

Penguin Pals News

Valley Invicta Primary School at Kings Hill



VALLEY INVICTA
PRIMARY SCHOOL AT
KINGS HILL

1st July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

We hope you are all safe and well. It has been lovely to see so many children in Penguin Class accessing school now. All of those who have been in school have adapted to the new routine and environment and have been following social distancing rules.

In the last week of term there will be transition sessions with their new mainstream teacher. They will attend this with a member of staff from Penguin Class for as long as they are able to manage. This will be a chance for them to get to know their teacher before next academic year.

New Penguin Classroom

As you are all aware, we can have 15 pupils in Penguin Class. From September, we have new pupils starting with us which means we will be close to our maximum number of pupils. With this in mind, we are in the process of setting up another Penguin classroom. This will be upstairs but both classrooms will be flexible spaces used by all children. Pupils will still go to the downstairs classroom for lunch and to access the playground. There will also be a new sensory space upstairs to match our current sensory space.

Makaton Sign A Week

A couple of the new pupils we have starting with us in September use Makaton to communicate. As a class we have already been learning some signs. Over the Summer, Mrs Smith will be posting a sign a week on Dojo so please do have a look and try and learn.



Hello

Pupil Article of the Month

As Jasper is going to be transitioning to secondary school, he has written an article to share his experiences with Autism and his feelings about moving on to a new school.



My Autism and Me by Jasper Rawlins

Autism for me is weird. The question I sometimes ask is how and why was I born with it? Having autism can be tricky but it does make me feel ultra-special. My autism makes me feel lots of different emotions but I can find it difficult to talk about them. My special interest is animals on land, sea or in the air. I have a lot of knowledge about animals and I like to share this with people.

In September I am going to Secondary School. I am feeling terrified because I do not know the school very well or any pupils in my class yet and I am quite timid. At my new school, I will get a new laptop which is exciting. I will get the opportunity to go fishing and there is a farm across the road that we can visit!

I will miss Kings Hill but I would love to come back to let everyone know how I am doing.



@VIPSKingshill



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Wellbeing and Mindfulness

Additional emotional and mental health conditions can affect children with autism particularly at this time of year with anxieties around COVID-19 and transition.

Here are some useful links for transition preparation and mental health:

<http://www.starsteam.org.uk/transition>

www.papyrus.org.uk

www.youngminds.org.uk

www.childline.org.uk

<https://www.headmeds.org.uk/>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/media/4616615/understanding-depression-2016.pdf>

https://www.mind.org.uk/media/1892482/mind_anxiety_panic_web.pdf

www.autism.org.uk

www.mindfulnessforschools.com

New SRP Staff

We are very lucky that we will be welcoming Mrs Swain to our SRP Team from September. Mrs Swain is a parent within the school and is training to be a teacher. She has extensive experience of working with pupils with ASD and will be an asset to our team.



Coffee Mornings

We are hoping that our Coffee Mornings will be able to return next academic year. If there are any particular areas of focus or speakers you would like us to invite, please let Mrs Walls or the Office know.



ASD Accreditation

We are very excited to announce that we will be moving forward with the work involved to achieve ASD Accreditation from the National Autistic Society.

As we move through the process we will be involving the pupils and parents to ensure everyone has knowledge, understanding and voices are heard.



**National
Autistic
Society**

Summer Support

We know that Summer holidays can be challenging for families of pupils with ASD. Summer learning and activity packs will be shared with parents before the end of term.

Here are some useful links to access support over the holiday period whether for your child or yourself:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/care-and-support/disability/learning-disability/autism/support-for-parents-and-carers-autism/a-break-from-caring-autism>

<https://www.autism.org.uk/services/helplines/parent-to-parent.aspx>

<https://community.autism.org.uk/?Redirected=true>

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