



ST JOHN'S CE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

SEND NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first edition of the SEND newsletter for this academic year.

We have already made some changes this year as we adapt to meet the ever evolving needs of our pupils!

We now have a whole team of people working closely together to offer the best possible support to your children. Of course your child's class teacher remains your first point of contact for any concerns you may have, but below is a breakdown of the team we have in place for 2022/23 to support our children and families.

Special Education Needs Coordinator - Mrs M Payne

Designated Safeguarding Lead & Deputy - Mr A Mills & Mrs A Lane

Early Years SEN Team Leads - Mrs H McLeish & Mrs M Payne

Behaviour Support Team Lead - Mrs L Mills

Family Support Lead - Mrs C Blyden

Special Education Needs SENTA - Mrs K Coulter

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The Ark

You may have heard your child talk about 'The Ark.' We now have a designated room in which we offer interventions with a focus on social and emotional support. After Christmas, we will also be using the Ark to deliver intensive language support programmes and reading groups with a focus on phonics and comprehension. This is a safe and secure space where children across school can come and learn through play alongside a team of adults trained in nurture. You may see access to the Ark featuring in some of your child's targets over the next few terms.



Wider Opportunities

Mrs Perks has completed her forest school training and is now offering intervention sessions for all children across school. These are child-led sessions designed to build confidence and self-esteem in our exciting newly-developed forest area. There are also many after school opportunities that are fully inclusive and accessible for all our pupils. Mrs Mills will also be offering a new Ark Club in January which will be a fun-packed club for children with an EHCP in place. Breakfast club now also runs every day. We are keen for all of our pupils to have the opportunity to take part in after-school activities, either in school or outside of school and we have some great suggestions that we could signpost to, based on the interests and needs of your children. We are interested to hear what your pupils get involved in outside of school and will be in touch to find out more! It is lovely to find out more about them individually and celebrate their successes and talk about their hobbies outside of school. As always, this term we have been on some fantastic trips, had special visitors in school and enjoyed some wonderful performances in school and at church. All children enjoyed their time at the theatre and were offered short bursts of time out dependant on their sensory needs.

Training

Staff at St John's take continuing professional development very seriously. This term has been very busy for staff development. We now have Mrs Perrins and Miss Burns able to deliver block (Lego) therapy to small groups in school. Mrs Mills is now able to offer interventions in Sensory Needs. Early Years staff have been given extensive support from North Star and visiting speech and language therapists in how to deliver personalised language-based interventions. We have also received support from a visiting SENCO of an inclusive provision in Wolverhampton. Mrs Mills has completed training by Nurture UK and now leads a behaviour support team across school helping children to regulate their emotions. Our work with Walsall Virtual school continues and we have been supported to better understand the link between trauma, attachment and sensory needs.

Communication

Communication between home and school is key and this is an area that we are looking to develop in different ways. Your child's class teacher can be contacted via Class DoJo, as can Mrs Payne as SENCO and Mrs Lane as DSL.

After the past few years of social distancing, we would love to invite you back into school to share your child's new targets and discuss next steps. Look out for your invitation to an appointment with your child's class teacher in January. Mrs Payne, Mrs Mills and Mrs McLeish will also be available that day if needed.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas break.

SEND Team