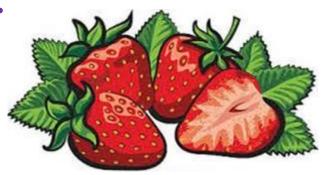






June 2025 Newsletter

The Forum School



Upcoming Events in July

1st – International Joke Day

5th – French Day

10th – SPORTS DAY

15th Backup SPORTS DAY

17th – Camilla, Queen Consort Birthday, World Emoji Day & END OF YEAR PARTY / AWARDS CEREMONY

30th – International Friendship Day











Upcoming Events in July

2025

JULY

CALENDAR YEAR CALENDAR MONTI

MONDAY FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Treetastic



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30	01	02	03	04	05	06
	International Joke Day Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena		Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	TFS Cinema - Theatre	Shillingstone Station Cafe - Meet at blue gates 13:30 DISCO in the theatre	
07	08 Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	ео	10 Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena Sports Day & BBQ	TFS Cinema - Theatre School reports to Parents	Shillingstone Station Café - Meet at blue gates 13:30 Treehouse Activity Centre 15.30 - 17.30 DISCO in the theatre	13
14	15 Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena Sports Day Back Up date	16	HM Queen Camilla Birthday TFS awards & Carnival party Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	18 TFS Cinema - Theatre	Shillingstone Station Cafë - Meet at blue gates 13:30 DISCO in the theatre	20
21	End of school year garden party / awards ceremony Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	23 S	24 CHOOL HOLIDAY Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	25 'S TFS Cinema - Theatre	Shillingstone Station Café - Meet at blue gates 13:30 DISCO in the theatre	27
28	29	30	31	01	02	03
	SCHOOL I Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	HOLIDAYS Inernational Friendship Day	Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena			



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





Adam Mabon
Soniya Joseph
Kat Minter
Mandy Wills
Leeshma Matthews





Activity Ideas

Go to the beach to collect shells

Best Time to Go: Early Morning or Late Afternoon: As it's quieter Benefits: The beach offers a space where there is less visual clutter and which can help avoid overstimulation. Going to the beach can offer a varied sensory experience and provide the young person with a sense of freedom.

- Why not collect Shells & Pebbles which are fun for tactile exploration, sorting, or collecting.
- Collect shells that are small and can be used to decorate your beach scene (see below)
- Collect shells to sort, or decorate things with (such as planters)





Create a Pinto Beans & Blue Rice Beach Scene

How to Make Blue Rice:

Place 1 cup of uncooked rice into a small plastic bag.

Add a few drops of blue food colouring (gel food colouring works best – a small amount goes a long way).

Add 1 teaspoon of white vinegar to help set the colour.

Seal the bag and mix until the rice is evenly coloured. Let it dry before use.

Set-Up Instructions:

In a shallow tray, pour in the blue rice to represent the sea and the pinto beans to represent the sandy beach.

Add small shells, figures, or toys to bring the beach scene to life.

Young people can enjoy imaginative play using toy cars, diggers, or simply explore with their hands.

Extras: https://amzn.eu/d/eRK4t6J Beach set figurines for play: £12.92





Activity Ideas

Create a Beach Themed plant pot

Terra cotta pot, Premixed grout (white), Shells, Plastic gloves and a Sponge Instructions

- Hot glue shells in place on the pot. Line the top with these simple white shells and then placed the larger pieces first to space them around. Then the medium-sized and finally the small shells. This is a great project to use broken shells or other interesting beach finds as well because the grout covers imperfections. You can play with flipping the shells over for interest.
- You can scoop some of the pre-mixed grout into a Ziplock bag and cut a hole in the corner to sort of pipe the mixture in between the shells. It also kept the grout from drying too quickly so I had time to work with it.
- Use a damp sponge or paper towel to remove excess grout from the tops of shells.
- Take your time working all the way around the pot. It can take about an hour and a half to apply the grout
- Let it dry for 24 hours.

Make a nutritious strawberry breakfast smoothie

Strawberries are in season and delicious at this time of year.

1 cup soya or oat milk, ½ cup rolled oats, 14 frozen strawberries

1 banana, broken into chunks

Instructions Blend soya or oat milk, oats, strawberries, and banana in a blender until smooth. Pour into glasses and serve.

Try adding other berries to make different flavours (frozen berries are good too)









Shining Star Award





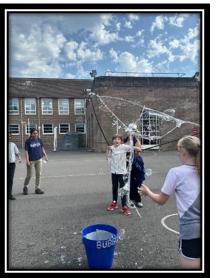






This is a huge milestone for J.

He managed this event so well and we are bursting with joy.





