

SENDCo Newsletter – Lent 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and have had a restful Christmas and New Year. I can't quite believe we are beginning our second term of the year already but am looking forward to continuing working with you all in the Lent term.



If your child has a **PSP (Personal Support Plan)**, you will have discussed progress towards their Advent targets and created new targets for the Lent term which will be suitable for home learning. In the initial weeks of the Lent term, class teachers will share two copies of your child's updated PSP with agreed Lent targets. **Please sign and return one copy and keep the other copy for yourself.** As always, we work with you and so if you have anything you would like to discuss or change in regards to your child's PSP targets since your review meeting, please discuss this with their class teacher.

What to do if you have any concerns about your child

If you have any concerns about your child's progress, in the first instance, **please speak to your child's class teacher and/or the SENDCo.** We will always listen and work with you to support your child in whatever way we can. If you would like a meeting, please ring the school office on **0115 9733209** or email enquiries@eng.srscmat.co.uk

Update to SRSCMAT SEND Staffing

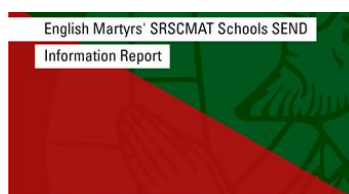
From January, Katherine Chadbourne will be leaving Saint Joseph's in Matlock as their headteacher in order to take on the role of SEND Lead for the Trust. Katherine will be continuing to support us as a school with our SEND provision.

New SEND Information Report

What is a SEND Information Report?

As set out in the SEND Code of Practice, all schools are required by law to publish a SEND Information Report for prospective, new and existing parents and carers of their school community. This outlines what SEND provision looks like in the school and how to access additional support in a clear and meaningful way.

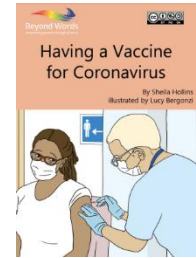
During the Advent term, I worked alongside the Trust to update and improve the format of our information report, with the hope of making it more accessible to our parents and carers. Our new information report can be found on our school website, or if you are reading this on a device, [click here](#) to go straight to it! As always, I would welcome any feedback or thoughts on this!



Continuing support through the pandemic

As cases sadly begin to rise once again, we can all understandably begin to feel more anxious, particularly our young pupils with SEND. As such, we want to reassure you that we are continuing to support all children with the recovery curriculum in mind. We are also

looking to increase our teaching of emotional literacy over the next term. I also wanted to signpost you to the following external websites again which offer help and support for parents and carers on supporting SEND children during the pandemic:



Books Beyond Words: Having a Vaccine for Coronavirus

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/551cfff9e4b0f74d74cb307e/t/60a3d632949154502805c844/1621350036393/Having+a+Vaccine+for+Coronavirus.pdf>

BBC Bitesize Parents' Toolkit: SEND <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zh9v382>

NSPCC Supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/coronavirus-supporting-children-special-educational-needs-disabilities/>

ELSA Support <https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/category/free-resources/> Offer some free resources to support emotional wellbeing, many of which are related to addressing issues surrounding COVID-19, for example, the 'We have a vaccine – story for children'.

Where else can parents get help?

Below are links to further information and other means of support for parents and families of young people with SEND in Derbyshire.

Derbyshire Local Offer <https://localoffer.derbyshire.gov.uk/>

The Local Offer provides information for children and young people with special educational needs (SEND) and their parents or carers in a single place. It shows families what they can expect from a range of local agencies including education, health and social care.

Derbyshire Parent Forum <https://derbyshireparentforums.co.uk/>

A registered charity which is run by parent/carer volunteers with children/young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. They organise parent participation, providing the opportunity to talk about all the services they receive in Derbyshire.

DIASS (Derbyshire Information, Advice and Support Service for SEND)

<https://www.derbyshireiass.co.uk/home.aspx>

DIASS provides independent information, advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as their parents and carers. They are impartial, confidential, and works at arm's length from the local authority. Their advice is free and accessible to all parents of children with SEND.

Please continue to share any information with regards to updates for your children, for example medical appointments or letters received from professionals or agencies. This really helps us to support your children as best as we possibly can in school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lawrence

SENDCo and Year 5 class teacher