



# Newsletter

## Autumn Term 2022

What a term it has been for school trips. This term at Quorn Hall School, pupils have been on many fun trips where they have been developing their social skills and confidence in the community. Some of the exciting trip that have taken place include fishing, Jump Giants, Purple Badger Lake, plus many more. All pupils across the school also enjoyed a trip to the National Space Centre, arranged by the Science department.

In terms of the curriculum we have been working on embedding our reading and writing programme in order to help pupils develop a love for reading but also an understanding of the mechanics behind it.

We also held a maths drop down day where an outside company came into school and do some problem solving. This was set out like an escape room and pupils had to work as a team to solve the maths puzzle. This was well attended by pupils across all Key Stages.

This term, pupils sat their functional skills exams and some of our Year 11 pupils delivered presentations for the first time ever as part of their English speaking exam. We are very proud of you all.

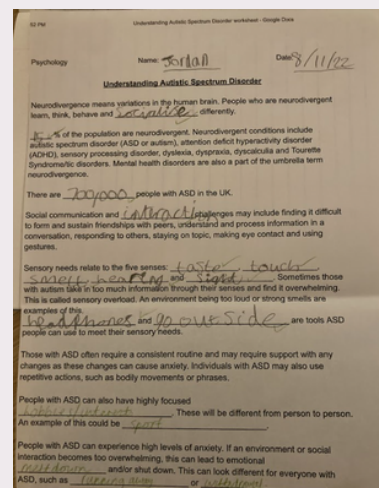
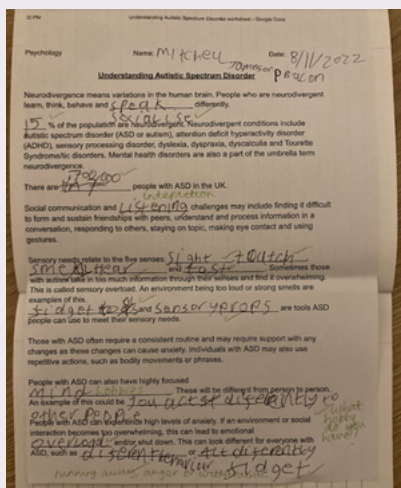
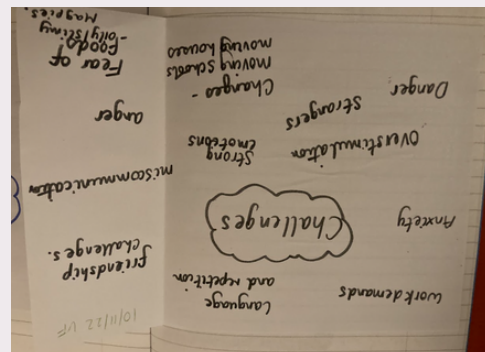
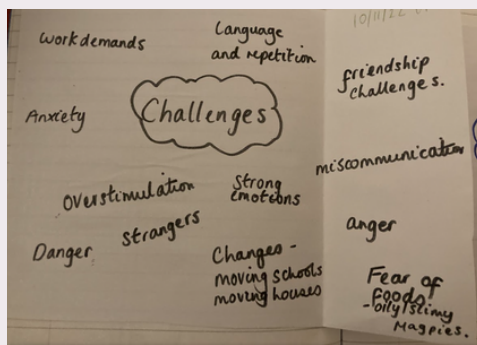
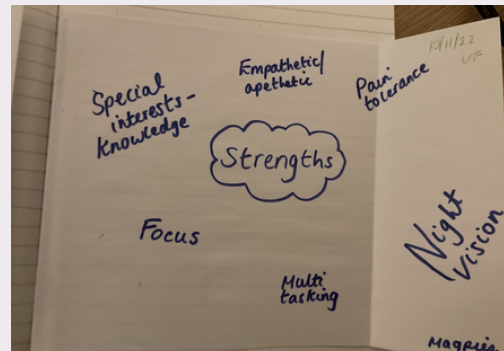
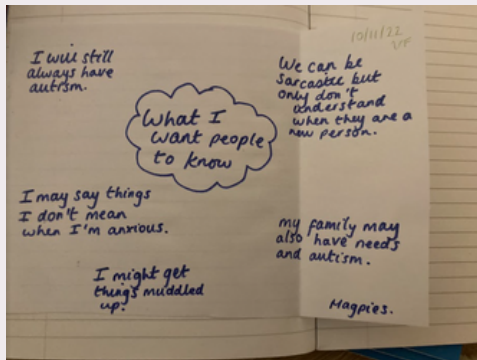
We would like to thank all parents who attended the Progress Review evenings.

