

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the Christmas break draws near, I am delighted to say that our students have had a brilliant Autumn term. We have welcomed two new students who have both settled into life at Kite Ridge really well. This year has been another unusual one due to the Coronavirus pandemic. As always, I am proud to say that our staff team have risen to the challenge and pulled together to continue with “business as usual” in these challenging circumstances.

In line with recent government guidance, we have reintroduced the wearing of face coverings for staff and visitors in communal areas in school. Unfortunately, the most recent restrictions mean we will not be able to invite parents to our Christmas performance again this year. However, the recorded performance will be posted on our secure YouTube channel – details of how to access this will be shared with you nearer the time. Our other Christmas themed activities in school will go ahead as planned, and students will be able to enjoy a variety of crafts and cookery, parties, lunches and a visit from Santa!

School life

This term we have focused on independence skills for many of our students, and have slightly changed how we have organised some of our group sessions. There have been some great examples of students working together and supporting each other in their activities because of this.

We have been looking at personal health and hygiene, including healthy eating in PSHE. From this we have introduced a daily snack of a variety of fruits, vegetables and healthy savoury options which we have encouraged students to help prepare, and try. This has proved very successful with many students trying foods they had previously not eaten in school.

As well as number work, the focus for maths this term has been on weights, and the students have particularly enjoyed the practical activities of using the scales to compare and estimate the weights of a variety of items around school.

English lessons have primarily centred around the skills of reading and comprehension, spelling and grammar. The literature has been in the form of stories from around the world which is our topic for this term and we have looked at basic languages from these places including Spanish, Hindi and Icelandic!

Staff news

Mrs Shiraz joined our Curriculum Delivery Team as a teacher at the beginning of term and has already had a huge positive impact on teaching and learning in school. Mrs Shiraz has fitted in really well and is extremely popular with our students.

Olivia is our new Positive Behaviour Support Manager. Olivia has spent time getting to know our students and their families, spending time with them at school, at home and in respite settings. These visits have allowed Olivia to begin developing our outreach programme and to organise the delivery of Occupational Therapy in school.

Sadly, Tony left us at the beginning of term and Jack will be leaving us at the end of this term. They are both off to start exciting new chapters in their lives and, whilst we will miss them very much, we wish them all the very best.

Following these departures, we have some vacancies for Learning Mentors. We are currently advertising on a variety of media including Wycombe Sound Radio, The Bucks Free Press, Facebook and Twitter. All relevant details are on our website, so please do mention this opportunity to anyone you feel may be interested in joining our very special team at Kite Ridge School.

We look forward to the New Year with optimism, and wish all our students, their families and everyone in our wider school community, a relaxed and enjoyable Christmas. As always, please do contact us with any queries or concerns you may have.

Best wishes,

Steven Sneesby

Headteacher