



Spring Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am happy to share with you some of the highlights of the past term.

By the end of this term we should know what the proposed Children and Families Bill will include, and how it will affect us all. These are the greatest changes to Special Needs Education in a generation. We have been putting some of the recommendations into practice over the past year but I would like to take the opportunity to share some of the main points here. The main areas are as follows:

Pupils and families to have more of a say - The new system aims to put each young person and their family at the centre of discussions about the support offered.

Education, health and care plans to replace statements - Under the new rules, SEN statements and learning difficulty assessments will be replaced with education, health and care plans (EHC) taking children and young people up to the age of 25.

Optional personal budgets for young people - Under the new system, young people and parents of pupils with an EHC plan can choose to hold a personal budget to buy in support.

The changes in this Bill are a rethink of the way children with special educational needs are supported, a new SEN code of practice and changes to how students are funded are also on the way and the new system should be in force by this September.

Over the course of this term we will be holding events in school to inform and prepare you for these and other changes. If, however, you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support, it means everything to us.

Happy Easter everyone.

Alan Chapman, Head Teacher.

Busybugs

Busybugs invited staff from Walkers for lunch and a tour of the school on 27.2.14 and we visited Walkers, who we work in partnership with, on 27.3.14. We were invited for lunch and had an opportunity to sell our products for Mother's day and Easter. We were told we can't take glass and ceramics into the factory for safety reasons. We solved the problem by making our flower arrangements in plastic plant pots! We sold our products in the cafeteria and made £100.15.



Safer in the Community

Link 3 students have used their life skills lessons to become safer in the community by learning the Green Cross Code. As they travel on school transport, the opportunity to learn and develop pedestrian safety skills are few and far between. During the term since Christmas, Link 3 students have been visiting areas close to the school to help find safe places to cross the road and practice their looking and listening skills. Each student has created their own personalised guide to the Green Cross Code, which they use again and again.



MISFITS

Misfits with students Reece, Caitlin and Jessica, teacher Wendy Wharton and teaching assistants Dina and Sue.



The MISFITS motor cycle group visited class 9 for their annual visit to deliver a cheque for £262.00. The MISFITS have supported the students in class 9 for many years and the students really look forward to the time they spend in class with them. The money the MISFITS provide give the students the opportunity to have lots of fun! Over the year the students in our group enjoyed a Halloween event, with fancy dress and trick or treat bags; we had an ice cream summer fun party and a Christmas event. All of the students in class 9 enjoyed themed birthday parties and Annabel and Jessica still have their 17th birthday parties to look forward to. The money also supports the students when they are out and about in the community, ensuring they have a good time wherever they are. The MISFITS money and donations from our other friends throughout the year brings many moments of happiness to the students and we are extremely grateful to all of the people who support us.



Parents, Friends and Colleagues of Catcote Academy

The Association is a registered charity and is a small group of volunteers that raises funds for the benefit of all the students. The committee approved the contribution to various projects this term including: Donating £1,000 towards Link Carlton Camp, £700 towards Class 2 Centre Parks Trip, £1400 towards the rebuild of Class 9 Sensory Garden. All parents and friends are welcome to come and help support the Academy. We need your to help support the Summer Fare, if you think you can help contact the Academy.



Link 2

Link 2 have been planning to make a meal for themselves to eat in school as part of their Life Skills lessons.

They chose a 2 course meal to make: 'Spaghetti Bolognese with garlic bread and salad' followed by 'Fruit Kebabs'.

The four students Ben, Lauren, Rosie and Emma each chose a member of staff to invite. They sent them an invitation for lunch.

They went shopping for the food one week, each reading their own shopping list and choosing their products and looking at the sell-by dates. They stored the food on return to school and planned to prepare the meal the following week.

The tasks involved were divided between the students and the meal was prepared and the table set. The staff all said "it was a lovely idea and can we do this every week"!



Chinese Visitors



Class 1, 3, 4a and 4b have been learning about China in their topic work. They have learned facts about the country, Chinese New Year and the language written and spoken.

The students have made chow mein, stir fry and chinese moon cakes in their Food Technology lessons.

After completing the topic, 6 Chinese students from Hartlepool 6th Form College came to visit us on 24.3.14, to give presentations to the students and show artefacts. We really enjoyed their visit and thank them for spending time with us.

Daisy Chain Project

Class 5 students earned enough merit point this term for a trip to the Daisy Chain Project at Norton. They enjoyed a session in the big soft play area then went to see the animals outside. We can recommend the Daisy Chain, which is a specialist centre for children and young people with autism.



Calm Kids with Shiela Barnes



A two week block of relaxation and meditation sessions for pupils and staff took place between the 10th and 21st March in classes and in InaSpace over the lunch break. These were designed to teach some quick and easy methods to de-stress. They included guided meditations , “feather breathing” and “happy hands” activities. Staff and pupils will now be able to use these easy techniques for relaxation whenever the need arises!

Catcote's Fairtrade Success

Fairtrade Fortnight in 2014 saw Catcote Academy working alongside the Hartlepool Town Fairtrade Steering Group to launch two town wide challenges: ‘Bake a Cake’ and ‘Make a Banana Man’.

These were developed by the school develop awareness of Fairtrade. The first challenge invited people to make a banana cake using Fairtrade bananas and as many other Fairtrade

The winning cake from Geraldine Chapman was chosen because of its great banana taste and use of Fairtrade ingredients. Catcote Academy’s class 9 took second place and a student from English Martyrs came third.

