



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 1st December**

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.



If your child is interested in computing and would like to join an afterschool club in Greenwich then check out:

<https://makerclub.org/brightsparks/>

Brightsparks provide free access to afterschool design and technology clubs for young makers from low income families, made possible by local digital businesses

SEND Parents Forum

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our first SEND Parents Forum earlier this term. Your thoughts and opinions were really valuable and I will be using them to shape the provision we provide over the coming year. In particular we spoke about the need to have greater feedback re. the work each child completes during interventions, a clearer overview of which interventions each child attends, opportunities to continue the INSPIRE project and the possibility of organizing and running more SEND focused school trips. Watch this space for more detail re. all of these factors over coming months...



Children's mental health and well-being

It is well documented that children with SEND can suffer from lower self-esteem and mental well-being than their peers, due to the increased barriers and challenges that they face on a daily basis. As parents, carers and teachers we need to be mindful of this and do all that we can to ensure that children feel secure, confident and happy, despite the challenges that they face. One of the ways that we can do this is to focus the majority of our attention on what they can do, rather than what they can't. Recognising and celebrating all their achievements and efforts in every area of daily life and learning will give them an emotional boost and make them feel successful and valued – important for all of us, especially those with SEND. Today your child will achieve something amazing – let's all take the time to recognize that and make them feel special!

With kind regards, Sarah Stewart, SENCO

Our SEND team - who is who?

This edition =the role of the Educational Psychologist

Educational Psychologists (EPs) work with children and young people in schools and educational settings to tackle challenges such as learning difficulties, social and emotional problems, issues surrounding disability and more complex developmental disorders. They work in a variety of ways to look at the 'whole child' in order to understand the causes for the presenting difficulties and to recommend strategies to support. They carry out observations, interviews and assessments and can offer guidance and advice to parents, teachers, and children themselves. As a school we buy in to an Educational Psychology Service and have an EP – Gonul Hussein – allocated to support us as a result. Gonul works with a caseload of children within school and when needed new referrals can be made by school to access her support. If you would like any more information re. the role of the EP please let me know. ..

The **INSPIRE** Programme

Thank you for all your positive feedback re. the Inspire programme which I ran in school last year, culminating in two separate **INSPIRE** Award events. I am please to confirm that I will be running the programme again this year, however I will be making some changes. Firstly, I will be holding the **INSPIRE** awards event at the end of the Spring term 2018 (rather than at the end of the Autumn and Summer term). This will give children the opportunity to be recognised and celebrated for all their efforts and achievements half way through the year and will also release the pressure on the high number of events taking place around Christmas time and the end of the school year. Further information on the Awards event will be circulated in the new year. Secondly, I will be changing the nature of the club which precedes the awards. This year I would like to try and work with all chn with SEND in school and encourage them to help me create a reflective video of their experiences, learning and progress, which will be shown during the Inspire event. This provides a wonderful opportunity for chn with SEND to become more reflective about their own learning jounies and be directly part of their own learning reviews. More details will follow next term.

Learning Mentor – Vicky Nicolosi

Please do not forget that we have a Learning Mentor and Family Support Worker in school. Vicky is happy to support you and/or your child so please let her know if you have any concerns re. your child's well-being, friendship issues or behaviour, or if you would like to have a chat about any aspect of home life, and she will be in touch to arrange a time to meet. Vicky can be contacted on vnicolosi@montbelle.org.uk

SEND information online

Did you know that there is information regarding SEND on our school website? I have now updated the information 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 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...

On 10th November we ran our Dyslexia workshop for parents and carers but unfortunately no one attended. This was a real shame as I had managed to secure the Head Teacher from STEPS and dyslexia specialist, Helene Agnew to attend and the workshop was organized because parents had previously requested more information on Dyslexia. Thankfully all was not lost however as she used the term to run a similar session for our Teaching Assistants in school who learnt a huge amount from the session.

To avoid similar problems in the future I will be asking parents/carers to book in to workshops in advance so that I have a clear ideas of numbers beforehand.

Greenlights Project

Greenwich Mencap have secured Big Lottery Funding for the next 5 years for the Greenlights project. This is a fantastic achievement for Greenwich Mencap and will enable this very popular and worthwhile service to continue for many disadvantaged children and their families. The service offers support with **challenging behaviour** to families where a child aged 0-11 years has a diagnosis of Autism/ADHD/learning disabilities. If you feel the project could benefit your family then please let me know or contact Anna-Maria Cahalane on 020 83052245 ext 203 or e-mail tedmanager@greenwichmencap.org.uk, thank you