



NEWSLETTER

A ROUND UP OF THE WEEK AT LAUREL PARK SCHOOL

Headteacher's Message - Adele Christofi

As we wrap up another remarkable term, I'm thrilled to share the vibrant tapestry of events that have coloured our school life this past week. It's been a whirlwind of activities, each one showcasing the spirit and talent that make our school truly special.

Our week kicked off with a series of achievement assemblies across all year groups. It was heartening to see so many of our pupils being celebrated for their hard work and accomplishments. The pride on their faces was a testament to their dedication and the supportive environment we strive to maintain at Laurel Park. The excitement continued as some of our Year 11 pupils attended an audition for Enfield's arts celebrations. We're eagerly awaiting news of their success, fingers crossed!

Tuesday was a day of adventure for many of our pupils. Year 11 embraced the festive spirit with a trip to the Christmas market in Cambridge, while Year 9 took to the ice at Alexandra Palace. Year 10 enjoyed a different perspective of our capital, cruising the Thames and taking in the panoramic views from the London Eye. A big thank you to our Raising Standards Leads for coordinating these enriching experiences and to all the staff who supported the trips.

Midweek brought a touch of theatrical magic as Years 7 and 8 visited the Millfield Theatre for the Christmas pantomime. This not only set the mood for the festive season but also provided valuable exposure to the melodramatic genre, which forms part of their drama curriculum. The festive cheer extended to our staff too, with our end-of-term celebration on Wednesday. Secret Santa, a Christmas quiz, and a staff raffle brought us together in a spirit of camaraderie and joy, reflecting on what has been a truly wonderful term.

Thursday was a day of festivities par excellence. Christmas jumpers brightened our corridors, and Chef Dan and his team outdid themselves, serving a delicious Christmas dinner to 400 pupils. It was a wonderful way to bring our school community together. Year 12 also had their end of year trip bowling whilst a group of year 9s who have been working alongside business mentors had the chance to go and see Hamilton.

The week culminated in our Winter concert, a dazzling showcase of both pupil and staff talents. My heartfelt thanks go to Mr Christofides and Ms O'Flaherty for orchestrating such a magnificent performance.

As we look ahead, please note that we return to school on 6th January 2025. Pupils should be on site by 8:20am, ready to embark on another exciting term of learning and growth.

I wish you all a restful and joyous break. Thank you for your continued support in making Laurel Park School a vibrant and nurturing community.

Ms Christofi
Headteacher



Monday 6th January
Week 1

Christmas Lunch & Jumper

We celebrated our Christmas Lunch on Thursday this week, and the festive spirit was in full swing! An extra-long lunch break meant that everyone enjoyed a delicious roast turkey, accompanied by roast vegetables, stuffing, Yorkshire pudding, and gravy. To top it off, many of us wore our festive jumpers, adding to the cheerful atmosphere. We also had Christmas crackers at each table, bringing a little extra fun and surprise to the meal. A big thank you to Chef Dan for making it all happen and for creating such a wonderful meal! Additionally, a heartfelt thanks to the staff, prefects and everyone who helped make this event a success. Happy Holidays, everyone!



Headteacher's Commendations

We celebrated the Headteacher's Commendations Awards, recognising staff for their outstanding contributions in various areas. A huge thank you to all our staff for their hard work—it truly makes a difference at LPS! Wishing everyone a happy holiday season!

Winter Concert!

We had an incredible winter concert that showcased the amazing talent we have at LPS. The performances were truly breath taking! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to this event. It was fantastic to see our musicians, readers, thespians, and dancers shine on stage.

A huge round of applause goes out to Mr. Christofides and Ms. O'Flaherty for directing, rehearsing, and coordinating this event, along with all the staff who made it possible. What a wonderful way to conclude a fantastic term! Well done and congratulations to all!

SPORTS SUCCESS AT LPS

UNDER 16 BASKETBALL MATCH

On Wednesday, our Under-16 basketball team secured their first win of the season with a commanding performance against St. Ignatius. The boys led from start to finish, showcasing impressive basketball skills and solid defense to achieve a 33-22 victory. Mubarak led the scoring with 11 points, followed by Endri with 6 points, while Qusai, Saleh, and Aymn each contributed 4 points.

