

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Newsletter

Botley C of E Primary School



Upcoming dates

**Parent/Carer informal
coffee & chat
At Botley All Saints Church**

Next session:
Wednesday 14th January at
9.45am

Please come along for an informal chat or support. Mrs Thomson will do her best to find the best route forward and/or signpost to outside providers.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION & ADVICE SESSIONS



The first Wednesday of every month

10am - 2pm

The Arc, Jewry Street,
Winchester, SO23 8SB



You can book an appointment on our website



Or just drop in and see us

Welcome to Botley C of E Primary School's newsletter dedicated specifically for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and wellbeing.

As we reach the end of a very busy autumn term, I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to our SEND newsletter to everyone but particularly those that are new to the school.

Like many other schools, this term continues to see rise in the number of pupils requiring additional support, as well as an increase in Education, Health and Care Plans across the school. I am incredibly proud of the resilience shown by our pupils, the dedication of our staff, and the strong partnerships we continue to build with families. Together, we work hard with reduced resources and funding to make every learner feel supported, understood and empowered, and I look forward to continuing this important journey with you into the New Year.



Volunteers

We would also like to say a huge thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers. We are lucky to have you: Mrs Dulcia and Mrs Wilcock helping children in Key Stage 1, Mrs Brown listening to children read and completing timetable practise, Mr and Mrs Lockwood for helping the children develop their sewing skills and ukulele club. In addition, other parents that help in walking children to church, on school trips and with experiences across the school.

Your time, energy and commitment make an incredible difference to our school community. The support you give, whether in classrooms, during activities, or behind the scenes, is truly vital in helping us provide the best possible experiences for our pupils. We are deeply grateful for everything you do.

We would welcome any parents or grandparents that may have some time to come in regularly and listen to some children read. If this is something you feel you could provide, please contact me on the email k.roberts@botley.hants.sch.uk.



Christmas Stars Please!

We would love some stars for our Christmas tree in the main office!

There will be some stars on the desk in the office for you to write messages of appreciation, people you might be grateful for or things that make you happy!

Once written these can be hung on the Christmas tree in the main office.

We cannot wait to see the children's messages!

Important links

Information report
[Click here](#)

SEN Policy
[Click here](#)

SEND Support links
[Click here](#)

Hampshire Local Offer
[Click here](#)



Pets as Therapy

You may have seen recently that we have Ruby the dog from the charity Pets as Therapy coming in weekly with her owner Suzette. The children have loved the sessions with her so far and we are trying to offer this opportunity to many children across the school.

Ruby is on her fifth visit to the school next week where small groups of children have sat with her and had stories read to them by a member of staff. We have linked these stories to emotional literacy and topic work from the classroom in a calm and nurturing space. In the New Year, we plan to have more 1:1 reading with children reading to the Ruby.

Ruby certainly brings a sense of joy when she comes into school and everyone who has met her, whether in corridor or in a reading session, has left with a smile.



Anxiety

Anxiety is a continued theme we see in school. We recognise that anxiety can affect both children and adults, and it often becomes more noticeable during busy or transitional times of the year.

In school, we are endeavour to creating a calm, predictable environment where pupils feel safe, listened to and supported. Simple strategies, such as consistent routines, clear communication, and opportunities for movement or quiet time, can make a real difference. At home, offering reassurance, validating feelings, and keeping daily routines steady can help children feel more secure.

It is important to remind our children and ourselves that anxiety is normal, even when it does not feel like it. Our children are going to face challenges. It is an adult's job to help them navigate challenge to build their confidence and resilience. We want to give our children the mind-set of 'I can do hard things' and 'I can overcome challenge'.

This can take time and there is some more in-depth advice on the school Padlet (Where's the tiger?) – see link below.

If you are ever concerned or need further guidance, please reach out to us; working together ensures that children receive consistent support both in and outside of school.



Additional Needs Padlet



We continue to add to our Additional Needs Padlet for parents and carers so please do look and see if there is anything you might find helpful for you and your child.

There is new information for parents on anxiety and up and coming training and events from CAMHS, Autism Hampshire and help with sensory difficulties from Sensory Help Now.

[Click here to see the Additional Needs Padlet.](#)

Navigating Festivities

As we enter winter, the inevitable busyness of the festive season creeps in. Although exciting, this can be an unsettling time for children and challenging for parents. To help navigate this time of year, we suggest the following tips:

- **Do what works for your child** – if visiting Christmas lights or seeing Santa is something they would love, then go for it. However, if not DON'T. The pressure we can feel as parents to make it 'magical' is often unhelpful
- **Beware of Social Media** – The family Christmas PJ photos are highlights, not real life. Don't let comparison discourage you
- **Keep some level of routine** – be that regular meal times or the bedtime routine just to keep some predictability in their days

If any celebrations within school are causing your child to feel anxious, please speak with a member of staff. We want this season to be enjoyable and accessible for all.

If you have any questions or concerns, please come in and see us or send an email to Mrs Thomson or I.

Lastly, we wish you a very joyful Christmas and New Year!

Mrs Roberts

Email address: k.roberts@botley.hants.sch.uk & h.thomson@botley.hants.sch.uk

