

Childcare & Teaching Newsletter

January 2022



Leadership team thoughts

Happy New year from the leadership team!

We are looking forward to a bright new year and continuing to work with you all to support your learning journey. It's great to see the high level of engagement throughout the winter so far, and the ongoing commitment, focus and success of all our learners and employers.

Have you secured your place onto the latest sessions?

These live virtual sessions are delivered by a team of expert trainers, to provide apprentices with knowledge in specific areas that bring live examples to learners, and also give learners a chance to talk and exchange best practice amongst other apprentices across the country.

If you haven't already, check out the upcoming course schedule on the Learning Hub, or speak to your Skills Coach and sign up! They are FREE and part of your programme, and will give you credit progress towards your qualification.

Functional Skills - Maths

- Session 1 - Number - 3rd, 31st Jan
- Session 2 - Calculation Confidence - 4th Jan, 1st Feb
- Session 3 - Fractions, Decimals & Percentages - 6th Jan, 3rd Feb
- Session 4 - Area, Perimeter & Volume - 10th Jan, 7th Feb
- Session 5 - Ratio & Proportion - 11th Jan, 8th Feb
- Session 6 - Formulas - 13th Jan, 10th Feb
- Session 7 - Probability - 17th Jan, 14th Feb
- Session 8 - Conversions - 18th Jan, 14th Feb
- Session 9 - Averages - 20th Jan, 16th Feb
- Session 10 - Graphics & Statistics - 24th Jan, 27th Feb
- Session 12 - Preparing for your Non Calculator Test - 25th Jan, 22nd Feb
- Session 13 - Preparing for your Calculator Test - 27th Jan, 24th Feb

Functional Skills - English

- Session 1 - Reading - Text Types & Features - 3rd, 17th, 31st Jan
- Session 2 - Styles of Texts - 4th, 18th Jan, 1st Feb
- Session 3 - Comparing Texts - 6th, 19th Jan, 3rd Feb
- Session 4 - Preparing for your Reading Test - 10th, 24th Jan, 7th Feb
- Session 5 - Punctuation, Spelling and Grammar - 11th, 25th, Jan, 8th Feb
- Session 6 - Preparing for your Writing Test - 13th, 27th Jan, 10th Feb



Be vigilant

If you are concerned about a neighbour or vulnerable person, please report this to your local safeguarding team or email us on safeguardingreporting@gpstrategies.com.

TikTok

Parents are being warned about their children filming TikTok videos in the playground. Schools are warning that a rise in dangerous trends such as 'slap the teacher' could lead to children facing expulsion. Other videos shared in recent weeks have been reported to be encouraging children to vandalise school bathrooms and attack teachers on camera.

Prevent & Radicalisation

We heard reports in December that counter-terror police are warning all parents to be vigilant as figures show a rise in the number of children being arrested for far-right terrorism offences. Police say lockdown created a "perfect storm" for teenagers to become radicalised by the far right. They describe an increase in the number of children being arrested as "extremely concerning", adding that "the age range is getting younger".

Detective Superintendent Vicky Washington, Counter Terrorism Policing's national co-ordinator for Prevent told Sky News: "We have seen a rise, certainly in the last 12 months, due to the COVID-19 situation. She adds her message to parents is: "I would say it could happen to your child. There's no one particular type of child this could happen to so I would ask all parents to be vigilant."

For the first time Prevent, the government's counter-terrorism programme, has had more referrals linked to far-right extremism than Islamist extremism.

Some Statistics:

- In the year ending 30 June 2021, children under the age of 18 made up 13% of all terrorism arrests, up from just 5% the previous year.
- Of the 24 children arrested in that year, 19 were suspected of offences linked to far-right terrorism.

Congratulations

Well done to all of our apprentices who successfully achieved their qualification during December! Your dedication continues to inspire our staff to deliver the highest quality apprenticeship programmes.



Key dates and events

Winnie the Pooh Day - 18th January

On 18th January, it's National Winnie-the-Pooh Day in the United Kingdom - a day that celebrates the bear and the author of the Winnie-the-Pooh stories, A. A. Milne.

Originally, Winnie the Pooh was created by A. A. Milne as a story incorporating his son's teddy bear. His son, Christopher Robin Milne, was used as the central basis for Christopher Robin in the books. The rest of his son's stuffed animals became the basis for many of the other characters in the book including Tigger, Piglet, Eeyore, Kanga and Roo.

Some fun facts:

- The name Winnie the Pooh was a combination that came from a black bear named Winnie and a swan named Pooh. Christopher Milne and his father would visit the bear at London Zoo. They encountered the swan while on vacation.
- The other characters in the Winnie the Pooh franchise were inspired by Christopher Milne's toys as well as Milne's stuffed donkey inspired Eeyore, his stuffed pig, Piglet, and his stuffed tiger, Tigger.
- Christopher Robin (2018) is the latest in the Winnie the Pooh series. It follows Christopher Robin Milne as a family man all grown up. He receives a visit from his childhood friend Pooh. Together they embark on a journey to find Pooh's friends.

Events and things to do:

- Watch the animated series Winnie the Pooh. There are also several movies that feature the lovable yellow bear.
- Read the short stories that started it all. Winnie the Pooh (1926) is the first collection of stories and it is followed by The House at Pooh Corner.
- Visit Disney World in Orlando, Florida to experience Winnie the Pooh's Hundred-Acre Wood. It's a magical experience full of rides and themed characters.



National Pie Day – 23rd January

National Pie Day seeks to promote the sweet and savoury pastries. Pie is a baked dish made from pastry dough, and can be filled with fruits or meats and comes in a variety of sizes. Pies are often distinguished by their crusts which can define how the pie will be filled.

National Pie Day was first observed in the mid-1970s when Charlie Papazian declared his own birthday to be National Pie Day. Today, pie is enjoyed all around the world with different types and flavours depending on region. The American Pie Council even organises an annual National Pie Championship for amateur and professional pie makers!

Did you know?

The phrase, as easy as pie, has been in the English language since the 19th century. It was first published in 1855 by Garrett and Company. At the time, the phrase used was, as nice as pie, but it was later changed to the more renowned - as easy as pie.



You can find some more events and celebrations here:
<https://www.wincalendar.com/Calendar-UK/January-2022>

Mental health awareness

Every Mind Matters is the national platform for good mental health, from Public Health England. It aims to make it easier for everyone to look after their own wellbeing and improve their mental health, by providing a digital hub full of advice, tips and resources and a new online tool to help everyone create their own action plan. See www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters for more details.

Our **Mental Health First Aiders** are here to discuss any concerns you have in confidence. If you need any further advice and guidance, please contact your skills coach who will signpost you to the relevant organisations who can provide the relevant support.

Support information

Our team is on hand to answer any questions or queries you have – to find out more about us visit our website <https://www.gpstl-apprenticeships.co.uk/about-us/faqs.shtml>.