

November 2024 Newsletter

The Forum School

Upcoming Events in December

- 1st – First Day of Advent
- 2nd – Cyber Monday
- 3rd – International Day for Disabilities
- 12th – Christmas Jumper Day
- 13th – Carol Service in Shillingstone Church
- 18th – Christmas Lunch & Santa's Grotto
- 20th – School Awards Ceremony & Family Lunch
- 21st – Shortest Day
- 24th – Christmas Eve
- 25th – Christmas Day
- 26th – Boxing Day
- 31st – New Years Eve



Upcoming Events in December

2024

CALENDAR YEAR

DECEMBER

CALENDAR MONTH

MONDAY
FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Forest Feast



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
25	26	27	28	29	30	01 First Day of Advent
02 Cyber Monday	03 International Day for Disabilities Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	04	05 Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	06 TFS Cinema - Theatre	07 Shillingstone Station Café - Meet at blue gates 13:30 DISCO in the theatre	08
09	10 Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	11	12 Christmas Jumper Day Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	13 Christmas Jumper Day TFS Cinema - Theatre	14 Shillingstone Station Café - Meet at blue gates 13:30 DISCO in the theatre	15
16	17 Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	18	19 Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	20 TFS Cinema - Theatre	21 Shortest Day Shillingstone Station Café - Meet at blue gates 13:30	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Shillingstone Station Café - Meet at blue gates 13:30 DISCO in the theatre	29
School Holidays						
		Christmas Day	Boxing Day	TFS Cinema - Theatre		
30	31	01	02	03	04	05
School Holidays						
	New Year's Eve					



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@cambianguroup.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



Happy
Birthday

December

Lovely Mathew
Sam Bailey



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.





Awards achieved so far this term!

SSI

Money Skills - Recognising Coins (Unit 1)

KAM

Modelling with Air Hardening Clay

MJP

Remembrance Day

DJ

Remembrance Day

JT

Money Skills – Recognising Coins (Unit 1)

AT

Remembrance Day

DH

Remembrance Day

JC

Remembrance Day
Sensory Seasons: Autumn

RW

Creating Stories Using Table Top Games
Using Teamwork to Create table top Games

KB

Using a Trampoline in a Sports Hall
Remembrance Day
Halloween Arts and Crafts
Sports and Wellbeing
English: Speaking, Listening and Communicating (Unit 1)

JV

Effective Learning: Playing and Exploring (Unit 3)

SSU

Food Chains

OL

Modelling with Air Hardening Clay

CN

Effective Learning: Playing and Exploring



Remembrance Sunday

WE WILL
REMEMBER
THEM



As part of our community ties, the wreath was laid on Sunday 10th during the community remembrance day service.

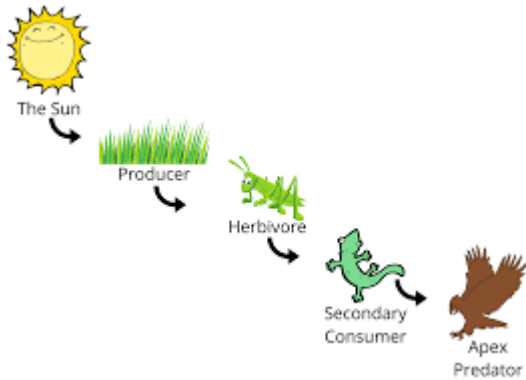
A huge thank you to the care staff who have helped to facilitate this. I spoke to a member of the church afterwards who said how fantastic it was to see the school represented and thought the effort the students have put into making the wreath was amazing and how wonderful it looked.



Food Chain AQA

The students have been working towards their AQA 'Food Chains'
Both Dusty and Erin say well done to all who have completed their
sequential food chains, they look really good displayed at the stable
yard.

We will be completing the AQA in the New Year.



