



# 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 7<sup>th</sup> July**

**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 Questionnaires

Thank you to all of you who completed and returned the SEND parent questionnaire early this term. I have read all responses and analysed the findings and your feedback has proved invaluable in developing SEND provision at Montbelle. I am pleased to report that 90% of parents feel that their child is well supported in school re. Their SEND. In addition it may be worth noting that all children with SEND completed their own questionnaires and an overwhelming 100% felt they were well supported in school and that their needs were being met. We are working hard to ensure that issues raised by parents re. The inconsistency of some interventions and communication re. SEND plans – progress and targets, are addressed so you all feel fully supported. As always, I appreciate your feedback re. All SEND related issues so please let me know if you have any further thoughts, or suggestions.



Learning Knows No Bounds

## Transition

It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the end of yet another school year! With it our thoughts are quickly turning to transition arrangements to support all children with the move to their new classes/year groups/schools. This can be a challenging time for children, and their families, on a practical and emotional level, especially for children with social emotional and mental health needs, and for those with an ASD or social communication difficulties. Please therefore be reassured that as a school we are doing everything we can to ensure that these transitions are as smooth as possible. I have included more detail on the specifics of our transition arrangements within this newsletter and you are very welcome to make contact with myself or your child's class teacher at any point between now and the end of term and in September if you have any questions or concerns re. The transition process. With kind regards, Sarah Stewart, SENCO

*Our SEND team - who is who?*

### *This edition =the role of the Speech and Language Therapist*

As a school we are given a set number of speech therapy hours per term and buy in to additional hours in respect of our commitment to meeting the needs of all children in school with speech and language difficulties. We are therefore lucky to have Olivia Pointing, a speech and language therapist from Oxleas, in school each Tuesday. Olivia's role in school focuses on all children with language or communication difficulties such as pronunciation problems, stutters, attention and concentration difficulties, social communication problems, understanding and expressive language. During a typical day Olivia meets with children and observes them in class to assess their current levels of communication, she liaises with the SENCO, class teachers and teaching assistants in school to offer guidance and advice and also regularly meets with parents to build a clearer picture of communication needs at home and to offer advice. Olivia offers training to staff and works directly with children on specific targets. She writes and regularly reviews reports for all children on her caseload, attends meetings, writes referrals and signposts to other areas of support. If you have any concerns re. Your child's speech and language then please let Mrs. Stewart know and we will consider a referral to the SALT service.

## Social brunch Club

We are pleased to announce that our new daily brunch club is up and running and proving to be a huge success for children in school with social communication difficulties. The group meet daily in the dining hall to sit around a table, share a communal brunch and chat; and in so doing are developing key social skills such as turn taking, sharing, manners, initiating conversation etc along the way. Our learning mentor Vicky runs this brunch and will continue to do so for all children already identified as needing the support for the remainder of this term and next year. If you feel your child would benefit from the group or you would like more information about it please let me know.

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## Inspire Awards

After the success of our first ever Inspire Awards in December I will again be running an awards event this term to recognize and celebrate the achievements, progress and behaviours for learning of all children with SEND within school. This term's event will take place on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July at the earlier time of 3.45pm**. All children with SEND and their parents and families are warmly welcome to attend. Please see separate letter of invitation and return the slip asap to secure your seats. If you have any further questions about the awards then please let me know. Many thanks.

## Support in the community

Please be aware of two events taking place in the borough this term:

- Training for parents on 'Managing your child's sensory needs at home' and,
- A family seminar on 'Managing anger' for families supporting a child with an ASD

If you would like further information on either of these events please let me know.

## SEND plan reviews

In addition to your child's annual school report, all class teachers will also review each child's SEND plan this term and where applicable will write new targets and set new provisions for next year. These plans, and your child's provision map will be shared with you later in the term by your child's class teacher and you will all be given the opportunity to meet with them to discuss the information shared. SEND plans will also be shared with new teachers to ensure continuity of support throughout the transition. We hope you find these documents and feedback session helpful.

### How do we support transition for children with SEND at Montbelle?

- All class teachers – old and new – meet to discuss the needs, strengths, interests and learning styles of the children in their class
- I meet with all SENCOs at new secondary schools to share information, and SEND chn in yr. 6 access a term's worth of targeted transition support
- Additional visit days are arranged for chn with SEND moving to secondary school
- Where possible LSA's stay with children as they move up to new classes
- Pupil and parent passports are written, which are passed up to new teachers
- Transition books are created in school for children who may need extra support
- All chn have extra visits to their new classrooms and time to build relationships with their new teachers
- Transition plans are written for all chn with higher level needs, these documents are shared with parents

## Supporting children with transition and through the summer holidays - Parent Coffee morning

The Inclusion team are pleased to remind you that the next Everyone Matters at Montbelle parent workshop will be held on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 9am** and will focus on transition and the summer holidays. Vicky, our learning mentor will be leading this session and it will also be attended by our SALT, Olivia Pointing. We really hope you can join us and we look forward to seeing you then...

If you have any ideas or suggestions on next year's cycle of workshop/coffee mornings then please let me know. Many thanks.