



March 2025 Newsletter

The Forum School

Upcoming Events in April

1st – April Fools Day

2nd – Autism Awareness Day

7th – World Health Day

15th – World Art Day & Child & Nature

Awareness Month

18th – Good Friday

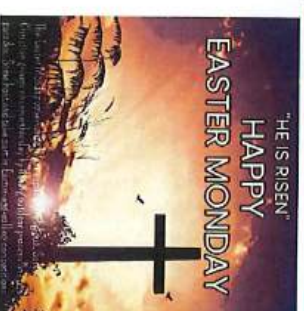
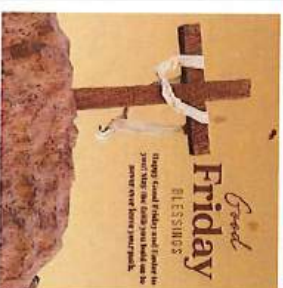
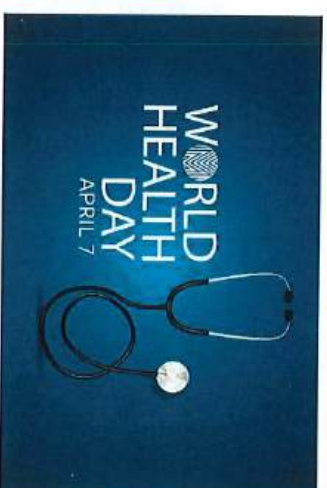
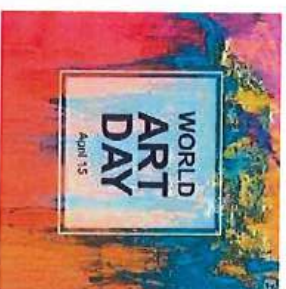
20th – Easter Day

21st – Easter Monday

23rd – St Georges Day

29th – National

Gardening Week



Upcoming Events in March

2025 APRIL

CALENDAR YEAR CALENDAR MONTH

MONDAY
FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Nature's Nursery



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
01	02	03	04	05	06	
	April Fool's Day Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	National Walking Day Autism Awareness Day International Children's Book Day	Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	TFS Cinema - Theatre	Shillingstone Station Café - Meet at blue gates 13:30 DISCO in the theatre	
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
		SCHOOL HOLIDAYS				
World Health Day	Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena		National Sibling's Day Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	TFS Cinema - Theatre	Shillingstone Station Café - Meet at blue gates 13:30 DISCO in the theatre	Palm Sunday International Plant Appreciation Day
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		SCHOOL HOLIDAYS				
	World Art Day Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena		Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	BANK HOLIDAY Good Friday TFS Cinema - Theatre		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS					
BANK HOLIDAY						
Easter Monday	Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	St. Georges Day World Book Day	Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena	TFS Cinema - Theatre	Shillingstone Station Café - Meet at blue gates 13:30 DISCO in the theatre	
28	29	30	01	02	03	04
	Arts & Crafts - Indoor Arena					
05	06	07	08	09	10	11




The Forum Stars!



Shout out a staff member that has gone above and beyond for a young person, yourself, your team or the school.

Email Forum.Stars@cambiangroup.com with a sentence about why a colleague is amazing and they'll be entered into a draw. There will be 4 winners. 1 from Care, 1 from Education, 1 from Nights and 1 from everyone else! The winners will receive a £10 Love2Shop voucher and Employee of the month for your department!



Upcoming Birthdays

April

Claire Legg

Saba Gilani

Renea Gascoigne

Sally Chambers

Happy Birthday



Training Opportunities

We are eagerly looking for staff members across all departments to train in;

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)

The teaching of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. All grant-aided schools are required to have an RSE policy that is based on consultation with parents and pupils.

Please let Melissa McCarthy know if you are interested, this can be booked as part of CPD.



Nature Crown competition



We are holding a Nature crown competition, here one of our young people are collecting items to make a crown and one is making theirs while the other modelling their hard work.

Nature Crown Winners!



The crowns were beautiful, the attention and detail everyone had put in was amazing.
The three below were the winners this time round.

