

We have all had a reasonably quiet and settled week at Meadowpark, and in spite of the colder and wet weather, pupils could not be deterred from being outside, even for short spells, although gardening was abandoned on Wednesday. I'm not sure Yvonne would have coped with muddy boot prints through the school.

I was introduced to a new word this week from one of our wonderful learning assistants, Judie. The word is 'Autisticness'. It was used to try to explain to a pupil how each individual at Meadowpark requires and deserves different levels of support, according to their 'autisticness'.

Images for Autism show a linear spectrum, an umbrella, wheels within wheels, a multi-coloured wheel and a spider web diagram in an attempt to convey the multi-layered and intrinsically complicated traits and behaviours associated with the condition.

Personally I prefer to see Autism as an ever – moving kaleidoscope of colour, including patches where there is absence of colour – black and white. Our young people are facing so many challenges in life, not least growing up in an ever-changing, challenging and often exhaustive round of rules and expectations, that there is no wonder the delicate fabric of resilience breaks down every now and then.

I spoke with Class 2 this morning as they prepared to go swimming and reminded them that they represent Meadowpark in the Haddington community and that we want them all to feel fully included in the town. In order to do this we have to encourage pupils to think of themselves as responsible citizens and successful learners.

If we can continue to create opportunities for Meadowpark pupils to engage in the Haddington community and the communities where our young people live, in a positive and proactive way then the easier their journey will be. Developing their confidence as individuals so that they can then contribute effectively will give all pupils at Meadowpark the tools they need to begin to build a successful pathway to a settled life.

Have a peaceful weekend.

Charli Prime 24.11.17