

Friday 4th October 2024

Welcome!

Welcome back to The Good Shepherd. It has been great to see all the children returning as well as getting to know our new starters!



Mrs Brown
SENCO
Special Educational Needs and
Disabilities Coordinator

Tea and Talk

On Thursday 10th October at 3.30pm, I will join Mrs Brunton and the Mini Vinnies for 'Tea and Talk' in recognition of World Mental Health Day. This will give you the opportunity to ask me any questions about SEND or simply just to meet other people.

If you have any concerns about your child or feel they may have any additional needs, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance for support.

Dyslexia Screening

We are often asked about screening children for dyslexic traits and in the past have offered an online dyslexia screener. After some advice and training from Nottinghamshire School and Families Specialist Services' Cognition and Learning Team, we have decided to move towards a more holistic approach which takes place over a longer period of time for children in Year 3 and above.

The Nottinghamshire Dyslexia Friendly Schools toolkit provides several screening tests completed over time (approximately one half term) which are then used to build profiles of information. Areas which are tested include:

- Auditory discrimination
- Memory
- Auditory sequential memory
- Visual sequential memory
- Visual discrimination
- Phonological awareness

The toolkit also involves considering initial concerns from parents/carers and school staff, school history and curriculum assessment, family and child development background as well as any other previous concerns and SEND support.

All the information gathered is compiled into a report which outlines any further recommendations for support in school and at home.

Please note that dyslexia screening aims to identify traits which are commonly associated with dyslexia and we are not able to diagnose children with dyslexia. An assessment of dyslexia is carried out by someone with a relevant qualification accredited by the BDA. Formal diagnosis of dyslexia is not needed to access support.

My role as SENCO

During the year, you are more likely to communicate directly with your child's class teacher. However, class teachers are in regular communication with me to discuss any concerns raised to ensure they are fully understood. I, with your consent, am able to seek advice from external agencies, if this is appropriate.

Every half term, and more often if needed, I will visit each class to observe and offer support. In addition to this some of the duties carried out as SENCO include: supporting with assessments, completing referrals, sending enquiries to outside agencies, submitting EHC requests, completing EHC reviews, monitoring data and arranging training.

Review meetings

Review meetings are held for children on the SEND register (SEND support), three times a year (November, March and June/July). These will be held with your child's class teacher and are an opportunity to discuss progress and update their Provision Map. Annual reviews are held in Pentecost 2 term and are attended by the child's next class teacher as well, where possible.

I will attend reviews for children with an EHCP (Educational Health Care Plan).

Any child included on our SEND concern list will be discussed at parent/carers' consultation evening. However, please get in touch with your child's class teacher if you have any concerns outside of these times in the first instance.

I also have an appointment system which is available to book via the office, preferably by email or Arbor message. These will be available most weeks at 3pm on Thursday and 9am on Friday. Please contact the office if you would like a meeting but are unable to attend an appointment during these times.

Useful links

Nottinghamshire's Local Offer

Local authorities provide details of the services and provision that are available to families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

<https://www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/kb5/nottinghamshire/directory/localoffer.page?newdirectorychannel=9>



Ask Us Nottinghamshire is the local Information and Advice Support Service (IASS) for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. They offer a range of advice from signposting, to one to one advice for complex issues.

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