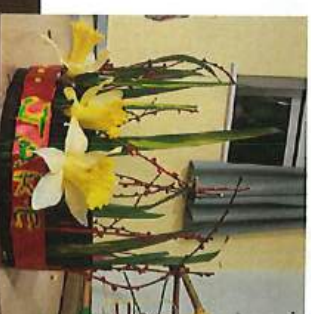
Congratulations and enjoy your prize!



2



1



3



Treehouse fun!



Today A and D went to The Treehouse Activity Centre. Both seemed very happy, using the equipment and relaxing in the sensory rooms. A climbed up to the first floor a few times and seemed quite content to sit and watch. D climbed all around but didn't want to use the slides. A and D joined peers and adults around a big table for snacks. A asked for chips and another one of his peers shared some crisps with him. D became a little bit cheeky and took one or two of another peer's biscuits. Adults apologised to the peer and replaced the biscuits on behalf of D and both coped very well. This was an amazing afternoon and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.



●
●
●

100%

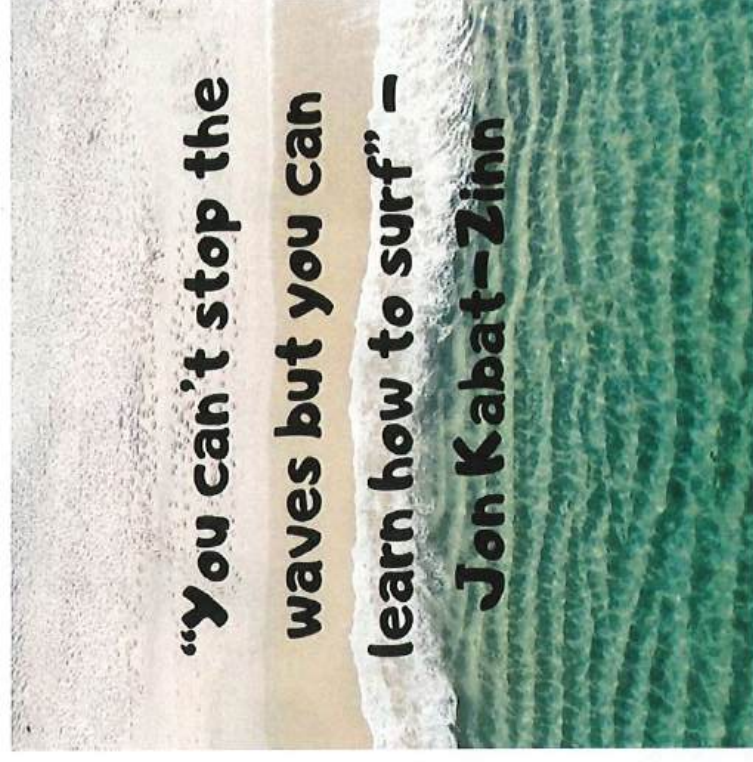


Mindfulness & Wellbeing

Wednesday Mindfulness and wellbeing walk.



Thursday History project.

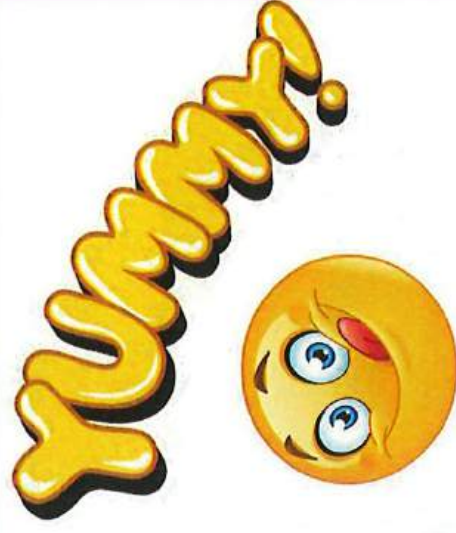


Waters End fun activities



Waters End

Ready, Steady, Cook!



Flippin' brilliant time!
Dragonfly class cooking up a storm
for Shrove Tuesday.