Children in Care Celebration Award











A huge well done to J.

It was a big journey to and from the event.

He managed this event so well and we are bursting with joy.



Scarecrow Competition Winners!

The scarecrows have been judged, a huge thank you to Jane who put a huge amount of thought into judging them for us, and the winners are:

Funniest scarecrow – Dragonfly class

Best Dressed scarecrow – Kite Class

Happiest scarecrow – Swift Class

Best Overall scarecrow – Kestrel Class

Best Accessories – Badger Class

A fabulous effort from all classes!











Overcome your fears!



I am so happy, N has overcome his nerves and got on Dusty today, he was a bit nervous but enjoyed it that much he wouldn't get off!!

Really made my day! ©







A rode Erin for the first time today.

He very much enjoyed himself, and was very relaxed.

Overcome your fears!





C & J having fun riding for the first time!









Kite Class outing to Madjeston Dairy Farm











Dragonfly class have been busy

J has started his Advanced Cookery programme! This is an independent session for Jit to focus on his joy of cooking.

J has been learning to create and follow recipes, incorporate different cooking techniques, and taste his creations!

















Dragonfly class have been enjoying 'free reading' in the library and Dragonfly's cosy book corner!



Food Explorers A Sensory Adventure in Blue!

Today in our Food Explorers group, we engaged students in a fun and meaningful sensory challenge—a blue-themed taste test! Using food-safe blue colouring, we presented five mystery drinks: Oasis fruit juice, coconut water, oat milk, lemonade, and a smoothie. Each student was encouraged to sample the drinks and identify the flavours by matching them to corresponding visual cards. This activity supported not only their sensory processing and taste discrimination but also cognitive skills like memory and visual matching.

Not surprisingly, Oasis was the favourite across the board, while coconut water proved to be a tougher sell—definitely an acquired taste for many!

Alongside the taste challenge, students participated in a tactile sensory activity: sifting through blue-coloured rice to locate 12 hidden tropical fish. While this may seem simple, for some of our young people, engaging in tactile exploration can be a big step. This activity helped to support sensory regulation, fine motor skills, and task persistence in a playful, low-pressure way.

We finished the session with a refreshing sensory-friendly snack: fresh blueberries. These not only served as a palate cleanser but also as a motivating and healthy treat—much loved by several of our students!











Principal Stars



RS & JL

It has been lovely to see you making new friends with others Well done ©

CN

We are so very proud of you. you have been visiting the stables since you arrived at TFS and today you rode a horse. Just amazing Well done ©

KF

You have been amazing politely declining when you do not want to do something.

This has been noted by all the team and we are so proud of you!

Well done (3)

KAM

we wanted to say how proud we are of you when out on activity and another young person became upset. You stayed calm and followed adult instructions. Thank you (3)

AG

Well done for getting on Erin for the first time.

Just amazing

Well done (3)

SSU

I have heard that you have been utilising your talk pad successfully and this has supported you to be able to inform adults how you are feeling.

Well done (3)

CR & JR

WOW what an amazing yoga class you lead. You were brilliant at giving out instructions and everyone had a blast.

Thank you 🚱

JH & JL

Amazing sharing and play with the bungee cord with others.

Well done for being kind

Well done (3)

SSU

I heard you interacted well with the nurse and allowed her to give you one of the injections.

Well done 😂

AG

I heard you came and met the nurse for your injection. You were a little excitable and could not have the injection.

Maybe next time



Principal Stars



IC

Well done for overcoming your fear of dogs
Well done (3)

JH

Jake we are all so very proud of you. You attended your shining award event and you managed this so well.

Well done 🚱

KAM

Amazing that you can write letters to me in German. I am looking forwards to a response from you.

Well done 😂

AG, SSU & OH

You have engaged in a group maths lesson with the rest of your class. You have learned about different 2D shapes and interacted really well.

Great work
Well done 🚱

CR & JR

Well done for being confident enough to get on the horses.

Well done ©

DJ

You have really improved with your transitions and relying less on adults to support you.

Well done &

RS

thank you for supporting one of your class mates and helping them with reading.

What a lovely thing to do.

Well done 🕄

OL

You were preparing to an injection by taking your hoodie off.

Maybe next time you will accept the injection

KΒ

Well done for really pushing through on your independence skills KB.

This is really good progress.

