

VIBE



Issue 14

VIBE Winter 2022

January 2022

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. We hope you had a restful break and we look forward to a happy and healthy 2022.

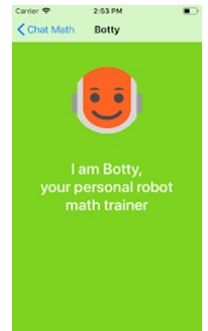
Botty the Maths Robot

This is an app that is available through Apple and has been identified as useful for children and young people with VI.

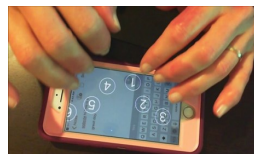
Meet Botty, the first maths robot teacher. He will patiently help your child learn their times tables. The app works as an interactive chat. Botty dialogs with the user and asks them maths facts. The child can choose which times tables they would like to practice. Ideal for children aged 7 to 11.

Features:

- interactive chat
- a patient and always ready teacher
- history of all the games
- training for the 4 operations: addition, multiplication, subtraction, division
- the app does not require an internet connection



Braille Screen Input on the iPhone



Did you know if you own an iPhone or iPad, you can set up a braille input function to allow you to use the screen to input braille? Here is how to do it;

Settings>Accessibility>VoiceOver>Braille>Braille Screen Input

You can then set six-dot or contracted braille as the default.

To view to edit the commands and gestures, you can perform when Braille Screen Input is turned on, go to;

Settings>Accessibility>VoiceOver>Commands>Braille Screen Input

Football opportunity for those with vision impairment



Kent Football Association are delighted to announce the continuation of their new blind/visually impaired project – a B1 football session. This is an opportunity for all those aged 6-18 in the county with a visual impairment to play football in a fun and safe environment.

More information can be found online and to register, go to; <https://www.kentfa.com/news/2021/sep/01/kent-fa-to-launch-new-blindvisually-impaired-project-b1-sessions>

VI Coffee Morning

If you know of any parents or carers that might be interested in an online coffee morning with a focus on **Technology Equipment**.

This takes place on Wednesday 2nd February at 10.30am and normally lasts about 45 minutes. It is facilitated by STLS Sensory Staff and more information and places can be booked through Jennie Russell jrussell@valence.kent.sch.uk

Hallie's Journey

Here is a lovely story to cheer up our January days. Back in July 2021, a wonderful young lady named Hallie who attends Reculver Primary School, appeared on ITV's Love Your Garden with Alan Titchmarsh. Hallie and her family were nominated for the show by Demelza House where she goes for respite care. The ITV Love Your Garden team overhauled Hallie's garden and the whole experience was exciting for everyone involved. Hallie's condition is osteopetrosis and as part of this has a vision impairment. Reculver Primary School has a specialist resource provision for vision impairment and are very proud of Hallie's achievements. More information from the Love Your Garden team can be found at the ITV Hub.



KAB Christmas Bake & Create Session

In December, Jen Bent from KAB ran an online cooking session making cookies and gingerbread houses. Twelve families in total took parts and ages ranged from 5 to 14 along with the adults! Jen says:

“The morning session began at 10.30 where nine families joined. This was the gingerbread cookie session. The session began with lots of talking and excited children all trying to talk at the same time. Some families started weighing their ingredients as we were doing the introductions very eager to get started. In the afternoon, 3 families joined to make a gingerbread house. This session worked well and one boy in particular enjoyed his independence and creating his own masterpiece”.



Training Dates

1st February 2022 Allocation meeting with some training on Appendix 3's. If you are interesting in attending this opportunity, please contact: lbell@valence.kent.sch.uk

All My Own Work

This exciting new programme aimed at students in supporting them towards developing independence, understanding and thinking about the world of work took place last term at Lower Grange Farm with three Year 10 students. They started with a climbing wall session as an ice breaker which was lots of fun. There was a virtual Q&A session with VI mentors provided by LOOK UK so the young people could speak to VI adults who had experience in a range of different areas of employment. There was also an employment skills session with the Thomas Pocklington Trust who spoke about searching and applying for jobs, CVs and interview skills. The course is running again this term and will take place at **Charles Dickens School** in Broadstairs. The dates are:

Monday 24th Jan 10am-2pm

Monday 31st Jan 10am-2pm

Wednesday 9th Feb 10am-2pm

If you know any interested party, please contact Karen Martin at

kmartin@valence.kent.sch.uk

Important

If you have any news or information you would like to share, please contact:

hstickings@valence.kent.sch.uk or lsteere@valence.kent.sch.uk