Many parents attended either in person or virtually. During the evening we hosted a Christmas craft fair where the pupils sold homemade crafts in order to raise money for a Local Animal Sanctuary.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a peaceful and restful Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year.

# Psychology

In Psychology this half-term, we have been looking at neurodivergence, defined as 'brain differences' or 'brain variations'. Students have learned about various conditions, including Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Tourette's Syndrome and Mutism. Students have talked about their own experiences of their neurodivergence and reflected upon their own strengths, challenges and what they would like neurotypical people to know about their conditions. Students have seen that there are many inspiring celebrity role models with neurodivergence, in addition to some staff at Quorn Hall School sharing their own experiences about challenges in education they have overcome.



# Art and Design

We have been very busy this term as groups begin to settle into the curriculum and work on developing and learning new skills in art and design.



We have had a number of themed activities this term with both Halloween and Bonfire night. Our Stables students enjoyed creating pumpkins using halved apples and cartoon spiders using toilet rolls!! The Toucan and Emus used forks and acrylic paint to create an abstract firework display. The students were able to choose their own colours and patterns.



We have been focusing on a space theme this term with Cygnets. They have designed and are beginning to create rockets out of cardboard. They can be seen here painting their own planet design using watercolour paints. All of the planets were unique



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# Art and Design

KS3 have been developing their skills using a range of art materials and equipment. This term we are focusing on abstract artists and learning about their methods of working. First we have focused on Wassily Kandinsky and his use of shape and colour. The Toucan and Emu group have been creating Kandinsky inspired trees using oil pastels



Flamingos have made a start on creating their artwork and sculptures inspired by Niki de Saint Phalle. They have each created their own design and are creating using a variety of materials. Braydon can be seen creating the trunk to his snake tree using cardboard and mod-roc. Jordan and Mitchell have used templates to create a cube out of cardboard that will form part of their sculpture.

In our wellbeing art group we have been preparing for our Christmas craft fair. We have made Christmas cards by quilling designs. Students tried their hand at creating earrings out of polymer clay. All were able to create a unique design. We have also been working on creating the perfect mince pie in our cooking room - we think we may have cracked it!

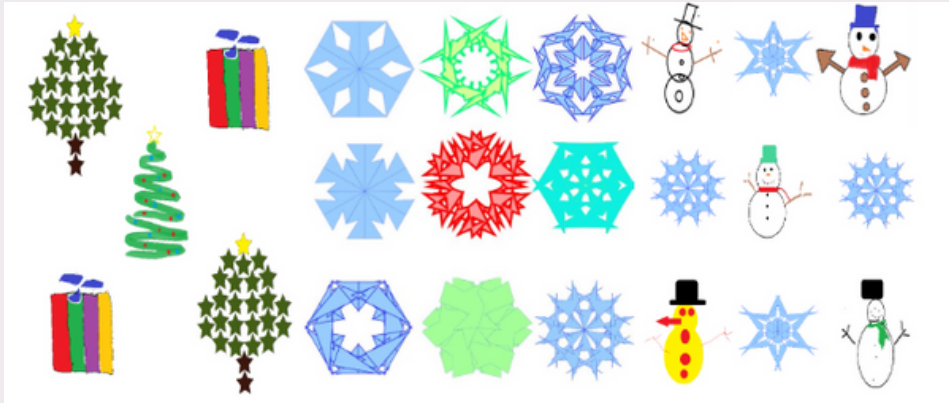


Finally and most importantly, we have moved into our brand new art room. This will offer more space and great natural lighting for our art and design classes. We have started with a blank canvas but looking forward to adding life and colour with the students as the year progresses.



# Computing

At the start of the half term students were all invited to help create some images for cards to be sold at the Winter Crafts Fair during parents evening. We used a range of digital art programs for this and students enjoyed practicing their skills.



