

A Place To Call Our Own Autumn Term Newsletter



Welcome to our Autumn/Winter newsletter.

Well what a fantastic Autumn and run up to Christmas we are having. The young people are happy and engaged with their exciting seasonal projects.

As a parent we also want you to feel a part of the APTCOO team. We are planning informal 'welcome into our school' sessions throughout the year. Please keep a look out for your personal invitation.



Facebook QR Code



Facebook:

For information regarding after school activities, parent/carer support and much more please follow our Facebook page.

For ease use the QR code displayed.

Instructions:

- 1: use your phone camera to hover over the QR code
- 2: a frame will appear around the QR code
- 3: click on the frame to open up the Facebook page
- 4: click the follow button



Welcome



This term APTCOO has welcomed new staff members.

Andy has experience teaching both Pre and Post 16 learners on a number of career pathways. He is excited to share his knowledge of vocational qualifications with APTCOO in order to develop and expand our existing offer.

Emma has a background in teaching in alternative provision and has just begun studying for her Doctorate in Special Education. Emma has already shared "that the magic of APTCOO is forming the direction of her studies".

Rich: Is a level 3 Forest School Practitioner and keen horticulturalist. He has previously worked as a park ranger and is working collaboratively on a project plan for our grounds with the support of our young people.

Dan: comes to APTCOO having previously worked in Alternative Provision and brings with him his knowledge and passion for supporting Pre and Post 16 learners. Dan has an interest in expressive art and photography, coaching and mentoring and is also qualified in sports leadership and is a rugby coach.

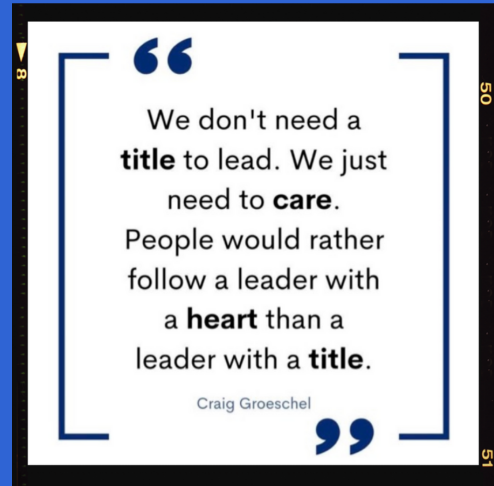
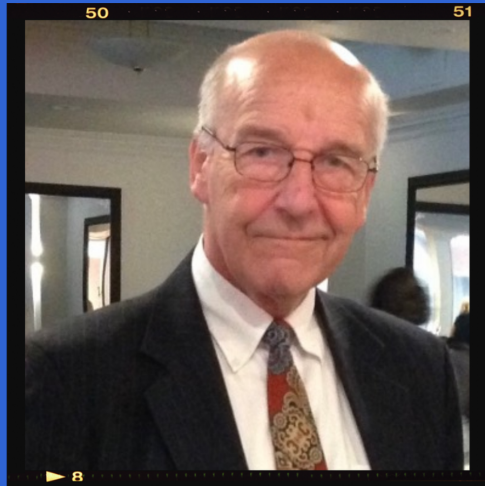
Christmas Enterprise

Just a reminder that again this year our young people are well underway with creating some unique Christmas crafts. These are created as part of their Christmas project based learning and all proceeds go back into the APTCOO charity. These hand crafted products will soon be available to purchase.



CEO Note

During the Autumn term we have a number of changes at APTCOO



DAVID LIGGINS

Our wonderful Chairman David Liggins sadly passed away in September he will be remembered.

David became APTCOO's Chairman in 2015, giving generously of his time, skills and expertise throughout.

David was highly respected, brave and courageous he gave full commitment to any task, he enjoyed meeting the children, parents and the team. He brought an open and enterprising approach to his role as Chairman of the Charity.

David enjoyed enterprise encouraging and supporting ambitious plans, not least becoming an Independent Special School, looking towards the future and sustainability of the Charity – to build a better future, striving for equality, respect and value.

David has left a wonderful enduring legacy for many families children and young people, the team at APTCOO together with the wider community who benefit from "A Place To Call Our Own".

David's philosophical approach to life in general was intended to make the community more resilient, happier, compassionate and wiser as a result, better informed.

I am pleased to inform you that for our long serving volunteer and Trustee Matt Abdy has agreed to take up the position as Chairman. Matt will continue to provide seamless and professional support at what is a critical time for all charities who are coping with the post covid and facing the cost of living crisis. Matt brings a wealth of experience, his passion is to see our young people develop to their full potential with personalised opportunities for education, training, employment and supported living.