YR 7 GIRLS FOOTBALL

Last week, our girls took part in an inter-borough tournament organized by Tottenham Hotspur, marking their first experience playing together as a team. They delivered outstanding performances, defeating Chace Community School and Gladesmore Community School, whilst drawing against Lea Valley school on their way to the final. Their journey included an intense penalty shootout against Gladesmore, with Ines, Paige, and Diane calmly converting their penalties. In the final, they faced a highly skilled Fortismere team and fell short, but their achievement of reaching the final in their debut matches was remarkable. Diane was named Player of the Tournament after scoring an impressive eight goals, while Paige excelled as captain in midfield and added a goal to her tally.

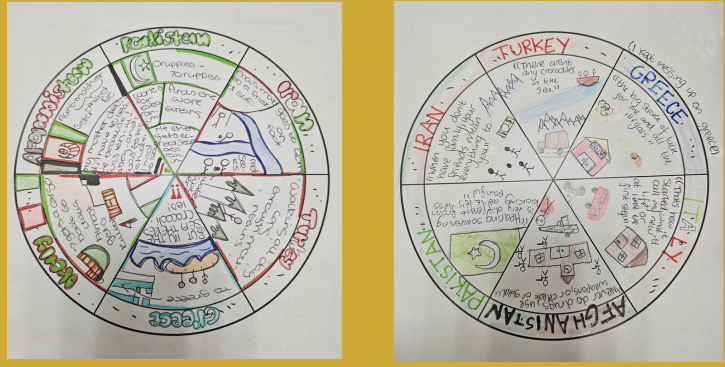
Achievement Assemblies

Well done to all the students! During our recent achievement assembly, we celebrated students hard work and dedication with subject awards that showcased incredible talents. It's inspiring to see how far you've all come. Keep striving for greatness, and remember that every accomplishment is worthy of recognition!

YEAR 7 ENGLISH

We had a great lesson in English today, the students created wheels representing each chapter from the book 'In the sea there are crocodiles' we are currently reading.

The book is about the journey of an afghan boy travelling from Afganistan to Italy for a better life all by himself. Each slice represents something that has happened to him in that country.



YEAR 10 TRIP LONDON EYE AND RIVER BOAT CRUISE

On Tuesday 17th, 110 Year 10 students enjoyed a rewarding trip to Central London, highlighted by a scenic riverboat cruise along the Thames. They saw iconic landmarks such as the Tower of London and the Houses of Parliament, enhancing their understanding of the city's rich history. The adventure continued with breathtaking views from the London Eye, where students spotted Buckingham Palace, St. Paul's Cathedral, and the Shard on a clear winter day. This trip not only celebrated their hard work but also made their classroom lessons come alive, fostering bonding and discovery. Everyone left with cherished memories and a deeper appreciation for London.



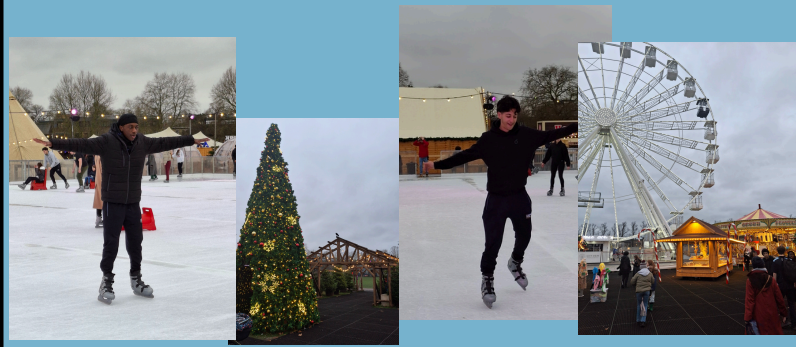
Careers corner

The attention for careers will be switching to Year 9 after the Christmas holiday as they start preparing for the Options process. All students will be looking at their choices in their PSHE lessons next term, linking the choices to possible future careers. They will all receive a 1:1 careers interview with our careers advisor to support them during the term. More details to follow!

A reminder that Year 10 have their work experience from Monday 3rd-Friday 7th March. Students are expected to find their own placement so please use the holidays to start asking friends and family if they are able to support. Once a placement has been secured, students should be completing the placements form on Unifrog, which they will find on their homepage

YEAR 11 TRIP CAMBRIDGE MARKET

Some of our Year 11s shared a beautiful and fun filled day out in Cambridge this week as part of our end of term trip. Students got to experience the Cambridge Christmas Fair, complete with games, a big wheel and Christmas market and a Christmas tree maze! The students were treated to a tour of Cambridge including the Bridge of Sighs and some of the university buildings. The highlight of the day was ice skating with some pretty impressive techniques and improvements! All in all it was a brilliant day experiencing a special city at Christmas



Big Manny - Science



A number of Year 9 and 10 students took part in some filming with scientist Big Manny this week to promote practical science and the role of lab technicians in schools. Big Manny wowed students with the 'screaming jelly baby' experiment. He was then interviewed about his previous role as a lab technician in a school before he started sharing science experiments on social media and became a social media star. We look forward to seeing the finished video in Spring.



