

Dear parents and carers,

I would like to say welcome back to school. How quickly time seems to fly. It does not seem like 2 minutes since we started back in September. I will continue as acting headteacher for the remainder of this term and any updates will be shared with you.

The new curriculum is going well and we are seeing some big changes in school in terms of learning and engagement. My role play post office was a great hit with children and they have loved dressing up and delivering our mail in school. This term our role play area is a polar express train.

Our topic for term is Journeys and we will be focusing on texts that include journeys of some description from Stick Man to the Polar Express; but any reading is fabulous.

All children are continuing to participate in outdoor learning, food technology, life skills and P.E. this year. Our sports hall will be full of exciting games as we move into the winter season.

Each term will be divided up into 6 distinct areas, although English and communication skills will be delivered every day.

Week	Focus
1	Expressive arts: Film
2	Humanities: RE and philosophy
3	English: ongoing
4	Health and well-being: emotions and feelings
5	Maths: shape and patterns
6	Science and technology: chemistry and materials

Parents' evening was a great success, and I was delighted to meet quite a few of you. If you missed this evening. please let me know and we will endeavour to rearrange for you.

As part of the feedback from parent's evening I was asked to share more information about the clinical team in school. So here is a short precis for you:

Andrea leads the Celtic Clinical Team and is a psychotherapist. All of our clinicians work closely with some of the children and offer 1:1 sessions.

Clinicians are involved in many aspects of the care and education your child receives here, even if they do not work with them directly.

Jen is an art psychotherapist. Art psychotherapy is a good way to share worries and feelings and thoughts.

Hannah is the speech and language therapist and helps our young people communicate.

Nadia is an occupational therapist and helps with things like co-ordination and getting dressed.

Chelsie is an assistant psychologist and will try to help you figure out your emotions as well as assessments to help you learn.

And finally, there is Alex who is a therapy assistant who helps with all sorts of things but is our Makaton champion and encourages us all to sign as much as possible.

If there is any other information you would like me to share with you please do not hesitate to contact me directly: Nicci.Hague@optionsautism.co.uk

I hope your Christmas preparations go smoothly; as the big countdown begins.

Yours sincerely,

Nicci Hague