



# LLS News

28/03/2025



Dear families

As we are quickly approaching the end of the Spring Term we would like to share a few reminders and notifications:

- School finishes at 1.30pm on Thursday 3rd April.
- School reopens on Tuesday 22nd April at 8.50am.
- After school club has now finished for the term and will resume on the Tuesday 29th April 2025.

Have a lovely weekend



## Events and dates to remember

### Spring Term Dates

#### Thursday 3rd April

Last day for pupils.  
School finishes at 1.30pm

#### Friday 4th April

Planning and Preparation Day 2 for staff (no pupils)

### Summer Term Dates

#### Tuesday 22nd April

School reopens at 8.50am

#### Tuesday 29th April

After School Club resumes

#### Monday 5th May

Bank holiday  
School closed

#### Tuesday 6th May

12pm  
C@LL AGM

## Kindness Award

**Bethany** for being able to engage for longer periods in the music session.

**Alice** for making her friends laugh and smile during story time.

**Ellie** using her eye gaze when new staff come to the café.

**David** communicating his needs nicely, great using and allowing lots of tactile signing.



## Habilitation Star of the Week



Joseph for pushing himself to be independent on his home route, boarding and alighting both trains and the bus without physical support, and receiving only about a minute of sighted guide in the whole 1.5 hour journey



## Stars of the Week

**Drew** - she has started staying at Richley once a week. Drew had a great first evening in Richley and engaged well with other peers and staff! Well done!



**Arjun** for answering questions about the task/activity he has just completed – who, what and where questions.

**Abbie** for making a conscious effort to self advocate by expressing her wishes in an appropriate manner.

**Ben** for his ability to be focused and sensible when using his long cane.

**Alejandro** for settling back into class so well, we've missed you so much!

**Leyla K** - impressive self-propelling in her habilitation session, amazing!

**Fara** for working hard to improve her head and neck control while playing on her tummy. Good effort, Fara!

**Unite** for great progress in her reading and signing ABC.

**Kaydon** for communicating that he wanted more music during our session, smiling, listened intently when it started again.

## Red Nose Day

Thank you, once again, for all your donations for Comic Relief last week.

Our Food Technology Department helped to boost our fundraising total by organising a Red Nose Day cooking competition.

They raised a further £141 to bring our total to **£249**.

**COMIC RELIEF**  **FUNDRAISING COMPETITION**

Many of our wonderful staff participated in our Red Nose Day cooking competition to raise funds for Comic Relief.

Minerva students, and Richard our guest judge, were busy sampling and scoring the entries in sweet and savoury categories to find the winners.

After the judging the bakes were sold in Linden Lodge Café.

## Learning at Linden in the Minerva Centre

### English in Minerva 1 this week:

Minerva 1 students have been working towards creating a piece of writing for the Orwell Youth Prize 2024. The theme this year is 'Freedom is...!' The task was to write about what freedom meant to the students, in any form they chose, to get personalised feedback and the chance to win a cash prize and books for the winner and their school. Far more than just a prize, the Orwell Youth Prize provides free feedback and online resources to support all young writers on every step of their writing journey.

This term, students have been learning what freedom is, and the rights and freedoms that they have. They have all actively taken part in their learning and have contributed to class discussions, as well as writing various pieces on the theme of freedom.

Students have used the techniques they have learned this term to create a piece of writing to submit for the competition. We are very proud of the students commitment to learning about this very important topic, and what they have created. Well done Minerva 1!

Here is one of the poems independently written by one of our students:

One warm and glorious sunny day,  
I thought I would take a stroll along by  
the bay.

I decided to relax and sit on the sand,  
I knew I had the freedom to play with  
the sand.

I bought a lovely cup of tea,  
that I drunk whilst listening to the waves  
on the sea.

Once I had finished my cup with tea,  
I threw some stones into the lovely blue  
sea

When I heard the stones being dropped  
in the water,

I loved having the freedom of being  
filled with laughter.

It was so scoldingly warm that I had to  
take a dive,

That was the only thing that kept me  
alive.

Emily



This is an extract from one of the Minerva students GCSE creative writing pieces. This was created to enter into the BBC Young writers award.



A guest, a really tiny guest. She flutters and flounces darts and dances. Her movements are pristine and precise. Wow. She looks so nice. There was never a time she didn't look sublime. Her eyes were a lively lilac, they glistened and gleamed, wow... the younger one thought, I wish that could be me.

