

Now that we are well under way with the autumn term it is reassuring to observe pupils in Meadowpark using our environment pertaining to their needs. Tyre Island continues to be a magnetic draw for moments as diverse as exhilaration as well as for contemplation. The 'buoy' swing under the shelter has become a necessary and sensory focus for reducing anxiety for a young person who recently moved from Romania. We are all gleaned a little of what life has been like for one of our new pupils and recognise that his need to flee is because he can and be safe within our environment. He has a clear exit strategy and is beginning to accept that certain boundaries are in place not to restrict or inhibit him but to keep him safe.

Creating a safe environment is a theme that I will be using when requesting support from organisations for funding relating to our own improvement plan, found here https://www.kanet.org.uk/sites/default/files/knox_academy_meadowpark_sip_2018-19.pdf.

Under HGIOS 4 (How Good is Our School) Quality Indicator 3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion we plan to build capacity across the school community to promote inclusive practice and to support meeting the needs of all learners and in particular:

- Continue to work with those therapies known to complement the needs of pupils with Autism, in particular Art Therapy and Music Therapy.
- Provide opportunities for Outdoor Learning – Loose Parts Play, Kayaking etc.

This week saw Tyne class begin the Discovery level of their John Muir Award. To do this they began by identifying an area of our local environment where wildlife are likely to roam. The aim of the project is to ensure that this space is kept clean, safe and habitable by visiting it regularly and where necessary undertaking such tasks as litter picking, creating protective shelters for smaller animals and removing unwanted debris to ensure that the animals are protected from negative elements of human influence. Tyne class hope to be able to use this experience to develop a deeper understanding of our environment, to foster a sound relationship with wildlife in the area and by doing so enhance opportunities for their own mental health and wellbeing to flourish as a result.

Achievements: Congratulations to a young person in Tyne class, R, who was awarded this week's Teacher Award for respect, resilience, effort, and kindness, to name just a few! Well done R!

Esk class have begun a collaborative artwork under the theme of Vikings. Mrs Davis was very keen to take Esk class to Largs for the Viking festival <https://largsvikingfestival.org/> but after realising that it was too short notice for a residential has decided to take herself along and has promised photos and feedback. The hope therefore is that Esk class will visit the living village Vikingar later in the session.

Sadly we bid farewell to one of our learning assistants today, F, today who will be missed and who we wish all the very best for in his new career. F has been instrumental in supporting one young person in particular and we promise to keep the good work going #whatwecando #wecandoit .

Have a wonderful weekend.