



SEND NEWSLETTER

SEND = special educational needs and disability

SENCO = Sarah Stewart

SENCO SURGERIES

Each half term I will continue to run SENCO surgeries to provide parents and carers with an opportunity to meet with me to discuss any SEND related issues that you may have. These surgery sessions will be in addition to my availability at termly parents' evening sessions and my commitment to always meet in person with any parent at any point during the school year if and when a need arises. This term the details of the next two SENCO surgeries are as follows:

When? Between **9-3pm on Friday 21st September & Friday 30th November**

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. Sign up sheets will be available two weeks before each SENCO surgery. Half hour timeslots will be available to book on a first come basis.



Welcome to our new school year!

I would like to offer greetings to all our existing families and a very warm welcome to all our new children and their families who have joined Montbelle this year. You will be receiving this newsletter because one or more of your children have been identified as having special educational needs and/or disabilities and we know that good partnerships between home and school are valuable for all learners, and are absolutely essential for children with SEND. I have been sending home these newsletters on a termly basis for nearly two years now and the feedback from parents has been really positive so I plan on continuing to do so for the foreseeable future. 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

Our SEND team - who is who? This edition =the role of the SENCO

SENCO stands for Special Educational Needs Coordinator and my role is to coordinate the provision for all children with special educational needs and disabilities within school. This means being a key part of the identification of SEND, ensuring teachers are supported in meeting the needs of the children within their class, and that children have what they need to be able to access the learning and fulfill their potential. It also means liaising with parents/carers and other professionals in each child's best interests, managing files and paperwork and making referrals. The role of SENCO is undoubtedly complex and full-on – no two days are the same; however having been in post as SENCO at Montbelle since September 2015 I have learnt that the role is also enjoyable and thoroughly rewarding and I feel genuinely privileged to be able to work with such amazing children and their families. In addition to my role as SENCO I am also the school's Acting Deputy Headteacher, the Lead for Inclusion and a Designated Safeguarding Lead. **Next term's edition = the role of the Learning Support Assistant.**

Secondary Transition

Is your child in yr. 6? Do they have SEND? Information re. The process of applying for a secondary school place for chn with SEND will be shared during the information sessions and drop-ins led by Mr. Kinsella – please check school newsletter for details.

SEND info on our website

Did you know that information on SEND can be found on our school website? In addition to a glossary of terms, overview of roles and responsibilities and information on our cycle of support, we also publish an annual SEND Information report within our school local offer on the website. This report details the SEND support we offer at Montbelle with information on the assess, plan, do review cycle and the systems in place for supporting children in school from the identification of their need. SEND information can be found at montbelle.org.uk under school information, SEND.

SEND Volunteers

Can you spare an hour a week to support children with SEND in school? We always welcome parent volunteers to help children in school, specifically with their reading and social skill development. If you are interested in helping please let me know, via the school office. Please note all parent volunteers will be subject to a DBS safeguarding check. -----

Inspire Club video

Thank you to everybody who took part in the Inspire awards and club last term. After some technical difficulties uploading the video on to our website I have been assured that it will be uploaded imminently – please keep checking!

SEND support within the Royal Borough of Greenwich

Did you know that there is a wealth of SEND related guidance, information and support available within the borough? The Royal Borough of Greenwich local offer is just a click away and from there you can explore the services available in the borough to support children and young people with SEND and their families, and be sign-posted directly to any of interest. This local offer can be accessed at <http://familiesinformation.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/kb5/greenwich/fsd/localoffer.page>

THE LOCAL OFFER
in Royal Greenwich

SEND Plan Reviews

Every child with SEND at Montbelle will have their own SEND Plan. These documents are written by class teachers and are reviewed once a term. The plans summarise each child's strengths and areas of difficulty and pin-point two or three main targets that each child will be working towards each term, alongside a summary of how we will be supporting them within school. These plans are due to be reviewed later this half term and all reviews and new plans will be shared with you during parent evening week so that you are fully aware of how we are supporting your child within school. In addition to your child's normal parents' evening appointment in October, parents of children with SEND will also be offered the opportunity to book an additional meeting with your child's class teacher to discuss their SEND plan during the same week. Information regarding these appointments will be detailed on the parent's evening letters which will be sent home in a couple of weeks – please keep checking your child's book bag for information.

What's happening in the community?

- **Autism Movement Therapy at The Studio,** Chislehurst for chn aged 8-12yrs and their siblings. New 10 wk. course starting 21st September. Contact 07759 123678 for info.
- **Disability Swimming instructor:** Francis Hazleton Offers 1:1 and group sessions locally and is visually impaired friendly /deaf friendly/ASD friendly. Contact 07789374691 for more info.