In the ‘Make a Banana Man’ challenge, all 3 prizes were awarded to Catcote. Link 3 students along with Ben from class 2 and Annabel from class 9 were invited to the Civic Centre to collect certificate and prizes on behalf of the school, presented by Hartlepool Ceremonial Mayor, Mr Akers-Belcher.

ingredients as possible. Nick Lewis, teaching chef from Hartlepool College of Further Education, was invited along to taste the cakes and select a winner.

Entries were delivered to Catcote Academy from schools across the town and a member of the Fairtrade steering group in addition to students and staff from Catcote.



Class 3 Fundraising

This year Class 3 have been working really hard to raise money for our trip to London in May. Thank you to everyone who has supported us so far with our fundraising scheme. Class 3 students have raised money by baking cakes, raffles, tombolas, football cards and Easter hampers. So far we have raised enough money to go on a cruise on the River Thames and to buy everyone a treat at the Harry Potter studios.

Thank you again for your support.

Class 3



'Follow the Herring'

Creative Art students take part in 'Follow the Herring' project.

This is a tour that will travel along the east coast of the UK. Focusing on a shared maritime history, the tour combines performance, song and visual arts. Catcote students have been invited to take part in the exhibition and are going to produce some glass panels. Inspiration for these will come from the photographs that they took whilst visiting Hartlepool Fish Quay.

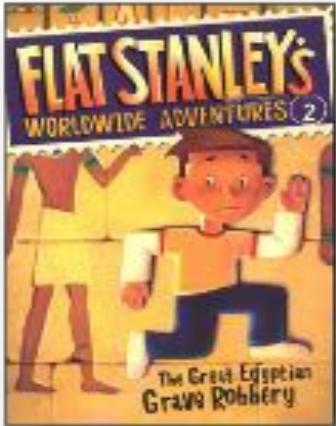
The Glass panels will be displayed in the exhibition in June of this year and after will take permanent position in our school reception area.

Details of the exhibition will be released nearer the time.



Hartlepool Fish Quay





Flat Stanley's

Class 4a have enjoyed 'Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures' for our book study this term. We even created our own version of a felt flat Stanley in our textiles lesson!



Lord's Taverners

Thanks to the 'Lord's Taverners' generosity, class 6 has recently had some fantastic sensory equipment installed. Alan Wright visited Catcote Academy to officially open this amazing sensory area on their behalf. The new equipment has become a very important and thoroughly enjoyable part of the students' daily curriculum. We would like to extend a huge thank you once again.



Students taking part in Be Healthy boccia activities were lucky enough to meet Paralympic athlete Craig McCann in March.

Craig came into Catcote Academy to support students in the Friday afternoon activity and give some advice on how to be a successful athlete. At London 2012, Craig made his Games debut in the men's Team Foil, competing alongside David Heaton and Simon Wilson. Craig enjoys Wheelchair Fencing because of the speed and closeness of the sport, and the fact that it is both a physical and mental discipline. Students really enjoyed the visit and continue to participate with the boccia activities till Easter.



In February a team of girls attended the termly 'Girls Sports Events' at Gateshead Stadium. This time round it was a dance event and the girls did extremely well, some of which had never been before.

On the morning the girls took part in dance and keep fit workshops and in the afternoon they took part in a disco.

The next Girls Sport Event is in May and is an athletics activity day.



Students at Catcote Academy are taking part in a Sky Sports 'Living for Sports' project. On Wednesday 28th February, 21 students spent the day with Sky Sports mentor and one of Britain's leading female sports stars, Amanda Coulson. On the morning they took part in team building games. Amanda also gave a presentation about the 6 keys to success.

In the afternoon the students took part in netball coaching and finally some boxing practice with Amanda.

Catcote students will now be taking part in a Netball competition at the end of March and a celebration assembly will follow.



Girls from links 1 and 2 have had the opportunity to use dance mats provided by Middlesbrough Football Club. The removable mats are placed in the hall during PE lessons and the girls follow instructions from a computer screen. The mats transmit how well the pupils are doing and results are flashed up on the screen. They have been a great success with noticed improvements in their motivation and interest in developing their personal fitness. Lauren Briggs "It was good exercise and fun to do!"





In the last week of term we are raising money for Sport Relief. Some classes are using their gym sessions...etc

The Monday assembly group classes are getting to and from Ward Jackson Park (half a mile each way), then going that extra mile doing a circuit of

the park. THANK YOU to everyone who has sent in a pound to support this. Also those people who have sponsored students, MANY THANKS! We have been in training and not only are we getting fitter, we are helping lots of really worthwhile causes and having fun too!

Catecote School Business & Enterprise College 2013 - 2014

195 DAY ENVELOPE

2013	September	October	November	December
Monday	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Tuesday	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Wednesday	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Thursday	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Friday	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Saturday	8 14 21 28	9 16 23 30	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Sunday	8 15 22 29	8 15 22 29	3 10 17 24	8 15 22 29

- Bank Holiday
- Holiday
- PD Day

2014	January	February	March	April
Monday	6 13 20 27	9 16 23 30	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Tuesday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	6 13 20 27	8 15 22 29
Wednesday	8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	9 16 23 30
Thursday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	10 17 24
Friday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	11 18 25
Saturday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	12 19 26
Sunday	5 12 19 28	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	13 20 27

2014	May	June	July	August
Monday	12 19	2 8 15 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Tuesday	6 13 20 27	9 16 23 30	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Wednesday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Thursday	8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Friday	9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	8 15 22 29
Saturday	10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	9 16 23 30
Sunday	11 18 25	8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	10 17 24 31

Please remember it is a bank holiday on Monday 21st April and we come back to school on Tuesday 22nd April. Thankyou