They went out to the garden, green and grey, and from the serene sky a petal - fragile, fresh and fuchsia - fell into their face. Had it fallen from the flower above their delicate dainty frame? "Hold it." A whispering woman called out. "It'll make you loving and lively for as long as you keep it." They turned to look at the whispering woman, to their surprise they saw the pristine precise Persephone. Her eyes glowing and growing. "I can teach you ways of grace and all things in its face." Their lips slightly parted, amusement and awe etched onto their features. It couldn't be? The fairy they were face to face with was the precious Persephone.

"Grace and all things in its face?" they repeated, seeking truth in her words,

"Yes, grace and all things in its face" she responded with a small smile on her face. "You'd really do that? Would you?" they exclaimed.

"Yes, now hush, we have to rush." She chuckled lightly.

"Okay then, let's go." They almost screamed. Their tiny hands reaching for hers. The sun was sinking but not quite setting, the air was cool but not quite chilling, the clouds were dark but not quite dooming, as they flew across the flavescent fiery sky. Eventually they came to a halt, below their fragile frames, a fragrant fruitful land. Colourful, celestial, ethereal and elegant.

"Wow! The younger one said, "It's so pretty, perfect even."

"Nothing in this world is ever perfect, but certainly, it's pretty." A new voice called out. Her tone somewhat blunt, her face impassive. But in her hands a grey looking flower, the petals peeling off the stem.

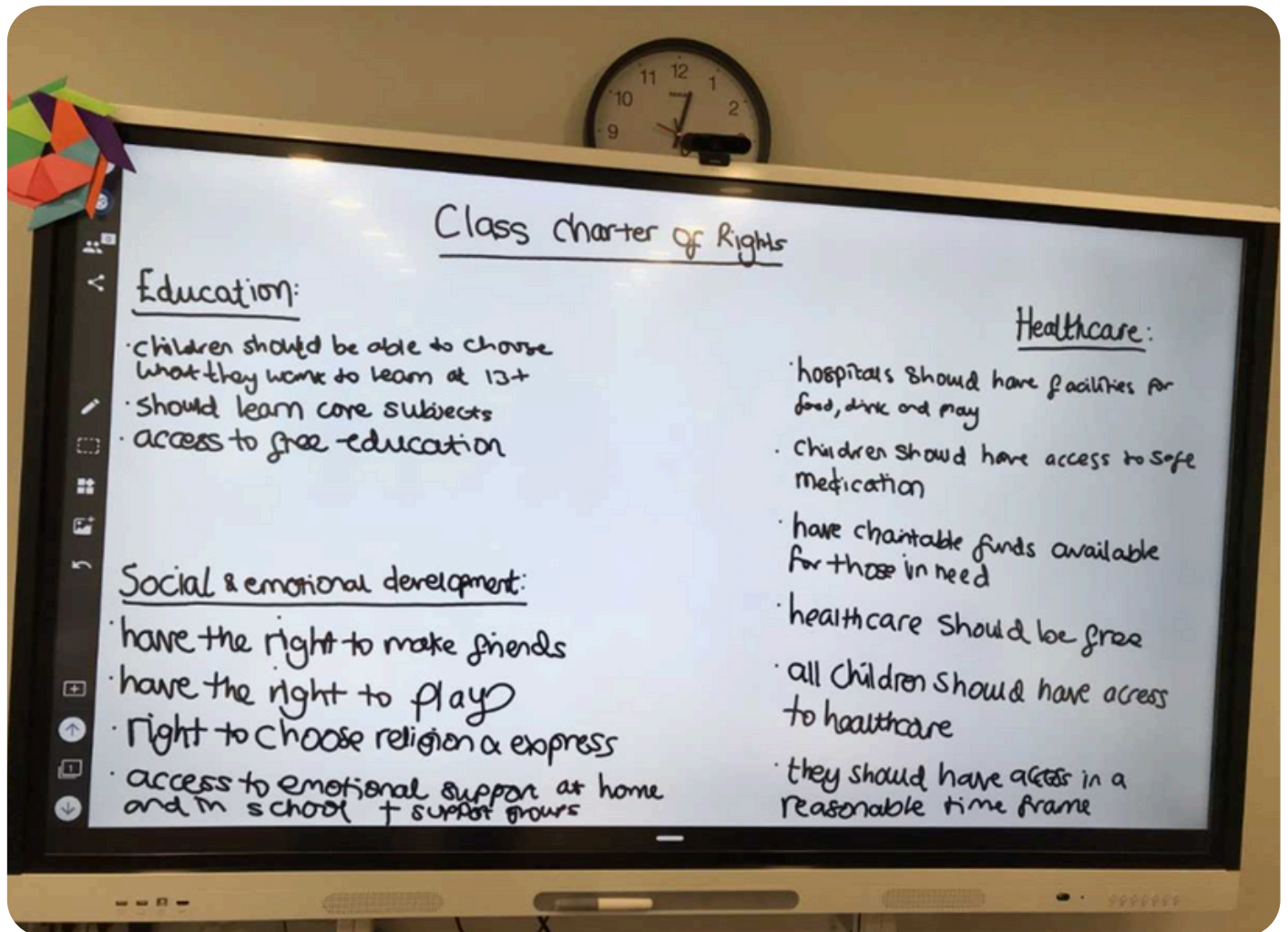
"Oh no the flower! What's wrong with it?" "Nothing, this is how it's supposed to look." "Why so dull? It looks tired and so-" "bored? It's a plum blossom. It represents exactly that."

