



Bankside School

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Visible Consistency, Visible Kindness

A warm, steady start to the half-term has set a really positive tone across the school, with pupils settling quickly back into routines and showing real focus as we head into an important few weeks. With GCSE Mock Exams beginning this week, there's a real sense of purpose in the building, and we're encouraging everyone to make the most of the support available.

Parents' Evening letters and response forms have now been sent out, and we're looking forward to those valuable conversations with families.

Alongside this, there's a growing buzz about the projects, trips and enrichment activities planned for the term ahead—opportunities that always bring out the very best in our pupils. And as the first hints of spring begin to show, from lighter mornings to the first signs of colour around the grounds, there's a shared sense of optimism that feels good to name and nurture.

Important Dates

- **Thursday 5th March – World Book Day**
- **Tuesday 10th March – Parents/Carers Consultation Evening**
- **Friday 20th March – Red Nose Day**
- **Tuesday 24th March – Year 9 KS4 Options afternoon 3.30 to 4.30pm**
- **Friday 27th March – Last day of Term**
- **Monday 13th April – Back to School**

Just as a reminder we are a **NO NUT** School, we have a number of pupils who have allergies, this includes for some pupils, coconut allergy, please be mindful of pupils using sprays or body lotions as they can be sensitive to this.

Word of the Week

As a school we continue to follow our 'Word Aware' focus. Each week we pick a word and explore it's meaning to extend vocabulary and to develop understanding of more complex words.

Spring term's first week, our Word of the week will be '**Bravery**'

Nominations

Star Learners: For outstanding effort and focus in lessons:

- **Jake L** - For being resilient and starting to understand the importance of revision and working hard when we are revisiting topics he has covered in previous years ready for his iGCSE. Great progress and a mature approach to his learning.
- **Jayden B** - For his excellent effort in both French (learning days of the week and months) and Maths (working out volume with cubes)!
- **Hayward F** - for the most amazing mental maths during lesson, refusing to use a calculator and persevering until he found the correct answer!
- **Archie Ho** – For excellent work in the gym. Archie worked with staff to create his own circuit plan and followed it through twice! He encouraged his peers to join in and worked super hard!
- **Harley M** - shows a positive attitude and is always willing to give every job a go, putting in 100% effort.

Kindness Champions:

For showing compassion, helping others and lifting the mood of those around you:

- **Sylvie U** – For showing concern and kindness for a peer who seemed distressed by something earlier in the week.

Progress Heroes: Special Mention:

For making visible strides in learning, behaviour and confidence:

- **Jess I** - For maturely attending EVERY lesson on Tuesday; for this we are all super proud!
- **Hayward F** - For engaging and learning the rules to a new sport, applying his prior skills amazingly, and for overall being a great teammate with his encouragement, communication & teamwork
- **Rupert L** - his confidence in the kitchen has really grown, he's mature and enthusiastic regarding his cooking and learning new skills, and he produced an expertly crimped and prepared Bacon and Egg Puff Pastry breakfast parcel this week. It was all I could do to resist eating it!!
- **Stan & Hayward** - For their positive attitudes and great dishes in the kitchen this week.
- **Reuben H** - For engaging in 2/3 lessons, completing his learning and was a pleasure to take off site this afternoon. Well done Roo!

Options Autism Podcast – Autism Unpacked

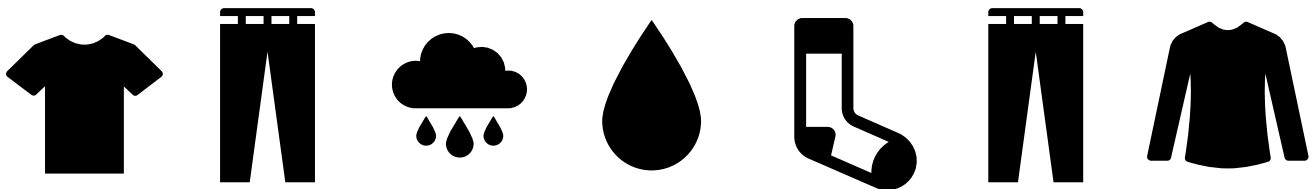
Please have a look at the Options Autism podcast, Autism Unpacked, discussing different topics around Autism. Please follow the link below and you can see what each episode covers.

[Autism Unpacked Podcast - Options Autism](#)



Spare Clothes

Please remind pupils to bring a spare change of clothes with them when participating in PE and outdoor activities. We will be able to store individual spare kits in school if pupils would prefer to bring one to leave here rather than each week. If you are having a clear out, please feel free to send any old sports clothes, coats, trainers etc into school as donations that we can loan out.



Are you a family member of an autistic person? Join us for one of our reflective sessions to come together with other families.

These are free online events where you can share your experiences and connect with others who 'get it'.

Just some of the things guests have said they've enjoyed about past sessions:

- ✓ Listening to others
- ✓ The sense of not being judged
- ✓ Feeling part of a community
- ✓ Feeling positive and motivated

This month, we're exploring topics such as working with crisis teams, building autism and ADHD pride and supporting identity development in adolescence.

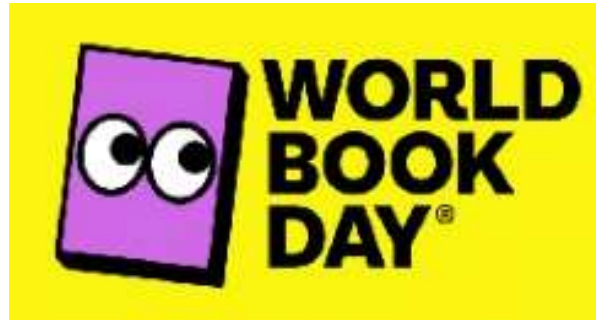
Book your place: <https://orlo.uk/RMCUw>

Autism Central is delivered by Anna Freud and commissioned by NHS England Workforce, Training and Education #AutismAcceptance



Join our
free reflective
sessions for
families of
autistic people





It is World Book Day on Thursday 5th March and in celebration of this, we will be running several competitions across the school.

The competitions include: The Masked Reader Challenge, a design your own notebook cover competition, a storybook character scavenger hunt, a creative writing competition and a 'best dressed' competition for pupils (and staff) who would like to participate.

The activities will run during the school day so pupils will be off timetable for L1-L3 to allow them time to complete all of the WBD activities and then resume their usual afternoon timetable after lunch. Although pupils will be completing WBD activities during L1-L3, they will remain in their teaching groups (the same as Number Day) so their usual teachers will complete the activity with them.

There will be prizes for 1st , 2nd and 3rd place in each of the individual competitions as well as a prize for the class who wins the Masked Reader Challenge and winners will be announced during Friday's assembly.

Prizes include: Amazon vouchers for the notebook cover, creative writing and best-dressed competitions (1st prize = £15, 2nd prize = £10, 3rd prize = £5) and then sweets/crisps for the scavenger hunt and the masked reader challenge.

We look forward to a very exciting morning!

