



Serenity School

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Message from the Headteacher

I would like to thank all of our staff and pupils for a positive Autumn term, we have welcomed almost thirty new pupils this term and several new staff, with the growth of the school, we will be introducing a number of new staff in January, I will be sending out a formal welcome letter to parents in the new year introducing you all to them, this term we welcome:

- Mrs Budd- PE Teacher and Assistant Head teacher
- Mr Smith- The school behaviour mentor
- Mr Dafkos- Rowan class teacher
- Ms Oliver Rowland- Sapling class teacher
- Mr Schendel- Progress partner
- Ms Ward- Progress partner
- Ms Skillern - Progress partner
- Ms Riley - Progress partner

We would like to say a fond farewell to the following staff leaving this term:

- Mrs Green, Mrs Asim, Mrs Grenfell, Mrs Gregory and Mrs Giles

November 24th was Serenity school's birthday- We are 4! We marked the occasion with cupcakes and a celebration assembly.

We thank you all again, for your continued support and wish you all a safe and happy Christmas holiday.

Attendance Awards

I would like to start by saying how well the new students have transitioned to serenity so far.

A big shout out to the following students:

Most improved attendance:

Savanah, Vinnie, Harley, Vaswani

Most consistent attendance:

Charmaine, Edward, Jonah, James S, Kyle, Charlotte, Richie

Best attendance:

Hamza, Zain, Ralphee, Charlie, Kieran

Best Class:

Pine - Very Well Done for 100% Attendance



Pupil & Parent Surveys

100% of our parents said that the school make sure it's pupils are well behaved.

86% of our parents say that the school let's them know how their child is doing, we are going to improve this by continuing to make weekly calls to parents to discuss their child's progress, please inform the school office if you do not receive a weekly call or email. We are also trialling a daily home/school communication book with our nurture classes.

100% of our parents say that the school makes them aware of what their child will learn during the year.

Some of our pupils said that bullying is a problem at the school. We have a bullying ladder where pupils go on report and the school has meetings with parents to discuss their child's bullying behaviour. The consequences for bullying get more serious as the student goes up the ladder. More details about this can be found on our behaviour policy on our school website.



Sycamore Class

Being a new class for the 2022-23 academic year, Sycamore students should feel a sense of pride in how well they have adjusted to their change in their environment, peers, teacher, and academic subjects.

In English, the boys have been working towards completing their NCFE speaking and listening exams (taking place next week at the time of writing). The tasks vary from debating issues surrounding fame and celebrity status (Finlay, Oliver, Harley, Kai, Sebastian) to creating and presenting a presentation on the morality of CCTV in schools and the workplace (Harry).

Maths this term has seen Harry and Sebastian conquering decimal division and finding fractions of whole numbers and measurements, with the boys showing excellent resilience to overcome initially challenging problems. Finlay, Oliver, Harley and Kai have also worked extremely hard to apply their knowledge of multiplication and division facts to problems involving larger numbers using the bus stop method and long division.

The focus in ICT this term has been the dreaded Microsoft Excel (and associated formulas) where students have used the =Sum() and =Average() formulas to solve a variety of problems. One such problem involved the boys planning a party. Whilst Harry blew the £200 budget on a selection of marbles and cars, Finlay ensured no guests would go hungry by investing a large chunk of his money in pepperoni pizzas.

On the topic of food, the boys have also been the recipient of many positive behaviour points from myself, on account of the contract we have whereby they are rewarded for lining my pockets with the fruits of their food technology labours (although I wasn't sure about the tomato ketchup Spaghetti Bolognese Oliver made).

As a new group, team building was the focus in PSD as the boys completed the 'Working as Part of a Group' unit. Despite a rocky start with Harry repeatedly telling me 'Sir, I work alone' in true Marvel Hero fashion, the boys successfully planned and ran a charity cake sale for Breast Cancer Awareness (pictured below with the Headteacher Ms Ayisi).