Fun in the sun!



Milldown Park fun!

They went to discover
different forms of exercise
that support healthy living as
part of our PSHE topic

Comic Relief



Red Nose day were celebrating 40 Years!
By going through the decades since 1980's to the present
day.
Our young people could choose their dress up in any era
they wanted, as they wanted.
Here are a couple of photo's from the day.

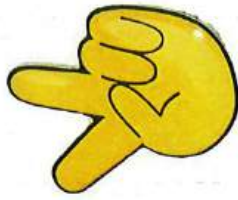


Comic Relief

Cake sale and silly faces!



Comic Relief



With the cake sale and selling of red noses
we have raised

£57.65



THANK YOU!



J went litter picking around site and as you can see from the pictures we went everywhere! At times J stopped to try car/bus door handles but when he was reminded of the task at hand, he soon redirected himself with adult encouragement.

J has spent an hour doing this, this afternoon and we are hoping this can continue as a positive activity to engage J with.



Love
where
you
Live

Horse Management Achievements



L passed her stage 5 Horse Riding



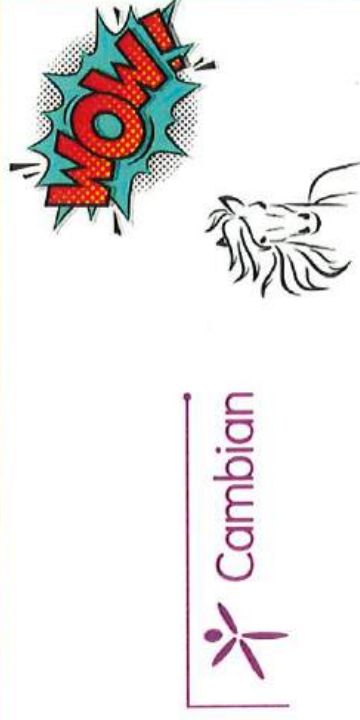
K has passed his AQA - Plumbing Installations: Replacing a Tap



K has passed his AQA - Horse Field Management



J has passed his Stable and Yard Management stage 4



Horse Riding Stage 7

Requirements

Students are demonstrating increasing confidence and knowledge of how to ride, they are beginning to make more choices and indicate or voice their likes and dislikes



T passed his Horse Riding Stage 7

During Outdoor learning the students have been making Easter caps and nests



Principal Stars

JC

I saw you eating independently at the dining table during lunch.

Well done Jeremiah 😊

SSU

Well done on your fantastic pancake skills and listening to all instructions to make them. Well done 😊

OH & KT

I heard you went to Milldown park and was focused on your fitness and exercise. Well done 😊

RW

I just wanted to say I have been super impressed with your level of maturity and working through your thoughts feelings and emotions with Ness. Can't wait to hear about all the interesting facts from your WW2 project 😊

SSU

Well done for engaging in litter picking across the grounds. Adults have stated you were fully engaged and stayed on task. Thank you for all of your help 😊

KT

You participated in your living skills session really positively, you followed the recipe and was really patient while waiting for the biscuits to be baked.

You received a sticker that you chose for your excellent living skills lesson today!

Well done 😊

OH & JV

Well done for amazing greetings and kindness to other young people who you interact with. This is wonderful to see

RW & KAM

Well done for adding your voice to your plans and informing adults how to help and support you 😊

RW

Thank you for the best afternoon ever!
I had so much fun with you teaching me all the dance moves.
Thank you! 😊

LMT

Well done Lola for communicating so clearly using your talk pad and visual symbols. You have also been sharing and taking turns which is fantastic!