"Boredom? A flower that represents boredom? Who would've thought that?" "Remember the petal you held earlier? I said it'd make you loving and lush for as long as you held it, for as long as you hold any flower or any petal from that flower. You'll feel what it represents." Persephone replied, her hands slowly drifting to the little ones shoulders. "They all have meaning?" they asked almost perplexed, in complete disbelief.

"Everything has a meaning if you look deep enough my dear. Come on now, I'll show you what I mean."

## Class charter

Minerva 2 have started brainstorming their Rights Charter and are starting to produce their Class Charter Poster.



## Rights Respecting Schools

Our article of the week that we have been learning about is **Article 28**.  
Article 28 is the **Right to Education**.

Every child has the right to an education.

Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child.

Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights.

Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.



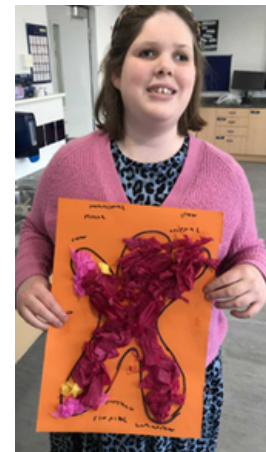
**UNCRC Article 28**

I have the right to an  
education

### RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL ARTICLE OF THE WEEK COMMENT

Emily from Minerva says,  
“I think it is important to have a right to education because when you become a grown up you need to have the knowledge to have a job. If you have children you need to teach them about the things they were taught in school.”

In Rights Respecting this week, in Humanities, Minerva 1 students created their Ideal Teacher.



## 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's Braille journey features Isha.

Isha had already learnt uncontracted braille when she started Linden Lodge and is now learning contracted braille. Isha has been so enthusiastic to learn word signs and is learning how to make words shorter by using contractions.

Isha is practising her braille reading and is doing this alongside her learning contracted braille. Well done Isha for always working so hard in all braille lessons.

Learning at Linden Braille 200 To read more about Braille and celebrating 200 years click on the link:

<https://www.nib.org.uk/about-us/braille200/what-is-braille-200/>

which has lots of information and activities such as a fun Lots of Dots

Activity Booklet to download [https://media.nib.org.uk/documents/APDF-SV240805\\_Lots\\_of\\_Dots\\_Activity\\_Booklet-v02.pdf](https://media.nib.org.uk/documents/APDF-SV240805_Lots_of_Dots_Activity_Booklet-v02.pdf)

### Braille Alphabet

⠁ ⠃ ⠉ ⠇ ⠑ ⠖ ⠗ ⠘ ⠙ ⠛  
a b c d e f g h i j

⠕ ⠗ ⠓ ⠎ ⠏ ⠑ ⠓ ⠔ ⠖ ⠗  
k l m n o p q r s t

⠠ ⠡ ⠢ ⠣ ⠤ ⠥  
u v w x y z

## Therapy Team News

### Training

Saniya and Chloe (OTs) will soon attend the Advanced Bimanual Therapy course, which is a hands-on, interactive training program. This course is focused on using bimanual therapy for children with cerebral palsy (CP). By participating, they will learn practical techniques to help improve hand skills and motor development for these children. The course will give them more confidence to apply evidence-based methods, leading to better functional hand use and long-term positive outcomes for children with CP.