Young Writers Winter Wonderland 2025 | Poetry Competition |

Whatever your thoughts about wintertime, write a poem in any style and let us know!
 Winter Wonderland invites 5-18 year-olds to write a poem in any style on the theme of wintertime.
 If budding poets are looking for inspiration here are some ideas:
 Winter celebrations... Diwali, Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year
 Capture the serene and peaceful atmosphere of a snowy Christmas night
 What will be your New Year's resolution?
 Write about nature during this frosty time
 Be inspired by Santa Claus, his reindeer, and the magic of gift-giving at Christmas
 Create a poem about magical creatures like elves, fairies, or talking animals
 Write about the spirit of giving and kindness during Christmas
 Explore winter sports like ice skating, sledding, or skiing in your poem
 Write a poem inspired by the starlit sky on Christmas Eve. You could explore the symbolism of stars and how they guide travellers, representing hope and new beginnings. Why not try connecting the stars to the journey of the Wise Men or create your own celestial narrative.
 Poems can be written or typed, and there is no line or word limit - let creativity and expression flow! Once ready, send your work to Ms Mahmud-Smith via Google Classrooms, or bring them to O12.
 Poems could be published in a special Young Writers Winter Wonderland poetry book. Plus, their favourite poet will also win a prize!
 Closing Date: 3rd Feb 2025



CALLING ALL NATURE-LOVING, GREENFINGERED PUPILS...IT'S WRITING COMPETITION TIME!

Kids Just Recycle is launching a brand-new competition where you could win THE DOME; a 3m x 4m POLYCARBONATE GREENHOUSE and/or a selection of FRUIT, FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEEDS for your school.

How to enter

This amazing competition has been inspired by author and illustrator, Charles Mackesy, who wrote bestselling book 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse'. This wonderful book contains some incredible messages about being kind and brave, helping others and showing resilience.

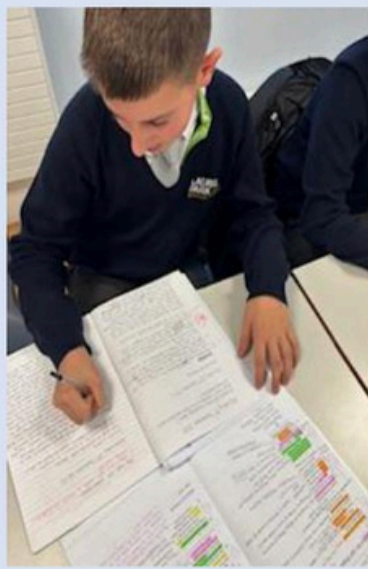
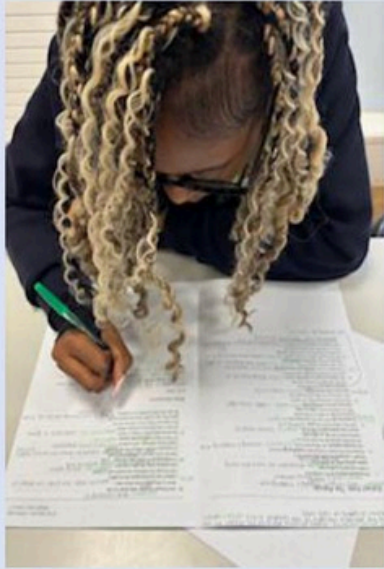
We'd now like to see how you can spread positive messages about nature, our gardens, our insects and our wildlife.

So, get your pens, pads or iPads at the ready and write a poem or piece of descriptive writing filled with positivity and creativity - and don't forget a little illustration to complete your entry. We may even publish a book to include the very best entries! (250 max word count please!)

The deadline for entries is Friday 31st January 2025 and we will announce the winner and runners up on Wednesday 14th February 2025 and share the gardening love!