KB

Wow Kai I heard that you went the gym and set up your own circuits course and completed this with determination! Great to hear you are staying active. Well done 😊

JV

I hear you have been engaging so well with phonics and reading. You have also been sharing space and toys and taking turns. Well done 😊

AG

Well done for using strategies that help you stay safe 😊

RW

wow just amazing, after all of our practicing you came to our Governance meeting and danced the cha cha slide and had everyone dancing. Thank you 😊

RS

I heard you have been following your schedule and trying really hard with your maths work. Well done 😊

RS

I am so proud of you. you have been really struggling with transitioning on to the bus and then transitioning to an activity. Today you did it and had a wonderful day out. Well done 😊

NOMINEES FOR EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Samandeep
 Sony Ignatious
 Michael Metu
 Stanley Ogbedeleto
 Progress Aborishade
 Tim Hunt
 Sylvie Sweet
 Rebecca Abbott
 Cerys Smith
 Laura Inkpen
 Amy Dawson
 Claire Legg
 Bindu John
 Samuel Alike

Claire Legg
 Denise Fowler
 Melissa McCarthy
 Thomson Joseph
 Jon Jones
 Mark Harvey
 Kerry Byron
 Julian Tomlinson
 Khevlinn-Jo Goodall
 Samantha Fry
 Grace Gardiner
 Shinan Kallen
 Leeshma Mathews
 Paul Ford

Zainab Oloko
 Sally Chambers
 TFS Education
 Jane Holloway
 Renea Gascoigne
 Paul Ford
 Hannah Everard
 Jessica Hinds
 Jane Holloway
 Mark Rogers
 Freya Rodger
 Emily McDonald
 Claire Legg
 Alice Bagwell

Jon Jones
 Paula Audley Dukes
 Will Etherington
 Ramya Mekala
 Samantha Fry
 Becky Howorth
 Saba Gilani
 Yadu Kulambil
 Arun Sajeev
 Hattie Higgins

*Keep Up the
 Good Work!*

CONGRATULATIONS – EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH!



Education



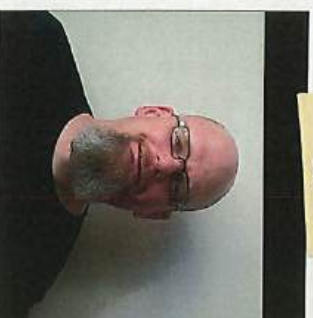
Samantha Fry

Core



Mark Harvey

Care



Julian Tomlinson

Nights



Ramya Mekala



Shout Outs!

Shout out to *Paul*,

Paul's unwavering commitment and dedication to the young people in the Nest stem from his continuous efforts to learn about them on an ongoing basis. He actively seeks to understand their needs, preferences, and challenges, using this knowledge to refine and enhance his approach.

Paul demonstrates a strong ability to plan and execute activities with careful consideration of the necessary structure and support. His approach ensures that each activity is well-organised, engaging, and accessible to all young people involved. By thoughtfully resourcing, "PE and Living Skills" sessions, making sure the activities cater to YPs diverse needs, he creates an environment where they feel included, supported, and empowered to participate fully.

From *Saba Gilani*.



Shout out to *Claire Legg*, thank you for your quick action this morning, in identifying that it was SSu that was off site and taking speedy action to get the help that was required.

From *Kerry Byron*

Shout out to *Sylvie Sweet*, I am always touched by her sweet nature and professionalism.

She is a true professional whose dedication and commitment shine through in every aspect of her work. Her genuine care for students, proactive engagement with families, and unwavering support for colleagues and staff exemplify her outstanding qualities. With a warm smile, gentle approach, and calm demeanour, she fosters a positive and nurturing environment, making her an invaluable asset to the school community.

From *Saba Gilani*

Shout out to *Tim Hunt*, you have been absolutely amazing supporting a young person to access a range of educational activities out in the community. This young person can struggle with remaining on task and remaining in the Green Zone. Tim has managed to make this fun and positive each and every outing. Thank you Tim and badger class

From *Melissa McCarthy*

Shout out to *Jane Holloway, Jon Jones, Tim Hunt, Anna Davies & Amy Dawson*.

Thank you all for your dedication and support for one of our young people at this time.

It has been a very demanding time and you have all been managing this time well.

Thank you

From *Melissa McCarthy*

Outdoor Learning

Dates for your diary

August term 1 – It's a bug's life

August term 2 – Forest Feast

Spring term 1 – Wild Weather

Spring term 2 – Natures Nursery

Summer term 1 – Field Folk

Summer term 2 - Treestastic

IT'S A BUGS LIFE

Can insects hear?

