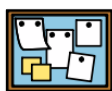




SEND



Bulletin:



Summer



term

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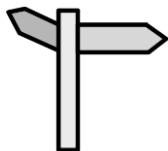
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Each half term, this bulletin will highlight what we are doing to make St Mary's even more inclusive for our children with SEND. It will also signpost you to resources and information that can support you and your family at home.



Bulletin Highlights

In our '[Frequently Asked Questions](#)' section, we look at **developing Speech, Language & Communication**, how to support at home and when a Speech & Language Therapy (SALT) referral is necessary.



In our '[Resources and Support](#)' section, we share the following:

- A new school year social story
- Summer Holiday Calendar for you to fill in
- Calm Cards
- Runnymede SEND Summit
- FACE Parent Training (free!)

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



In our '[SEND Spotlight](#)' section, we introduce our Home School Link Worker Laura Merrick!

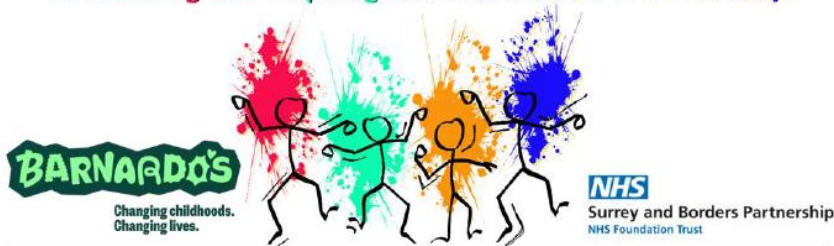
We hope you & your family have a wonderful summer break and remember....





SEND Training and News

Celebrating and Inspiring Children Who Do It Differently



BARNADO'S

“Celebrating & Inspiring Children who do it Differently”

18 children took place in this 6 week intervention this term which focused on feelings, emotions, strategies, worries, friendship and self-esteem/positive attributes. We explored strategies including breathing techniques, sport/exercise, creative/crafts, fresh air/nature & fidget tools. The children chose 6 strategies each which are on their strategy dice which they have taken home in their box. Well done to all the children for participating so enthusiastically!

NESSY

If your child has a Nesy account you should have received a letter this week with details of a new log in. We hope that your child will want to play some Nesy games over the summer to boost their spelling confidence & skills!

TRANSITIONS!

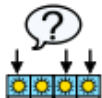
This half-term has been full of handover meetings & visits for children starting St Mary's in September, our Year 6 children moving on to secondary in September and for all our children moving up to new classes in September! All the children seem excited about their next adventures. There is a social story further on if they are feeling worried.

CHANGES TO THE EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE OFFER:

Our core offer, which is available to all Surrey schools, consists of:

- Psychological advice as part of Education Health Care Needs Assessments (EHCNAs)
 - Providing expert advice for Special Educational Needs and Disability tribunals
 - Support following critical incidents and sad events

Please note that all other EP support is now traded and will cost the school £750 per day so we are unable to afford to pay for Educational Psychology Assessments, which are often advised by Paediatricians.



Frequently Asked Questions



How can my child access Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) at school?

If your child is in Nursery, you can speak to the GP who can put in a referral. Alternatively, school can make a referral if your child is making speech sound errors that are NOT age appropriate. The Speech & Language Service will contact you directly and an assessment will be offered at home or in a clinic.

If your child is in Reception upwards, please talk to their class teacher about your speech and language concerns. The SENCO will then do a speech screen. If they make consistent speech sound errors which are NOT age appropriate then the SENCO can put in a referral.

If a referral is accepted then the SALT will book in a SALT assessment at school during that term. They will write a report with recommendations and model to class staff how to carry out any interventions needed.

Speech and Language therapy is best targeted in a child's regular setting e.g. in the classroom setting and needs to be carried out regularly by familiar staff to be effective. You can always work on the same targets at home for best progress.

