



Serenity School Coulsdon Christmas Newsletter



Dear Serenity Families,

It's been my great pleasure to get to know all of the students and some of you over the past three months; and what a fun and learning-filled term it has been.

It's been no mean feat to expand from 50 to 75 students on roll in one go, and I have to thank the committed and dedicated staff here for coping so admirably with such a seismic shift: they've been very

patient with me and the rest of SLT whilst we gave them lots and lots of deadlines in the first few weeks of the school year - hopefully, not something we'll ever need to repeat. I must also acknowledge the huge task our SENCO, Miss Peroval, has had to undertake in coordinating all of the paperwork for our new cohort in record time - well done, Miss!

I've so enjoyed getting to know the students and catching up with them daily either during a quick cuppa in the canteen at breakfast, over one of Chef Tim's fantastic lunches or on the Daily Mile walk each morning, during which I don my wellies and trudge around the field, come fog, shine or light rain. Whether it's Lee T trying to scare me with a 'boo', Harry giving me the third degree, or Oliver L telling me about what games he's played on his console, I'm rarely short of someone to talk to.

Our recent 'Outstanding' Ofsted result might make you think we can relax, but far from it. Under the guidance of the Directors, the senior team and I are relentlessly quality-assuring teaching, behaviour for learning and student progress daily, so you can be assured that the quality of the provision your son or daughter receives remains of the highest quality: the Serenity manifesto of 5 or 7 qualifications by the end of Key Stage is rigorously adhered to and no pupil is allowed to fall behind without being quickly identified and supported.

*There have been many highlights of the term so far, but to single a few out; Jesse S bouncing very high on our new sunken trampoline, Kye offering me a baby chick to stroke during Animal Therapy, Lydia's amazing homemade Children in Need costume, our wonderful Black History Month event (thanks **so much** to those of you who attended) where the pupils made some really high-quality items from their chosen country - this really does feel like a family, and one I'm very proud to be part of.*

The end of terms always results in some inevitable comings and goings, and we're very sad to say goodbye to Tim, our chef, who has kept us so well-fed since March and will be much missed, by my belly at least. I'm also very excited to welcome our new Nurture teacher, Millie Towler, who will be taking over the teaching of Olive class - I'm sure she's going to be wonderful and make a big difference for those pupils.

Whether you celebrate Christmas or not, I wish you the most festive and restive of winter breaks and look forward to seeing your children healthy and happy when we return on 8th January.

Kind regards,

Jody Tranter MA NPQH

Head Teacher

Highest attendance - 100%





Lydia-Jaine

Emmanuelle

Adem

Faraj

Charlotte S.

Ralph

Well done to the above students for achieving 100% attendance, and to all students for their daily effort in class!

Parent Survey Results

The results of our parent survey are as follows:

93% of parents feel that their child is happy at Serenity

92% of parents think that their child feels safe at Serenity

92% feel that their child does well at Serenity

93% would be happy to recommend our school to another parent

Many thanks to all who have completed our survey, as always we will continue to strive to get even closer to 100% in all areas!

Classroom News



Maple

This half term was again an exciting one for Maple. We learnt about Winter stories, we even wrote our factual article about Santa (or a polar bear). We improved our knowledge of 2D and 3D shapes plus statistics. We are so good at drawing bar charts now. Science was all about materials, history is about Victorian houses and the Great Fire of London (Do you know when it was? Ask Maple!). We cooked tasty meals, wandered the forest and enjoyed football. And we also had some game time and made beautiful jewellery for Black History Month. Merry Christmas from Maple!

Ms Peterka



Sapling

This term, Sapling have been learning about materials in Chemistry. We've had many different experiments, but the best one was about absorbency! We tested a few different materials but the last one was a towel. We tested this by throwing bowls of water at Miss Rowland. We found out it was the most absorbent but unfortunately we didn't manage to get her wet.

To celebrate Black History Month, the school held a fun day with stalls from each class. Each class were given a country and Sapling were given the country Barbados. To raise money for the school, we decided to purchase a jewellery making kit and create bracelets using the Bajan colours. We had so much fun making the bracelets and listening to soca music. Students also researched famous Bajan foods and we found that fudge is a local Bajan delicacy. We decided to make a batch of fudge to sell on our stalls and they went down a treat.

