



Serenity School Crawley

Summer Newsletter 2023



A Holistic Approach to Education and Childhood Development

We look after ourselves.

We look after each other.

We look after our learning, school, community, and world.

We look after our future.

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to our Summer 2023 newsletter!

It has been a very busy term full of pupil progress and achievement. I hope you take your time reading through this term's newsletter, where we are celebrating our pupils.

I would like to say a big thank you to our parents and stakeholder for your continued support of the school, and to the team for their hard work.

and dedication to our pupils.

I would like to wish a fond farewell to staff moving on to new roles in September and we thank their contributions to the school.

There will be several new staff joining the team in the new year and we look forward to

Introducing you to them all in September.

We wish you all a happy Summer Holiday and look forward to seeing pupils again from September 4th.

Ms. C. Ayisi

Executive Headteacher





Personal Development



Personal Development at Serenity School takes many forms, from weekly assemblies, curriculum activities and guest speakers/presenters. Below are a selection of articles detailing just some of the events pupils have been a part of this term.

FANTASTIC FIREFIGHTERS!

Crawley Fire Brigade visited Serenity School on 30/07/2023 with their very colourful fire engine!

The Primary children listened very well to information from the firefighters about how to stay safe and they were rewarded for their attentiveness with being able to sit inside the fire engine and try on firefighter uniforms!

It was such a fun visit that even therapy puppy Henry joined in!

Pupils were rewarded with a special Certificate of Participation for their attendance at the event.



A big thank you to Crawley Fire Brigade for taking the time to visit us.

TILGATE NATURE CENTRE



On the 3rd of July primary students visited Tilgate Nature Centre. The students saw a range of different animals and reptiles including Servals, Boa Constrictors and Birds of Prey. Following the walk around the Nature Centre, staff and students entered the maze. The students had a great time, playing chase and hide and seek. To finish of our outing, students had some free time in the park, playing on the climbing frames and slides. All students thoroughly enjoyed the trip and used up lots of energy, with many falling asleep on the journey back to school.



Sports Corner



CRAWLEY LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Friday afternoons have seen primary and secondary students enjoying the Summer Term sunshine as they are put through their paces by LTA Level 3 Coach, Craig, at Crawley Lawn Tennis Club. Students have engaged in a variety of activities designed to improve hand-eye coordination, racket control, knowledge of the rules of the game, as well as gameplay.



SUPER SWIMMERS!



Swimming has been on the PE agenda across the Summer Term for primary pupils, with students participating in weekly swimming lessons delivered by the team at K2 Leisure Centre, Crawley. Thanks to the high-quality coaching staff, students have made exceptional progress, with staff adopting a differentiated approach to ensure all students, regardless of prior experience, were able to engage with and enjoy the activities. It was excellent to see students who were initially reluctant to enter the water on lesson 1 having so much fun in pool and on the waterslides at the end of the unit.



This year has seen Serenity School Crawley roll out its new comprehensive rewards programme, the 'Investor in Me Programme' which has proven a massive hit with all students given the magnitude of the rewards on offer!

What is the Investor in Me Programme?

The Investor in Me programme encapsulates Serenity School's goals for all students into one comprehensive reward programme.

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

Students are grouped into categories based on their engagement and progress in the above criteria and rewarded frequently.

What's the criteria?

Formal/Semi-Formal:

BRONZE	Silver	Gold
Meeting Attendance Targets	90%+ Attendance	95%+ Attendance
80% Academic Subjects on/slightly below Target	80% Academic Subjects on Target	90% Academic Subjects on/above Target
Beginning to Meet IEP Targets	80%+ IEP Targets Achieved	90%+ IEP Targets Achieved
1000+ Behaviour Points	1000+ Behaviour Points	1000+ Behaviour Points
Bronze Standard ASDAN Qualification	Silver Standard ASDAN Qualification	Gold Standard ASDAN Qualification
80%+ Attendance to Therapy/Intervention Sessions	80%+ Attendance to Therapy/Intervention Sessions	90%+ Attendance to Therapy/Intervention Sessions
On Track PSD Programme.	80%+ Attendance to Personal Development Sessions	90%+ Attendance to Personal Development Sessions

Nurture:

BRONZE

Meeting Attendance Targets
Achieving 1 Equals Strand
Beginning to Meet IEP Targets
80%+ Attendance to
Therapy/Intervention Sessions
On Track Mencap Programme.

