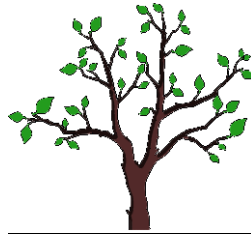


Branches SEND Newsletter



Issue 1 – Spring Term 2019

SEND – your questions answered

SEND stands for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Some children with SEND have a specific diagnosis, eg. Cerebral palsy, ADHD, Down's syndrome, Autism; however many children requiring SEN support will not have any formal diagnosis. There are two levels of support available in schools to children who need it – SEN Support or an EHCP. EHCP stands for Education, Health & Care Plan and these are used for children who need greater levels of support.

If you are concerned about your child, you can speak with their teacher to see if they have noticed any difficulties that your child may be having. You can also make an appointment with the school SENDCo Mrs Quinn, and request an observation of your child.

Schools are required to follow the SEND Code of Practice, which sets out four areas of SEN:

Communicating and interacting – for example, where children have speech, language and communication difficulties which make it difficult for them to make sense of language or to understand how to communicate effectively and appropriately with others.

Cognition and learning – for example, where children learn at a slower pace than others their age, have difficulty in understanding parts of the curriculum, have difficulties with organisation and memory skills, or have a specific difficulty affecting one particular part of their learning performance such as in literacy or numeracy.

Social, emotional and mental health difficulties – for example, where children have difficulty in managing their relationships with other people, are withdrawn, or if they behave in ways that may hinder their and other children's learning or that have an impact on their health and wellbeing.

Sensory and/or physical needs – for example, children with visual and/or hearing impairments, or a physical need that means they must have additional ongoing support and equipment.

Some children may have SEN that covers more than one of these areas.

If you think that your child may have specific difficulties you should make an appointment with your GP, who may refer your child to a specialist who can make a diagnosis. It is best to do this as soon as possible, because some NHS departments have very long waiting lists!

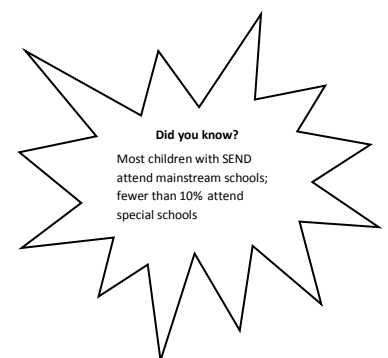
In the meantime, there is plenty of local support available to parents and carers – please see the list of who to contact at the end of this newsletter – and don't forget that you are very welcome to come to our school SEND coffee mornings for an informal chat and for parent to parent support. There is a SEND noticeboard opposite the school office which is updated regularly, so please do check for new information on there too!



The next SEN coffee mornings are:-

Monday 11 March
Friday 26 April
Tuesday 21 May

These coffee mornings are an informal chance to meet and chat to other parents, share information and ideas and find some friendly support. Your child does not need to have a formal diagnosis to attend these meetings! Mrs Forbes, who is working on behalf of Frays Academy to support the school, will also be attending these coffee mornings.



Building Self-Esteem

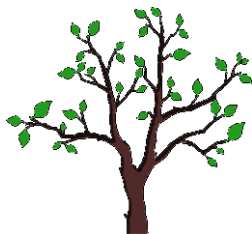
Who am I?

Building Confidence

Support

Friendship

Branches SEND Newsletter



Issue 1 – Spring Term 2019

Overriding Concerns

Mrs Forbes is happy to meet with you by appointment, which can be made through the school office.

Below are some of the services that we offer in school; however referrals through school have to be made in order to access them.

*Speech Therapist – Theraplay – Counsellor –
JAC Outreach - Educational Psychologist –
Chill-out Club – Play Therapist – Nurture Sessions*

Did you know.....

As part of the Local Offer from Wokingham Borough Council they have set up the Children with Additional needs (CAN) Network which is an information and support service for children and young people with additional needs and their families:

Become a member

Joining is free and means you'll be sent a monthly newsletter which gives you information about what's happening locally, activities and consultations.

Families can join if they:

- Live in the Wokingham Borough
- Have a child or young person aged 0 to 25 with additional needs

To become a member complete the application form which can be found on the web site.

Evidence of diagnosis will be needed before they can issue a card.

Children with Additional Need Network Card

Children and young people with a diagnosed condition will also be able to get a Children with Additional Needs Network card. This gives you concessions at lots of attractions in and around Berkshire. Some examples are local cinemas, Bucklebury Farm, Kids n Action, Coral Reef, Loddon Valley Leisure Centre and many more. It's worth showing your child's CAN Card anywhere and everywhere. It may be that they offer a concession but the CAN Network is unaware of it.

This is Me: SEND Parent Workshop - Thursday 14th March at 6.30pm

Would you like to learn how to produce a quick, easy to read summary to help your child get the support they need? Please come along to 'Creating a One Page Profile - a workshop for parents and carers' on Thursday 14th March at 6.30pm! We will help you to create this important document which you can use both in and outside of school to enable anybody who works with your child to quickly understand and support their needs. All materials provided, plus refreshments! Please sign up in the school office

Anxiety Workshop

The next Workshop will take place On Thursday 2nd May at 6.30pm at school. We will write out soon with more details.

Further help and advice:

Wokingham council's information for local families
<http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/local-offer-for-0-25-year-olds-with-additional-needs/>

Wokingham SENDIASS - The Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service provides free, confidential, impartial advice, guidance and support to:

- Parents of children and young people up to the age of 25 with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Parents with initial concerns about their child through to those with an Education, Health and Care Plan.

https://directory.wokingham.gov.uk/kb5/wokingham/directory/service.page?id=V_v5R2e-Qew
Telephone: 0118 908 8233

Email: sendiass@wokingham.gov.uk

Contact – advice and support for families with disabled children - Free SEN helpline: 0808 808 3555

<https://contact.org.uk/advice-and-support/education-learning/extra-support-in-mainstream-schools/>

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