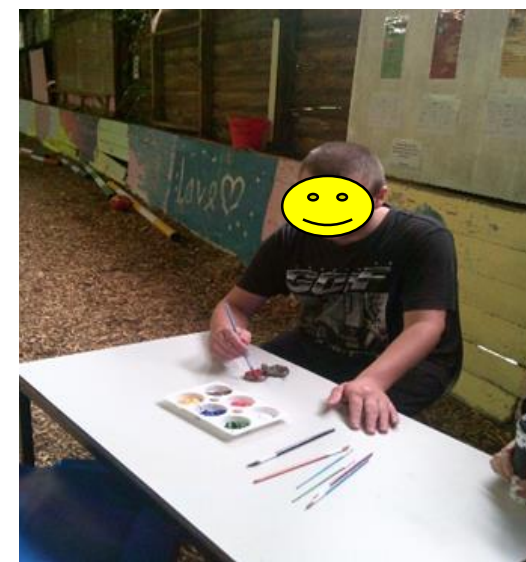


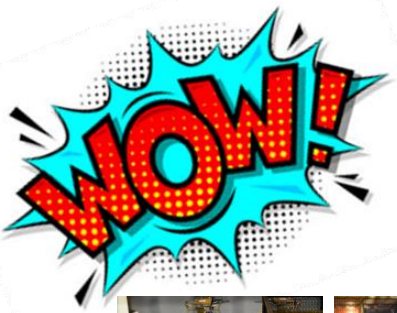
It's a Bug's Life



Many of the students completed their AQA 'Modelling with Air Hardening Clay' As our theme this term was 'It's a Bugs Life' they made various different bugs and creatures, paint and varnishing them, to be displayed outside the College.

Well done to all who achieved their award, your bugs look very happy in their new home.





The Treehouse.

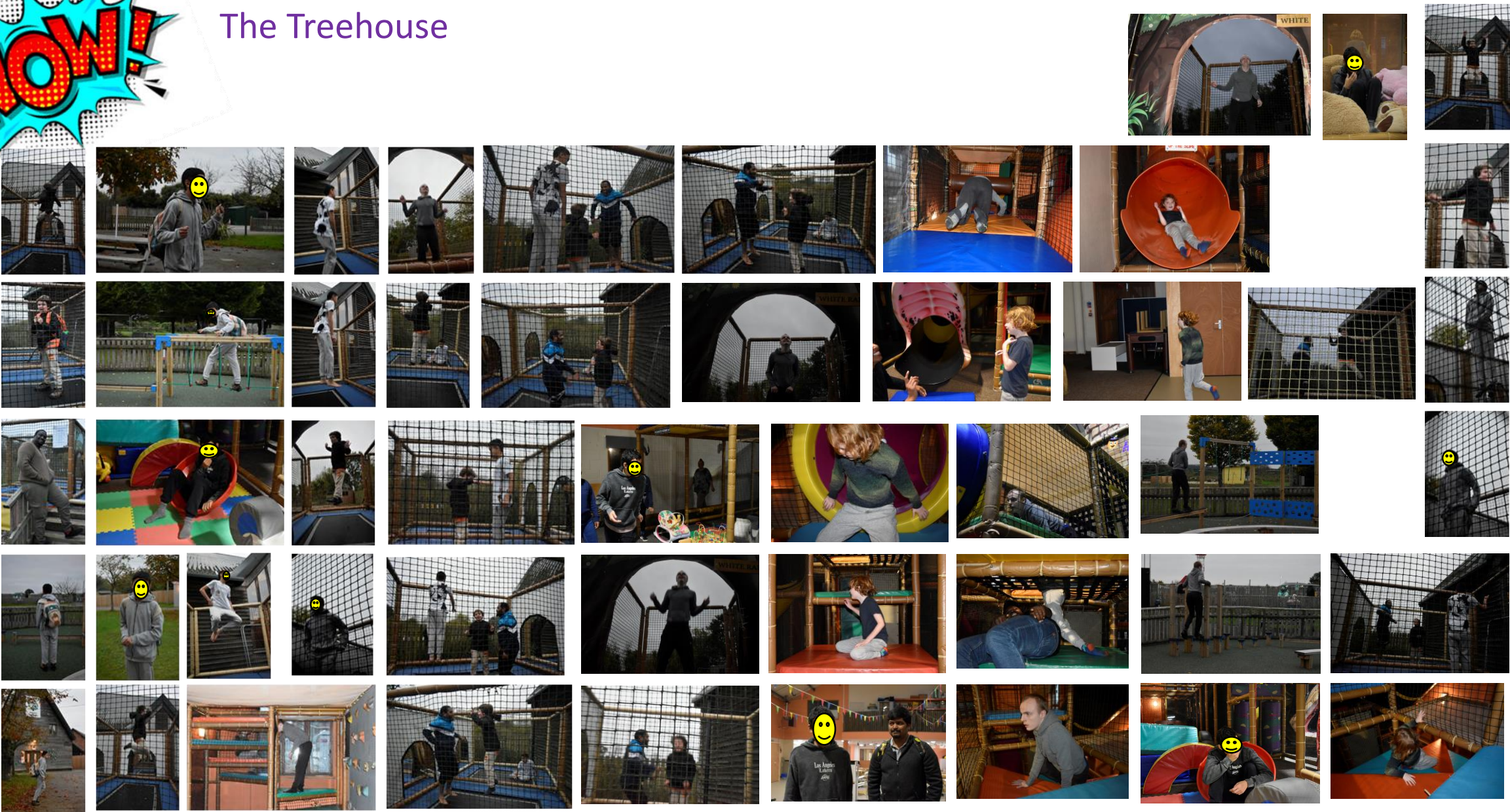


Fun was had by some of our young people.