Can insects feel the cold?

What do earthworms and insects do when it's cold?

Which insects pollinate?

Which insects live on our school grounds?

How do you make a compost pile?

How cold does it have to be before it snows?

Wild Weather

How many sides does a snowflake have?

What is lightning made of?

How cold does it have to be before it snows?

Field Folk

What animals are frightened of scarecrows?

Where would you see a scarecrow?

What do farmers use scarecrows for?

What can you use to dress a scarecrow?

Forest Feast

What food is available for the animals in the winter?

Which animals on our school grounds hibernate for the winter?

Can you help our animals to eat and drink during the winter?

Nature's nursery

Which animals lay eggs?

Why are most wild animals born in the spring?

Do you know what a baby animal's called?

Do you know what a baby animal's called?

What are the most common animals on our school grounds?

Treestastic

How many different trees do we have on our school grounds?

Are there any poisonous trees on our school grounds?

What are the most common trees on our school grounds?

What are the most common trees on our school grounds?



The Forum Farm

Hi.

We are a very busy team of two at the Forum Farm that consists of myself - Renea, I am the animal lead and a qualified animal assisted therapist and Sam, who is my right hand woman and is the animal therapy assistant. I would like to introduce you to the many ways we work with the students here at the Forum School. We currently have two horses, eight guinea pigs, three rabbits and a bearded dragon and we are based on a 28 acre site.



We have a very busy timetable including student 1-1 sessions, outdoor learning, lunchtime club, after school activities, we also encourage drop in sessions at any time. We have our 'Guinea Pig gang' where students can sit with the guinea pigs. This has two bucket seat chairs, a bookcase and fairy lights. Our 'Warren' has our rabbits. There is a table for students to work at, as well as homemade rabbit games for them to play!



The Forum Farm... Continued

We have four different curriculum-based courses, all of these have 12 stages to complete and each stage is broken down into 10 bite sized achievable sections. When the students complete a stage, they are presented with a booklet and certificate acknowledging their achievements.

Horse Riding – This is for students to experience our horse-riding sessions which helps to improve their core muscle groups, coordination, balance and sense of wellbeing.

Yard Management – This is designed for our students who are not keen on riding the horses but enjoy the yard environment. They learn skills such as feeding, grooming and basic first aid for all of the animals in our care.

Equine Adventures – Some of our students enjoy being around the horses on the ground rather than riding them. This allows students to learn about care of equines and how to interact with them. This is the students first steps into horse care and leads onto Stable Management.

Stable Management – This is similar to Equine Adventures however it focuses more on the horse's health and wellbeing, including tack care, vet responsibilities etc.

Outdoor Learning

We believe that outdoor learning has a valuable impact on our students learning and there has been many studies that place a high importance on its many positive values including social skills, special awareness, ownership of work and overall mental wellbeing. We have designed a yearly planner that ties in with our curriculum, with myself and Sam working closely with the teachers and T.As. It has also enhanced our wider community ties with local businesses donating some of our supplies and creating a wider community spirit.

Drop in sessions

Some of our students from time to time need a place to reflect or relax. They are always encouraged to visit whenever they feel the need to and we have found that some of our students like to just pop in to say hello to either myself and Sam or the animals. It is always nice to see the students on the yard and we understand the importance of them being able to do so.

Lunchtime Club

This is our latest idea for the yard and we wanted to give our students a place to blow of some steam or be creative and make different art/crafts. It is held in the indoor arena every day and is for all students to drop in as they wish.



After School Activities

Our indoor arena is always accessible to our residential students. Mondays are our sensory play activities and Wednesdays are for arts and crafts, however, we are happy for any student to enjoy the facilities at any time.