During the rest of the half term; some KS3 classes have been exploring computer systems, looking at inputs and outputs and designing their own digital devices. KS4 are working on spreadsheet formulas and graphs as they continue to prepare for their Functional Skills exams. Ask them what a formula always starts with! The Magpies group have been exploring photo editing skills and begun exploring the features and functions of cameras. Look out for some great photos from them in the future.

# English



A huge well done to the Flamingos class for their hard work this half term. The students in the class have been working on their GCSE Spoken Language Assessment. The topics that have been chosen range from the history of clogs, to the paranormal, racism in society and mediaeval history. All of the presentations have been fascinating and very informative. It is not easy to speak in front of an audience, but the students in the class have shown confidence and resilience during this project.

# Science

We have had another busy half term in the Science Department. The highlight has been our trip to the National Space Centre in Leicester. All students in KS2, KS3 and KS4 that study science had the opportunity to visit the Space Centre and learn about what it is like to be an astronaut in the world's largest planetarium. We also had the opportunity to drive a model rover on a recreation of planet mars and fire water rockets next to a real rocket!



Our gardening club has also achieved Level 1 in the RHS School gardening programme and we are currently applying for our level 2 award. We have learnt about propagating plants this term and are proud to hold our first ever plant sale during the last week of term. All of the plants have been grown using propagation techniques and we are selling a large range of plants from swiss cheese plants to banana trees! This has helped to develop links with other subjects such as numeracy in Maths and literacy in English.

# Dogs Trust



This week we had a visit from the Dogs Trust. We talked about empathy and feelings and students learnt about how dogs communicate with each other and with us - we're going to look out for these signs and behaviours in our own pets and when we next see our school dog, Basil!

Our visitor also emailed to say that the students were a pleasure to work with so well done everyone that took part.



# Magpies

The Magpies really enjoyed the Puzzle Solving Company Maths Escape room, completing the task in just over 20 minutes! They were very good at sharing the space with another form group and did some amazing team work. They liked it so much that they didn't want to leave!





# Cygnets and Penguins

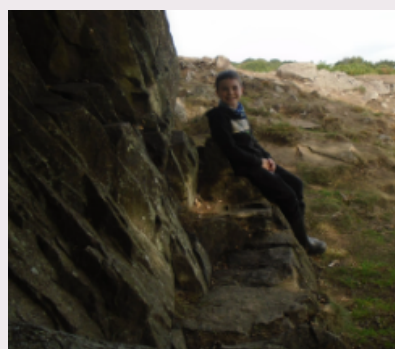
Cygnets and Penguin classes have been visiting Bradgate Park each week to look at the changes as we move from summer into autumn. We have looked at how the trees are changing and observed the deer eating the acorns from the park floor.



We have also spent time exploring and building relationships. We have enjoyed climbing on the rocks, playing in the stream and visiting Lady Jane Grey's house learning how the bricks were taken by the villagers to build their own houses.



We have then used photographs from our visit to complete written work and produce a recount text about our visits. A fun time was had by all.



# Cooking

This month we have been busy making wares for the Winter Fair...



Emus and Toucans worked hard to develop a recipe for delicious shortbread biscuits. They adapted a given recipe to add ingredients to change the flavour and multiply quantities to increase batch sizes. The biscuits were made for the fair by students in the Flamingos class.

Flamingo and Cygnets students worked diligently to mix and package Reindeer food which contains entirely biodegradable ingredients to ensure it is kind to wildlife.



# Cooking

Ravens and Magpie students constructed super cute hot chocolate cones.



In addition to their hard work in the kitchen, students in the Ravens, Emus and Toucans have been planning and adapting recipes to make the best pasta salad. They have explored which pasta shapes work best, tried different dressings and tasted different salad ingredients to add to their dish.

We are very proud of all the students who engaged and tried something new.