Well done (3)

NOMINEES FOR EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Natalie Harcom
Naomi Cox
Molly Andrews
James Adams
Sally Chambers
Michael Metu
Adebowale Oke
Paula Audley-Dukes

Claire Legg
Anna Davies
Vanessa Lloyd
John Rawson
Sam Treen
Thomson Joseph
Ann Xaivier
Adam Mabon

Josh Broadbent
Holley Meadus
Julie Walker
Simon Twilley
Progress Aborishade
Honeybell Okuonghae
Michael Metu

Vanessa Lloyd Chelsea Noble Alice Bagwell Ronan Harris Deepa Mathew Progress Aborishade Rashmi Gajji

Keep Up the ! Good Work!

CONGRATULATIONS – EMPLOYEE'S OF THE MONTH!













Shout Outs!

Shout out to Vanessa Lloyd & Team

A parent had emailed to say "Hi just wanted to check in on you to make sure you ok and say K is doing well at the moment and is much happier coming into school i just wanted to ask if you could pass on a big massive thank you to the whole team you are all so amazing and I really appreciate all you do for My amazing son"

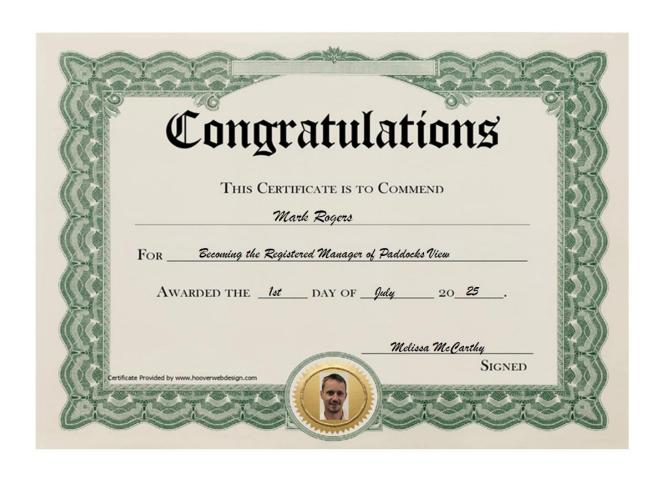
I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone myself. I have personally noticed a big change in KB and how polite and 'a man' he has become.

> Thanks Ness From *Jane Holloway*.



Mark Rogers is now our Registered Manager of Paddocks View!





Outdoor Learning Dates for your diary

August term 1 – It's a bug's life

August term 2 – Forest Feast

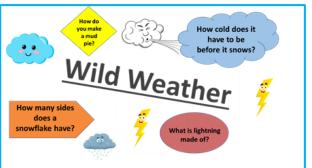
Spring term 1 – Wild Weather

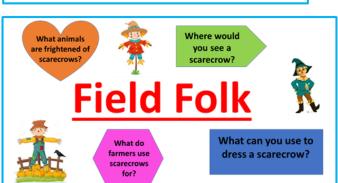
Spring term 2 – Natures Nursery

Sumer term 1 – Field Folk

Summer term 2 - Treetastic

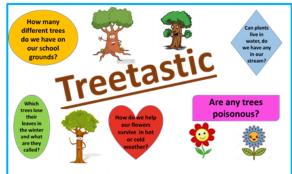




















The Forum Farm

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!









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



This training is an excellent opportunity to stay updated with the latest practices and tools. This will contribute to our professional growth and the success of implementing AAC devices into the school and homes. I will attach the plan, parents/families are welcome to participate in the training as well, the modules are free, all they need to do is sign up 🚳

Smartbox training plan

All 5 modules for adults to complete

	Title	Start date	Completion date	How long to complete	After completion	Link
1	Introduction to AAC (FC01): knowledge check and certificate	Monday 28 th April	Friday 23 rd May	45 minutes	Download certificate of completion and send to Claire/Alice to be put on Myrus as evidence.	Smartbox Academy
2	Intro to Grid for iPad (SC16): knowledge check and certificate	Monday 2 nd June	Monday 30 th June	40 minutes		
3	Developing communication partner skills (FC09): survey and certificate	Tuesday 1 st July	Thursday 31 st July	1-2 hours		
4	AAC in the classroom (PC03): 3-4 hours, knowledge check and certificate – important for all staff as this provides valuable learning resources	Monday 8 th September	Friday 3 rd October	3 – 4 hours		
5	Creating classroom grids with grid for iPad (FC06) — important for all staff as this provides valuable learning resources	Monday 6 th October	Friday 31st October	4 – 5 hours		

1

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.