Thank you for allowing us to show what we do here at the Forum School Farm, we are always busy and exhausted but we do have a great time here. If you would like any more information please do contact us at any time. Renea and Sam xxx

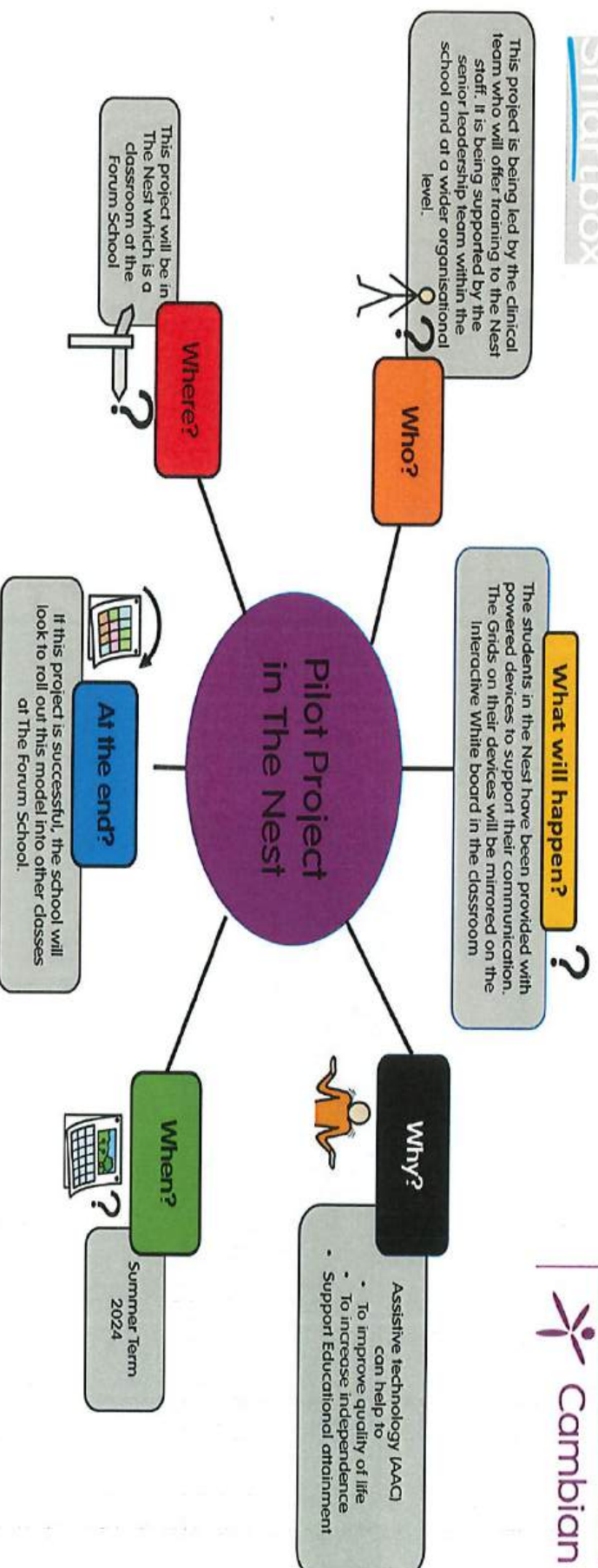
Renea.Gascoigne@cambiangroup.com Samantha.fry@cambiangroup.com

The Nest Project:

The Smartbox Nest initiative is successfully operational, with devices distributed in May and already gathering positive responses from the class adults. Currently, the emphasis is on encouraging students and adults to get comfortable with the devices by engaging in playful exploration. This phase is crucial as it helps students form a connection with their device, fostering a sense of ownership.

Smartbox

 Cambian

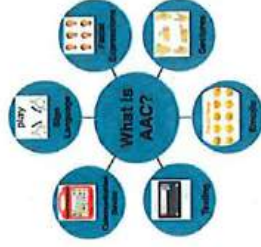


Speech & Language Focus of the Month



This month we are focusing on AAC. AAC stands for 'Augmentative and Alternative Communication', which encompasses all forms of communication (other than oral speech) used to communicate thoughts, needs, wants, and ideas. For example:

- Sign
- Gesture
- Body language
- Emails,
- Electronic device
- Texting
- Choosing boards
- Symbols
- Writing
- pictures



To support you, Smartbox offer free online mini courses which are very helpful to get you started or to refresh your skills. At Smartbox academy you can sign up and have the choice of online courses. I recommend:

- Introduction to AAC (FC01)
- Introduction to Grid for iPad (SC16)
- Developing communication partner skills (FC09)
- Short course – Personalising Super Core in Grid for iPad (SC04)

Time for these courses range from 40 minutes to 2 hours, you can download a certificate of attendance at the end if you wish too.

