



# LLS News

24/01/2024



Dear families

This week our Transitions Team have been busy planning our Transition Information Sharing Session for parents and carers of Year 7 upwards. The session will take place on Tuesday 4th March from 10.30-12.30 in the Isobel Family Centre. If you are interested in attending, please kindly use [this link](#) to register your interest. We look forward to seeing you there.

From time to time we ask for your help to keep our records updated. We are currently updating your permissions for the use of your child/young person's photos/videos. Please click on the link later in the newsletter to complete a short form.

Have a lovely weekend.

## Events and dates to remember

### Spring Term Dates

**Thursday 30th January**

*Rescheduled*

C@LL Committee Meeting

Refreshments from 9.30am, meeting starts at 10am.

Isobel Family Centre

**3rd - 9th February**

Children's Mental Health Week

**Monday 17th**

**February - Friday**

**21st February**

Half Term Holiday

**Monday 24th**

**February**

Inset Day 4

(no pupils)

**Thursday 3rd April**

Last day for pupils

**Friday 4th April**

Planning and Preparation Day 2 for staff (no pupils)

## Kindness Award

**Ayyan and Aisha** for being independent during cooking, recognizing and practicing food hygiene and safety at all times



## Stars of the Week

**Jack** for working and learning with different adults in class, good listening, talking and following instructions

**Aviyah** for making super progress in her personal care routines and becoming more independent.



**Frankie** for being able to listen to and follow instructions when being supported by a not so familiar staff member.

**Tiago** for working very hard in therapy group this week. Tiago did amazing looking and supported sitting. Well done, Tiago!

**DJ** for starting his work experience supporting the primary department.

**Harleigh** for being super helpful at the School Café and working on her customer service skills.

**Teddy** for having a great week! Teddy has been really engaged in sessions and has tried different emotional regulation strategies (when needed)!



## Learning at Linden

## Braille 200

To celebrate 200 years of braille a braille learner will share their braille journey each week. Everyone has a different and unique lesson tailored to their own personalised learning goal each week.

This week Arjun from our primary department:

'I am learning aaa'

Arjun concentrates well in his braille lesson each week and enjoys pressing the keys to make an a and a b on his own. He hears the bell and takes the carriage back.

He practises busy fingers pre braille skills and braille everyday in class with support from Kate.



Well done Arjun!

Next week we will be sharing another braille journey.

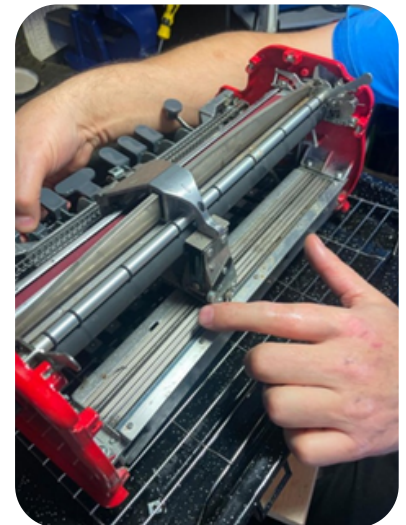
To read more about Braille and celebrating 200 years click on the link: <https://www.rnib.org.uk/about-us/braille-200/what-is-braille-200/> which has lots of information and activities such as a fun Lots of Dots Activity Booklet to download [https://media.rnib.org.uk/documents/APDF-SV240805\\_Lots\\_of\\_Dots\\_Activity\\_Booklet-v02.pdf](https://media.rnib.org.uk/documents/APDF-SV240805_Lots_of_Dots_Activity_Booklet-v02.pdf)

## Perkins Brailier Repairs

All braille users at Linden Lodge start their literacy journey by using a Perkins brailier, before potentially incorporating additional braille technology such as the BrailleNote Touch. The Perkins brailier enables pupils to build their reading and writing skills and, if looked after well, can last for decades.

On Friday 17th January, Becky (LRC Manager) and Justine (Minerva HLTA) visited Alan Thorpe at EYECAN in Sheffield to learn how to carry out basic cleaning and level 1 maintenance of Perkins brailiers.