Some great role modelling from the adults!



The Treehouse



Give a toy for Christmas Joy!



Give a gift for Christmas joy

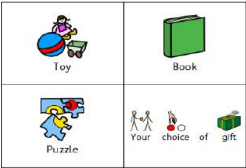


We're bringing back our Christmas Toy Banks this November
Sharing in the magic of Christmas and bringing people together is what the festive season is all about, and at Lidl, we're proud to bring this into our stores with the return of our Toy Banks on 1 November, in partnership with Neighbourly.

Through our Toy Banks, shoppers can donate unopened toys and gifts, from stocking fillers to something bigger. We'll make sure your gift is donated to children in your area through our store partnerships with charities, food banks and community groups.



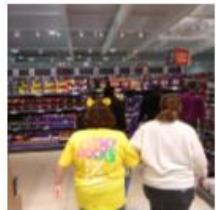
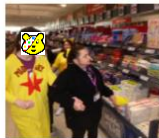
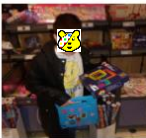
Kite class will be visiting Lidl in Blandford today. You will choose a toy, book, or even a puzzle each to donate a Christmas present to a local charity.



Choose a gift to give



Kite Class are proud
To represent the local
Charity work that Lidl
are doing with
'Gift a toy'



Our Music Tree



With the help of students we have now updated the music tree, please do give it a visit and encourage the students to find sticks, twigs etc and have some fun making some noise.



Settling in to the TFS life

JV is happy to be participating in an art activity, working in a group, and interacting with his 1:1 supporting adult.



Head Teacher Awards

DH

Art work

CN

Settling in and building new relationships

AT

Self regulations and expressing emotions

SSI

Exceptional Art work

MJP

Recognising multiple phonemes when shown a variety of graphemes

JH

Lovely work in his books and improved handwriting

LMT

Great progress in phonics, reading and writing

JCV

Settling down to enjoy music and working alongside peers

JV

Trying to write his name and good engagement in learning activities

OL

Using his sensory play and his timer very well, helping him to settle down and become happier in his new class

Principal Stars

RS

Thank you so much for choosing presents and donating these to children in need. This shows how kind you are and I am very proud of you 😊

SSI

Thank you so much for choosing presents and donating these to children in need. This shows how kind you are and I am very proud of you 😊

JT

Thank you so much for choosing presents and donating these to children in need. This shows how kind you are and I am very proud of you 😊

OH

Ollie it was so lovely that you came to my office today to show me your new badge that you had made. It was really nice to see you so proud and excited and tell me about the trip you were going on with your class to the pottery centre and to the shops. Keep up the good work!!!! 😊

SSU

I heard you went out with your class to the local pottery centre and had a great time making a plate. We are very proud of you as this is your first educational trip out this term! Well done 😊

JC

I have heard that you have been doing really well with eating all your lunch and using your special plate 😊

KAM

Thank you so much for all your help with clearing the brambles. Renea and Jasmine told me you done an amazing job and I wanted to thank you for your hard work 😊

NOMINEES FOR EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Shinan Kallen
Mark Rogers x3
Daniel Meeting
Melissa McCarthy
Leeshma Mathews
Arun Sajeev x2
Progress Abrishade
Jessica Hinds x2
Sory Diallo x2
Steve Lee x5
Lynn Fox
Oliver Handibode
Cerys Simmons
Rebecca Abbott
Sally Chambers
Alice Bagwell
The Whole Care Team

Hannah Everard x2
Molly Andrews x4
Samuel Aliko
Mark Speller x2
Karen Holt
Janette Avenell x2
Manjusha Abraham
Claire Legg x3
Verna Edward
Paul Odey x3
Shelley Chance
Sammy Barber-Butterworth
John Abah
Desmond Sarpong x2
Oluchi Uchennaagoamanan
Claire Dominy
Jasmin Chetty

Arun Sajeev x3
Samantha Fry x2
Renea Gascoigne x2
John Lane
Mark Barnet
Tim Hunt x3
Innocent George
Joshil Jose
Helena Griffiths x2
Vanessa Lloyd x2
Kerry Byron x2
Godfrey Akpuna
Rowan Haines
Kerrie Hutchings
Amy Dawson x3
Holley Meadus x2
Mandy Wills

*Keep Up the
Good Work!*

Shout Out's!