Please email your entries to competition@kidsjustrecycle.co.uk

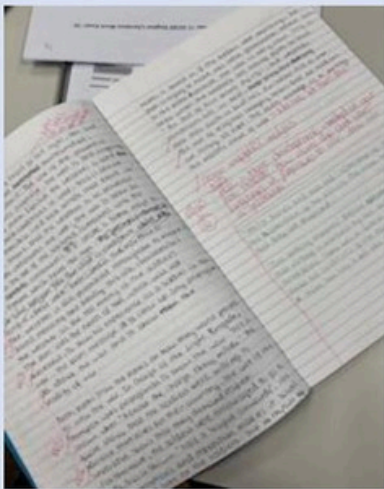
Teaching and Learning **F**OCUS



Teaching the last week of any term pose many challenges for schools. Here at Laurel Park, we teach to the top every lesson including the week before Christmas. Our school ethos reflects this and the work seen this week in lessons show the high expectations we have for our classrooms.

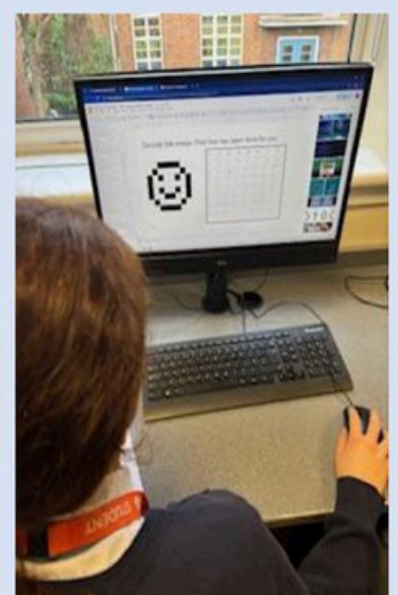
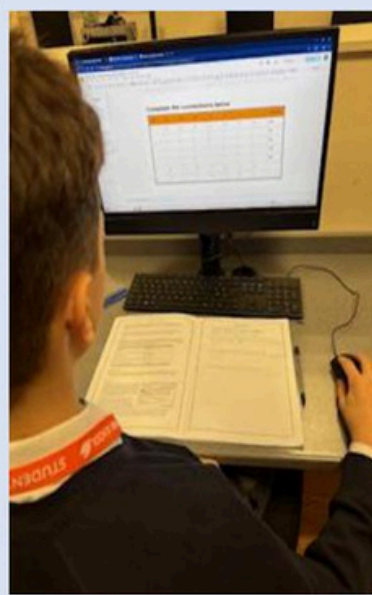
In English, year 11s got feedback from their recent assessment and are working exceptionally hard to ensure they do well in their external exams. Students were also seen annotating their anthology with the guidance and support of Ms Mahmud-Smith.

These year 11s demonstrate what great focus and learning look like in the last week of a busy term.

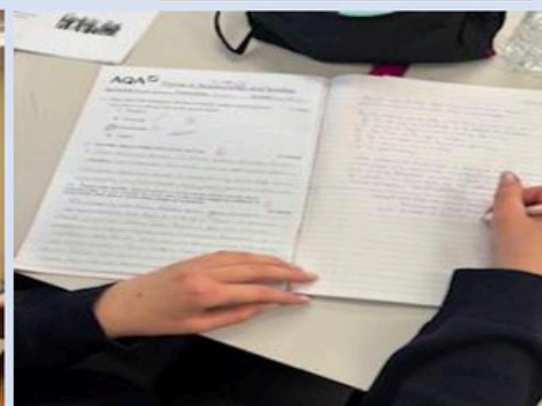
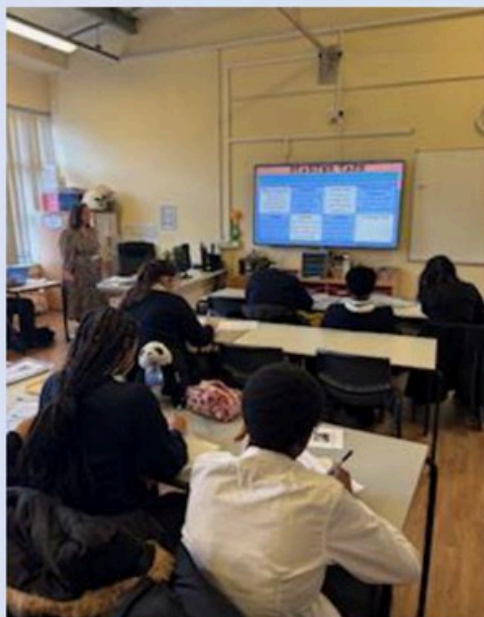


Year 9 Computing students were learning how to decode images with binary numbers, and using the computer to represent all forms of data.

Students used their booklets to plan their work using the numerical representations of 0s and 1s instead of decimal digits.



A great piece of extended writing -y r11



The best evidence indicates that great teaching is the most important lever that schools have to improve pupil outcomes. That is why our teachers in the last week of term have the same level of commitment as they did the first week in September. We support our students and build on previous learning and achievements.

