Newsletter 28.01.22

Severndale Star

Principal's Message

Good afternoon parents and carers

I hope you are all well. Once again we have had a number of staff off this week and unfortunately it has been necessary to close 3 classes for part of the week. This is something that is an absolute last resort and we are grateful for parents and carers understanding when we do contact you to inform you of the need for a lateral flow test or class closure. National data is definitely demonstrating a decrease in positive tests and we are hopeful that this trend will follow in Shropshire and we can begin to return to more normality for our pupils.

Although the government have removed the need to wear masks we are still encouraging mask wearing around school and are still promoting the use of antibacterial hand gel and social distancing where possible.

DOOR HANDLES IN CLASSROOMS

I have received a question recently from a parent regarding upper door handles in classrooms. On my arrival to Severndale in September I actioned the removal of these door handles as we were moving to a curriculum that would be better suited to pupil needs and would also support the fact that some of our pupils require time away from the classroom to access physical or sensory support needs. I am passionate about Severndale pupils being confident communicators and as independent as possible and removing the upper door handles enables our pupils to be able to exit the classroom if the need arises. Across the school this is something that our pupils have adapted to well and it has reduced behaviours related to pupils sensory needs being exacerbated by heightened sensory experiences within the classroom, eg loud noises, lots of movement etc. All of our classroom areas are within wider zonal areas that are fobbed on entry and exit that secure the zone and on the rare instance that a pupil does exit the classroom staff always follow and respond appropriately to return the pupil to class or engage in an activity to support the pupil. If you have any questions relating to this then please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Please find attached a letter relating to Safer Internet Day that is taking place on Tuesday 8th February 2022. This is a real opportunity to work together to promote good ways to support our pupils with their use of the internet. The letter highlights a link to the safer internet website where there are resources that you can access as parents and carers.

I CAN DO YOUR JOB

Yesterday I was visited by Maddy from P7 who came to show me a thank you letter from a parent for the staff in class who had supported her son to have the vaccination in school. It was great to see Maddy and while she was in my office she decided that it would be good to try out my chair and rearrange my filing. As you can see from the photograph on page six I think Maddy would make a fantastic Principal for Severndale!

PARENT QUESTIONS

We have worked hard since September to improve communications with parents and carers and it is brilliant that we are now having more regular conversations with parents and carers about what we are doing well and what we can do to support families more. I just wanted to remind parents that we are always keen to answer any questions that you may have and initially please share any questions with the class teacher who will then answer or refer you onto a senior leader depending on the nature of the inquiry.

It now leaves me to wish you a wonderful weekend and once again please enjoy looking at the photographs of life at Severndale this week.

Brian

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P3 Pizza Wraps

P3 have enjoyed making pizza wraps this week as part of their PHSE and My Independence topics. The children did a great job of using pictures of references to choose which toppings they would like to add to their pizza's.

They all enjoyed tasting them afterwards!

Boxing Award

In December we reported on our students boxing progress with Matt from Bright Star Boxing. Since then one of our students has progressed so well he was awarded a Bronze certificate for his boxing achievements.

More students have also now joined the programme. We are very lucky to be able to offer this to our students as it helps emotional development through the physical activity of boxing.

A huge well done from us all at Severndale!!

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Futures Focus

Futures students have been meal planning, shopping for their ingredients and cooking their meals, building on their independent living skills. They have been practicing at home and making their families meals. They have also focused on their employability skills some of which have been in hospitality and customer service.

Sixth Form Visit Tickwood

Sixth Form have been visiting Tickwood on a Thursday and have recently been taking long walks through the woods to see if they can find any fossils. They have found many different ones and have been cleaning them to keep in class and taking them home to show parents and carers.

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P8 Role Play

P8 prepared themselves for the arrival of the Nurses who were administering the Covid vaccinations last week by role playing being nurses and looking after their friends in class.

They played the different roles from giving each other a vaccination to receiving one and then even including the staff to make sure that they were well and ready to. This really helped when it came to them meeting the nurses themselves.

Oxfam Donation

Jo from Oxfam has kindly donated several boxes of Christmas related items from Christmas cards to Christmas trees filled with seeds that we can plant and watch grow.

Thank you so much to Jo and Oxfam for thinking of us we will look forward to using the resources later in the year.

Communication Board Donation

Yas Hutchinson has spent the last couple of months fundraising for communication boards to be placed into school playgrounds.

One of which she has kindly donated to Severndale. One of our parents kindly brought it in for us and it's already a hit with the students before it's even in situ. Thank so very much to Yas and all her amazing fundraising work

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PACC Newsletter

The January PACC Newsletter has been published - this month there is news about Shropshire Council's new direct payments website, information about how to be part of the ShrewsAbility Run and support the work of Shrewsbury Town in the Community and a range of useful links to other SEND information.

