

# NEWSLETTER

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## Dates for your Diary

Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October  
**Parents PANDA Group**  
9.45am

Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October  
**Parent Workshop - Intensive Interaction**  
09.30-10.30

21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> October  
**HALF TERM**

Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> October  
**PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL**  
9.05am

Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> November  
**Parents Workshop - Managing Behaviour - Part 1 - 9.30am**

Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November  
**Developing Theory of Mind - Part 2 - 9.30am**

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November  
**Managing Behaviour Part 2 - 9.30am**

Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December  
**LINK ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS FAIR** - to be held at the secondary school

Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December  
**LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM**

## **A Message from Sandy**

Sometimes, something happens that makes you realise if you aim high and follow your dreams, they can become a reality.

I was honoured to meet Tsheusi and Noella this week - two ladies who have worked incredibly hard over the years to give children an education - something that is not always readily available to many children in other parts of the world.

Through their hard work and a little help from their friends at The Link, children in the small village of Kindu now have their own school and access to an education. (You can read more about this later in the newsletter).

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child - Article 28 states that every child has the right to an education. Richer countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

We often talk about a child's learning journey and I feel proud of the fact that The Link has played a part in this incredible journey and am now looking forward to building on the relationship we already have, giving both sets of pupils a **Link Across the World**.



## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE LINK?

Those of you who have been with us for a few years may well remember the link we forged with "Sunshine Rights" a charity formed by Tsheusi Kizozo, a former cleaner here at the school and very special friend of ours.

We offered help and assistance with the project from the outset and once established as a charity, parents and staff helped fill our school minibuses with old unwanted electrical items, which in turn were sold to raise funds to help build a school in The Congo.

Through Tsheusi's dogged determination and fundraising, she finally managed to open a school in her home village of Kindu.

We were delighted at the time to make a link with the school in Kindu and pupils exchanged photographs and letters telling each other about their lives and schools.

How fantastic it was to learn this week, that Sunshine Rights are now opening a school in Kinshasa, the Congo's capital, for children with autism.

Tsheusi and Noella (the class teacher for the new school) visited this week to observe good practice

and take back ideas to use with their new pupils.

We were also shown a video of the school as it is now and how it has developed - a proper toilet is now installed and the classroom looks fantastic. The pupils all look really happy and all shouted out "Hello London" in English (their native tongue being French).

Tsheusi also made sure she touched base with Beverley Dixon, our former Head Teacher, who played a pivotal role in making this all come to fruition.

After saying Au Revoir, Tsheusi and Noella headed off to London, so that Noella could see Buckingham Palace on her first ever visit to England.



Tsheusi, Sandy and Sue R prepare to refresh our link to The Congo.

This year, our Harvest Festival was two fold. Beech, Acorn and Willow Classes enjoyed a sensory assembly, led by Rebecca, complete with hay, fruit and vegetables; whilst Hazel, Oak and Maple Classes enjoyed a more traditional harvest.



Both assemblies focussed on being thankful for the food we have, whilst appreciating that many people are not as fortunate.

Thank you to those of you who sent in donations of cans, packets and dried food - all of which will be deliver to the Sutton Foodbank by some of the pupils after half term.

On Wednesday, Hazel Class visited The Digi Cafe, a wonderful venture set up by OHCAT Digital Team and run by students from Orchard Hill College. Located at The Riverside Centre, the Digi Café is open to members of the public too - every Wednesday (during term time)

from 11.30am -1.30pm. It's perfect for parents with young children as a place to meet, enjoy a coffee and a slice of cake (all made and served by OHCAT students) and checkout the latest apps, games and all things digital. There is even a Legal Education zone.



Our weekly Golden Book Assembly continues to be the highlight at the end of the school week, when pupils whose achievements have been of particular merit are awarded with a Head Teacher's Award certificate and get their name added to our Golden Book.

Fast becoming popular too, is Sandy's Birthday Box, where pupils get to take their pick from the many gifts inside.

This week, Chaitanya celebrated his birthday and was thrilled with his special hat and bubble wand, which he chose as the whole assembly sang Happy Birthday to him.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND AND ABOUT?

Oxygen Freejumping are offering special 'Autism Hours' at their Croydon venue in The Colonnades. These peaceful play sessions lower the music, dim the lights and have no loud tannoy announcements. There are also staff specifically trained for these sessions on site. Running throughout the month of October, times are:

Monday 12.00pm-1.00pm  
Tuesday 12.00pm - 1.00pm  
Wednesday 6.00pm - 7.00pm  
Thursday 12.00pm - 1.00pm  
Friday 12.00pm - 1.00pm  
Sunday 5.00pm - 6.00pm

We know how popular trampolines are with our pupils, so it could be a nice activity during half term.

## AND FINALLY .....

It was with great sadness that we recently learnt that one of our friends and colleagues Barbara Simpson had passed away. Barbara, who retired a couple of years ago, began working for The Link under the leadership of our founder Françoise Tomlin and was well loved by pupils and colleagues alike.

We were extremely touched to learn that the plate collection at her funeral has been donated to the school by her family.

Barbara was well known for passing on valuable knowledge and advice and we have decided to use the money to source a small library of books which we think will be useful to parents and staff - which will be easy to access for all.

Barbara's love of helping and advising will continue to be a valuable part of The Link.



We hope you all enjoy the half term break and look forward to seeing the children return on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> October - 9.05am.