Use this link to direct you to the academy sign up: [Free online AAC training on Smartbox Academy \(thinksmartbox.com\)](https://www.thinksmartbox.com)

Key things to remember:

- Learning a new language takes time, it can take months to years.
- Allow time for exploring
- **SHOW** – before we can expect someone to use a symbol to communication (paper based or electronic) we have to show them how.
- **MODEL, MODEL, MODEL in all situations and environments**
- **Be Interesting:** follow a YP interests (films, books, songs, TV shows etc), sensory and play.

A study of young children who were learning to communicate showed that 20% of what they communicated was requests.....so what about the other 80% (Smartbox, Simple AAC, 2024)



Speech & Language

Today in class, KT received his Smartbox talk pad along with a social story to accompany it. When we read the social story, he immediately said "happy". This morning, I spent time with him exploring it in class. The conversation this morning focused on past adults who worked here, his trip to Plymouth and staying in a hotel, Christmas Eve when he spent time with his grandparents, Christmas tree lights, discussing Christmas is over and Easter is around the corner. He said that pizza in an oven is very hot, chicken nuggets from McDonald's are very hot, and he had Oreo ice cream from McDonald's at the weekend. KT loves to talk about many and different things which is great! 😊

KT is just getting familiar with his talk pad. Right now, the focus is on getting comfortable with it and exploring it. As he interacts with it, adults can join in and model its use, even if they don't know all the words. The important thing is to have fun and give it a try. This applies to KT as well—it's all about exploring and learning together. There's no right or wrong way to do it.

Having the talk pad with him in all settings will help him develop confidence and improve his communication skills. This is important!

In order to prepare for the next day, the talk pad must be charged at night. His carry bag contains the charger. The device and speaker at the back of his device need to be charged; all charging points are on the charger.

We will be offering online Smartbox academy training very soon to help everyone better understand the devices and how to use them, but in the meantime feel free to email, call, or come see me if you need assistance.

Please visit [About us - Smartbox AAC](#) If you want to read up on Smartbox. Please see poster and social story attached for more information too.

Speech & Language

Signs of the week

Shop

Shopping

Hand sign for Shopping: index finger pointing up, thumb pointing down, other fingers curled. The sign for 'Buy' or 'Sell' can be added if required.

Money

Hand sign for Money: index finger pointing up, thumb pointing down, other fingers curled.

Buy

Draw hand back over palm, closing fist.

World Book Day 2024

Book

Read

Story

Story teller

Tell/lay

Hold one hand flat like a book and then draw circles around it - i.e. talking about the book.

Signs of the week

Spring

Flowers

Make something perfume

Outside

Play

Speech & Language

Signs of the week

OT signs

Relax

Balance

Stretching

Breathing

Finish with arms level

Make stretching appropriate into

Palms flat on chest (arms gently away and back)

Signs of the week

Time

Change

Tap twice

Light

Lighter

Different

Index fingers move apart with upward twist

Signs of the week

Easter

Chocolate

Easter Egg

Sunday

Discontinuously active eyes

Neurodiversity Celebration week March 17th - 23rd

Its **Neurodiversity Celebration week!** (Although every week is a celebration week 😊)

Neurodiversity Celebration Week is an event aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of neurological differences among individuals. It celebrates the unique strengths and perspectives of neurodivergent people to promote acceptance and inclusion.



