



ST JOHN'S CE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

SENDI NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the last edition of the SENDI newsletter for this academic year.

It is not only the last one for the year, but the final one that I will write.

I am taking early retirement and so this is my concluding term at St Johns.

It has been my second home and I have worked with my second family for over 30 years! I have seen all the SEN changes and reforms (some better than others!) and no doubt it will change again after I depart. The one thing that remains consistent is the St John's approach to meeting the needs of all our children, despite the changes in funding, the changes in paperwork and despite COVID!

Mrs Payne, who is a qualified SENDCo, and has worked with me this year, will take over the role in school, so transition will be seamless. She is fabulous!

Please note -

SENDCO EMAIL (until July 21st 2022)
jhaigh@st-johns.walsall.sch.uk

From September 2022
mpayne@st-johns.walsall.sch.uk

We also now have a phone line in the SEND office so no more calls that say No Caller ID! Yippee!



Current situation!

The NHS Speech and Language Service that we bought into last year has worked really well, so this will continue.

Lexia (for reading) and Easimaths (for mathematics) will also continue as the chosen learning platforms for individual children. Both these applications work at the child's pace and supports their learning, as opposed to having a test base experience. This massively reduces the pressure felt and helps to maintain self-esteem as they rightly see themselves as being successful!

Mrs Coulter will continue with her ELSA work (Emotional Literacy Support Assistance), supporting individual pupils.

Mr Greaves took some of our pupils to a sporting event so that they could partake in the disabled sportspeople's experience (wheelchair football, archery, golf, blindfolded ball skills!). This was an amazing day and the children loved it!



So, what next?

As I have already mentioned, Mrs Payne will take over the role of SENDCo. The work already being done in school will carry on, so for you as parents, there will not be any major changes, just a younger, prettier face in meetings! 😊

Walsall Authority are changing some of the EHCP review paperwork, but this has not yet been launched.

We have also bought into another service for next year that will help us in supporting specific learning needs (including dyslexia, AS difficulties, behavioural difficulties and multi-sensory needs).

Mrs Bladen will also be an additional trained staff member to support parents and children wherever a need arises (Parent and Child Support Advisor). We welcome her to the Team!

SEN news.

In our last newsletter, we reported that-

'The local authority are still trying very hard to catch up with the back log of paperwork, especially regarding changes to existing EHCP's following an annual review'.

This is still the case, but there is a long term plan in place to try and rectify this situation. The SEN team are also setting up a phone line for parents so that direct contact with a duty officer will happen instead of having to track down an individual worker. Once this is operational, you will be informed.

And finally....

We have a few children moving on to their secondary phase of education! It is an inevitability and a whole new challenge for them, but we sincerely wish them well and hope that they continue to thrive in their new settings. We will also be thinking of you, the parents – we know that this can be a highly anxious time for you, but trust your children and allow them to find their feet!

So, the only thing left to say is a personal note from me. I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing your children's journeys with them, and with you, and I will cherish the relationships I have built with all my pupils and parents! My only sadness is that COVID got in the way of face to face meetings over the last few years.

Thank you for the support, the friendship and for trusting me to do the right thing by your child (even if we have disagreed!). Your children mean a great deal to me, and I hope I have done my best by them all, despite the challenges in the education system nationally. Have a truly wonderful and magical Summer break.



J Haigh/M Payne
K Coulter/C Bladen