Lastly, I would like to wish Harry, Oliver, Finlay, Kai, Sebastian, Harley and indeed their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I look forward to seeing the boys on their return.



Numeracy

This term in Numeracy, we have focused on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals. Decimal numbers are used often in everyday work and life. They are used in situations where more accuracy is required than the whole numbers can provide. Examples include:

- Money (for example, £5.20)
- Measuring weight (for example, 75.2 kg)
- Measuring length (for example, 12.2cm)
- Statistics (for example, 87.5%)

In class activities, we explored a virtual shop on Mymaths where we bought everyday items like milk, sugar, bread, pizza, etc. We used multiplication to work out lots of items and the final cost. We also added total cost and change received, when we finished paying. Finally, we worked out how to share total cost by dividing when we make a group purchase.

Literacy

This term we have been looking at non-fiction writing, and in particular newspaper articles. The school has recently subscribed to 'First News', a newspaper written for young people and which presents information in a child-friendly manner. We have been reading articles, looking at vocabulary and answering comprehension questions, as well as generally discussing newsworthy current events. The World Cup has given us plenty to talk about ... as has our recent politics!

In addition, we have been looking at '-ough' words (e.g. though, through, enough, plough) – one of those baffling English constructions with no pronunciation clues. This has proved challenging for some.

Department for Work and Pensions Workshop

We continue to work closely with Bromley DWP supporting us to deliver careers workshops to students across formal/semi-formal.

This year, they have delivered a session on Employability skills, and exploring the different routes into employment. The second session was delivered to our Sixth form students, this session focused on interview skills and techniques. We are always looking for exciting opportunities for our learners to venture into the world of work.

If you or any other family members know of anything which will enrich the lives of the students at Serenity School.

Please email the school office.



Pablo the Therapy Dog

Pablo has been well and truly spoilt this term! He has had lots of exercise around our field, been given lots of attention from our students and has even been out supporting PE lessons! I think it's fair to say that Pablo is going to miss all the students over the Christmas break and already can't wait to see them again in January!



Rowan Class

We have been attending our Meet and Greet sessions in the morning, listening to songs and singing.

We have also learned about autumn and winter weather, looking at pictures and watching videos.

During thinking and problem solving, we coloured pictures and used shapes in our drawings. We also solved puzzles.

We also attended our PE sessions, going on bus rides to the gym and enjoyed working out, warming up, running and playing with basketballs.

Moreover, we attended forest school and engaged in activities outdoors, or indoors when the weather was bad and found out about plants and animals.

During Independence time, we practiced making toast.

We also explored our emotions during Zones of Regulation and looked at private and public places during our Relationships and Sexual Education sessions.

Furthermore, we worked on taking turns with our peers, when we played several games, such as Skittles, Hoops and Beanbags, as well as Jenga and Ludo for our Play and Leisure time.

During Attention Autism, we focused our attention to the activities and items our staff showed to us.



Food Tech

Food is a lot of people's therapy – When we say comfort food, we really mean that. It's releasing dopamine and serotonin in your brain that makes you feel good. – Brett Hoebel

All classes assigned to do Food Technology show great enthusiasm.

From the beginning of the term, every student has participated in almost every session planned and they are enjoying the sessions.

The students have been enjoying demonstrating different cooking skills while preparing different dishes.

Here are some of sample cooking pieces from the classes. Enjoy!!



Christmas is coming!

The Serenity elves were busy putting up our Christmas tree. Sapling class worked so well decorating our beautiful tree which can be see in our reception area. A special thank you to Leah, Charmaine, Kye, Jennifer and Jonah for your lovely work.



Forest School

This term has been very productive at forest school!

The students all worked together to set up a camp base, where we can now enjoy circle time discussions and games!

Last week we collected leaves to create our own forest animal collages.



Maple

This term in English and history, Maple learnt about WW2 which children enjoyed a lot. We watched videos and made a wartime menu: lots of great ideas from the boys. In maths we explored shapes, angles, and lines, after a half term working on fractions.

