



Send



Bulletin:



Autumn



term

2

Two

**Each half term, this bulletin will highlight what we are doing to make St Mary's even more inclusive for our children with SEND. It will also signpost you to resources and information that can support you and your family at home.**



Bulletin Highlights

In our '[Frequently Asked Questions](#)' section, we have explained Dyslexia and how school can help. The key messages are:

- School cannot diagnosis or refer for an assessment of Dyslexia
- The NHS do not fund Dyslexia assessments
- School can use a screening tool to identify Dyslexia traits & inform interventions
- Dyslexia needs can be met through Ordinarily Available Provision and Quality First Teaching

In our '[SEND Training and News](#)' section, we share the following:

- Resources to support with the Christmas period from Freemantles School
- Parenting Puzzle course – January 2025
- Neurodiversity Padlet
- Invitation to Masking workshop at the school
- SEND Online Support Group
- L-SPA Family Communication Officers drop-In Sessions
- Play & Learn Plus for SEND children 0-5 years



"WHEN A FLOWER  
DOESN'T BLOOM YOU FIX  
THE ENVIRONMENT IN  
WHICH IT GROWS, NOT  
THE FLOWER."  
Alexander den Heijer

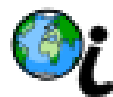
For more useful resources and information, please visit the [SEND Provision](#) page of our website.



SEND



Training



and News

### SEND Conference 2024:

Our SENCO Georgie Tongue attended the annual SEND conference on 28<sup>th</sup> November. This Inclusion and Nurture-focused day helped us to reflect on what is important for our SEND pupils, providing both information and inspiration on how to achieve what is important!

### ELCI (Enhanced Language & Communication Initiative):

Sadly coming to an end this week, this initiative has taught pupils and staff in Reception so much about supporting pupils language and communication. This was evident in the final assessment and report of SEND practice this week. Thank you Rebecca Morrison (SALT)!

### The Space Between (my Head and Heart):

Years 3, 4 and 5 were treated to a wonderful theatre show by Peer Productions. This was booked by the SEND team to support pupils with their Social, Emotional and Mental Health awareness. Pupils were taught about looking after their mental health using The Five Ways of Wellbeing. Everyone learnt a lot about friendships, kindness and resilience!

### OT Visit - PINS (Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools):

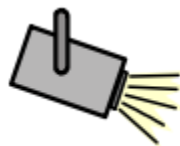
Amy Hart (Clinical Team Lead Occupational therapist) visited us on 3<sup>rd</sup> December alongside Ana Smith, our Neurodiversity Advisor, and our SEND team. They carried out an Environmental Site Visit. They looked at how inclusive our classroom, lunch and playtime environments are. They had lots of positive things to say about our environment and were able to offer advice on best evidence-based practice. It was a really useful visit and we look forward to the follow-up meeting next term!

### Edukey:

We have listened to parent views that they were not always aware of SEND pupil's individual targets. Parents of pupils on the SEND register can now log in and see their child's current SARS targets and any reviews. Parents are now able to comment on the SARS plans using this system. Please log in to check SARS reviews! We hope this is helpful and provides a more consistent approach across the school.

### SEND governor monitoring:

Our SEND governor, Charlotte Amison, carried out a learning walk with Georgie Tongue and Frances O'Brien on 11<sup>th</sup> November. The team were able to see all pupils' excellent learning and behaviour in every class across the school.



# SEND Spotlight

## SEND Staff Spotlight



**Mrs Helen Burley**

- I am married with two teenage sons who both attended St Mary's
- While my sons were here, I volunteered at the school; helping with reading, swimming lessons and trips
- About eleven years ago, I started working at St Mary's, supporting a child with autism who struggled at lunch times
- I have worked as a Class TA but currently I'm a Send Support Assistant in Year 2 and a Midday Supervisor
- My role at the school has recently expanded to being part-time SENCo Administration Assistant and Occupational Therapy Champion!
- Previously, I was an Electronic Engineer in the Audio Visual Industry for about fifteen years
- My husband and I lived and worked in Sydney, Australia for just over a year

### SALT Support

We receive termly support and advice from our link Speech and Language Therapist, **Leah Stewart**. Leah also supports some students who have a Speech Impairment through individual assessments and termly monitoring.



### STIPS teacher

We have a new link STIPS (Specialist Teacher for Inclusive Practice) teacher called **Hannah Cunnah**. Hannah has visited our school this term to offer support and advice for staff.



