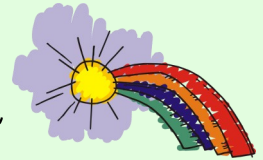




# UNITY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



Part of Student Support at Biddick School Sports College

## Happy New Year

Issue 12

6th January 2012

We hope that you have all enjoyed the Christmas break. At the Unity Centre we are all looking forward to the new challenges and opportunities that 2012 will bring.

The students have settled back into their routines and all seem to be coping well with the change of key worker.



### Dates for your calendar:

#### 18th January - Sibling Group

6pm—8 pm

Living with a brother or sister with autism can be tricky at times and siblings are often in need of support too. This group aims to provide an informal opportunity to meet other children in similar circumstances and to generally

chill out and have fun. Staff will be available to supervise and to offer support and information if required.

Younger children will have the opportunity to play with the toys and games (parents are welcome to stay) and older children may prefer to chat or to use the x box or Wii.

#### Dad and Male Carer Group

25th January 2012

6 - 7pm

Some time and support for dads and other male family members or carers.

Both groups will take place at Biddick School Sports College



## Autism Friendly Cinema Screening - Puss in Boots, Gateshead Metro Centre

Feline favourite Puss in Boots (2D, U) is Dimensions next Autism Friendly Film Screening.

Watch at the Metro Centre Odeon Cinema on Sunday 15th January at 11:30am. Cinema tickets can be purchased as normal from the cinema box office or online from Wednesday January 11th.

Support workers / carers can attend for free with a CEA card. to find out more about the CEA card scheme and how to get one please visit [www.ceacard.co.uk](http://www.ceacard.co.uk).

### What makes the screenings autism friendly?

- The lights will be on low
- The volume will be turned down
- There will be no trailers at the beginning of the film
- You'll be able to take your own food and drinks
- You'll be able to move around the cinema if you like.

Dimensions is a leading provider of specialist support for people with learning disabilities and those who experience autism. To find out more, please visit [www.dimensions-uk.org](http://www.dimensions-uk.org).

## National Autistic Society—Great North Museum

The Newcastle Autism Resource Centre invites you to  
The Great North Hancock Museum  
Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4PT  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 17:30-20:00.



The Great North Hancock Museum has kindly offered exclusive access to their fabulous exhibitions, including an interactive model of Hadrian's Wall, their major new displays showing the wonder and diversity of the animal and plant kingdoms, spectacular objects from the Ancient Greeks and mummies from Ancient Egypt, a planetarium and a life-size T-Rex dinosaur skeleton.

To gain access you have to be signed in by a member of the NAS team who will be in the main reception of the museum from 17:30.



## Learning in the Unity Centre this week...

In Mr Jackson 's English and Opening Minds lessons, Emma, Callum, Sean and Connor have began a Harry Potter topic.

In Mrs Sehna 's English lessons, Connor and Sean have began reading 'Sam 's Spitfire Summer ' and have been learning the rules about adding 'ing ' to a word— "drop the ' e ' and add 'ing ' " .

In Mr Thompson 's Maths class, Connor has began to learn about algebra and in Mr Houghton and Mrs Sehna 's Maths lessons the group have been counting the cars in the car park, making a tally chart and using the information to create a bar chart.

In Mrs Gardner 's science class Emma, Sean, Callum and Connor have started a new topic and will be carrying out some experiments on acid and alkalis. They enjoyed the demonstration experiment where Mrs Gardner showed us how to use Universal Indicator to discover whether something is acid or alkali.

In Mr Dunston 's Music lessons, students have been learning what elements make up music—the tempo, texture ( thick / thin ) , dynamics ( loud / soft ) , silence, pitch ( high—low ) , timbre ( different sounds )

## New Student



The Unity Centre are delighted to welcome a new student to our school family. Courtney is in Year 8 and Miss Marshall will be her key worker. We hope Courtney will soon settle in and feel at home at Biddick School.

### *Reminder:*

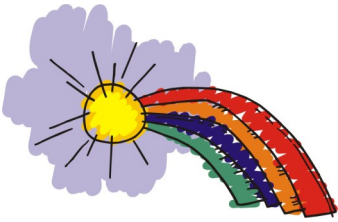
*the SPARK exercise programme starts on Monday so could all students come to school in their PE kits please—MONDAYs, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS*

*Students are also allowed to bring a snack from home for break time or breakfast if they wish to do so.*



## Unity Centre

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Part of Student Support at Biddick  
School

## PUPIL OF THE WEEK: SEAN CURRY



*Sean has coped well with the change of key worker and returned to school with a positive attitude, good behaviour and attention levels. Sean has made a good effort in the majority of this week's lessons.*

Well done Sean



## Christmas Crafts

