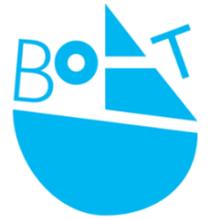


BOAT NEWS



ISSUE 37: SUMMER 2021

**The first BOAT newsletter was published in
July 2009**

Welcome To Our New Look Newsletter

We are delighted with the new format and hope that you will be too. We started the BOAT newsletter in 2009 with the intention to share news, local events and good practice with families of autistic children and young people and practitioners in our schools.

When we started the newsletter the Autism Act had just been passed and had become the country's first disability specific law. Since then we have tried to bring you regular updates on what is happening in the autistic community both nationally and locally.

The last few editions of the newsletter have focused on sharing examples of the home learning that took place during the first and second lockdowns.

We would sincerely like to thank all of the children, parents and professionals who have contributed to the BOAT newsletter since it was founded. We are currently on edition 37, we look forward to continuing to share news and good practice for many more editions.

If you would like to share good practice in your setting / some examples of your child's work or play, please send your information to boat@brent.gov.uk.



Brent Outreach Autism Team

Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ
0208 937 4659 | boat@brent.gov.uk | www.brent.gov.uk/boat

Residential Art Competition

Mark, a local child from a Brent school took part in a residential art competition.

The children were asked to create a piece of how Wembley would look like in 20 years.

Mark was one of the winners and his art piece will be showcased on Wembley High Road for the next three years on the Open Art Gallery.

His parents are very proud of him.



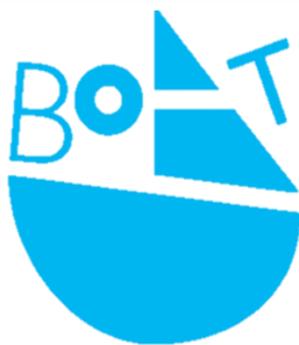
Sharing a Diagnosis

Mikolaj from a local Brent primary school has recently found out that he is on the autism spectrum.

He wanted to share this with a peer so the school SENCO facilitated this for him.

'It was such a pleasure to see him discuss his autism with a peer who has a brother who is also autistic. Mikolaj answered numerous questions about the condition and now has a new friend! We are so proud of Mikolaj for sharing his expertise!'

By School Staff



Welcome to BOAT Zoë

Hello! My name is Zoë Cowan and I am a new member of the BOAT team. I have been a Learning Support Assistant (LSA) in a mainstream school in Barnet for over 10 years, working predominantly with children on the autism spectrum.

During my time as an LSA I developed a strong interest in Special Education, specifically autism and challenging behaviour, which encouraged me to go on to study Special and Inclusive Education at both undergraduate and post graduate levels. Studying while working provided me with a greater understanding of my day-to-day work through my new found theoretical knowledge and supported the expansion of my practical skills. During my studies I conducted two research studies, one into successfully supporting children with Autism in the mainstream classroom and the other identifying links between challenging behaviour and anxiety.

Although I have loved every minute of my work as an LSA, the opportunity to work with BOAT is extremely exciting and I hope to be able to support a greater number of children in this role.

What You Taught Me About My Son

A video update about a young man who wrote the book, 'The reason I Jump'.

'A story of hope following the encounter of a Japanese boy and a British author. Naoki Higashida, a 13-year-old with severe autism, wrote a book of essays called The Reason I Jump in 2007. It reveals the inner heart of a person with autism. This book caught the attention of writer, David Mitchell, who was searching for insight into understanding his own autistic son. Upon reading the Japanese book, David felt that his own son was speaking to him through Naoki's words. In hope to help other families around the world who grapple with autism, David translated Naoki's book, which became an international bestseller translated into over 20 languages. Later, David visited Naoki to learn more about his son.'

This video is another story behind The Reason I Jump and can be found by clicking [What You Taught Me About My Son](#).

Phone Calls

We are always happy to take your call!

If no one is able to take your call right away, please remember to leave a message with your name, the name of your child and the name of the BOAT team member you would like to get in touch with if you know it.

Doing this will help us to get back in touch with you as soon as possible!

Tree of Kindness

We love to see kindness being celebrated!

