

MEADOWPARK – NEWSLETTER – WEEK 26 – 08.02.19

It has been a delight to witness some of our young people making fairly momentous strides this week and achieving personal goals and aspirations.

For one this has meant being in school, fresh and ready to learn on Monday morning which can often herald a challenge for him from getting up and being ready for the taxi, to actively participating in activities. Of course this is not unlike many of us but is further exacerbated by his autism. We chatted together yesterday and I had a sense of personal success that he has managed in school all week, actively engaging with his peers and coping with changes in staffing.

Another pupil has been following a new approach to his learning, using signs and symbols, carefully considered boundaries and engaging positively with staff. In spite of a language barrier and some attachment issues he has settled very quickly and we have seen his personality shine through.

We are excited that our rather dilapidated shed is receiving a new lease of life with the addition of a Playpod structure which will hold resources more effectively. We are also investing in Clicker 7 which I know will be a positive move for many of our young people who struggle to find the right word when pulling together a piece of research or planning a writing session. Clicker 7 will allow them individually and collectively to generate word banks and text to talk opportunities to clarify understanding.

Five weeks have flown by since we started back in January but with the brighter mornings and longer afternoons, the early arrival of snowdrops and aconites, and thoughts turning to Summer Term Activities Week, I have a sense that after the February break the weeks will come tumbling in on themselves until Easter.

We will be hosting an evening for those attending Dounans when one of their senior staff members will speak to parents on 20th March. We will also be holding a parent consultation evening on 26th March, which will consider transition for our pupils moving up to the next stage from June 3rd.

I am fortunate to be heading to the sun for a few days next week but looking at the forecast for East Lothian there promises to some sunshine, so I wish you all a peaceful and restful break and look forward to welcoming pupils and staff back.

C. Prime 08.02.19