



# SEND NEWSLETTER

SEND = special educational needs and disability

SENCO = Sarah Stewart

## SENCO SURGERIES

Details of the next SENCO Surgery day are as follows:

**When?** Between 9-3pm on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

**What?** 1:1 Appointments can be booked with me 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.

## SEND Parent's Forum

As parents and carers of children with SEND in school your voice is paramount to the provision we provide. Therefore, I would like to set up a SEND Parent Forum in order to capture your views on our SEND provision and partnerships between home and school in order to drive improvements. This group will provide you with the chance to have your say on future developments linked to SEND in school and the more the merrier. The first group will be held on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm** in school, please let me know if you can join us. If not, but you would like to contribute, please email your thoughts, views, questions or suggestions to [sstewart@montbelle.org](mailto:sstewart@montbelle.org). Thank you.



## SATS and end of year assessments

Welcome back to the summer term, I hope you all had a restful Easter break. Our thoughts are now turning to the half term that lays ahead and for many children in Yr 2 and Yr 6 their end of phase SATs. Assessments can be stressful for all children and especially those with additional needs. I would therefore like to reassure you all that we will do everything possible to ensure your children are supported physically and emotionally during the process. Where needed, adjustments will be made to ensure fair access, e.g. through the use of extra time or readers during the tests, and children's emotional well-being will remain high on our agenda. With kind regards, Sarah Stewart, SENCO

*Our SEND team - who is who?*

*This edition = the role of the SEND Governor*

The SEND Governor has the responsibility for making sure that the school has up to date and appropriate policies in place for pupils with SEND, and that these policies are applied consistently. It is also to ensure that SEND funding is spent appropriately, and for those pupils who need support.

I have been the SEND governor since September 2016, and am still learning the job, but meet with Mrs. Stewart on a regular basis, and sit in on meetings with the rest of the Inclusion Team to understand what they do. I report back to the rest of the Governing Board, so that all our governors know what is going on in school for our SEND pupils.

I have some personal experience of SEND, having grown up with a brother who had quite severe special educational needs. I know how much pressure there is on your children in school, and how hard their families work to support them. I was very pleased to be invited by Mrs. Stewart to present the certificates at the SEND Self Esteem awards in December, and to share in the success stories. I hope to be involved further with SEND across the school, and to have more opportunities to celebrate success. Thank you, **Koyeli Solanki**

*Next term's edition = the role of the Counsellor*

## Sensory Needs Support

After a delayed start to our sensory circuit programme due to the over-run on our new outside learning pod, we are pleased to announce that sensory circuits will begin this week and the week after for all children who need them (information would have been sent home if your child is being targeted). In addition the Oxleas children's OT team are running sessions for parents in July on how to manage your child's sensory needs at home. If you would like information on sensory needs, sensory circuits or the OT run parent sessions then please let me know. Many thanks.

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## Inspire Club

I am pleased to announce that I will be running another programme of **Inspire** sessions this term to support children's self-confidence and self-esteem. For this cycle, I will be inviting all children with SEND in Yrs 3 and 4 to attend, so more details will be sent home to these parents soon. At the end of the cycle we will be holding another **Inspire** Awards event on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm** to recognize and celebrate the efforts and achievements of **all** children with SEND in school. Again more details will be sent nearer the time but please make a note of the date in your diary now to ensure that you can make it, all children with SEND and their families are welcome. Many thanks.

## Greenwich Parent Voice

Please see attached for an information leaflet produced by Greenwich Parent's voice – a parents group which aims to give parents and carers of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities a voice in Government. If you would like any further information on the valuable work that this group do please check out their website:  
[www.greenwichparentvoice.com](http://www.greenwichparentvoice.com)

## Moving on Up

The summer term is already upon us, where does the time go? And with it our thoughts are slowly turning to the transition looming ahead for all our children as one school year ends and another begins. For some children this transition entails moving up to a new school year – with a new class teacher and classroom, for others a new school phase too – with a new play-ground and daily structure, and for our yr 6 pupils a farewell to Primary school and the beginning of their time at Secondary school. For many children with social, emotional or mental health needs, an ASD or social and communication difficulties, change can be challenging to manage. As a result we start transition support early for many of our SEND children. Support groups for children in yr 6 are already up and running and over the next few weeks we will be putting together transition plans for children in other year groups too to ensure that they are as supported as they possibly can be during this time. More details on transition arrangements will be shared after half term. In the meantime please speak to myself or your child's teacher if you have any questions about transition or the support in place. Many thanks.

## Children's Well-being and mental health Parent Coffee morning

The Inclusion team are pleased to remind you that the next Everyone Matters at Montbelle parent workshop will be held on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 9am** and will focus on emotional well-being and mental health. 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. We are pleased to inform you that this next drop-in will be attended by Dorota, a family Psychotherapist from CAMHS, who is extremely knowledgeable about all aspects of children's mental health - from anxieties, to behavior difficulties and depression - and will be happy to answer your questions. We look forward to seeing you then...