



ST JOHN'S CE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

SENDI NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first edition of the St John's CofE Primary School SENDI newsletter.

Since March, we have all been on quite a roller coaster journey! Unfortunately, this has not yet ended, so schools, as with the rest of society, are having to make major adjustments to every part of school life. This will also impact the way in which SEND pupils needs are met, so we hope that you can trust us in the short term and know that we will continue to meet the needs of your children to the best of our ability.

This first newsletter is to set the scene and give you information as to what we are endeavoring to do in the first few weeks of September.

From September, we will not be conducting any face to face meetings as per Government guidelines, but I am accessible via email (address below). Please be aware that although I will respond to your emails, I am also taking some time out of work to spend with family after this mad few months, so may not reply instantly.

SENDCO EMAIL

jhaigh@st-johns.walsall.sch.uk

Story So Far!

We successfully managed to bring back all year groups for at least 2 days so that the first day back was not so daunting! During this time, your child had the opportunity to...

- Meet their new teacher
- Choose their preferred desk for September
- Experience what classroom social distancing feels like
- Experience lunchtimes and break times
- Have all the information they need for the new term
- Understand and experience drop offs and collections with no parents allowed on the playground

Minor adjustments!

The new teachers were well prepared to receive your child prior to the transition days. Extensive socially distanced conversations were had between the teams and all minor adjustments were discussed including the child's likes, dislikes, triggers, calming down techniques, educational needs etc and this included setting up any designated 'calm' areas to go to and any resourcing required according to need (such as fiddlers, calm down equipment, timelines etc). What worked last academic year will continue, so no surprises!

Education.

Very recently, we have appointed Mrs Coulter as an additional HLTA to work specifically with children with special educational and/or emotional needs. She is a very experienced practitioner (and is a qualified teacher too) who has a wealth of SEN knowledge, both professionally and personally, and is qualified in delivering mental health interventions.

From September, we cannot deliver group interventions unless the children are from the same 'bubble' (no changing classes) so most interventions will be given on a 1:1 basis for now. As guidance changes, we will adjust accordingly. You will have to bear with us during these unprecedented times! Safety has to come first.

September.

During the first few weeks back, our approach will be different in light of the pandemic. Emotional needs will take priority.

- Class teachers will be given time to build a solid relationship with the children. This is vital. They need to feel secure and wanted and understood by their own teacher.
- Any emotional needs will be addressed instantly using specialist staff – none of us know how each individual child will feel coming back to school, even after having the transition days. We understand this and will listen to them/react positively to any behaviours shown.
- Once we feel they are settled, we will then begin 'child friendly' assessments so we have a new starting point for them academically. Some may have progressed very well whilst home learning, some may have had additional challenges and regressed. We understand this and will develop their educational journey based on where they are now!
- We will then be in touch with you to arrange a meeting either through teams, or via phone, or if you prefer, through email. Together, we can discuss the results of the settling in period and we can share any assessments. From these, together we can set targets for the forthcoming term.

We look forward to welcoming
your child back into school!

