

MEADOWPARK MATTERS 21.02.2020

## Garden Works

Progress continues apace on our garden and all credit has to be given to the ELC men in Hi-Viz who have persevered through wind and rain. We had a delay in the holidays because of storms Ciara and Dennis but to see the 'squircle' taking shape in the centre has been gratifying and I am excited to be collaborating with community groups, Meadowpark parents and staff from across Knox Academy. A dream is just a dream without a plan and in this case an enthusiastic team to make it work.

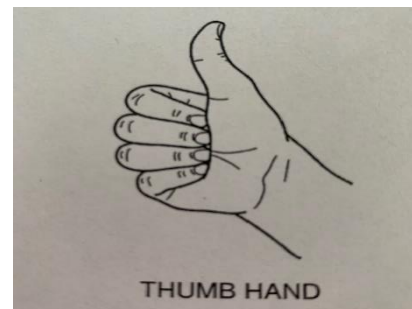
## Signalong

A number of support staff willingly dedicated two hours on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to attend a Signalong Workshop. This was very much intended to be an introductory session and Anna Cummergen, Speech and Language Therapist, made it fun and meaningful focusing only those words we are most likely to use. 2 pupils from the senior leadership team joined in alongside 4 subject staff from Knox Academy.

We hope that with practice and participation, the more signs we can share the better for everyone.. It is important to remember to talk slowly and confidently when using Signalong, and not to worry if it feels awkward at first. Most young people who have Autism have been introduced to Signalong at some point and so will appreciate that you are making every effort to communicate.

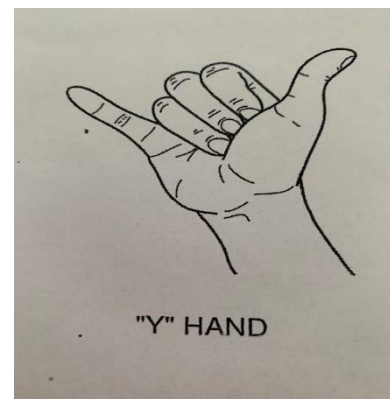
Signalong is not to be confused with British Sign Language which is a language unto itself, but is a universal form of communication (similar to Makaton).

The most basic is 'Hello' which requires making a thumb sign with fingers turned towards chest and moving thumb slowly backwards and forwards between your chest and the person you are speaking to, drawing them in, smiling and saying 'Hello.'



We agreed that we would have a Sign of the Week and as we are celebrating the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of our pupils today the Sign for this week is Party

Have both 'Y' hands on either side of your body and move them up and down, smiling and saying 'Party'



Have fun practicing ☺

Ms C Prime 21.02.2020