The involvement of the SALT is then to review progress of the child on their targets termly with the SENCO. There may be a termly or annual review of targets as appropriate.

The SALT will discharge a child when direct SALT is no longer needed but may suggest school staff carry on supporting the child using ordinarily available provision.

A child with only SALT needs will not usually go on the SEND register, unless their language needs are very complex and require a high level of intervention.

If your child has an EHCP, direct SALT intervention will be written in the EHCP if the assessment says they need it. Their progress is reviewed annually by the SALT and removed if no longer necessary.

What are 'age appropriate speech sound errors?'




Age	Speech sounds present	Acceptable Variations
2 ½ - 3 years	m, n, p, b, t, d, k, g, s, z, w, y, h	<p>Children should be understood by the immediate family by now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final consonant deletion, e.g. 'du' for 'duck' • Stopping e.g. toap for soap • Fronting e.g. tar for car, doat for goat • Cluster reduction e.g. poon instead of spoon • Gliding (substituting r & l sounds with w & y e.g. yike for like or wabbit for rabbit) • Many children are not yet using r, ch, l, sh, j, v accurately
3 – 3 ½ years	m, n, p, b, t, d, k, g, s, z, w, y, h, f	<p>Children should be understood by the family and those who know the child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stopping • Fronting • Cluster reduction • Weak syllable deletion e.g. Nana instead of Banana • Deaffrication e.g. replacing ch with sh • Gliding • Many children are not yet using r, ch, l, sh, j, v accurately
3 ½ - 4 years	As above with 'sh' and blends emerging	<p>Children will now be understood by unfamiliar adults most of the time but speech errors will still be occurring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fronting • Cluster reduction • Weak syllable deletion • Deaffrication • Gliding • Many children are not yet using r, ch, l, sh, j, v accurately


What can I do to help speech development at home?





Top Tips - Speech





 Get down to their level, show them that you are listening.

 Try to focus on what they say not how they say it.

 Slow down your own rate of speech.

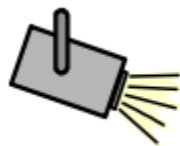
 Ask questions to gather more information and narrow down the options they could be talking about.

 Encourage them to use gesture/show you to support their speech if they are hard to understand.

 Don't always pretend you can understand. The child is likely to know people can't understand them and this needs to be acknowledged.



<https://mommyspeechtherapy.com/>



SEND Spotlight



Mrs Laura Merrick

I started working with children when I was in Year 9 at my secondary school (Winston Church school in Woking.) My mum was a Special Needs Assistant and I volunteered to help the younger children learn to read using a programme, 'Toe-by-Toe.' It was then that I abandoned my dream of being a solicitor and decided to be a teacher!

I went to Roehampton university and studied for a BA in Education, with a specialism in History (this is my favourite subject!)

After I graduated, I worked at West Byfleet Junior school from 2007 until 2014. I then moved over to St Marys in 2014 to continue to teach and also become a member of the Senior Leadership team.

I loved teaching but, in 2020, I had a baby son and then returned to St Mary's as the Home School Link Worker.

My role now is so varied....and I love that! I have the privilege of working with our amazing children; helping them develop coping mechanisms, offering them a safe space to share their worries and concerns and providing them with additional emotional support.

I am the Young Carers Champion here at St Mary's and we have an amazing group of, 'Cool carer's' who I spend every Thursday lunchtime with - we play games, we listen to music and just spend time together having fun.

I love working alongside our parents on their journeys- parenthood is the most challenging job out there. We don't get it right all the time, we doubt ourselves, we feel guilty but we are all trying our hardest. Sometimes parents come to me for just a chat and cup of tea, other times we will sit down and discuss strategies and different approaches.

Throughout the last 5 years, I have built up some strong network connections with charities and local organisations, so I am always happy to signpost families for additional support.

Asking for support can be really hard, but I will always provide a listening ear and will always try to help if I can.



