



SEND at Shorne



Issue 1: April 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to SEND at Shorne! This is our new SEND newsletter which will be sent to you three times a year and will provide you with SEND information both inside and outside of school.

I would like to start by explaining what exactly SEND means. The term SEND stands for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The definition of SEND is as follows:

A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- *has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or*
- *has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.*

If at any point you have any queries or concerns about your child's learning, behaviour or social and emotional needs, please do not hesitate to contact me via email: senco@shorne.kent.sch.uk. Alternatively, please feel free to contact the school office on 01474 822312 to make an appointment to meet with me. No query is too small and no question is too silly. I will make it my best endeavour to support you in finding the right answer or taking the correct next steps in doing so.

At Shorne, we ensure that we do everything possible to meet the needs of all pupils and break down barriers to learning in order to support specific learning needs. We provide inclusive classrooms alongside a broad and balanced curriculum to make sure we are bringing out the best in each and every one of our children. We have a SEND register on which children are placed if they require support above and beyond the already provided Quality First Teaching. Your views and opinions as parents are incredibly important to us so we always ask for parents voice when it comes to a child's provision.

I hope you enjoy reading SEND at Shorne and find it useful and informative.

Ifield Smile offer a variety of parent workshops and parent support forums. During Terms 5 and 6, the following courses are available for you to attend:

- Explore and Improve Social Communication skills - 26th April
- Autism in the Early Years - 28th April
- Anxiety and Autism - 29th April
- Basics for Behaviour - 10th May
- Starting the Autism Journey - 14th June
- Supporting Transition - 15th June
- Understanding Dyslexia - 16th June

If you are interested in any of these free workshops, call 01474 536924 to book your place or book online via the Ifield School Smile website. www.ifieldschool.com

Gardening and Games donations

We are going to be starting some gardening projects to support children in developing social skills and would be really grateful for any donations of gardening equipment that you may be thinking about throwing out. Anything from pots, seeds, gloves, shovels would be much appreciated! We also regularly like to restock our board games selection so if you have any old games that you do not want anymore, they would be greatly received!



Kent Local Offer provides information to children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities, and their families, about support services that are available in our local area. Here in Kent, our Local Offer is called the SEND Information Hub. You can visit the website for support and advice about SEND, information regarding educational support, to join the parent and carer forums and see what voluntary organisations and charities have to offer for you and your child in our local area.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs>

www.iask.org.uk

YOUNGCARERS

Young Carers are children and young people between the age of 5 and 18 who take on caring responsibilities for a family member with a long-term illness, disability, mental health or substance misuse issue. There are currently over 10,000 young carers in Kent. Being a young carer can put a huge strain on children and young people which can in turn affect their mental health and wellbeing, if not provided with appropriate support. As a school, we can help in providing the correct support, or you can seek support yourself via these websites: <https://www.imago.community/Children-and-Young-People/Kent-Young-Carers>

<https://www.crossroadskent.org/how-we-can-help-young-carers>

<https://livewellkent.org.uk/service/young-carers/>

Thinking about TRANSITION

Term 6 (June - July), will be the start of a transition process for all children. Whether your child is starting a new school, new key stage or new year group in September, the change is likely to bring about a world of mixed emotions for them. They may experience happiness, sadness, anxiety, excitement or nervousness. However your child may feel about their transition, we will be here to help and naturally embed small steps of support throughout the transition process.

Below are some tips and ideas for how you can help support your child through the transition process at home throughout Term 6:

- Spend time talking to your child about their new teacher, their new classroom but also their friends who will be transitioning with them. Give them chance to ask questions and share their thoughts.
- Together, write a letter to your child's new teacher telling them a little bit about what your child likes/dislikes, is looking forward to or feeling nervous about.
- Share a countdown throughout the summer holidays and talk about something positive relating to school each day, even if it is what they may like to eat at lunch or playtimes!
- Discuss strategies with your child that may help them when they are feeling nervous so that they know how to cope with unsettling emotions; taking deep breaths, counting to ten, having some water, talking to a friend or an adult.
- Provide a robust routine for your child so that they know what to expect and will have a calming start to their day getting prepared for school.
- Go shopping for some new stationary or a new lunch box and water bottle together.

During Term 6, all children will be given the opportunity to meet their new teachers and spend time in their new classrooms towards the end of the term. Here are some websites that you may find useful if your child is worrying about their transition:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/a-z-guide/transitions-and-times-of-change/>

<https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/resources/supporting-childrens-transition-to-secondary-school-guidance-for-parents-and-carers/>

<https://childmind.org/article/how-can-we-help-kids-with-transitions/>

If you have any concerns regarding your child's transition, please do not hesitate to contact myself or your child's class teacher. We will be happy to meet with you to discuss further support.



Kent Dyslexia

Kent Dyslexia are assessors of Dyslexia and Dyscalculia for schools, parents and the NHS. They can offer face to face diagnostic Dyslexia and Dyscalculia assessments for children aged 7 and above. Comprehensive written reports are provided with the assessment which are suitable for the Kent Test access arrangements. Further information and details can be found at:

www.kentdyslexia.co.uk

Some useful websites:

National Autistic Society - www.autism.org.uk

Autism South East - <https://www.autismsoutheast.co.uk/>

Cygnets Parenting Support Programme (A parenting support programme for parents and carers of children and young people aged 5-18 with an autistic spectrum condition) - <https://barnardos-parenting.org.uk/cygnets-programme/>

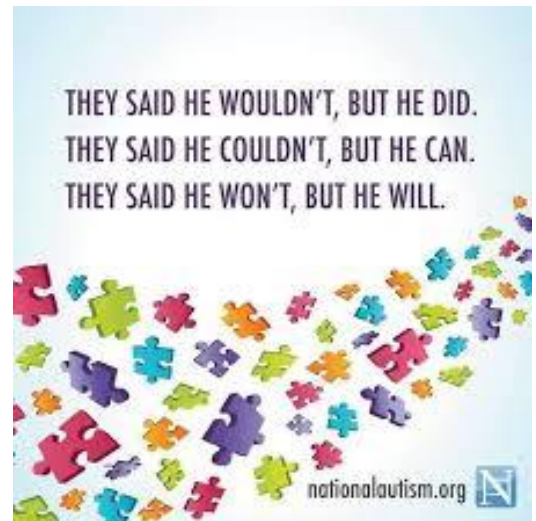
Beams (We are Beams - Support, advice, activities and respite) - <https://wearebeams.org.uk>

ADHD Foundation - www.adhdfoundation.org.uk

Art Competition



We will be holding an art competition, giving your child the opportunity to show case some of their creative talents. If your child would like to participate, all they need to do is complete an art piece of their choosing on A3 or A4 paper. They may use a variety of materials and colours but the art work must represent something that is special to them. Maybe a favourite tv character, a favourite toy or a favourite place. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and the art pieces will be judged (anonymously) by Mrs Prest on Thursday 19th May. Please have all complete art pieces handed in to me by Wednesday 18th May. Good luck!



I would like to end this newsletter with a big thank you for your ongoing support and engagement. It really is much appreciated and as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at senco@shorne.kent.sch.uk.

Mrs Doerr