The big favourite with the children is still food tech. They cooked exciting dishes, like vegetable soup or shepherd's pie. In PE they played football and are now practising badminton.

Science is always practical – last half-term we tried to put electric circuits together, this half term is chemistry, exploring and experimenting with different materials. In ICT, we are doing a powerpoint presentation of a branching story about Robin Hood and his merry men.

All in all it was a fun term for Maple and we learnt a lot.

Mechanics Trip

Serenity school send some students to do a course on motor mechanics. Part of their coursework is learning how to ride bikes. The students are taken to Brentwood Bunker. Bike control is a key element of this trip, as they are taken on paths with logs, tree stumps and over hanging trees, all of which they need to negotiate safely. There are two courses one for beginners and one for the more advanced riders.



Art

Art KS3 - Semi - formal

This term KS3 pupils experimented with traditional and non- traditional material to explore art and design ideas and techniques. KS3 Art Semi -formal pupils looked at natural and organic shapes and colour through the work of French artist, Henri Matisse. They produced some exciting collages in the style and technique of Matisse using cardboard as shown below.



Art KS3 - Formal

KS3 Art Formal pupils looked at natural and organic shapes and colour through the work of British artist, Andy Goldsworthy. They produced some experimental land art using non-traditional materials - leaves and twigs - in the style and technique of Andy Goldsworthy as shown below:



Art KS4

KS4 Art has been exploring the use of materials, techniques and visual language in art and design. They explored texture and colour, made collages, took photographs and drawings as primary sources and researching other artists' works. Below are examples of KS4 pupils' response to American artist Romare Bearden's colourful collages and paintings.



English

The students in Elm English Tutor group are currently preparing for their Speaking and Listening Exams, however, each student has been assigned to an English project in Autumn Term 2.

This project is based on their hobbies/interest for example, Eloise is interested in the Solar System, Indy adores animals and Angel likes to create word searches.

The topics I have taught them in class such as skimming/scanning reading strategies, textual features, imagery, and presentation skills will be included in their projects.

Sapling PE

This half term Sapling have been doing health and fitness. The students have been learning about how the body changes with exercise especially the heart rate. The students know how to measure their heart rate and have been learning about circuit training. They have created their own training plan and will be following this in the last few lessons.

Chestnut Form Group

This half term, the members of Chestnut have been going around the school community and taking on leadership roles. Dasiy and Indi have been working with some students in Elm during their afternoon form time. Faraj has been working with the groups in semi-formal during afternoon time and has been helping monitor behaviour around break times. Thyrek has been managing students and monitoring who has Pablo during break times. Kieran will be taking charge of the displays around the school and ensuring these are up to date and appealing to the students.



Angel's Wordsearch

A	E	J	Q	H	M	P	T	U	A	B	Q	N	Y	E
B	C	F	I	A	C	W	S	H	D	K	M	X	O	S
S	G	N	E	W	D	E	M	O	G	O	R	G	O	N
J	W	Q	O	K	S	G	M	A	N	R	L	W	Y	N
T	U	S	G	I	E	R	N	W	B	V	O	A	X	R
B	E	J	P	N	Q	A	X	C	H	N	R	S	V	W
H	Y	T	A	K	E	I	L	J	Q	W	L	E	E	G
J	A	L	A	X	O	L	U	D	I	S	R	W	C	Y
M	S	H	D	F	N	G	E	K	O	B	Q	T	N	S
I	B	N	I	F	D	A	B	V	E	F	M	A	A	R
K	G	M	N	O	Q	S	R	V	E	G	L	U	V	E
E	T	B	L	U	C	A	S	C	E	N	F	G	H	W
H	A	W	K	I	N	S	I	A	B	R	S	R	T	O
L	O	W	I	L	L	Q	T	D	U	S	T	I	N	P
W	A	L	K	Y	T	A	L	K	Y	H	I	W	D	S

Hawkins
Demogorgon
Eleven
Mike

Will
Dustin
Lucas
Max

Hawkins Lab
Powers
Walky Talky
Vecna