Silver

90% Attendance
Achieving 2 Equals Strands
Meeting IEP Targets
80%+ Attendance to
Therapy/Intervention Sessions
On Track Mencap Programme.

Gold

95%+ Attendance
Achieving 3 Equals Strands
Meeting/Exceeding IEP Targets
90%+ Attendance to
Therapy/Intervention Sessions
On Track Mencap Programme.

What are the rewards?

Rewards for the investor in me programme differ based on pupils' position. Students select their rewards from the bespoke catalogue (1 from bronze, silver, and gold) and receive the prize that corresponds to their position on the programme at the end of the year. A breakdown of prizes is listed below:

BRONZE

End of Year Personal Reward
(Bronze Catalogue)
Weekly Small Steps Rewards
Entry into the 'Crack the Code'
Prize Draw

Silver

End of Year Reward (Silver
Catalogue)
End of Term Trips
Tutor Group Prizes
Entry to the 'Tri Prize' Draw
Entry into the 'Crack the Code'
Prize Draw

Gold

End of Year Reward (Gold
Catalogue)
End of Year Trip (OAA/Overnight)
End of Term Trips
Entry to the 'Tri Prize' Draw
Entry into the 'Crack the Code'
Prize Draw

Gold Pupils

A massive well done to our gold pupils this year, listed below along with their Gold Personal Prize.

Tyler Best – XBOX Series S

Fleur July – Nintendo Switch

Caiden Shepherd-Read – Hoverboard

Noah Juden – Manchester Utd Kit + Boots
+ Football

Mason Turner Shiner – Marble Run

Angel Steer – AirPods 3rd Generation

Leo Boreham – Fortnite V Bucks

Shaun Karim – E-Scooter

Dalton Thayre – XBOX Series S

Tyreece-Alexander Forbes – Scooter

Balan Ford – ROBUX Voucher

Edward Hall – Dyson V8 Vacuum

Aaron Smith – Camera Drone



Reward Trips



At Serenity School, offsite trips are used for several reasons including extending learning, work experience, but often, to reward students for their hard work. Two of our recent reward trips are detailed below.

GO APE TILGATE PARK

Towards the end of the Summer Term, primary 'Gold' Students, and 'Silver' students with the highest amounts of behaviour points were invited to Tilgate Park to take part in the 'Treetop Adventure' at GoApe. Pupils completed a variety of aerial obstacle courses, high up in the trees whilst attached to safety cables via their harnesses, ending with a zipline to return to the forest floor. All students were extremely courageous, with many overcoming their fear of heights to complete the activities. Following completion of the course, a well-earned McDonalds was in order, including a McFlurry for dessert.



FLIPOUT!

A pupil favourite returned this Summer, with the reward trip for all students with over 1000 behaviour points taking place at FLIPOUT, Croydon. FLIPOUT is a multiactivity centre with bumper cars, laser tag, crazy golf, ice skating and an inflatable obstacle course all under one roof. With so many activities, pupils are keen to maximise their time at the centre, with staff frequently having to enter the carnage of the obstacle courses to usher students out when the return coach arrives.





Therapy Animals



This term we have welcomed two new additions to Serenity School Crawley.

HENRY

Henry is a six-month-old King Charles Cavalier Spaniel and is our new resident Therapy Dog. Henry works 3 days a week and is on hand to provide emotional support to pupils, join in with games at break and lunch times, and greet visitors.



SEREN

Seren is a Royal Python and can frequently be seen hanging around the necks of Serenity School pupils, providing sensory support to pupils who need it.





Our Classes



Whilst an array of offsite trips and activities are available to our students, let's take a look at what some of our students have been up to inside the classroom.

Wren Class – Primary

Sensory Circuit

Regular exercise is widely acknowledged as a key factor in maintaining good health and warding off diseases. In our daily routine, we actively engage in physical activities through the implementation of a Sensory Circuit.

This circuit comprises a sequence of various exercise stations, including a series of fish-shaped steps of varying sizes, hula hoops, and a trampoline. Students take part in a group, fostering a sense of camaraderie and friendship. By practising taking turns, we have learned the importance of sharing and cooperation.



Starling Class – Primary

It has been an exciting academic year for all of us.

I am extremely proud of all Starling students; they have each made progress in a variety of areas.

