



SEND NEWSLETTER

SEND = special educational needs and disability

SENCO = Sarah Stewart

SENCO SURGERIES

When? Between 9-2pm on
Wednesday 16th March

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 support for Secondary School transition

The Royal Borough of Greenwich and the Speech and Language team will both be running their own secondary school transition support programmes which will take place during the summer holidays. Each has their own admissions criteria and the referral process is now open for applications for yr 6 chn with SEND. I will be meeting with Yr 6 class teachers in the coming weeks to identify children who we feel would benefit from the programme and will be in touch to discuss with parents before making referrals. If you have a child in yr 6 with SEND who you feel would benefit from additional support with the secondary transition then please let



Academic progress and learning

We are now half way through the academic year and teachers are in the process of updating their judgements on learning and progress. I have been working with class teachers and the senior leadership team to closely monitor the progress being made by children with SEND within school and am pleased to report that the vast majority of children are making at least good, and for many, accelerated progress. The details of your child's attainment and progress will be shared at the forthcoming parents' evening appointments later this half term and you will also all have the opportunity to have an extended meeting with your child's class teacher to discuss this progress, your child's wellbeing, their targets and support package as detailed within their SEND plan. I hope you find this newsletter a useful means of communicating all things 'SEND' at Montbelle and welcome any feedback that 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

SEND information online

Did you know that there is information regarding SEND on our school website? Please take the time to check out the SEND pages at <http://montbelle.org.uk/hello/parents-info/special-educationneeds/>. 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.

Inspire Club

I am pleased to announce that this year's Inspire Club will be taking place in the Summer term leading up to our annual Inspire Awards **28th June at 3.45pm**. The Inspire project is all about raising self-esteem in children with SEND and doing so by recognizing and celebrating their fabulousness. This year's club will be open to children in KS2 and will focus on self-reflection through the creation of video journals. The journals will then be shared during the Inspire awards later in the summer term. Although not directly involved in the club, children in Foundation Stage and KS1 will take part in the video journals through interviews to capture their views and experiences. More information will be shared regarding the details of the club and the Awards early next term.

How to support your child's language development at home – Speech and Language workshop

Our speech and language therapist Olivia and myself will be leading a workshop for parents and carers on **Friday 16th March between 2.30-3.20pm**. We will be exploring speech and language development in general, alongside different types of language disorders, speech difficulties, listening and attention problems and social communication difficulties. We will be focusing on how you can support your child within these areas at home and there will be plenty of opportunities for you to ask your own questions. You are all welcome to join us. Please add your name to the sign up sheet in the office or email me on stewart@montbelle.org.uk if you would like to join us so that we have an idea of numbers.

Our SEND team - who is who?

This edition = the role of the Learning Mentor

Vicky Nicolosi is our school based learning mentor and family support worker. Vicky works full time in school and is non-class based. Her role is to provide social and emotional support to children and their families and as a result Vicky supports many of the children with social, emotional and mental health needs within school. She does this in a variety of ways, for example, Vicky delivers weekly 1:1 sessions for children who need a trusted and emotionally available adult to talk to within school, she also delivers Drawing and Talking Therapy, and a variety of social therapies and interventions including Lego Therapy and Story Box. If you are worried about your child's emotional health and/or feel that they would benefit from Vicky's support then please contact her directly via the school office or on vnicolosi@montbelle.org.uk

KS2 Lunch Time Pod – hang out space

We have opened up a new hang-out space for KS2 children in the outdoor Pod within the KS2 Classroom. The space will be open to children on a daily basis on referral by class teachers, senior leaders and/or midday meal supervisors and will provide a calm, quiet and relaxed space for children to hang out in – playing games, reading or 'chilling' with their friends during times when a bit of headspace from the playground is needed.