Here are some links with different resources, posters, downloadable activities, neurodivergent affirming practice information and information of different events that are happening:

[Neurodiversity Celebration Week](https://www.neurodiversityweek.com)


<https://www.neurodiversityweek.com/event/neurodiversity-and-nutrition-food-for-thought>

[AutisticSLT | Emily Lees | Supporting autistic children's communication](https://www.autisticslt.com)

Wellbeing Wednesday

On the last Wednesday of each term we are having a Wednesday wellbeing session for the education team. We also played a game and had a good laugh





Staff Discounts

<https://www.bluelightcard.co.uk/>

Discount service for the emergency services, NHS, social care sector and armed forces - [£4.99 for 2 years](#)

Members of the Blue Light community can register for access to more than 15,000 discounts from large national retailers to local businesses across categories such as holidays, cars, days out, fashion, gifts, insurance, phones, and many more.

<https://discountsforcarers.com/>

Carer & Care Worker Discounts – [sign up for free](#)

Exclusive discounts, cashback & vouchers for Carers & Care Workers.

For care assistants, live-in carers, those that care for loved ones, and everyone in between.

<https://www.discountsforteachers.co.uk/>

Teacher & Education Staff Discounts – [sign up for free](#)

Exclusive discounts, cashback & vouchers for Teachers & Education Staff.

For teaching assistants, headteachers, administrators, and everyone in between.

<https://www.carerscarduk.co.uk/discounts-for-carers>

Your carer ID card unlocks access to a wide range of online discounts, savings, benefits, perks and offers, for carers. - [£8 for 2 years](#)

Our team constantly work on creating partnerships with big name brands so that we can provide carers with discounts on all aspects of life, from food to fashion, fitness to electrical, technology to travel, home utilities to entertainment and much more





Staff Discounts Continued

<https://carers.org/grants-and-discounts/carersmart-discount-club>

Joining is simple and free. And once you're a member, you'll be able to benefit from a wide range of offers, including:

- Cash back on shopping from numerous high street retailers
- Reductions on insurance renewals
- Discounts on holidays and travel arrangements
- Reduced price lifestyle activities
- Free and discounted legal advice services

<https://www.frontlinestaffdiscounts.co.uk/>

Frontline Staff Discounts is FREE to all Members, we charge no fees to join & never will

We aim to save you and all of our members as much money as possible on all of your purchases online.

<https://www.teacherperks.co.uk/>

Free membership for school staff and schools to access incredible perks from high street brands and edu-suppliers.



Staff Discounts

Employee Benefits Platform

Take savvy shopping to the next level



Download the **FREE Pluxee UK Discounts App** to your phone to start making even more savings!



Search Pluxee UK Discounts in your App Store or scan one of the QR codes





Visit www.cambiangroup.co.uk
Call 01908 303 531

Cambian

Employee Benefits Platform

Cut the cost of your grocery shopping

Colleagues are saving over £500* a year on their supermarket shop.

Join or visit your Employee Benefits Platform today to save up to 6.5% on instant supermarket eVouchers

ASDA **M&S** **Morrisons**
Sainsbury's **TESCO** **WAITROSE**

Save up to 6.5%*



Visit www.cambiangroup.co.uk
Call 01908 303 531

Cambian

Employee Benefits Platform

Firework Frenzy Week

4th - 10th November 2024

Spark your savings with 10 explosive offers available for one week only.

halford's	halford's autocentre	PRIMARK	Wickes
laithwaites.com	RED LETTER DAYS	TESCO	Iceland
LAITHWAITES	Virgin Experience Days		

Visit your platform from 10am on 4th November 2024

Visit www.cambiangroup.co.uk
Call 01908 303 531

Cambian



A message from Mel

What a month we have had with so many different activities and the opportunity to have lots of fun.

World book day was a huge success and young people were supported to dress as their favourite book characters and really focus on free reading.

Pancake day was a huge 'flipping' success with all young people engaging and follow instruction and recipes.

Comic relief saw another fun filled day and a cake sale with young people and adults raising £57.65. The school will also match this donation.

It is absolutely wonderful to see so many of our young people achieving qualifications and these being celebrated.

A number of young people have received their smartbox talk pads this month and this is another wonderful way for them to express themselves and communicate

I hope you all have a fun filled Easter holidays



Thank You!