On a visit into local nursery one of the children we support in BOAT proudly led me to see their name on the settings special tree which celebrates the many different ways children are showing kindness to others at nursery.

It is wonderful to see how this kind of positive reinforcement is resulting in children feeling proud of themselves!

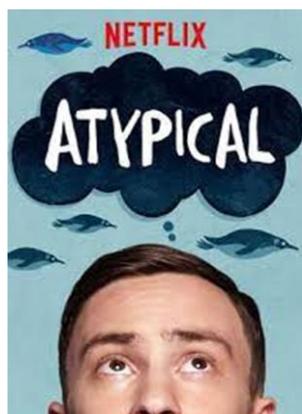
By Bonnie – Autism Outreach Teacher



kooth

Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous space for all children and young people aged 11-25 to receive counselling and mental health support in Brent. Users can speak to a counsellor online, weekdays 12pm to 10pm and on weekends 6pm to 10pm, 365 days a year. On the site, young people can track how they are feeling with a daily journal, speak to a counsellor with no referral or waiting list, and engage with our online mental health community through a variety of tools.

To access free mental health support visit www.Kooth.com.



Atypical Returns

Look out for the new series of Atypical on Netflix. Atypical tells the story of Sam Gardner (Keir Gilchrist), a teenage boy with autism who in this series begins to explore what it might mean to be independent from his family, who are all dealing with their own issues as well as trying to understand the world from his perspective. This will be the fourth and final season of the show.

Holiday Calendar

A holiday calendar can be used to support with transition just like a visual timetable. They can help to give children and young people an understanding of passing time. They can be used throughout the holidays to support the transition to and from school.

Symbols, pictures or photos can be used. You can fill up the calendar with as much or as little detail as you like. You could put in some exciting events such as a trip to the seaside or a picnic in the park.

Start the calendar a few days before the end of term so that your child can anticipate the end of the school year. Your child can cross off the days as they go and this will help them prepare for the return to school.

NAS

The National Autistic Society (NAS) website have shared a page to support parents/carers in preparing for the summer holidays. You can find all information by visiting www.autism.org.uk.

Brent's HAF Programme

Brent Council has received funding from the Department for Education to deliver a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme in 2021, as part of a national scheme. The aim of the programme is to support the physical and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, encouraging them to engage in interactive and fun activities.

The programme will offer free places at holiday provision in the summer holidays in 2021 for school-aged children in Brent (aged 4-16) who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

Holiday provision can also be open to children not eligible for free school meals, but participation may not be funded through the government grant. If you think your child may be eligible to access a free place but they are not in receipt of free school meals, please discuss this with your child's school.

Visit www.brent.gov.uk/haf for bookings.



Holiday Activities

Brent's SEND Local Offer

The Brent Council website has a section specifically to advertise, share information and advice about activities, groups, resources and signposting specifically for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. You can explore Brent's Local Offer at www.brent.gov.uk/localoffer.

50 things to do before you're 11 ¾

The National Trust have developed an activity list called '50 things to do before you're 11¾'. This list is full of fun and free activity ideas which can be done in your garden, local park or woodlands. This list is ideal for children who enjoy the outdoors. Activities range from rolling down a really big hill and snail racing to hunting for fossils and camping. Check out all 50 activities by visiting www.nationaltrust.org.uk.

Natural History Museum

Dawnosaurus is an event for children with neurodiverse conditions to enjoy with their family, free from the hustle and bustle of the general public. Find out more by visiting www.nhm.ac.uk.

London Transport Museum

For families with Special Educational Needs, the museum holds special days. Enjoy the Museum at a quieter time and with many of the gallery sounds turned off. Explore their holiday activities and get hands-on with genuine parts of transport history. Visit www.ltmuseum.co.uk for more information.

Brent's SEND Local Offer

Did you know that on the Brent Council's website there is a section specifically to advertise, share information and advice about activities, groups, resources and signposting specifically for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities? We feel this is such an important tool for parents / carers to access that we have a link to Brent's Local Offer at the bottom of all our BOAT emails so you can always find it there too.

You can explore Brent's Local Offer at www.brent.gov.uk/localoffer

Find the latest guidance, updates and resources on coronavirus for autistic people, their families and professionals. Plus much more!



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