

SEND Newsletter Autumn 1



We intend to produce a regular newsletter in order that parents and carers supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are kept up to date with national and local policy and initiatives. We also want to signpost you to a range of services and information that may help you.

Our spotlight this half term is Sensory processing difficulties.

Sensory processing is the way that our body takes in and makes sense of information. Our senses include hearing, vision, touch, taste and smell, as well as vestibular processing (which helps with balance and movement), proprioception (which is the awareness of our body in the space around it). We use our senses every day to interact with the world. What might happen when sensory processing becomes a problem? Children might find everyday tasks difficult to tolerate, such as showering, wearing certain clothes, eating or teeth-brushing.

When children are overwhelmed by sensory information it can make it more difficult for them to communicate their needs.

Sensory sensitivities can lead to higher stress and anxiety levels in a child. This in turn can mean they're more tuned into sensory information and can become overwhelmed more easily. Children may present differently from one day to the next and their sensory needs may be context specific or be influenced by other factors, such as mood, tiredness or stress levels.

We can support our children with sensory processing difficulties in school by using ear defenders, thinking about where children sit in their classroom with regards to light, noise and others. We also use wobble cushions, boards, weighted blankets and a range of sensory toys to give sensory feedback.

Where can I get SEND advice?

SENDIASS (Staffordshire's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service) provide an impartial and confidential service on matters relating to a child or young person's special educational needs or disability from birth to 25 years.

The link below will take you to a video that explains more about this service.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54R4cDbX6L](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54R4cDbX6L8)

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For referrals or advice, you can contact SENDIASS by:

Phone: 01785 356921

Email: sfps@staffordshire.gov.uk



SENDCo Drop-In Session.

Every Wednesday 8.40am – 9.10 am there will be a drop in session for parents/carers who would like to access information and support regarding Special Educational Needs concerns.



We welcome any feedback about this newsletter and any items or topics that you would like to be included please contact either Mrs Morgan Assistant Headteacher/SENDCo or Mrs Armstrong Assistant SENDCo

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