



LLS News

26/09/2025



Dear families

Last term we shared the fantastic news that our STEM Project Team from the Minerva Department had won second prize in a competition with their app design. Today we hosted a very exciting Awards Ceremony with OTIS to celebrate their achievement. Today's event will be featured in the next newsletter.

Next week we will be welcoming our new families to an induction morning on Wednesday 1st October, in the Isobel Centre, 10am-12pm.

Have a lovely weekend.



Star of the Week

Asad for stepping out of his comfort zone and joining in choir sessions with a big smile (and beautiful singing). Well done!



For amazing work with his tasters this week! **Elliot** has done some great communicating during lunch times and shown more independence. Good job, Elliot!

Jay for working super hard in all his therapy sessions this week! Keep up the good work.

Tami for his patience while given commands to his Alexa, when pairing with his personal items.

Ayyan for his engagement in cooking sessions, deciding, planning and preparation of his meals each week.

Events and dates to remember

Autumn Term

Dates



Wednesday 1st

October 2025

10am-12pm

Induction session for new families

Friday 24th October

2025

Inset day 3 (no pupils)

Monday 27th

October -

Friday 31st October

2025

Half-Term Holiday

Thursday 18th

December 2025

Last day for pupils

Friday 19th

December 2025

Planning & Preparation Day (no pupils)



Kindness Award

Beibei for being her usual smiley self and greeting friend as they arrive.

Drew for working towards her goals in her personal care routines.



LOLER testing

Dear parents/carers

LOLER sling testing will be taking place on 13th - 23rd October. Please send in slings that are likely to be used in school for testing. It is a legal requirement that all slings are LOLER tested every 6 months.

Thank you very much

Kind regards,

Leton Williams

HLTA and Manual Handling

Therapy News

The SaLT team would like to raise awareness on non-speaking/non-verbal day which is held on the 30th of September yearly.

This day helps raise awareness towards individuals who communicate using different means of communication e.g. AAC, BSL, Makaton, Picture symbols, Total Communication Approach

Non speaking/ non-verbal awareness day

AIM OF THIS DAY:

- To educate the public about the unique communication methods used by these individuals, including sign language, gestures, Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices, and other forms of nonverbal communication.



National NonSpeaking / Nonverbal Awareness Day is observed annually on September 30th to raise awareness about individuals who communicate without speech, known as nonspeaking or nonverbal individuals.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

- Learn About Nonverbal Communication
- Support Inclusivity.
- Raise Awareness.

WHAT IS AAC:

- AAC stands for 'augmentative and alternative communication'. It is an approach to communication that helps people to communicate or to communicate more clearly and easily.



HOW TO SUPPORT NON/SPEAKING PUPILS

- Use Multiple Communication Methods:** sign language, visual supports, or gesture-based methods, picture symbols, tactile signing, AAC
- Provide Accessible Learning Materials:** visual aids, interactive tools, tactile materials
- Promote Peer Inclusion:** Creating an inclusive classroom means ensuring that nonspeaking students feel part of the community



M.A.P.S.



Support for parents and carers of young people 0-25 with a diagnosis of autism (or likely to receive a diagnosis)

Parents can ring or email anytime to make a booking for a confidential session with highly trained advisors in person, or via ZOOM.

Every Wednesday 10am till 1pm

To make a booking, please contact Maria Solari on 07709715206

or email

Maps.coordinator@mertonmencap.org.uk

A parent-led service offering practical advice and support about:

- Communication
- Positive behaviour
- Anxiety
- Sleep
- Sign-posting to other services
- Strategies to help families in the home environment and within the community
- and many more

