

# Welcome Back to Elm Class!



WHAT'S ON

Autumn 1  
2024

## Theme for the term: Our Local Area

Welcome back to a new school year at Doubletrees. I am Post 14: Elm class teacher, Jo Conac. I have been teaching for over 20 years now and still love it. I have been at Doubletrees for 3 years and learnt so much in that time. Once we are established and confident in our new classroom we look forward to lots of outings and trips to our local area including the supermarket, the café and the library.



## Key texts

Footprints  
in the  
Sand by  
Mary  
Stevenson

## FOCUS SESSION.

In Elm class we use the Attention Autism approach in a daily, multi sensory, 'bucket time' activity. Attention Autism is a learning approach that aims to develop natural and spontaneous communication skills for autistic individuals through the use of visually based and highly motivating activities. This approach is also beneficial to other learners with severe and complex learning difficulties who can struggle to focus in group activities. There are four stages of Attention Autism and different learners might require access to just one stage or up to all four stages.

Stage 1: Bucket time—To focus attention on a shared activity.

Stage 2: The attention builder—To sustain attention on a single stimulus.

Stage 3: To shift attention between different stimulus and people.

Stage 4: Table activities—To transition attention from a group to an individual task and back.

Here is some information about how we might use this approach in class to learn a new skill.

Stage 1: Pulling 3/4 objects from the bucket linked to a new skill eg laundry items: mini washing line, spinner, pegs

Stage 2: Using a water spray or soap suds to wet a paper sock

Stage 3: taking turns to throw socks in the washing basket or peg them up

Stage 4: pairing real socks or pegging up real ones

11th September Hairdresser visitor    18th Sept Once Upon a Flowerbed Moonbeam Theatre production    23rd September Bikeability at Par  
2nd October The Railway Children MandM productions    9th October Smarter Smiles dental hygiene visitor

Send in daily snacks and drinks. Forestry (waterproofs and wellies), swim and PE kit on a Monday for the week.

→ DON'T  
FORGET!

# Reminders



From left  
to right

Rose

Maria

Jodi

Shannon

Lisa

Jo

Ria

## Key vocab this term

**Making a request** using chosen communication method: AAC device/ symbols/ Makaton/ speech/ total communication

'snack'

'toilet'

'drink'

'I want cake'

Community inclusion: Ordering in a café

Independent living skills: this term we are working on making the **bed**, brushing our **hair**, cleaning our **teeth** and **washing** our face.

Things you can do at home to help

Please encourage your learners to practice their independent living skills. We aim to push for independence as much as possible and the more practice they get the better.

If you go out to a café, supermarket, hairdresser etc please let us know or send in photos so that we can share at school with their peers.

**Personal Learning Goals (PLGs)** Please look out for new target tracker sheets, sign them if in agreement or please do get in touch to ask any questions so that we can amend or work on them together.

For updates, information and useful contacts, please check our school website and Facebook pages.

[www.doubletrees.org.uk](http://www.doubletrees.org.uk)