Shout out to *Jess Hinds & Arun Sajeew*, Thank you for organising and supporting with the trip to the Treetops, the photos say it all and you enabled the young people that attended to have a super time Thank you, *Kerry Byron*

Shout out to *Claire Legg*, Thank you for dropping everything, at the detriment of your own workload, to support the kitchen due to absence on two occasions this week – great team spirit
Thank you, *Kerry Byron*

Shout out to *Mark Rogers*,
Thank you Mark for ensuring that our young people had opportunity to attend a great fire work night – thank you for risking it all to set these off you, *Kerry Byron*

Shout out to *Claire Legg*,
Thank you for being so proactive when I was trying to get the Lodge cleaned up – you just jumped in to help clean the Lodge at short notice and I cannot tell you how supportive this was.
Thank you,
Kerry Byron

Shout out to *Sory Diallo*, amazing stamina on the trampoline at Treetops and super interaction with a young person. Thank you, *Kerry Byron*

Shout out to *Mark Speller*, Thank you for working together to cover the kitchen absence and being so flexible and supporting with cover.
Thank you, *Kerry Byron*

Shout out to *Janette Avenell*,
Thank you for tidying cupboards and using your special expertise to help out in Laurels. Whatever you tackle is always done to the highest of standards. You are amazing.
Thank you, *Sylvie Sweet*

CONGRATULATIONS – EMPLOYEE'S OF THE MONTH!



Education



Tim Hunt

Core



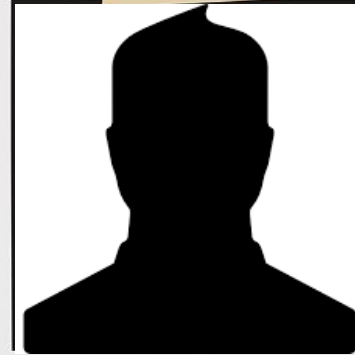
John Lane

Care



Shinan Kallen

Nights



Progress Abrishade



Outdoor Learning

Dates for your diary

August term 1 – It's a bug's life

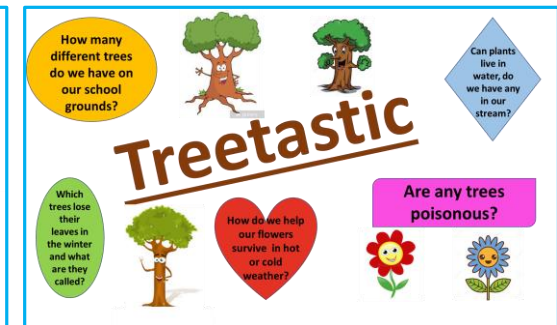
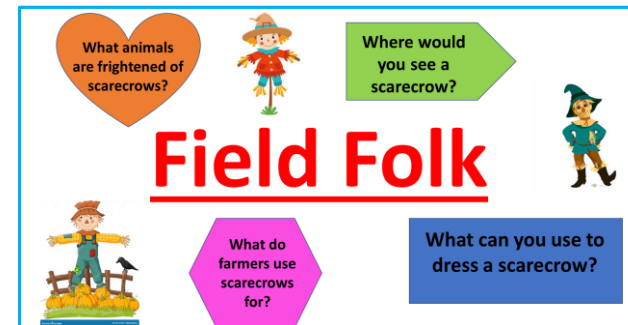
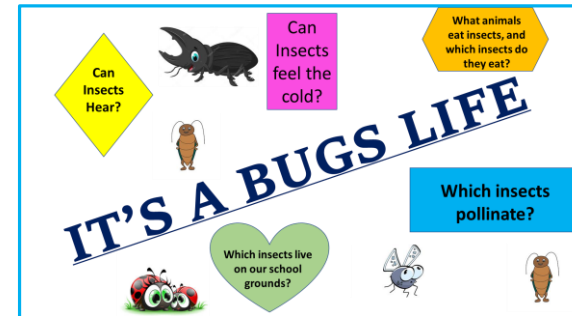
August term 2 – Forest Feast

Spring term 1 – Wild Weather

Spring term 2 – Natures Nursery

Sumer term 1 – Field Folk

Summer term 2 - Treetastic





The Forum Farm

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!



SVG PNG DXF

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.

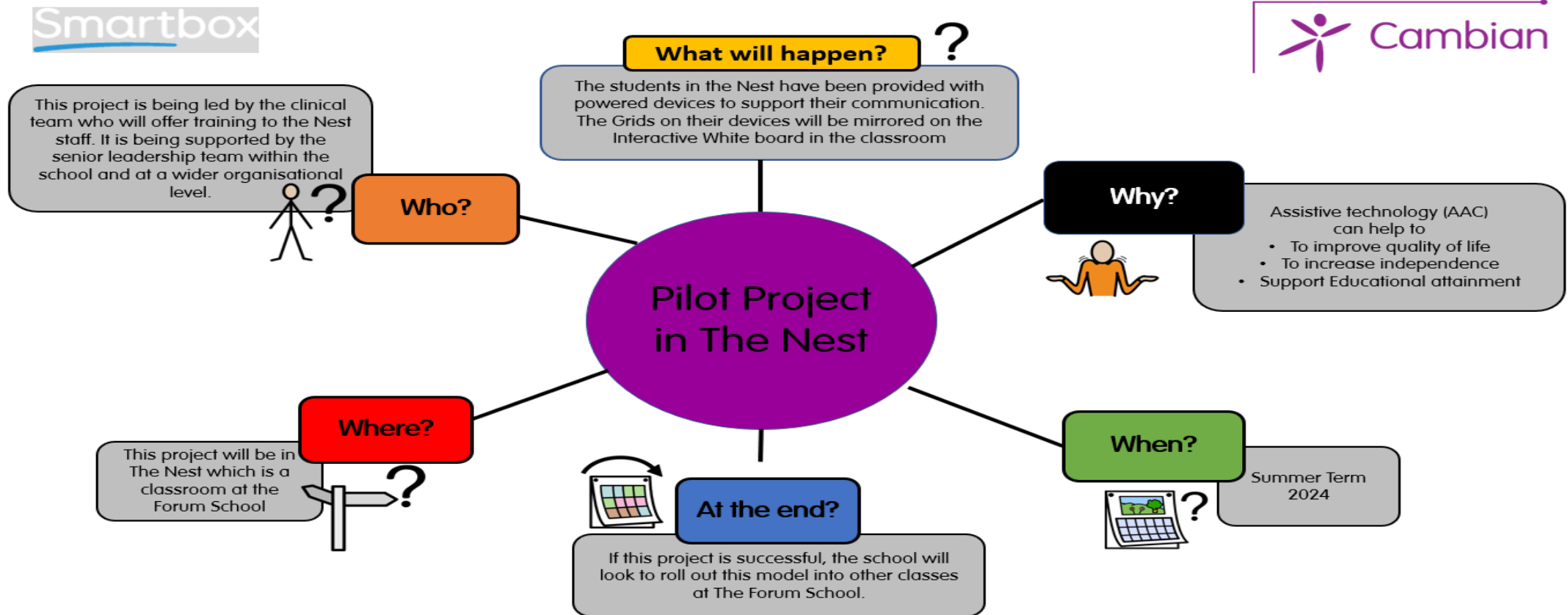
Thank you for allowing us to show what we do here at the Forum School Farm, we are always busy and exhausted but we do have a great time here. If you would like any more information please do contact us at any time. Renea and Sam xxxx

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 \(thinksmartbox.com\)](https://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

