



LLS News

13/12/2024



Dear families

Thank you to all the families who attended our Winter Concerts this week. Minerva's concert "The Magic of Kindness" will take place on Tuesday at 2pm.

We raised an amazing £104 for Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day. Thank you to everyone who took part and for all your donations.

Thank you, also, to everyone who donated to our **First Friday Foodbank** initiative last week. The Food Hub are collecting from us early next week so there is still time to donate non-perishable items if you would like to. Please send donations into the reception office by Tuesday morning. The next **First Friday Foodbank** will take place on Friday 10th January.

School Club finished this week and will restart on Tuesday 14th January.

School finishes at 1.30pm on Thursday 19th December and reopens on Monday 6th January at 9.50am.

Have a lovely weekend.

Save the Date

Following on from the huge success of NatSIP's last Family Day: Marvellous Me in September this year, they have arranged the date for their next Family Day for families of deaf children on Saturday 22nd November 2025 from 12pm-4pm at the British Library in London. They have selected this date in November as there is an exciting FREE family exhibition planned at the British Library and this will be the inspiration/theme for the Family Day.

As soon as this exhibition is announced by the British Library, we will share further information about it with you. This is a fantastic FREE day out. More information on the theme and plans for the programme for the Family Day will be sent to you in the New Year and will also be available on the British Library's website (www.bl.uk) nearer the time.

Events and dates to remember

Autumn Term Dates

**Thursday 19th
December 2024**

Last day for pupils
School finishes at
1.30pm

**Friday 20th
December 2024**

Planning and
Preparation Day 1 for
staff (no pupils)

Spring Term Dates

**Monday 6th January
at 9.50am**

First Day of Spring
Term - School
reopens

**Tuesday 14th
January**

After School Club
restarts



Learning at Linden

Residential News

Scouts awards

Three of our regular scouts were awarded a certificate and voucher for winning points through turn taking games, following instructions and turning up each week in full uniform. Amazing work from Aisha, DJ and Ben.

Aisha won the Scout of the Year Award with 532 points

DJ won the runner up award for Scout of the Year scoring a total of 457

Ben who won Scout of the Month with 156 points in November



Space adventures



Residential have enjoyed a term full of space adventures.

We have created our very own solar system with papier-mache planets, decorated alien and space heads and rockets to land on the moon and painted clay stars.

Can you recognise our new residents?



We had a very special visitor to Richley house on Thursday.

As the young people arrived at Richley House they were greeted by a reindeer friend.

The hungry reindeer even tried to take a bite out of an apple.



Holiday tips from the Occupational Therapy Team

The Occupational Therapy team would like to share some ideas for the upcoming holidays:

The holiday season can be an exciting and fun time for families, but it can also be a time of sensory overload and be overwhelming for our students.

These tips will hopefully make the festivities more manageable and enjoyable for all:

1. Introduce decorations gradually. Do not decorate the whole house in one evening, as all these visual changes may be visually overwhelming for your child or young person. Your child may enjoy being able to touch and feel the decorations before they go up, which gives them an opportunity to explore what the items are.
2. Try to keep decorations in one room or area of the house to prevent visual clutter throughout which can be difficult to process for someone with a visual impairment or difficulties with sensory processing.
3. Consider the type of lights you put up, is it too bright for your child? Is it very visually distracting and overwhelming in areas where certain activities, like feeding, take place?
4. Keep rooms well-ventilated when baking, cooking or engaging in art and craft activities, to reduce persistence of strong odours.
5. The unfamiliar tastes, textures and smells of Holiday food may be overwhelming so allow them to celebrate by eating their own preferred food.
6. Consider using single colour wrapping paper against a high contrast background instead of complex patterns that can be visually overwhelming.
7. Provide verbal warning for any loud noises that may occur such as popping crackers or consider quieter alternatives for children that startle easily.
8. Continue to provide sensory breaks as part of the daily routine. Take a break from festivities and engage in an activity your child finds calming such as reading them a story, taking a walk outside or listening to some soft music in a darkened space. Have a list of your favourite go-to self-regulating activities that you can easily pick from.
9. Try keep a consistent holiday routine every day or try present a daily timetable to let them know in advance what the day will look like.
10. Choose comfortable clothing that's easy to put on and adjust as needed, like items with elastic waistbands or fewer fastenings, if this aligns with your sensory needs. Layering is also helpful for temperature sensitivity, allowing for quick adjustments to feel comfortable in different environments.

Adapted from resource produced by Middletown Centre for Autism & 10 Tips for Managing Social Pressures and Sensory Challenges During the Festive Season, By Sensory Integration Education, 18.11.2024.



Try this activity at home (please consider the individual needs of your child and adjust accordingly, ensuring they are closely supervised at all times):

Make a cosy nest- use a small tent or blanket to make a smaller space within the room. Fill the space with beanbags/cushions/ pillows/ soft toys etc. If able, get your child to help set up this space by lifting and carrying all the heavy items to this space.

Try creating a calming environment with dim lighting and playing calming music. Use this space to do sedentary activities such as reading a story, listening to an audiobook, playing with a fidget etc. Or use this space for relaxation by providing a massage or having big squeezes/ hugs or lying under some heavy blankets for short periods. Or try exploring different textured objects or something that vibrates.



Stars of the Week

The whole of Ukulele class for a fantastic Christmas production that was enjoyed by the whole audience, classes and visitors.

Atena for helping Ukulele class during the Christmas production by taking the donkey and switch for others to explore and hear.

Poppy for her feeling the festivities and getting involved in the Winter performance and Christmas lunch

Tatiana for doing amazing walking in her walker this week!

Fara, Pietra, Tiago and Matteo for having such an amazing Autumn Term and making so much progress! Well done, Guitars!



Winter performances

Linden Lodge was sprinkled with festive magic this week as our children and young people welcomed their families to their Winter Concerts.

