

SEND NEWSLETTER

Sandal Primary School

In this issue:

- Training in school
- Diary dates
- Autumn SEND reviews
- Dyslexia
- Dyspraxia
- MINT coffee mornings

A warm welcome to all new to Sandal parents this academic year. I hope your child has had a brilliant start to the year and has settled into their new routines, classrooms and built positive relationships with the staff in their year group. Here is the 1st SEND newsletter for 2023-2024. These will be produced every half term, to keep you all informed of updates, and to share information for further support. If you have any enquiries related to SEND, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Miss Sperduto, SENCO

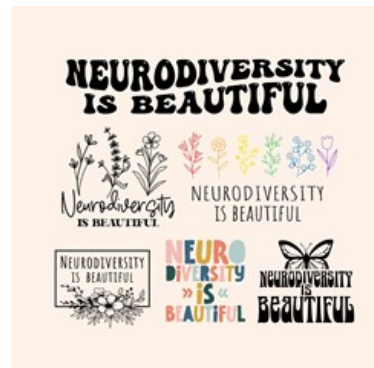
Training in School:

- Last academic year we worked with a Communication and Interaction (CI) specialist teacher, from the Social, Communication, Interaction and Learning Team (SCIL) in Bradford's SEND department. This support was invaluable for staff and has really helped to improve specific practice for individual pupils but also strategies to strengthen quality first teaching for all children.
- Staff are now more confident in supporting this area of need therefore we will be focusing on a new area this academic year; Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).
- Our link specialist is Alison Copley. She will be working closely with Miss Sperduto, to plan, organise and develop practice around SEMH needs across school. This process has already begun, with 2 days of targeted support planned in for Autumn 2.
- Mr Douglass has begun a training programme based on Attachment by Louise Bomber. This is a need that is increasing in education and therefore, we want to ensure that we are able to provide and implement appropriate support for these children. He will be working with Miss Sperduto, to develop a 'Team Around the Child' approach for children who have Attachment disorder.

Diary dates:

These are national dates aimed to raise awareness of specific types of SEND.

- Anaphylaxis awareness week– 1st to 7th October
- Dyslexia awareness week – 2nd to 8th October
- Dyspraxia awareness week– 9th to 15th October
- National adoption week– 16th to 22nd October
- Black History month– 1st to 31st October



For further support and advice on Attachment disorder, please visit:

<https://www.attachmentproject.com/psychology/attachment-disorders/>



Autumn term SEND reviews:

If your child is on our school SEND register, you have the opportunity for attending a termly SEND review with Miss Sperduto and your child's class teacher. The 1st one will be a face to face appointment in school. The 2nd and 3rd will be a phone call. They are an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress, provision and support they are receiving in school, using their Individual Learning Plans (ILP's). Further information regarding dates and how to book an appointment will be sent out during the 1st week of Autumn 2.

"To understand is hard. Once one understands, action is easy."- Sun Yat-Sen

SEND NEWSLETTER

Sandal Primary School

Dyslexia

Dyslexia is a specific learning difficulty which primarily affects reading and writing skills. However, it does not only affect these skills. Dyslexia is actually about information processing. Children with dyslexia may have difficulty processing and remembering information they see and hear, which can affect learning and the acquisition of literacy skills. Dyslexia can also impact on other areas such as organisational skills.

It is important to remember that there are positives to thinking differently. Many dyslexic children show strengths in areas such as reasoning, creativity and practical activities. and in visual and creative fields.

In school, if we have continuous concerns around dyslexic tendencies, we are able to use a dyslexia screening test. This will give an indication of the severity of the difficulties the child is experiencing which can then be used as a tool to decide on the most appropriate provision for the child. We will inform parents of the outcome of the screener and it is then their decision if they wish to pursue an official diagnosis from an external professional.

There are many strategies that can be put into place to support children with dyslexia. Please see the attached leaflet which details some of the support we are able to provide in school.

For further advice, please visit:



Dyspraxia

Dyspraxia is a Developmental co-ordination disorder (DCD). It is a condition affecting physical co-ordination and is actually more common than people realise. It causes a child to perform less well than expected in daily activities for their age, and appear to move clumsily. It is a hidden condition that is not understood well nationally.

Each person's experience of dyspraxia will be different however there are some common signs of dyspraxia:

- Difficulty co-ordinating small and large scale body movements
- Movements appear awkward and lack smoothness
- Poor spatial awareness, more trips, bumps and bruises
- Difficulty learning movements required to carry out new practical tasks
- Difficulty transferring motor skills to new situations

It's not usually clear why co-ordination doesn't develop as well as other abilities in children with dyspraxia. Although dyspraxia does not affect how intelligent a child is, it can make it more difficult for them to learn and they may need extra help to keep up at school. There are ways that we can support children with dyspraxia including:

- being taught ways of do activities they find difficult, such as breaking down difficult movements into smaller parts and practicing them regularly
- adapting tasks to make them easier, such as using special grips on pens and pencils so they are easier to hold

Where concerns are raised around dyspraxia, a referral to the school nursing team would be completed with parental consent.

For further advice, please visit: <https://dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk/>



MINT coffee mornings

We have booked a date in for this for Autumn 2:

Wednesday 8th November 9-11am.

The focus of this first will be on Mental Health and Cognition and Learning, looking at specific interventions that will help children with their reading ability. This will include:

*Toe by Toe *PORIC *BLANK levels *BEAT Dyslexia

We will also be providing you with information around the school nursing team and the support that they can offer to school and parents.



*"So many of our abilities to do things, depend on the interaction with one another"-
Amartya Sen*