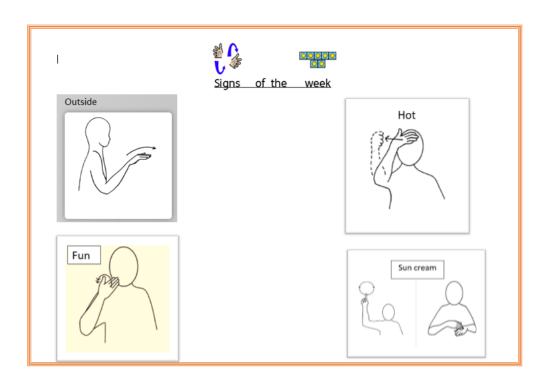
Use this link to direct you to the academy sign up: Free online AAC training on Smartbox Academy (thinksmartbox.com)

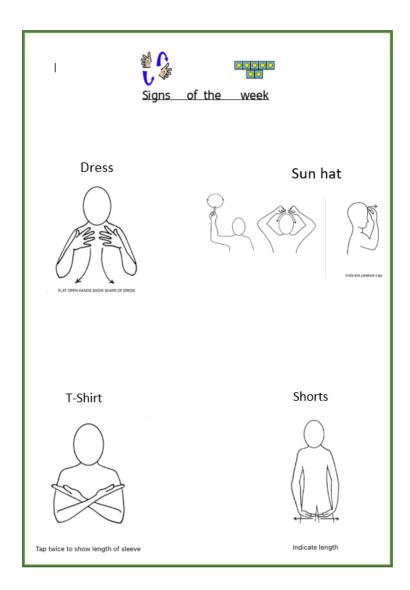
Key things to remember:

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

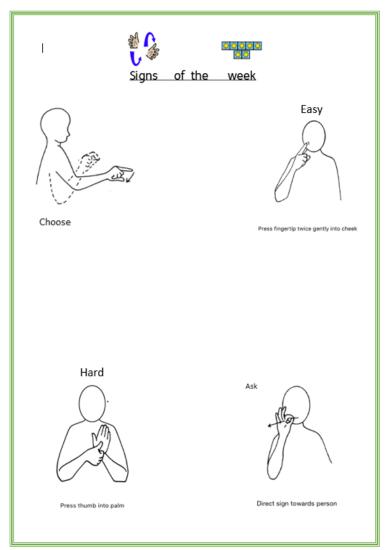
A study of young children who were learning to communicate showed that 20% of what they communicated was requests....so what about the other 80% (Smartbox, Simple AAC, 2024)

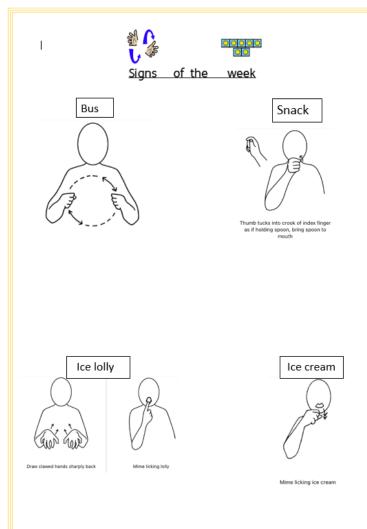
Speech & Language





Speech & Language





Yoga signs









Palm flat on chest moves gently away and back

Finish with arms level

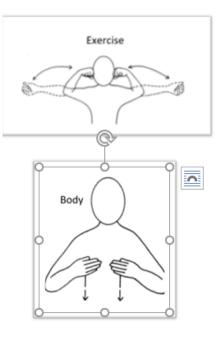


Mime stretching appropriate limb

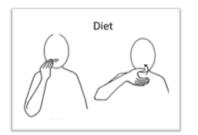
Diabetes Awareness Week



















Music Therapy

What is Music Therapy?

Music Therapy is a psychological intervention which is delivered by HCPC registered Music Therapists to help people whose lives have been affected by injury, illness, disability or those who may need support with their emotional, cognitive, physical, communicative and social needs. Music Therapy is undertaken through establishing and building a therapeutic relationship between the client and therapist. Music Therapy can provide an opportunity for clients to express, explore and develop awareness of their feelings in a safe and supported way.

What are Music Therapists and what do they do?

Music Therapists hold a master's degree in Music Therapy and have high levels of musicianship. Music Therapists must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), like other Arts therapists such as Art and Drama. Music Therapists work in schools, NHS, hospitals, day centres, hospices, care homes, prisons, private practice and more. Music Therapists also complete weekly clinical and reflective notes and often provide end of year reports. Music Therapists complete additional reading and thinking about each client's needs. Music Therapists use different approaches and theoretical knowledge. I use an 'integrative approach' with clients which is based on working using a range of approaches, such as: Psychodynamic, person-centred, unconditional positive regard.

Who can benefit from Music Therapy?