### Physiotherapy Team Parent & Carer Feedback Survey

Please can you take 5-10 minutes to complete the survey via QR code below to help the physiotherapy team work towards improving their service. It is greatly appreciated.

Thank you, PT team.

Parental Feedback 2025 -  
Physiotherapy






## Top Tips

Research has found that our children and young people are spending less time playing outdoors and this can have an impact on motor skill development, sensory processing, attention, problem solving, social participation and communication skills. As the weather starts to warm up, here are some ideas for sensory activities to try outdoors:

### 1) Do a sensory circuit:

Sensory circuits are a set routine of sensory activities, it should only take a few minutes to complete. Regular, repeated exposure to the targeted sensory input helps with sensory processing, promotes self-regulation and enhances learning and development.

Begin with an **alerting task**, followed by an **organising task** and then a **calming task** at 2-3 set times throughout the day. Choose the activities for your child or young person that are the most suitable and rewarding, and ensure they are closely supervised at all times. These can be completed outside if appropriate.

<p><b>Alerting tasks:</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bouncing on a trampoline</li> <li>• Fast paced music and movement</li> <li>• Jumping or hopping (can draw targets on the floor with chalk to jump on)</li> <li>• Simple yoga or stretches</li> <li>• Head shoulders knees and toes song</li> </ul>
<p><b>Organising tasks:</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walk on a variety of uneven surfaces, such as grass, sand, or a sensory path</li> <li>• Target games like beanbag toss</li> <li>• Ball games of throwing/rolling/catching/drumming</li> <li>• Animal walks where you try moving like various animals</li> <li>• Walking on a balance beam</li> <li>• Stacking items</li> <li>• Posting items into various containers, use various items you can find outside like stones or sticks</li> </ul>
<p><b>Calming tasks:</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blowing bubbles</li> <li>• Sucking through a straw</li> <li>• Deep breathing exercises</li> <li>• Listening to soft music or nature sounds</li> <li>• Sand or water play</li> <li>• Swinging/ lying in a hammock</li> <li>• Massage</li> </ul>

### 2) Go on an outdoor sensory scavenger hunt:

Look for the various items in an outdoor

space together, explore each item through touch, smell, sight, hearing or trying to move your body in the same way as the object. You can even try counting, measuring or weighing the items you find.

Have a lovely break!

From The Linden Lodge OT Team

#### I feel...



#### I see...



#### I hear...



#### I smell...



## Miss your teenage vaccines at school?

Head to your local immunisation  
catch-up clinic and make sure  
you're fully protected!

**Monday 7 April**

10:00 - 14:00

St John's Therapy Centre, SW11 1SW

**Call 020 3903 3374 for more  
information**



National  
Open Youth  
Orchestra

**The National Open Youth Orchestra invites you  
to experience classical music without barriers  
with its "Ring Out!" 2025 concert tour**

Use the discount code **SEND25** at the box office checkout to get 1 free ticket per booking.

- Sunday 27 April 2025, 3-4pm - Milton Court Concert Hall, London
- Saturday 10 May 2025, 3-4pm - Lighthouse Poole (live and streaming)
- Saturday 17 May 2025, 3-4pm - Hoddinott Hall, Cardiff (debut performance)
- Sunday 8 June 2025, 3-4pm - Birmingham Town Hall

Relaxed, British Sign Language-interpreted performances



The world's first disabled-led national youth ensemble, the **National Open Youth Orchestra (NOYO)**, invites SEND school students, staff and families to join them for their tour, "Ring Out! No more barriers, just great music". Their performances are relaxed, so you can enjoy beautiful contemporary classical music in a welcoming atmosphere designed to be inclusive of disabled and neurodivergent concertgoers. Watch them perform on a mix of traditional acoustic instruments and electronic instruments rarely found in orchestras, such as the bass guitar—or the Clarion®, which can be played on iPad and Windows PCs using any movement of the body.

View the programme and book at the National Open Youth Orchestra concert tour page: [noyo.org.uk](https://noyo.org.uk). Use the discount code **SEND25** at the box office checkout to get 1 free ticket per booking. For more information about the Clarion, visit [theclarion.uk](https://theclarion.uk).