

THE VOICE

AT MACKENZIE THORPE CENTRE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



As my interim period as Principal comes to an end this term, I am delighted to announce that I will be continuing in the role as the permanent Principal at Mackenzie Thorpe Centre. It is a position I am privileged to be in, and I am committed to providing high-quality, inclusive education for all of our learners.

My professional focus has always been on ensuring that every child is known, valued, and supported to achieve their full potential—academically, socially, and emotionally. I believe strongly in working in close partnership with families, carers, staff, and external professionals to create consistent, person-centred provision that enables our learners to thrive.

I hope you and your children have a wonderful Christmas!

Best wishes,
Corrina McEwan

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

This term we welcomed Vicki Hughes to Mackenzie Thorpe Centre as Purple Classes new teacher. Here a bit about Vicki:

"I've been teaching for 27 years based in schools both in Stockton and Middlesbrough, working with a range of ages and learners with varying needs. I am a mum of two boys and enjoy spending my spare time watching Boro play both home and away, as well as spending time with family and friends.

Over the past four weeks, I have enjoyed getting to know the learners, especially in purple class, and taking part in a range of exciting activities based around their Christmas enterprise projects. It has been lovely to see learners outside of the classroom, excelling in their chosen enrichment activities.

My hopes for the future are that Boro reach the Premier League (ha ha!) and that all learners continue to progress and become the best version of themselves they can be."



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE FUTURE

Spring Term Dates

Term 2.1

6th January to 20th February

PD Day

5th January

Annual Events

January- World Religion day 4th, National Lego Day 28th, Data protection Day 28th

February- LGBTQ+ Month, Chinese New Year 17th, World Inventors Day 11th, Safer Internet Day 11th, Childrens Mental Health Day 9th to 15th Sexual Abuse and Sexual Awareness week 3rd

March- Womens History Month, British Science Week 7th- 16th, Mothers day 15th, Golbal Recycling Day 18th

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS



During the Autumn term here at Mackenzie Thorpe Centre, we have had a great deal going on. From fun science experiments to meet-and-greets with Pudsey, as well as taking time to remember our fallen soldiers from World War II, learners have enjoyed an exciting and engaging return to school. Learners also had the opportunity to take part in a variety of annual events, including Roald Dahl Day, the Macmillan Coffee Morning, and the NSPCC campaign Stay Safe, Speak Out.

Throughout the term, learners actively participated in a range of sensory activities designed to engage and stimulate their senses. These experiences supported communication, exploration, and emotional regulation, allowing learners to interact with their environment in meaningful and enjoyable ways. Sensory sessions were carefully planned to meet individual needs and preferences, helping learners to build confidence and curiosity.

In addition, learners focused on developing real-life skills to promote greater independence. Activities such as cooking, personal care routines, money handling, and community-based learning helped learners practise essential life skills in practical contexts. By applying these skills in everyday situations, learners continued to build independence, self-confidence, and a sense of achievement.

YOU SAID, WE DID: THE LEARNER VOICE

In the last student council meeting, learners voted for their new representative. Sophia from Purple class will lead the student council meetings this year, collecting the students' voices in the student voice books and feeding back to learners.

This term saw the establishment of Green Club- Learners started a Green Club in response to our environmental policy. Learners are asked to have designated roles with clear duties and even their own lanyards to identify what their role is in the Green club.



Learners also asked for more events which saw the introduction of a silent disco, meet and greet with Pudsey Bear and also Breakfast with Santa and his wonderful Elf. Learners thoroughly enjoyed these onsite activities to celebrate the annual events of the term.



CELEBRATING LEARNING



In partnership with Redcar and Cleveland College, Mackenzie Thorpe Centre has supported Penny in attending a post-14 transitional package by accessing their foundation learning course. This has allowed Penny to study foundation level Math's and English and work towards her GCSE'S, which has always been a personal goal for Penny. Penny was given this great opportunity to not only grow her education but also improve her social skills.

Blue class have been focusing on their story of the half term, The Stickman! They read the story together and created their own version to show their friends and work on their fine motor skills. In class, they sang some of their favourite songs, including 5 currant buns. They enjoyed making their own after to sell to their friends.

In Red class, learners have been working on a project linked to Roald Dahl, making their own chocolates to sell. The learners designed their own chocolate flavours, names for the chocolates and then had a go at making their own within a specified budget. All learners in the class shopped for their own ingredients at the local supermarket and participated in various experiments. Once set, the learners tested the flavours of the chocolates and evaluated their effort in an attempt to adjust their recipe and make their final batch.

MTC CLASS SPOTLIGHT

To end a fantastic term, learners in each class participated in our Christmas Tree Challenge. Learners in all classes had been challenged to make their own Christmas tree. Look at the fantastic efforts- We are blown away by the creativity and collaboration they have displayed.



CELEBRATING LEARNING



The children in Yellow Class had a wonderful opportunity to be actively involved in our local community through their recent visit to Senses Sensory Room and Soft Play. The children engaged in a range of sensory experiences that supported their individual needs and encouraged exploration in a new environment outside of school. During the visit, pupils demonstrated confidence and curiosity as they explored lights, textures and sounds in the sensory room. Many children were able to self-regulate, relax and enjoy the environment while others responded positively to the space through communication, eye contact and shared interactions. At soft play, children developed their social interaction skills, taking part in climbing, sliding and moving through different obstacles which encouraged turn-taking, teamwork and supported their physical development.

Orange Class at Mackenzie Thorpe Centre have enjoyed visits from the therapy dogs. They played a game hiding treats around the room for Wren to find. They took turns to stroke her and train her to sit and stay. Some of the learners were a little bit nervous but overcame their fear and enjoyed interacting with the dog.

Green class learner Alex put his cooking skills to wonderful use by making a delicious batch of rocky road as part of developing his independent living skills. With great enthusiasm, Alex carefully followed the steps, combining chocolate, marshmallows and biscuits to create a fantastic finished treat.

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS



Looking for advice, online resources or you would like to refer a child or young person to the team?
Welcome to the Cyber Crime Portal, here you can find the following services:
refer a child/ Young person into the Cyber Choices programme
Access online resources



Redcar & Cleveland Multi-Agency Children's Hub (MACH)

Telephone- 01642130700

Email- redcarMACH@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Middlesbrough Multi-Agency Children's Hub (MACH)

Telephone- 01642726004

Email- Middlesbrough~MACH@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk