



SEND NEWSLETTER

SEND = special educational needs and disability

SENCO = Sarah Stewart

SENCO SURGERIES

I will be introducing new 'SENCO surgery sessions' each half term as a way of improving communication between home and school and providing you, as parents and carers, with another opportunity to meet with me to discuss any SEND related issues that you have. These surgery sessions will be in addition to my availability at termly parents evenings, and my commitment to always meet in person, with every parent at any point during the school year if and when a need arises. This half term the details of the SENCO surgery will be as follows:

When? Between **9am-3pm on Tuesday 28th February**

What? 1:1 Appointments with me can be booked to discuss any aspect of your child's SEND e.g. concerns you may have about your child; the referral process for accessing additional support; tips and advice for managing needs at home etc. **Please note these appointments are specifically focused on SEND – all queries re. general learning and progress should be directed to your child's class teacher.**

How do I book? Please sign up for an appointment via the school office. Half hour timeslots will be available to book on a first come service from tomorrow (21st February).



Welcome to our first SEND newsletter

Good partnerships between home and school are valuable for all learners, and are absolutely essential for children with SEND. I hope you find this newsletter useful as a means of communicating all things 'SEND' at Montbelle, and welcome any feedback you may have. Likewise if you have any issues or topics that you would like included in future issues, or any ideas on how communication or partnership working between home and school can be improved then please let me know, via the school office. Many thanks and with kind regards, Sarah Stewart, SENCO

Our SEND team - who is who? The role of the SENCO

SENCO stands for Special Educational Needs Coordinator, my role is to coordinate the provision for all children with special educational needs and disabilities within school. This means being a key part of the identification of SEND, ensuring teachers are supported in meeting the needs of the children within their class and that children have what they need to be able to access the learning and fulfill their potential. It also means liaising with parents and other professionals in each child's best interests, managing files and paperwork and making referrals. The role of SENCO is undoubtedly complex and full-on – no two days are the same; however having been in post as SENCO at Montbelle since September 2015 I have quickly learnt that the role is also enjoyable and thoroughly rewarding and I feel genuinely privileged to be able to work with such amazing children and their families. **Next term's edition = the role of the SEND Governor.**

SEND info on our website

Did you know that information on SEND can be found on our school website? In addition to a glossary of terms, overview of roles and responsibilities and information on our cycle of support, we also publish an annual SEND Information report within our school local offer on the website. This report details the SEND support we offer at Montbelle with information on the assess, plan, do, review cycle and the systems in place for supporting children in school from the identification of their need. SEND information can be found at montbelle.org.uk under school information, SEND.

SEND Volunteers

Can you spare an hour a week to support children with SEND in school? We always welcome parent volunteers to help children in school, specifically with their reading and social skill development. If you are interested in helping please let me know, via the school office. Please note all parent volunteers will be subject to a DBS safeguarding check. -----

Wordshark Club

I am pleased to announce that I will be running a new Wordshark club at lunchtimes. The club will be open to all children with a dyslexia diagnosis and those who struggle with specific reading and spelling difficulties. It will provide a fun and enjoyable way of learning and practicing key spelling patterns using the electronic software Workshark. More information will be sent home shortly.

SEND support within the Royal Borough of Greenwich

Did you know that there is a wealth of SEND related guidance, information and support available within the borough? The Royal Borough of Greenwich local offer is just a click away and from there you can explore the services available in the borough to support children and young people with SEND and their families, and be signposted directly to the ones of interest to you. This local offer can be accessed at <http://familiesinformation.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/kb5/greenwich/fsd/localoffer.page>

THE LOCAL OFFER
in Royal Greenwich

SEND Plan Reviews

Every child with SEND at Montbelle will have their own SEND Plan. These documents are written by class teachers and are reviewed once a term. They aim is to summarise each child's strengths and areas of difficulty and to pin-point two or three main targets that each child will be working towards that term, alongside a summary of how we will be supporting them within school. These plans are due to be reviewed this half term and all reviews and new plans will be shared with you so that you are fully aware of how we are supporting your child within school. In addition to your child's normal parents evening appointment in March, parents of children with SEND will also be offered the opportunity to book an additional meeting with your child's class teacher to discuss their SEND plan. Information regarding these appointments will be detailed on the parent's evening letters which will be sent home in a couple of weeks – please keep checking your child's book bag for information.

'Talkative Tots' Coffee Morning

The Inclusion team are pleased to remind you that the next 'Everyone Matters at Montbelle' parent workshop will be held on **Tuesday 7th March between 9-10am**. These informal drop in coffee mornings provide you with the chance to come and talk to members of the school community re. issues that affect your child or your family. This next drop in will focus on communication, language and talk and will be attended by our Speech and Language Therapist, Olivia Pointing. It will therefore be a great opportunity for you to come, have a cup of tea and a chat with the team, ask questions about any speech and language related issues and meet other parents. We look forward to seeing you then...