



A first for Scotland's children

Kieron Bruce O'Brien Executive Director



In this issue...

I am thrilled to announce that East Park has been awarded Advanced Autism Accreditation by the National Autistic Society, the UK's leading charity for autistic people. This makes our organisation the only child focused establishment in Scotland to hold this prestigious accreditation.

The Accredited Advanced Award was given in recognition of our high-quality autism practice, joined-up approach across care and education and commitment to continuous improvement.

Autism Accreditation is an autism-specific quality assurance programme. It was set up by the National Autistic Society in 1992 to improve the support available to autistic people in organisations throughout the UK and across the world, including local authorities, NHS trusts, education authorities, schools, colleges and more. To gain Accreditation, organisations have to meet a standard of excellence and follow a framework for continuous self-examination and development. Over 500 organisations are now accredited. We work closely

with NAS Autism Advisor, Stephen Pyott, to ensure that we constantly seek ways to improve, and East Park gratefully acknowledges Stephen's support and expertise. We are delighted to receive the advanced accreditation, especially at the end of such a hard year. It is both humbling and encouraging to know that the efforts of the staff are recognised in providing, enabling, and individualising support and care to every child and young person at East Park.

This accreditation acknowledges that we are preparing children and young people actively to engage with and use the tools and skills they gain at East Park in their adult lives."

Christine Flintoft-Smith, Head of Autism Accreditation said: "East Park have committed to the NAS Autism Accreditation for almost 20 years and we are pleased to be able to award them the Advanced Accreditation Status in recognition of their practice towards autistic children and young people. They are the first school and children's residential

housing in Scotland to obtain this level of Accreditation and should be extremely proud of their achievement."

"There are approximately 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK, as well as their three million family members and carers. Autism is a spectrum condition. This means autistic people have their own strengths and varying and complex needs, from 24-hour care to simply needing clearer communication and a little longer to do things at work and school. Without the right support or understanding, autistic people can miss out on an education, struggle to find work and become extremely isolated.

Autism Accreditation highlights outstanding autism practice and we are very pleased to mark East Park's achievement. It is a great thing in itself and, we believe, will inspire other organisations and services to improve the way they support autistic people." A massive well done and thank you to everyone in our East Park Family who has helped us achieve this award.

From the Young People at East Park...

Emotion Works

Lockdown Activities

Some Light in a Dark Year

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LOTTERY FUNDED



SQA Approved Centre



National Autistic Society

Accredited Advanced 2020



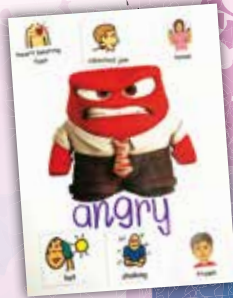
Emotion Works at East Park School

After an unusual return to school after the Christmas break, with some pupils in the building and some accessing learning from home, East Park School have decided to make Emotion Works a curriculum focus for the remainder of this school year.

Emotion Works is an educational programme for emotional learning and literacy. The cog model framework breaks emotions down into different categories to help show how emotion works. These include emotion triggers, body sensations, emotion behaviours, emotion words and regulation strategies.

Each class will be using the programme in ways best suited to their pupils - some will be looking at the cogs to tell stories about how they are feeling and what the triggers have been, others will be practising regulation strategies like slow breathing or using symbols to ask for a break in the garden, others will be reading stories and recognising the emotions of the characters within the stories.

By learning about emotions and practising regulation strategies we are helping our students to become more emotionally intelligent and more able to deal with the big body sensations and emotions that they experience. Emotion Works also makes sure that the pupils are accessing the Scottish Curriculum's 'Mental and Emotional Health and Wellbeing' learning experiences and outcomes.



'In the art room, Emma has been busy learning to use the sewing machine she received for her birthday. Each week she has followed steps to make different items starting with a cushion cover, then

a bag and recently Emma sewed a top for herself to wear from fabric with her favourite character on it. Using the sewing machine takes a lot of co-ordination, concentration and patience and Emma has done brilliantly with her new skills which have also gone toward her SQA in Textiles. Well Done Emma!