Click here to read the newsletter.

PACC unlocking doors together

SHROPSHIRE Parent And Carer Council

Autism West Midlands

FREE Webinars:
For parents, carers and professionals throughout the region, watch "live" or via an automated link to watch a re-play. Click on the links to find out more including registration details –
Understanding Autism – Friday 18th February 9.30am-10.30am
https://autismwestmidlands.org.uk/events/understanding-autism-webinar-west-midlands-18feb22/

Autism and Anxiety – Friday 4th March 9.30am – 10.30am
Bookings open soon – please check the "events" section of our website
How Autistic People Process Information – Friday 18th March 9.30am-10.30am
https://autismwestmidlands.org.uk/events/how-autistic-people-process-information-webinar-18mar22/

Half Term Family Event
Attingham Park - Tuesday 22nd February 10am – 12pm
https://autismwestmidlands.org.uk/events/attingham-park-walk-for-shropshire-families/

WEEKLY Zoom Advice slots – every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
For those would like some face-to-face contact we are offering this virtually via video appointments. Zoom works well on mobile phones. To book a 45 min advice appointment with a specialist autism advisor please book via our shop
https://autismwestmidlands.org.uk/events/online-autism-advice-shropshire/

Virtual Support Group for Parents - Wednesday Mornings 10am-11am & Wednesday Evenings 8pm-9pm – NOW 1st and 3rd Weds of each month
From the New Year we moved our online support groups to twice a month via the Zoom platform. This is an opportunity to talk with other parents, share ideas, and offer support.
If you are working with a parent/carer who would like to join either of the support groups, please ask them to email the team here shropshire@autismwestmidlands.org.uk

Advice and support
We continue to offer advice and support over the phone and via email. Parents/carers and professionals can contact our small team directly to arrange an appointment please call:

Mon, Wed, Fri	- Wendy Cowton	07900784186
Weds, Thu, Fri	- Emma Hegenbarth	07881109480
Tue, Wed, Thu	- Dawn Lewis	07706309382
Email	shropshire@autismwestmidlands.org.uk	

Helpline 0121 450 7575

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Panathalon

Finally the School Games were able to take place again this week. Students got together from around Shrewsbury at the Sports Village.

Students from F2 took part in a multi sport panathalon with activities such as boccia, table cricket, bowling, beanbag challenges, parachute games and races.

The students said that they loved it and had so much fun, two even said that “it was the best day of their lives!”. They were also the highest scoring in the table cricket activity.

New Principal?

One of our students came to pay Brian (our Principal) a visit earlier this week, and Brian invited her to sit in his seat.

She decided she liked it so much she made herself at home and thought she’d be the Principal for the day!

Great job, well done!!

P9 Morning Hello

Students in P9 use “big macs” to say their hello’s to their friends and they all interact and enjoy their own good morning sounds.

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Magnets in F4

F4 have been learning about magnets in science and investigating how to move magnets around a maze.

Staff Driving Assessments

Any member of staff who drives one of our school vehicles has to carry out a driving assessment. These are updated on a regular basis and we have had some more staff pass their tests recently! Well done to all our drivers.

FOS

Friends Of Severndale Present :-

Family Disco

- **Saturday 12th February 2022 6-8pm**
- **Bayston Hill Memorial Hall** (Lyth Hill Road, SY3 0DR)
- **Light refreshments and raffle**
- **Tickets for sale on the door - £1 per person or £3 for a family**

A huge "Hello!" from Friends of Severndale ("FOS").

We have lots of plans for this year, both to raise funds to support a variety of school projects, and to put on social events for Severndale students and their families (like the Disco!).

Come along with friends and family - parents; carers; siblings; grandparents....all welcome!

Dancing, light refreshments and good company with the Severndale community all included!

Optional fancy dress

To help us plan numbers, please email jayne.parry@severndaleacademy.co.uk to let us know if you hope to come (and how many people you will be bringing), and whether there are any dietary requirements in your group.

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Staff Spotlight

This weeks “Staff Spotlight” section is focusing on and all about Bev …

Name: Bev Ryan
Job: Cleaning Supervisor

What does this involve?
Supervising the cleaning staff and making sure that all areas of the school are cleaned. Ensuring that the right supplies are in school to enable the cleaning team to carry out their work.

What do I enjoy outside of school?
I enjoy walking my five dogs and looking after my grandchildren.

Please tell us something interesting about you?
I have four children, ten grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Here you can meet the staff in our newsletter and this will allow everyone to find out more about the people who work at Severndale.

What’s happening this term!

Dates Coming up...

Last Day of half term Friday 18 February 2022
First Day after half term Monday 28 February 2022

Our New Website

Take a look at our new website at:

www.severndaleacademy.co.uk

We are adding new information every week

Contact us on:
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