Students in the Magpies, Flamingo, Ravens and Toucans classes also enjoyed making chocolate twists. The recipe is super simple and many of the students have asked for a copy

## Chocolate Twists

### Ingredients

- 100 g Puff Pastry ( $\frac{1}{3}$  of a ready roll chilled/frozen packet)
- 30 g Custard
- 25 g semi-sweet Chocolate Chips
- 1tbsp milk



### Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7. Line a baking tray with baking paper.
2. Remove the pastry from the package. Roll out onto a floured surface.
3. With the short width facing towards you, spread the custard over the pastry.
4. Sprinkle over the chocolate chips.
5. Fold the pastry in half and cut into about 3 strips.
6. Take each strip and, holding each end with one hand each, twist around once. Place on a baking tray – a few cm apart.
7. Brush the milk wash over the top.
8. Bake for 20-25 minutes, checking to ensure they don't burn – they should be a deep golden brown.
9. Remove, let cool on a wire rack and I highly recommend eating whilst still warm.



# The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (DofE)

## What is the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award Scheme?



Established in 1956 by the late Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is an internationally recognised award programme for young people between the ages of 13 and 24. Taking place in 144 countries around the world in some format or another and enrolled upon by half a million young people in the UK alone every year, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award provides young people with the opportunity to develop skills such as teamwork, leadership and communication skills, which will help them stand out from the crowd in the future, when applying to jobs and higher education providers.

## What's been going on with D of E this term at Quorn Hall School?



It's been a busy time in DofE sessions this term. Since September students have been taking part in training sessions to equip them with the skills and experience they need to complete their DofE Bronze Award. From learning how to put up tents and to cook with Trangia stoves, to receiving training on how to treat someone in an emergency situation, using first aid techniques, students have learnt a great deal of skills already, which will not only help them to complete their DofE Award but will also hold them in good stead for the future.

## DofE next term and beyond...

Into the next term, students will continue to hone their DofE skills by carrying out sessions on navigation and I look forward to updating you all in the near future about these future exploits.

Brett Franklin  
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme Coordinator.

# Forest School

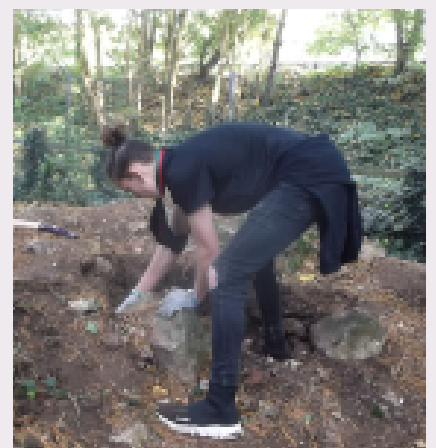
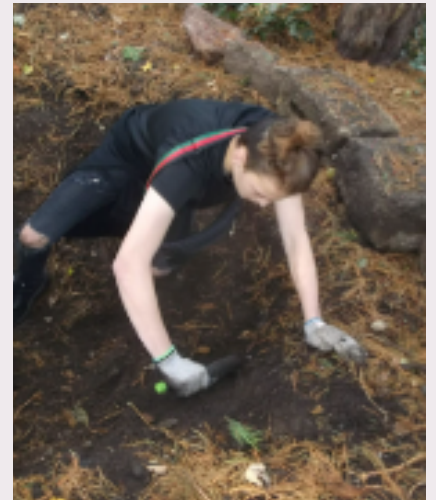
A number of Forest School students have been helping to create a number of log reindeers using the bow saw, craft knife and cordless drill. They sold like hot cakes during the Christmas Charity Fair during the various Key Stage parents evenings.



Sadie worked excellently over several sessions to create herself a log reindeer. These reindeers have also been produced by a number of other students. She was shown how to cut branches into small logs for the body and head of the reindeer. Once completed, she then drilled out 6 holes in the body, using the cordless drill, four for each of the legs, a neck and a tail section and whittled these using a knife to fit them into the holes. She then hammered these in to secure them using a mallet. She then found 2 twigs and drilled 2 small holes into the reindeer's head and served as the antlers of her completed reindeer design.



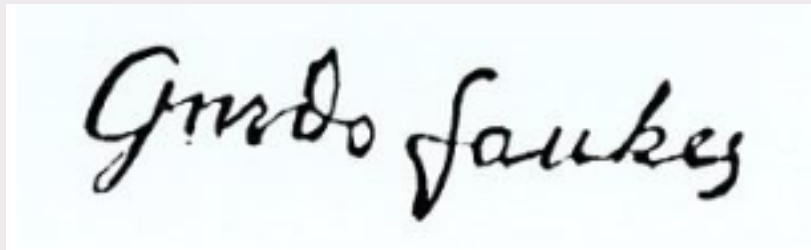
Dylan has been instrumental over the past few weeks in Forest School. He has been digging out the new wildlife pond in preparation for the lining. He has completed the main pond and is currently building the rockery for the introduction of alpine plants. He will also be helping out to create the bog garden complete with plants. Well done Dylan and thank you for all of your hard work and effort.



