dragonfly	Dragonfly			KILE CIASS		(Badger)
Thursday	Kite class				Dragonfly	Dragonfly					Meadow
	KILE CIASS				Dragonfly	Dragonfly					(Badger)
					Draganflu	Dressefly		Kito alass			Meadow
Friday					Dragonfly	Dragonfly		Kite class			(Badger)

### Staff Discounts



Download the FREE Pluxee UK Discounts App to your phone to start making even more savings!

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### \* Employee Benefits Platform Firework Frenzy Week

4th - 10th November 2024 Spark your savings with 10 explosive offers available for one week only.





### Staff Discounts

https://www.bluelightcard.co.uk/

Discount service for the emergency services, NHS, social care sector and armed forces - £4.99 for 2 years

Members of the Blue Light community can register for access to more than 15,000 discounts from large national retailers to local businesses across categories such as holidays, cars, days out, fashion, gifts, insurance, phones, and many more.

https://discountsforcarers.com/ Carer & Care Worker Discounts – sign up for free

Exclusive discounts, cashback & vouchers for Carers & Care Workers. For care assistants, live-in carers, those that care for loved ones, and everyone in between.

https://www.discountsforteachers.co.uk/ Teacher & Education Staff Discounts – sign up for free

Exclusive discounts, cashback & vouchers for Teachers & Education Staff. For teaching assistants, headteachers, administrators, and everyone in between.

https://www.carerscarduk.co.uk/discounts-for-carers

Your carer ID card unlocks access to a wide range of online discounts, savings, benefits, perks and offers, for carers. - 28 for 2 years

Our team constantly work on creating partnerships with big name brands so that we can provide carers with discounts on all aspects of life, from food to fashion, fitness to electrical, technology to travel, home utilities to entertainment and much more



### Staff Discounts Continued

#### https://carers.org/grants-and-discounts/carersmart-discount-club

Joining is simple and <u>free</u>. And once you're a member, you'll be able to benefit from a wide range of offers, including:

Cash back on shopping from numerous high street retailers Reductions on insurance renewals Discounts on holidays and travel arrangements Reduced price lifestyle activities Free and discounted legal advice services

https://www.frontlinestaffdiscounts.co.uk/ Frontline Staff Discounts is FREE to all Members, we charge no fees to join & never will

We aim to save you and all of our members as much money as possible on all of your purchases online.

https://www.teacherperks.co.uk/

Free membership for school staff and schools to access incredible perks from high street brands and edu-suppliers.



## A message from Mel

I am extremely proud of all of the young people at The Forum school. Each of the young people have obtained an AQA award this term! This is simply wonderful and a massive sense of achievement for each young person. For one young person who we have been supporting to be able to transition safely, has had their first visit to a shop. The young person through support of role play and use of money and tills was able to successfully visit a shop, choose some items that they wanted and pay the shop keeper for this. This is a huge milestone for J. Thank you to all of the team for supporting this and making this happen.

For another young person the adults that care have advocated his views wishes and feelings to be able to attend an awards ceremony hosted by his placing local authority. Again this shows that adults are being the voice of the child where needed.

All the pictures of the amazing days out, social times and gatherings have been remarkable again this period. All young people are having the opportunity to build friendships at school and when at home. The Halloween games and disco were a triumph with all being involved. We are now looking forwards to our annual fireworks display at the school on the evening 5th November (please ensure you all wrap up warm (3))

A huge congratulations to Steve Lee who won the educator of the year award at the 9th annual Caretech awards and to all others nominated. The Forum stars has probably also seen the biggest number of nominations this month! This is fantastic and shows as a team we are recognising each other and supporting each other