Through hands-on experience, Becky and Justine learnt how to dismantle and reassemble brailiers to fix common problems that arise like keys and paper jamming. They also learnt how to identify issues which require more advanced repairs that involve taking the brailiers' end plates off to replace items such as the rubber 'O' rings, the paper drum and carriage. It was an incredibly useful, insightful day and both are very excited to put into practice what they have learnt.



Photos of a Perkins brailier with its top, front and bottom removed. Alan is pointing to various screws and the carriage to highlight issues to look out for.

You may have read the recent article in the Guardian about how Alan is planning for his future retirement and is hoping to find an apprentice to take over his business. This made the opportunity to meet Alan and benefit from his expertise even more valuable. Click here to read the article: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/jan/02/wed-be-stuck-alarm-as-uks-last-braille-typewriter-repairer-ponders-retirement>

A Perkins brailler also recently featured on popular BBC show 'The Repair Shop'. It appears at the following points in series 13, episode 17:

30:10, 38:30, 53:50

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m002483t/the-repair-shop-series-13-episode-17?seriesId=m001y4h5>

## Braille Technology

On Monday 20th January, Martin Roberts from Humanware came to demonstrate how to use a wide range of accessible braille displays and notetakers. Pupils in the Minerva Centre explored using the Mantis Q40, Brailiant BI 20X and 40X, reflected on their personal preferences and how using these devices may benefit them in the workplace.

Pupils also explored the latest innovative product from Humanware, the Monarch, a multi-line braille display with the ability to incorporate tactile graphics.

Here are some quotes from pupils about the experience:

"I liked learning about the Brailiant and the Monarch. I can see myself using the Brailiant with my existing devices. I can see it being really useful in the workplace."

"I find the Brailiant interesting. Carrying the Braille Note Touch can be heavy and awkward but the Brailiant is quite compact."



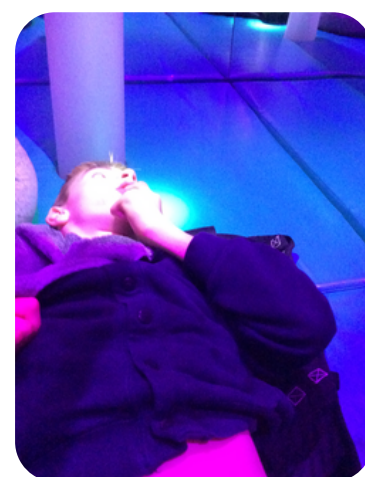
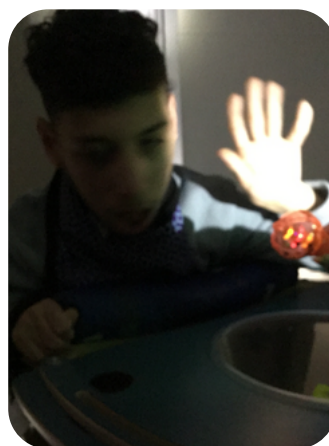
From left to right: Pupils using the Mantis Q40, the Monarch and the Brailiant 40X.

Pupils and staff had the opportunity to look at an interactive self-learning toy called 'Annie' which takes the user through the uncontracted and contracted braille code in a game-like format. It is designed to complement braille teaching.



## Sensory learning in Trombone class

Trombone class have been working hard and enjoying the sensory suite! They have been engaging in lots of visual work and sensory activities. Well done Trombone!





## Photo Consent Form 2024-25

We kindly ask you to review and complete our annual Photography, Multimedia, and Video Consent Form. Your responses will help us understand your preferences regarding the use of your child's images and videos across various platforms. Please click on this link <https://forms.office.com/e/8yAAWYBeX1?origin=lprLink> and take a moment to indicate your consent for each of the options provided. This will ensure we respect your wishes while celebrating and sharing important moments from our school community.

# Inclusive Basketball

📍 Wilditch Community Centre, SW11 5BB

Only £3 per session

We are excited to announce the launch of our new, weekly inclusive basketball sessions! Taking place every Wednesday 5pm - 6pm for young people aged 10 - 17 years old living in the Wandsworth Borough.