# Humanities

## It has been a busy first term in Humanities!

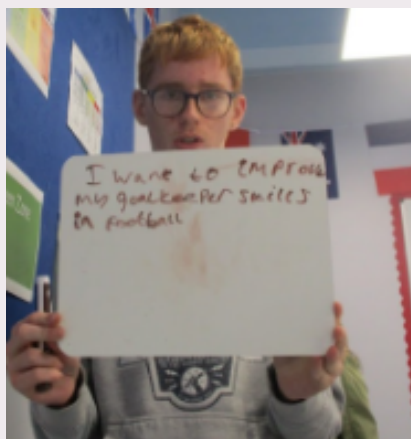
The first term of the 2022/23 academic year has been a busy one in Humanities, with students learning about a variety of different topics. Emus for example, have been learning about the changing nature of criminal punishments within the UK. As part of this study, students have looked at some notable case studies from history, such as the Gunpowder Plot and the criminal punishments that were dished out to its perpetrators, such as Guy Fawkes.



Meanwhile, the Toucans have taken more of a sombre approach, with students learning about the causes and reality of the First World War and the impact that the conflict had on Quorn and the surrounding areas, as part of a study of local history.



Concurrently to this, Flamingos have been completing units on short-term goals and working together as part of a group. As part of their short-term goals topic, the students began by ascertaining what short-term goals are and how and why they are important, before working towards a short-term goal of their choosing, which saw some students spending time focusing on improving their fitness whilst others focused on improving their skill of playing the guitar.





# Humanities

More recently, the Flamingos students have been working towards their working together as part of a group topic, with students visiting a local care home and working as part of a group to provide the residents with tea, coffee and a variety of cakes. The residents and care home were very appreciative and the students were a credit to both themselves and the school.



For Ravens class, the current conflict in Ukraine has been the topic of conversation, with students studying this clash of nations as part of a topic on contemporary conflicts. From looking at the causes of this conflict to its consequences both in Ukraine and further afield, students have gained and will continue to gain a greater understanding of this area.



Magpies meanwhile, have been gaining a greater understanding of protesting. Beginning by looking at what is meant by the term 'protest', students have gone on to study a number of different examples of past protestors, including Martin Luther King Jr., Emmeline Pankhurst and the infamous yet unknown "Tank Man" from the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989.

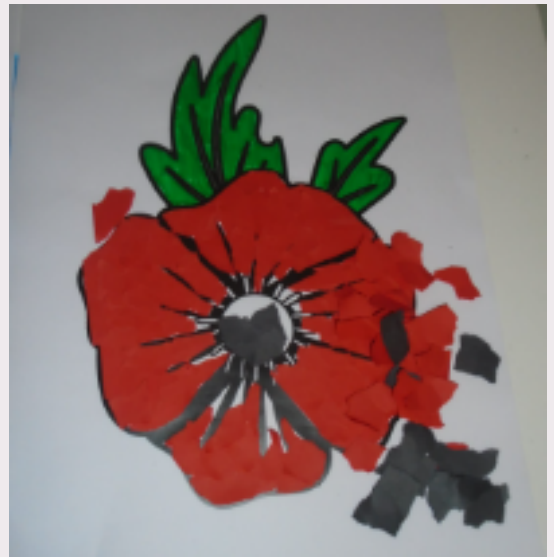


Lots of good learning has already taken place so far this year in Humanities and I am sure that this will continue. I look forward to updating you all in the near future about more fantastic learning by our students.

Brett Franklin  
Humanities Teacher (Subject Lead).

# Remembrance Day

At 11am on Friday 11th November we marked Remembrance Day as a school by gathering on the lawn led by our Humanities teacher, Brett. He gave an explanation of why we take this time to remember and reflect, there was a reading of *In Flanders Fields*, followed by a minute's silence. We had remembrance crosses on display and some students had taken part in further learning about Remembrance Day within their lessons.