Ms Gray and Ms Barmpanaki above committed to the Laurel Park way of teaching and learning in the last week of term.

Students in RE debated the role of religion in gender equality. There were insightful discussions around how gender equality is seen and taught, and the impact that traditional and religious views have on the issue. Students used their experiential backgrounds to contribute to the lesson; they demonstrated how specific teachings they are familiar with, have challenged or supported gender equality.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING

It's concerning how common it is for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling': trawling through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose, instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.

2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT

It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.

3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS

Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.

4 REDUCE SCREENTIME

Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screentime; they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.

5 FILL THE VOID

Monitoring and reducing screentime can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when made to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screentime, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.

6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS

One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day where they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.

7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD

Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.

8 DIGITAL DETOX

Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of screentime and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.

9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR

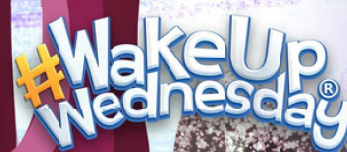
Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screentime reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.

10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"

Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screentime is important. Set out the benefits and ensure they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

Meet Our Expert

John Inley is a senior leader in a Birmingham secondary school and has vast experience in leading schools over the past 15 years – including the development of computing curriculums across primary and secondary schools, writing e-safety policies and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/top-tips-for-safety-on-social-media>



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Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities (SFSC)

Programme for

Parents – Carers in Turkish

SFSC is an inclusive evidence-based parenting programme developed by the Race Equality Foundation and is designed to promote protective factors associated with good parenting and better outcomes for children in all communities.

Enfield has partnered with Minik Kardes to deliver SFSC to Turkish; Kurdish Turkish Cypriot and Bulgarian Turkish parents/carers living in Enfield.

This 13-week course will be delivered in Turkish and includes:

- Different approaches to parenting
- The process of positive discipline
- Childhood characteristics and information on developmental stages
- Importance of identity, culture, and traditions
- Improving parent-child relationship



When?: 9.30-12.30 Every Thursday from 9 January 2025 to 3 April 2025

Who is it for?: Turkish and Kurdish speaking parents of children aged birth to 18 years

Where?: Ponders End Youth and Family Hub 141 South Street Enfield EN3 4PX

Certificates will be given to everyone who completes the course/ Refreshments and light snacks will be provided / Creche is available.

How to Book? : self-referral / Referral from professionals email for referral form

Contact information: For more information, contact Sevil Kotan

Tel: 020 7923 7226 or 07792202108 **E-mail:** s.kotan@minikkardes.org.uk



 @minikkardes





In partnership with

ENFIELD
Council



Aileleri Güçlendirmek, Toplulukları Güçlendirmek (SFSC)

Türkçe Ebeveynlik Kursu

SFSC, ırk eşitliği temelinde geliştirilmiş kanıta dayalı bir ebeveynlik programıdır ve tüm topluluklardaki çocuklar için iyi ebeveynlik ve daha iyi sonuçları teşvik etmek amacıyla tasarlanmıştır.

Enfield, Türk, Kürt Türk Kıbrıslı ve Bulgar Türk ebeveynlerin/koruyucuların yaşadığı Enfield'deki Türkçe SFSC kursunu sunmak için Minik Kardeş ile işbirliği yapmıştır.

Bu 13 haftalık kurs Türkçe olarak sunulacak ve şunları içerecektir:

- Ebeveynlik için farklı yaklaşımlar
- Pozitif disiplin süreci
- Çocukluk özellikleri ve gelişim aşamalarıyla ilgili bilgiler
- Kimlik, kültür ve geleneklerin önemi
- Ebeveyn-çocuk ilişkisinin geliştirilmesi

FREE

Ne Zaman? Perşembeleri 9:30-12:30 9 Ocak- 3 Nisan 2025

Kimler İçin?: 0-18 yaş arası çocukları olan Türkçe ve Kürtçe konuşan ebeveynler

Nerede? Ponders End Youth and Family Hub 141 South Street Enfield EN3 4PX

Kursu tamamlayan herkese sertifikalar verilecektir. Ayrıca, atıştırmalıklar ve içecekler sunulacak, kreş hizmeti de sağlanacaktır.

Nasıl Kayıt Olunur? Kendi kendine kayıt / yönlendirme formu talebi

Contact information: For more information, contact Sevil Kotan

Tel: 020 7923 7226 or 07792202108 **E-mail:** s.kotan@minikkardes.org.uk



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