



**ST JOHN'S CE**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SENDI NEWSLETTER

Here is the second edition of our newsletter!

As you can imagine, life is very different in school under COVID rules, however, we feel that the children with a special educational need are actually coping very well!

It may be that some like less 'change' in school, so their classroom is now the room where everything happens (we cannot use the hall or music room, or swap classes for different subjects). They also have their own table and chair, so no moving, and they have their own resources, so no sharing of equipment.

Obviously, school trips for stimulus are currently not happening, and we cannot invite visiting artists into school, however, we are trying to make everything as visual as we possibly can to engage and hold interest.

As ever, if you have a concern, my email address is shown below. If I have reason to call you, the call will come up as **No Caller ID** as I am having to use a different office in order to maintain social distancing, and I do not have a telephone line in there. I appreciate that many do not answer calls showing this, so I will endeavor to email you first (give notice) so that you know it is me!  
Thank you.

SENDCO EMAIL  
[jhaigh@st-johns.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:jhaigh@st-johns.walsall.sch.uk)

### Story Since September!

Well done to all our parents with preparing the children to come back to school. We feel it has been a very successful transition, despite the COVID climate.

The Speech and Language Therapy service have resumed their support, however, it is in a very different format. Clinics are not taking place face to face, but we do have a school therapist that is coming into school (in PPE!) to see the children on site. You can imagine that visiting every school in the borough is proving to be a challenge, especially as they cannot visit more than one school per day. Resources all have to be washed down between each child and the children are withdrawn for any assessments. We have been fortunate in that we have already had a visit, and many children were seen, however, I have booked in a further date for the remaining children.

We also buy into the Educational Psychology service and those visits have also started recently under the same regulations as SAL.

### Minor adjustments!

We continue to make minor adjustments to try and make the children more comfortable in school. We have purchased foot pedals for the children who find it difficult to sit still for long, we have purchased additional ear defenders for those with sensory difficulties and we have obtained talking clip boards for recording instructions in lessons where needed. We have also invested in the next stage 'Wellcomm Assessment Tool' so that we can look more closely at language development in our older children. The results of these assessments with further support the targets that we set for the children.

### Education.

Mrs Coulter has hit the ground running in her new SENTA role. We are very lucky to have her as she is also a very experienced qualified teacher and has a wealth of knowledge and strategies up her sleeve! She is working on our interventions, which currently have to be done on a 1:1 basis due to the COVID restrictions.

Last term, you should all have had a conversation, or at least an email regarding your child's Assess Plan Do review (APDR) and had the opportunity to talk about the assessments and targets being worked on in school. These targets will be reviewed and new ones set before we break up for Christmas, so you will be getting another call in December.

### Update.

We have recently employed an additional teaching assistant in school after interviews a few weeks ago. Her name is Miss Burns and she is predominantly working in Years 1 and 2. She has been a welcomed addition to our team. Miss Burns is currently getting to know the children and finding her way around the school! Moving forward, if you have a child in Years 1 or 2, she may well be working with your child in class and sometimes, withdrawn if 1:1 work is required.

### COVID – life as we know it now!

Can I take the opportunity to thank you all for your patience and understanding whilst school is coping with the ever changing DFE guidance! Our main aim is still to keep your child safe in school, being mindful of their mental health too. However, we are also working very hard to make sure your child is supported educationally, keeping in mind that group work cannot take place between bubbles, so ALL additional interventions are having to be done on an individual level.

*Thank you!*