# Ravens

The Ravens have been busy since October. We started the half term with a trip to Xtreme Jump Tamworth where all of the students spent the day bouncing themselves to new heights!



As a class, we have really buckled down this term to explore mock exams in preparation for our GCSE years. All of the students have done fantastic work!



The Ravens did a great job in the Maths Escape room using their mathematical skills to crack codes.





# Post 16

This has been an exciting term for the Post 16 students. Each day they have explored their thoughts about their plans for the future and how they can have a positive impact in our society.

Being a sixth form class means that we provide a different timetable. By doing this we are able to prepare these students for their transition into adulthood.

## **The Melton Learning Hub**

Once a week our students are enrolled at various courses at The Melton Learning Hub. This provision offers courses that will help our students on their college applications and encourage them to learn a subject of their choice.

The Post 16 students attend courses such as:

- Entry level 3 award in occupational studies in animal care
- Entry level 3 award in occupational studies in mechanics
- Level 1 award in construction



## **Functional Skills and GCSEs**

Every Tuesday the Post 16 class find themselves at a private all day session at a local library to study for their exams next year.

Without the normal distractions of a school environment, the students are able to focus on their work and make progress throughout the curriculum.

The students are taught by 2 specialist teachers in the subjects of Mathematics and the English language. Students are also supported by their form tutor for 1:1 support when needed.

With the right approach these students have made great changes to their school etiquette and are really positive about achieving their career goals.



# Post 16

## Work Experience

As part of the transition into adulthood, all the Post 16 students are currently in a work experience placement. This allows them to experience a little bit of how the work life works and also enables them to take on extra responsibilities bringing maturity and reward.

### **Red Gate Animal Sanctuary**

Two of our students are attending the farm weekly and able to experience what it is like to provide care for the animals that are rescued and also to enhance their college application even more with the added animal care experience



### **Coalville C.A.N.**

At this facility, one of our students is learning more about street art and different skills in the area of marketing. Interacting with their clients, providing customer service and expanding their portfolio. Also being able to create and let their creativity run freely. They have also created a good working relationship with the team and enjoy their work environment.



### **Peter Le Marchant Trust**

At this amazing company, one of our students has just started their placement in the maintenance department. Helping behind the scenes means that the staff can continue to provide their service for the elderly making sure everything runs smoothly. Our Student is proud of how much everyone benefits from their work and loves the fact that it is such a peaceful place.



# Post 16

## Quorn Football Club

As part of the post 16 group we have a student who attends four days a week at Q.F.C. and Fridays with us from Q.H.S. They take part in football training and other activities at the club. On Fridays we work on their Maths and English functional skills in order to achieve a good grade on their exam next year.



## End of term trip

As a reward for a busy term, the Post 16 students are going on a trip to Ninja Warrior Adventure Park. Students are excited for a day full of fun and to enjoy a session of quality time between students and teachers. We are aiming for relationship building and friendly competitions between the challenges provided by the park.





## Dates for your diary...



### **Key Stage 2 Progress Review Evenings**

Monday 20th March  
2023 @ 3pm  
Tuesday 27th June  
2023 @ 3pm

### **Key Stage 3 Progress Review Evenings**

Wednesday 22nd  
March 2023 @ 3pm  
Monday 26th June  
2023 @ 3pm

### **Key Stage 4 & 5 Progress Review Evenings**

Tuesday 21st March  
2023 @ 3pm  
Wednesday 28th June  
2023 @ 3pm

## PACE Workshop

We are pleased to announce that our Clinical Psychologist, Avivit Dekel will be offering a 3 part online workshop to all parents and carers who are interested in learning about the PACE approach

### **3 virtual sessions covering:**

- Attachment needs
- Trauma and the brain
- Emotional regulation
- The PACE approach

**KS 4 + 5 10:30-12pm**  
Weds 18th Jan 2023  
Weds 1st Feb 2023  
Weds 15th Feb 2023

The PACE approach is part of every day practice at Quorn Hall School and has been found to be very helpful when developing positive relationships, reducing levels of conflict and reducing escalation of difficult behaviours

More details  
coming soon...