We all said a fond farewell to James Wilson who has now moved onto pastures new after serving over the last two years as the Headteacher of the School. James completed a hand over to Michaela who has agreed to continue with the special head leadership of the school, together with the APTCOO team who are all forging ahead with the continuous development of our specialist provision.



I am delighted to inform you that I am now in the position of special head leadership at APTCOO. I feel incredibly privileged to be able to continue to work in partnership with our parents, carers and also the extended families and friends of our young people.

My transition into the Headteacher role feels like a natural progression. I am fortunate to be supported by an incredibly passionate and experienced team "from top to bottom and bottom up - everyday we find a way".

My role as SENCO and Senior Mental Health Lead for APTCOO remains intrinsic to this new position. I am passionate about improving learning, mental health, and quality of life for children, young people and their families.

As always 'my door is open' so please feel free to contact me.

Michaela



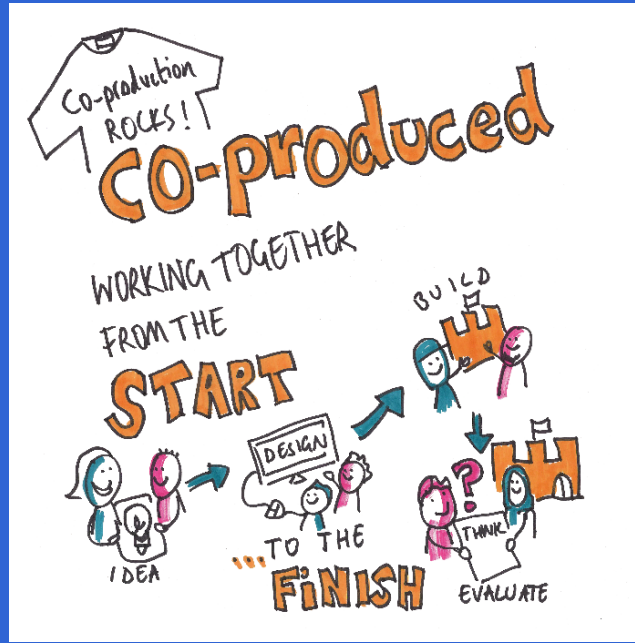
School closes on: Wednesday the 21st of December at 2pm.

We reopen on: Wednesday the 4th of January 2023.

Advance Notice: February Half Term 2023. School closes on Friday the 10th of February and reopens on Monday the 20th of February 2023.

Co-Production Rocks!

The new year is an exciting time for APTCOO we will be revisiting our strategic plans for the charity and the school. We will be sending you an invite to meet the governors and work together to share your voice and shape APTCOO's direction of travel.



Padlet:

For information around keeping our young people safe, including approved teaching & learning resources please visit our parent/carer Padlet page.



For ease use the QR code displayed.

Instructions:

- 1: use your phone camera to hover over the QR code
- 2: a frame will appear around the QR code
- 3: click on the frame to open up the Padlet page
- 4: add this web address to the bookmarks in your web browser

What's NEW?

@ APTCOO...

 Hello
Winter

As we come into the winter months can we please ask you to send your young person into school with the following:

- Warm coat
- Outdoor shoes
- Soft inside shoes/Sliders

Can you please keep us informed of any changes in contact details, dietary changes and any health or medical updates.

Save The Date...

APTCOO Christmas Fair

North Farm House - Buddy.

Come and join us for coffee and mince pies and have the opportunity to buy some of our amazing handmade Christmas Crafts.

Friday the 16th of December
from 12:30pm



Christmas
PARTY

Tuesday the 20th
of December

Christmas Lunch and
Party Day



Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday the 21st
of December

Christmas fun, games
and activities.

Health and Well-Being



COVID Symptoms

The NHS is still recommending that people should look out for classic Covid symptoms:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Lateral Flow testing and Isolation

A positive LFT test result will require a period of self-isolation. A return to school is permitted when two negative test results are recorded.

BREAKING NEWS

You may have noticed that the Strep A (throat infection) is making the news due to its increase in recorded cases and the severity of the illness. More information can be found by using the QR codes below, or by visiting the Healthier Together website: <https://what0-18.nhs.uk/parentscarers/worried-your-child-unwell/scarlet-fever>



Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. By teaching your child how to wash their hands properly with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up, or spreading, infections.

First line communication

To communicate with us quickly and confidentially and when you don't necessarily need to speak to us, we encourage you to use our secure texting service, the number is **07860 027 568**. The text service is particularly useful for recording school absence or to inform us of changes that may help the team in supporting your child.