Ms Oliver-Rowland



Rowan

During Literacy sessions, we have been practicing our handwriting skills, tracing letters and words and matching pictures and words.

During Numeracy sessions, we were exploring shapes as well as numbers and practicing our adding and subtracting.

We have been working on our picture colouring pictures and combining colours for Art.

We have been attending our Forest School sessions, exploring our surroundings outdoors and engaging in indoor activities, when the weather was not nice. On those occasions we engaged in colouring pictures and watching videos and stories.

We have been regularly attending our Speech and Language Therapy sessions and working well with our therapists.

For our Independence and Cooking sessions, we were preparing simple snacks, such as toasted cheese sandwiches and tortilla wraps.

We have been also attending our PE sessions, by going on mini bus trips to the gym and practicing warm-up activities and playing with balls.

Mr Dafkos



Olive

It has been a busy time for all of us and we tried several new things!

During Literacy sessions, we practiced our handwriting, exploring and tracing line patterns, letters and words and matching pictures with words.

During Numeracy sessions, we traced shapes as well as numbers and worked on our adding.

Furthermore, we worked on colouring pictures for Art time.

We attended our Forest School sessions every week, exploring our surroundings outdoors, with the trees and the yellow leaves and engaging in indoor activities, when the weather was not nice. On those occasions, we coloured pictures, practiced our knot-making and watched videos and stories.

We also attended our Speech and Language Therapy sessions and enjoyed the activities our therapists prepared for us.

Mr Dafkos



Art

This term in Art Maple and Sapling Class studied the American ceramist Artist Kimmy Cantrell's Faces. While the artist works with Clay, the students used Cardboard to create their pieces shown below. They explored shapes, colour, pattern(repetitions) and scale.

Elm and Willow are designing a poster for a product design brief. They are looking at existing poster designs of well-known product brands. How the different components, for example, logo, typography, image and other graphic elements are put together to create a fitting poster that reflects their brand.

Sycamore and Oak classes are working with range of primary and secondary sources and illustrating how visual language and formal elements are used in secondary sources.

Mr Essel



Forest School

This term children have been enjoying various outdoor play and fun activities, exploration and supported risk-taking! They have been working on developing their confidence and self-esteem through hands-on experiences in a natural setting, everyone has been having a great time!

Ms Lukacs



Food Tech

Food Technology sessions are always an adventure. Students follow the instructions of a recipe to make traditional and sometimes even more exotic meals. They often experiment by making up their own recipes using basic ingredients. Many students practice their cooking skills at home and share their newfound knowledge and skills with their peers.

Ms Hylton-Dennis





Informational Technology

Over the past term, students have worked on Essential Digital Skills. This included developing an awareness of digital security, the physical and psychological stresses of using devices and understanding the terminology of digital devices and their roles. For Autumn 2 2023, pupils were tasked to create digital products, featuring Christmas themes.

Below is the product of Sebastian's hard work!

Mr Taylor



Investor In Me Reward Scheme



The Investor in Me reward scheme is a programme that Serenity school implements throughout the year. The reward scheme is used to help encourage students to meet their potential and to manage their own outcomes.

The programme accounts for *attendance*, *academic behaviour* and *therapeutic* progression providing a platform for ALL students to experience success.

There are 3 different levels; Bronze, Silver and Gold.

At the beginning of the year all students chose which level they would like to achieve.

At the end of the school year, those who were able to meet their chosen level will get to pick a prize out of our Investor in Me prize catalogue. The higher up students place, the more valuable prizes become. The rewards are then handed out at our end of term rewards assembly, where we acknowledge hard work and praise each student's success.

End of term - Christmas lunch



On Wednesday 20th December our students and all members of staff enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch prepared by our chef Tim. Everyone loved the festive feel of the dining room, with white and red tablecloths and Christmas music playing in the background, and the food was delicious!

We wish all our students and their families a restful break and a wonderful Christmas.

Serenity School Team