All students are now settled into classroom routines, with each pupil now confident engaging with learning activities, and taking risks in the classroom. Students have built strong positive relationships with staff and our classroom community is flourishing.

In art, pupils worked together to create the painting below, using various liquid techniques. I am extremely proud to announce that the painting is being donated to the 'Olive Tree Youth Cancer Support Centre, Crawley.

I would like to wish all Starling pupils and their families a restful summer holidays, I look forward to welcoming pupils back in September!

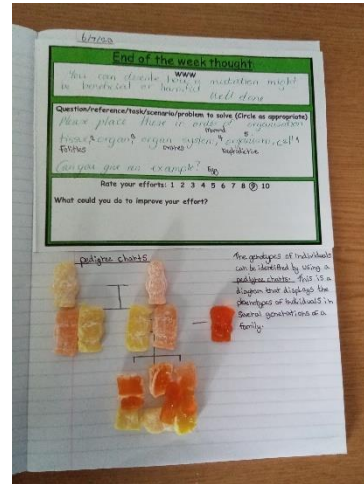


Robin Class – Primary

This term has been one of triumph for Robin Class, with all students excelling both academically and socially. Following some new pupil additions, the Robin community has gone from strength to strength, with all pupils now firmly settled into life at Serenity School. Pupils should feel immensely proud of what they have achieved this term, all have shown high levels of resilience when faced with a challenge, and assisted their peers in overcoming any obstacles faced on the journey to success. I would like to wish all Robin pupils a fun-filled Summer Holidays, I look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Secondary – Science

Our KS3 Semi Formal Swift class have been studying the Principles of Science as part of their BTEC Applied Science course. This term we have focused on cells, DNA, inheritance, and mutations.



Dove Class – Secondary

Throughout the Summer Term, students in Dove class have experienced a remarkable and joyous journey filled with success and happiness. All students embraced a positive and supportive environment that fostered growth and learning. With determination and dedication, they excelled academically, earning praise from their teachers and peers. The 'Investor in Me Award' was a fantastic driver in motivating students to work harder towards their goals. Pupils especially enjoyed their Friday trips to the 'Tilgate Nature Centre'. Overall, the term was a booming success, leaving students with cherished memories and a sense of accomplishment.





What's On?



Below is a list of events taking place this summer in the local area.

Banstead Summer Sessions

Memorial Gardens

Various dates in July and August.

'Enjoy a relaxing early afternoon break in Memorial Gardens with local entertainment on the bandstand.'

Cicus Zyair

Goffs Park

12th - 16th July.

'Fearless acrobats and daredevil stuntmen guarantee maximum thrills by risking life and limb for your entertainment.'

Worth Park Wanderers

Worth Park, Pound Hill

13th & 27th July.

These friendly, hour-long health walks take place around the beautiful and historical Worth Park in Pound Hill on the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

Meet outside Worth Park Visitor Centre, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill RH10 3DH.

This is my Theatre's Robin Hood

Walled Garden, Tilgate Park

28th August, 3pm.

All ages will love this contemporary telling of the much-loved hero with live music and song. It's an open-air performance so please bring chairs or blankets plus picnics to enjoy whilst watching. Meet outside Worth Park Visitor Centre, Milton Mount Avenue, Pound Hill RH10 3DH.

Cycle Crawley Sundays Guided Bike Ride

Three Bridges Station

13th September, 10am.

A ride along cycle tracks, country lanes and bridleways from Three Bridges station and back. About 25 miles at a gentle pace.

Crawley Festival

High Street Live

30th September.

A free afternoon of live music with food and drink available at the many restaurants and bars in the historic High Street.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the ‘AI friend’ or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this ‘virtual friend’ functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there’s a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

D@*#!

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn’t always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it’s being told or replying insensitively to a young user who’s already struggling could potentially impact a child’s emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they’ve been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child’s own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they’re aware of and how they’re using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they’re suitable. Once you’re totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you’ll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it’s appropriate. It’s important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we’d strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

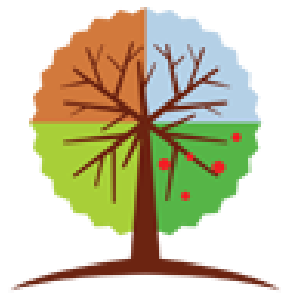
RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It’s unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it’s probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn’t a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn’t entirely impartial or accurate.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.





Serenity School