



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 22nd September**

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 basis from Monday.

SEND Parents Forum

I am very excited to let you know that we now have a date for our first ever SEND Parents Forum meeting, which will take place at 2pm on **Monday 2nd October** in school. All parents/carers of children with SEND are welcome to attend this meeting and be part of our parents forum, so please let me know if you are available and would like to join in. The purpose of the group will be to provide you all with the opportunity to put forward your ideas, comments and suggestions re. SEND provision at Montbelle so that you can help shape the package we provide moving forwards. Meetings will be held regularly in school over the course of the year and will be really informal in nature. They will also provide a great opportunity for you to meet other parents and carers who may be supporting children with similar needs. Please let me know if you would like any further information regarding the forum or would like to take part. Many thanks



Home/school Partnerships

Welcome back to another school year and a special Montbelle welcome to all our new children and families. It has been lovely meeting with all of our new families and children with SEND and joining in the Early Years homevisits, as well as hearing about all the wonderful holiday activities that have taken place over recent weeks and seeing the children return to school rested and ready to learn. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all that strong home/school partnerships are vitally important for all children in school, and especially for those with a special educational needs or disabilities. We are here to support you and to work together in the best interests of your child, so please keep talking to us and seeking out support when needed. I look forward to working with all of you, and your amazing children over the coming months!

With kind regards, Sarah Stewart, SENCO

Our SEND team - who is who?

This edition =the role of the Counsellor

Annie Thompson is our school based counsellor. Annie works one day a week on a Tuesday within school and has a caseload of 6 children at any given time. Annie supports children's social, emotional and mental health needs and provides a safe, therapeutic environment for children from Reception – yr. 6 to work through any emotional issues or difficulties through play and talk. Referrals to Annie's counselling service can be made by parents, teachers, SENCO or other professionals and parental consent is always gained before sessions begin. Annie always aims to meet parents/carers before counselling begins to discuss each child's needs and keeps teachers and parents informed of their progress. Referrals to her service can be made for many reasons – parental separation, bereavement, anxiety, domestic violence, friendship problems and lack of confidence being common reasons for referral. If you would like to know more about the counselling service at Montbelle or would like to refer your child to the service then please let Mrs. Stewart know in the first instance. Many thanks.

Our school SEND register

In school we have a list of all the children who have a special education need or disability and require reasonable adjustments to be made to support their wellbeing and learning – this is called our SEND register. The list is updated regularly and is monitored carefully by myself to ensure that the right support is being accessed by each child. The register also enables me to keep an eye on the progress of all children with SEND in school, so that I can work closely with class teachers to ensure that all their needs are met. If you would like any information on our SEND register please let me know.

Interventions

We are currently in the process of updating our provision map for the autumn term and planning a full programme of interventions and groups to support children with their SEND needs, in addition to the learning that takes place in the classroom. We have a full range of interventions taking place this term ranging from maths and literacy support, social skills groups, Lego Therapy, language groups, Story Box and social brunch club – to name but a few. These interventions are usually delivered by our Teaching Assistants and are regularly reviewed for effectiveness. Children are allocated intervention support according to need and information on the interventions selected for your child will be shared with you on their updated SEND plans later in the term.

SEND information online

Did you know that there is information regarding SEND on our school website? I am in the process of updating it for this year so please take the time to check out the SEND pages at <http://montbelle.org.uk/hello/parents-info/special-education-needs/>. The Royal Borough of Greenwich local offer can also be found at <http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/localoffer>. This provides valuable information re. SEND support in the borough and a directory of services available to children and their families locally.

School based information sessions for parents

This year we plan to run an interesting range of parent workshops specifically linked to SEND, to which you are all warmly invited to attend. Further information will be shared nearer the time for each, but a brief overview of sessions already planned is below. If you have any ideas for further SEND related parent workshops, or have a particular interest in a specific area, then please let me know, and I will be happy to accommodate your suggestions whenever possible.

- 9am Thurs 21/9/17 - **School Nurse drop-in** – please come along to discuss any of your child's health or medical needs.
- 8.30am Tues 26/9/17 – **Meet the Inclusion Team** – come along to meet members of our team to find out how we endeavor to meet the pastoral and wellbeing needs of your child in school and overcome barriers to learning.
- 9am Fri 10/11/17 – **Dyslexia Workshop** – come along to find out about the specific learning difficulty dyslexia – indicators of the condition and ways to support your child with their reading and spelling at home
- 9am Fri 16/3/18 – **Speech and language workshop** – come along to find out how you can support your child with their language and communication needs

+ ADHD workshop date to be confirmed...

SEND support locally

Toy and leisure library – please see attached for information re. The Toy Library service in the borough including Fun days, Saturday Club, Away Stays and parties for children with Disabilities and SEN

Support for Siblings – a free fun session for siblings of children with SEND on 23rd October (during half-term) run by Greenwich MENCAP. Please phone 020 8305 2245 for more info and to book

Managing your child's sensory needs at home - Support sessions for parents run by the Children's OT team in Woolwich on 19th and 26th October. Please phone 0208 836 8621 for more info and to book.