A new school year!



In September I will be in my new class...

- I know the adults that will be helping me.
- Even though it might feel different at first, I will quickly get used to my new classroom.

Though there will be some changes, lots of things will be the same:

- I will still be with the same classmates.
- Mrs Chambers will still be the Headteacher.
- Mrs Tongue will still be the SENCO.
- Mrs Merrick will still be here to help.
- Mrs King will still be in the office.
- I will have playtime and lunch time in the same places.
- My uniform will still be the same.

If I feel worried about the changes, I can use the same tools to help me that have worked before.

My class teacher and TAs will care about me and help me however I need.

Everyone will be proud of me for trying my best and for all the new things I will learn in my class!





2025



Summer Holidays



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Resources and Support

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
21st July	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th
28th	29th	30th	31st	1st August	2nd	3rd
4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th
18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th

2025



August

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September



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Resources and Support

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st
1st September	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
School	School	School	School	School		
School	School	School	School	School		
School	School	School	School	School		
School	School	School	School	School		

Resources + Support



<p>Square breathing</p>	<p>Cloud breathing</p>	<p>Smell the flower, blow the candle</p> <p>Breathe in. Breathe out.</p>	<p>Finger breathing</p>
<p>Dragon Roar</p>	<p>Chair push-up</p>	<p>Wall press-up</p>	<p>Tummy breathing</p>
<p>Watch a glitter bottle settle</p>	<p>Ask a family member or school adult for a hug</p>	<p>10 star jumps</p>	<p>Squeeze some playdough or tac</p>
<p>Count down from 20</p>	<p>Starting at your feet and moving up your body, squeeze each muscle, count to three, then let go</p>	<p>Senses check-in: what can you hear / see / smell / feet?</p>	<p>Listen to music</p>
<p>Draw in a sand tray</p>	<p>Colouring</p>	<p>Blow a pinwheel</p>	<p>Run around the playground</p>
<p>Pop some bubble wrap</p>	<p>Have a cold drink</p>	<p>Write down something annoying, then tear up the paper and throw it away</p>	<p>Ask to go to your quiet space, or the bathroom</p>



Resources and Support



Funded by St Mary's, please make the most of this free parent training!

Visit the **PARENTS page** of the FACE website (facefamilyadvice.co.uk) to view the 16 regular talks for parents.

Choose a topic and click through the booking calendar to find a date and time that suits you.

At the payment stage of booking, enter the code **SM010725** where it says **ADD PROMO CODE**. This will reduce the price from £24 to £0.

 FACE	
<h2>July Timetable</h2>	
all sessions delivered live online via zoom £24 each 90 minutes long book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk Recordings available for 48 hours	
Understanding Anger	1 July 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	1 July 7pm
Introduction to OCD	7 July 10am
What is ACT?	7 July 7pm
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	8 July 10am
Anxiety Explained	8 July 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	14 July 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	14 July 7pm
Decreasing Depression	15 July 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	15 July 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	21 July 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	21 July 7pm
Autism Improving Communication	22 July 10am
Improving Family Communication	22 July 7pm
Facing Defiance	28 July 10am



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Resources and Support



Runnymede SEN Summit

When: Thursday 17th July - 10am - 12noon

Where: Council Chamber, Runnymede Civic Centre
(in-person, please register in advance)

Purpose: Aimed at parents and key stakeholders in the Runnymede area. Come and share your experiences and suggestions for improving the SEN system.



Chair: Cllr Sam Jenkins,
Runnymede Councillor for Egham



Featuring: Cllr Jonathan Hulley,
Surrey County Council Cabinet
Member for Children, Families and
Lifelong Learning

Register your interest here:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=0Gjc7jyjfEyFYhvUqNTPGHRrEUDpMs0VCIO4oT-9YgqtUMEs2OUJXMUVHUTA3M1pQWEpOMDJIQUcyVy4u&route=shorturl>