Anyone can benefit from Music Therapy. However, Music Therapy can be especially useful for people who do not communicate verbally or who struggle to express their feelings and thoughts using words. Music Therapy can be useful for children and young people from all backgrounds including those who attend mainstream or SEN education. People can discover new ways of communicating through music and the therapeutic support can allow them to gain confidence that people will listen to them. Clients do not need any musical skills and the aim is not to teach them instruments.

Music Therapy

What happens in Music Therapy sessions?

I usually offer three assessment (taster) sessions to people who have been referred to Music Therapy to ensure that it is the most appropriate psychological intervention. Music Therapy sessions can include playing music together using instruments, listening to music, song writing, talking art, play. Just like other therapies, it can take time for people to become familiar with the Music Therapist and with the sessions. Music can also prompt or encourage talking and discussions. Music Therapists use music to help people achieve therapeutic goals. There is no requirement for people to 'be musical' or 'good at music' or 'know how to play an instrument' to engage in Music Therapy. Music Therapy sessions are completely confidential unless a disclosure is made that poses a high risk of harm/injury to the client or to other people.

What are the benefits of music therapy?

Music Therapy is creative and playful in its nature which can encourage people to express themselves in alternative ways rather than just talking.

Music Therapy can help people improve their self-confidence and build on their awareness of themselves and others by feeling listened to. There are many aims and benefits to music therapy which can include (and not limited to) the following:

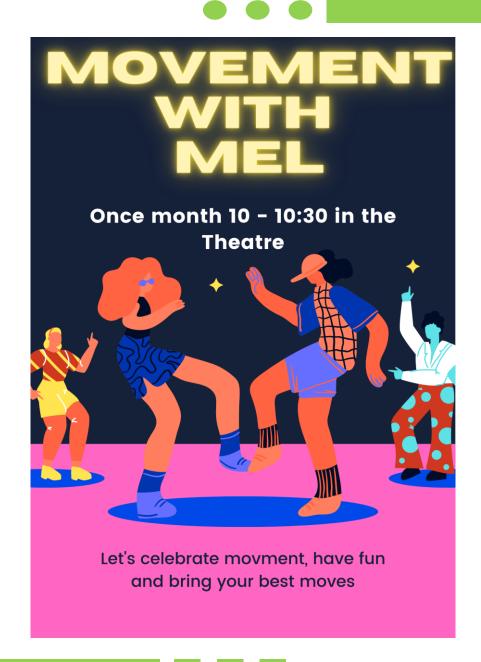
- Developing communication skills
- Increasing confidence
- Enabling self-expression
- Feeling heard and valued
- Developing social skills
- Working through difficult emotions
- Developing a sense of identity
- Increasing autonomy and choice
- Addressing behaviours that challenge

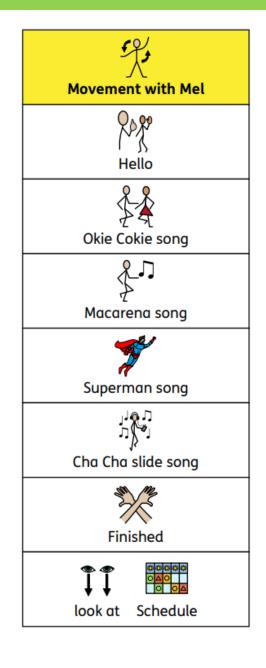
Movement with Mel

FUN AND LAUGHTER GUARANTEED!

Once a month Mel we will be delivering a Movement session in the theatre for all young people and adults to attend. This is a great opportunity to get everyone together for coregulation, movement, fun and laughter.









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



This week is Mental Health Awareness Week (12th-18th) and I thought I would share some links that were shared with the wider clinical team today, please take the time to have a look:

Mental Health Awareness Week 2025

Mental Health Awareness Week 2025 - Mental Health UK

<u>Children's Mental Health week 2025 and Mental Health Awareness week 2025 -</u>

BBC Bitesize

Mental Health Awareness Week 2025 - Mind

Mental Health Awareness Week 2025 toolkit of resources



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 <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.

Staff Discounts







A message from Mel

We are fast approaching the end of term with some planned events. Sports day will be 10th July and carnival day with end of year presentations will be held 17th July. All families and employees are welcome to attend.

This period we have seen more and more achievements for our young people, this is a testament to all adults who support and encourage young people to make progress and in some cases face their fears.

I have been really pleased to see the free reading afternoons really take hold and young people enjoying books.

A huge congratulations to Mark Rogers who has now been registered as a manager by Ofsted. We will be reviewing policies and sending out further information to all. We will now be registered as three separate provisions. Jane Holloway head of education for The Forum School. Mark Rogers registered manager for Paddocks view. Kerry Byron registered manager of Woodland view.