IXL - AN ONLINE LITERACY AND NUMERACY RESOURCE

At East Park it is important that we continue to look for ways that not only enhance the learning experiences of our pupils but meet their needs in a fun and nurturing way. This year, class teacher David recognised that his pupils in Willow Class needed to develop their literacy and numeracy activities as a result of their different learning styles and sensory needs. Ideally David felt that the pupils would learn best if they could learn online, keeping in mind the work being appropriate to the curricula levels involved in Curriculum for Excellence and the activities being extremely user friendly. After a period of initial research David, along with his staff team introduced IXL to the pupils over a trial period. This was a great way of learning for Willow Class as the pupils are all motivated by technology and they are comfortable in their use of ICT. The results were fantastic. The pupils are completely engaged in both literacy and numeracy activities and are not only moving through their individual levels but are having lots of fun at the same time. IXL is able to provide not only literacy and numeracy activities from early level to fourth level, but provides teachers and key workers with analytical progression information, which identifies strengths, weaknesses and areas that might need development. It also provides some very nice certificates for learners as they continue to make progress (a firm favourite with our pupils!). As this is an online resource it is possible to conduct these lessons on smart TVs, laptops, computers, and iPads which allows our pupils to engage in learning in any environment that is comfortable and suits their needs. As we have all been affected in many ways over the past year it gives David great pleasure to see not only the commitment by both staff and pupils but the creativity and enthusiasm that help make sure there is still learning and achievement going on during a pandemic.





From The Young People at East Park

*The lockdown has been hard and strange
 Coping with every unexpected change
 At times it's felt a little too much
 And we've all missed our family's touch
 Our activities had stopped or closed
 And each month more new questions posed
 But for all the uncertainty while we're trapped
 We've been creative and had to adapt
 We've watched our staff sanitising our rooms
 While organising facetimes, calls and zooms
 Trying to make our days a joy to live
 Considering every possible alternative
 Don't worry all you dads and mums
 We've found other ways to find our fun
 And even though sometimes it feels dark
 We're still shining brightly at East Park
 We've managed through the wind and rain
 And endured all the inconvenient pain
 We still had sunny days you know
 And now we're playing in the snow
 It won't be long before we can plan
 To hug each grandad and each gran
 And all our brothers and sisters too
 We look forward to seeing all of you*



Some of our favourite lockdown activities

We loved when the snow fell really heavily at our houses!

Snow much fun!



We are delighted to be back at school and are able to see our friends again!

SCHOOL



Hot Air Balloons

Staff have been getting creative in houses to brighten up dull areas!



CHEESE!



Workmates

We are over the moon that Workmates have been able to start again after lockdown, we missed them so much!



Happy Halloween



World Book Day



Canoeing on the canal



eastparkpatter 

Outdoor Learning!



BIRTHDAYS!



We have enjoyed celebrating birthdays, we have even dressed up in party clothes for some lockdown birthday parties!

Emma's Dress

Emma has a passion for fashion design and has been drawing designs of her own dresses. A massive thank you to Stephanie's Closet who donated her time to use Emma's materials to make her dream dress come true!





Fundraising & Communications



Check out our new signage at our main site – we hope you love it as much as we do!



A CHRISTMAS LIKE NO OTHER

Despite us being in the middle of a pandemic, our children and young people had an amazing Christmas. It was different compared to any other year, but we embraced the change and worked as an organisation to provide as magical a Christmas as ever. A massive thank you has to go to everyone who donated, bought Christmas cards, bought our fundraising materials and

sent us your good wishes. Our children, families and staff hugely appreciate it.

A special mention goes to the following: Boveda Hair & Beauty, Caddy's Ices, Chris' Ices, Glasgow Spirit of Christmas, High School of Glasgow, Morrisons Partick, Nationwide Building Society Anniesland, Waitrose Byres Road and Yoker Evangelic Church!
#EastParkisGrateful



Mo problem



For the month of November, five of our wonderful supporters decided to take part in the Movember challenge for East Park. For those who are not aware of this challenge, it is a challenge where these men had to grow a moustache for the whole month of November. For five men who are usually fashion conscious, this was a hard (and embarrassing!) challenge for them. For them though, knowing East Park and the work that we do, they knew

it was worth all of the teasing and giggles that was to come from their family and friends. The boys raised an impressive £2,404.88 which has enabled us to purchase a swing and an adapted bike for our school garden. A massive thank you and well done to team 'Mo Problem' and to everyone who sponsored them!
#EastParkisGrateful



Some Light in a Dark Year



In November we were lucky enough, thanks to Itison Glasgow, that we were able to attend the GlasGLOW outdoor event that took place in the Botanic Gardens. Our children were mesmerised by the different types of lights and bubble machines and loved the

Marshmallow land! We were so excited to see the pumpkins that we carved in the pumpkin patch too! Thank you very much to Lisa and her team at Itison for allowing us to attend!

#EastParkisGrateful



Happy for us to keep in touch?

East Park would love to continue to share the achievements and learning of our children and young people by sending you our quarterly East Park Patter. However, if you would rather not receive this newsletter please complete this tear off slip and return to **Fundraising, East Park, 1092 Maryhill Road, Glasgow, G20 9TD.**

I would **not** like to receive the East Park Patter anymore

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