# Resources and Support

## Christmas SEND Resources

Christmas can be an overwhelming time for our children with SEND. There are so many routine changes to deal with in addition to overstimulation. You can help to make this period easier for your child to manage by using visuals such as these fantastic free resources on the Freemantles website:

<https://www.autismoutreachforschools.uk/Resources/Christmas-Resources-2024/>



**WOKING  
FAMILY CENTRE**

**4 sessions from  
21st January - 11th February  
2025  
6.45pm - 8:00pm**

## Online Parenting Puzzle

**This tried and tested programme can help you deal with challenges supporting a calmer family life.**

The course covers:

- Recognising feelings behind behaviours
- Different approaches to positive discipline
- Co-operation and self discipline
- The importance of looking after ourselves

For more information scan the QR code or call: 01483 310419



Woking Family Centre, The Bungalow, Sythwood, Woking Surrey, GU21 3AX



**Woking Family Centre is pleased to offer:**

**L-SPA**

**Family Communication Officers  
Drop-in sessions**

**Woking Family Centre are pleased to be working with the Learners Single Point of Access (L-SPA) Family Communication Officers.**

*The Family Communication Officers (FCO's) have a range of knowledge and experience of additional needs and advocate the importance of early intervention for young people and their families to provide the 'right support at the right time'.*

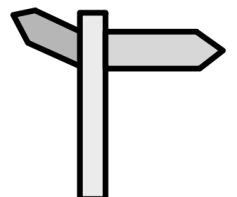
*The FCO's can support families with:*


- Understanding the graduated response to SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).
- What Ordinarily Available provision is and what this looks like in educational settings.
- Understanding a 'No to Assess' Educational Health Care Needs Assessment decision.
- Signposting to appropriate services for support, advice, and intervention.
- How to collaborate effectively with educational settings.

Find us between 9:30am and 3:30pm on

★ 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 19<sup>th</sup> Mar 2025 ★

Please email [wokingfamilycentre@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:wokingfamilycentre@barnardos.org.uk) to book a 45 min, 1:1 session with a Family Communication Officer.





Resources and Support



## NEURODIVERSITY ADVISOR PADLET

FOR PARENTS/CARERS

We understand that navigating life with a Neurodivergent child can be overwhelming. We have brought together key resources and information in a easy to use format.

Please scan the QR code to access our Padlet for Families.



[NDAdvisors@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:NDAdvisors@surreycc.gov.uk)

You are invited to a workshop on **Masking by Family Voice Surrey**  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 from 10-12 in The Hut at St Mary's School.**

Please note the training is open to parents and St Mary's staff.

Tea and coffee will be provided. Please see Scopay for further info.



### Home-Start & Woking Family Centre

Tuesday's weekly  
 9.45am-11.15am  
 (Term time only)

## Play & Learn Plus For Parents & Carers\*

Free sensory plan & learning sessions for children (0-5 yrs) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), pre and post diagnosis. Siblings welcome.

Sessions will provide:

- Interactive and specialist play opportunities
- Access to professional advice from Home-Start, Woking Family Centre, and partners
- Signposting to further Woking Family Centre Services and courses
- Safe space to meet other parents/carers of SEND children

\* Priority will be given to families living in Woking borough

For more information scan the QR code or call 01483 310419



**HOME START**  
 Runnymede & Woking

Woking Family Centre, The Bungalow  
 Sythwood, Woking GU21 3AX



Changing childhoods. Changing lives.



## SEND Online Support Group for Parents/Carers

Free support group for parents/carers with children aged 0-16 with pre or diagnosed SEND.

The course will cover topics like:

- Back to school and discussions around EHCP's
- Boundaries and useful parenting tools
- Accessing useful websites and other support networks
- Support on applying for DLA and other funding options.

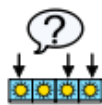
For more information scan the QR code or call 01483 310419



Woking Family Centre, The Bungalow  
 Sythwood, Woking GU21 3AX



Changing childhoods. Changing lives.



## Frequently Asked Questions

**I think my child has Dyslexia, can school assess them for this?**



Dyslexia (or Specific Learning Difficulties) can only be diagnosed by Psychologists and Specialist Dyslexia Teachers. Unfortunately the NHS will not fund Dyslexia assessments.

Mrs Tongue or Mrs Burley can carry out a Dyslexia screen (not a diagnosis) if a child's class teacher has concerns. This assessment is an in-depth, individual evaluation that provides a comprehensive overview of a student's difficulties to inform intervention.

Regardless of whether a child has a Dyslexia diagnosis or not, children with Dyslexic needs will receive the support and intervention they need through Quality First Teaching, use of additional resources and interventions.

If you are interested in funding a Dyslexia assessment privately, The Helen Arkell Charity in Farnham is highly recommended

<https://helenarkell.org.uk/>

Through the charity, families with a low-income or in receipt of means-tested state benefits can apply for a bursary to help towards the cost.

The school does not receive extra funding if a child has a diagnosis of Dyslexia as they are expected to meet the needs of pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties through Ordinarily Available Provision.

Children with a diagnosis or traits of Dyslexia will only be added to the SEND register if they are not making expected progress despite interventions or the support they require goes above and beyond that available with Ordinarily Available Provision. Each child is unique and decisions are made in consultation with parents on a case-by-case basis.