These group based sessions are perfect for any young person wanting to develop their ball skills in a safe and supportive environment.

Non-disabled siblings can attend for free

To book, contact Vincent on:  
✉ [vilopez@enablelc.org](mailto:vilopez@enablelc.org)



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# Inclusive February Half Term Activities

📍 Battersea Sports Centre SW11 2DA

Up to £3 per session

Join us for a Half Term full of exciting inclusive activities, appropriate for all abilities.

A range of pan disability sessions for young people aged 5 - 18 years old. The sessions will be grouped based on age and ability to ensure everyone's needs are met.

Non disabled siblings can attend for free.

To book, contact Vincent on:  
✉ [vilopez@enablelc.org](mailto:vilopez@enablelc.org)



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# Inclusive February Half Term Multi Sports Activities

Date	Time	Activity	Location	Cost
Tue 18th Feb	2pm - 4pm	Inclusive Boxing	Battersea Sports Centre, SW11 2DA	£3
Weds 19th Feb	1pm - 3pm	Inclusive Hockey	Battersea Sports Centre, SW11 2DA	£3
Thurs 20th Feb	1pm - 3pm	Inclusive Basketball	Battersea Sports Centre, SW11 2DA	£3



Scan here to book



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# Inclusive February Half Term Hip Hop Sessions

Date	Time	Activity	Location	Cost
Tues 18th Feb	10am-11am	Hip Hop 5 - 11 Year olds With Alicia Kaur	Battersea Sports Centre, SW11 2DA	FREE
Tues 18th Feb	11am-12am	Hip Hop 12 - 17 Year olds With Alicia Kaur	Battersea Sports Centre, SW11 2DA	FREE
Thurs 20th Feb	10am-11am	Hip Hop 5 - 11 Year olds With Alicia Kaur	Battersea Sports Centre, SW11 2DA	FREE
Thurs 20th Feb	11am-12am	Hip Hop 12 - 17 Year olds With Alicia Kaur	Battersea Sports Centre, SW11 2DA	FREE



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## **Employment support for people with learning disabilities & autism**

**with Daniela Woolston & Hannah Andrew, Employment Advisors,  
Merton Employment Team,  
Nichola Headings, Project Officer for Supported Internships, Merton  
Council  
& Matthew Kaye, DFN Project SEARCH Manager, St Georges  
University Hospitals**

Daniela & Hannah will explain how Merton's Employment Team can help people with learning disabilities aged 18 plus, or people aged 19-30 with a past or current EHC Plan into employment by providing 12 months of employment support & guidance with CV writing, one to one job searching, job applications, interview skills, benefit checks, in work support & more.

Plus hear about 2 local Project Search supported internship programmes for young people with learning disabilities and/or autism aged 17 – 24, with an EHCP. Trainees are supported to learn employability skills alongside work placements.

Nichola will talk about Merton's recently launched supported internship programme & Matthew will cover the project at St George's which is a partnership between St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust & Cricket Green School.

Find out more detail about the programmes, such as the application process, the type of work & departments interns will likely work in, skills they will learn and what happens at the end of the programme.

## **Tuesday 28 January, 10am to 12pm**

**Online via Zoom**

**OR**

**For family carers without digital access: see it LIVE on a  
screen at our offices at the Chaucer Centre.**

**You MUST book at least 4 days ahead of the meeting to see the live  
screening at our offices.**

Click the link to register for & join the online meeting: <https://bit.ly/3ZDa1YW>

Or book here to watch the online meeting live on a screen at our offices here:  
[af.admin@mertonmencap.org.uk](mailto:af.admin@mertonmencap.org.uk) / 07929 670645

### **THIS SESSION IS FOR FAMILY CARERS ONLY**

✓ For more information or to register with Adults First and receive news of all our events, just ring 020 3963 0597 or email or [af.admin@mertonmencap.org.uk](mailto:af.admin@mertonmencap.org.uk).