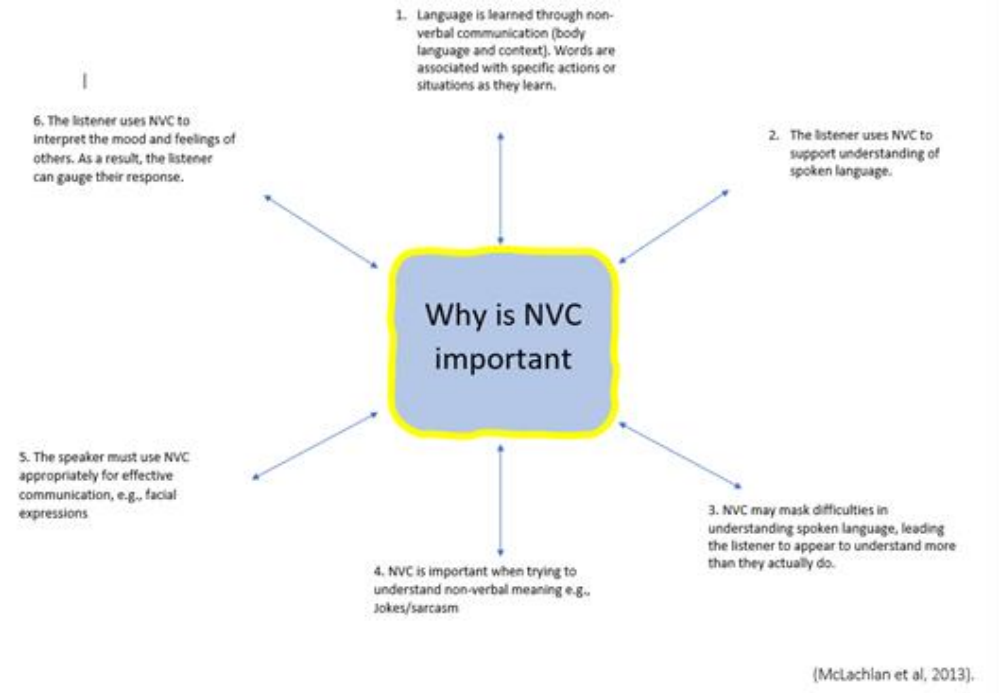
Our November ***Focus of the Month*** will be ***non-verbal communication***. Non-verbal communication (NVC) encompasses all body movements, expressions, gestures, and positions. The concept of non-verbal communication encompasses all forms of communication other than words. A person's non-verbal communication plays a huge role in the development of trust and relationships. Through it, we can create a shared understanding and facilitate open communication. It can also provide clues to a person's emotions or intentions. Often, children who have difficulty understanding verbal information rely on NVC to compensate.

At least 50% of the message is conveyed through non-verbal communication (McLachlan et al, 2013)

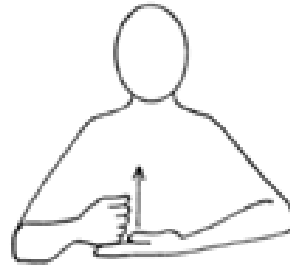
Examples of non-verbal communication:

- Facial expressions - smiling, frowning, raising eyebrows.
- Hand gestures - pointing, using hands to emphasise a point.
- Eye movements - looking with an appropriate gaze for an appropriate time, eye pointing.
- Whole body posture - sitting upright or slumped, standing too close or too far away.
- How do we use our voice - volume, pitch, intonation, speed.
- Clue from the situation - whole environment, objects, pictures.

Our students struggle with non-verbal language when in isolation, therefore it is helpful to do group activities to practice their communication skills. We also use games and activities to help them develop their non-verbal language skills and use aided AAC alongside unaided AAC (nonverbal language) to support.



Speech & Language



Help

Signs of the week

November

Fireworks

Guy Fawkes
(People: work and leisure)

Bonfire/ Fire (2)
(blaze)
(Core Vocabulary)

Signs of the week

November

Hot Chocolate

tea

coffee

Finger spell 'C' and 'O' DRINK

Signs of the week

November

Worried

Anxious

Sad

Happy

Signs of the week

Stable

Trot/trotting

Barn

Outside

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.

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

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 wellbeing session for the education team.

We also played a game and had a good laugh



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Employee Benefits Platform

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Firework Frenzy Week

4th - 10th November 2024

Spark your savings with 10 explosive offers available for one week only.

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Visit your platform from 10am on 4th November 2024

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Call: 01908 303 531

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. - [£8 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 **free**. 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

Wow what a line up for the end of term and Christmas festivities. There are lots of exciting events for young people to get involved in should they wish for the Christmas countdown.

A very big thank you to all teams across all departments for making December truly magical for the young people. Its great to see all the awards that have been achieved this month for your young people. We have put in place head teacher and principal awards this month for extra praise and recognition further supporting achievement and a sense of pride.

Remembrance Sunday seen the young people have their own wreath displayed in the community.

The treehouse visit was very successful and we have another session booked this month. This is open to all young people who wish to attend

It was great to see the young people so involved with choosing donations for children in need.

The music tree is really coming along with instruments being made by our young people

Please can I remind you all to wrap up warm over the winter months. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a very happy new year!

Thank you as always for all your support and making magical memories for our young people.



Thank You!