



St Katherine's School and Nursery

Inclusion Newsletter

June 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we head towards the end of the academic year, some parents have asked me about how we begin preparing children for the next academic year. I have outlined some of the key transition arrangements we implement below. Please feel free to ask for further clarification.

If you have any concerns or queries about your child's needs, please do get in touch with your child's teacher or with myself.

I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with parents to support the children at St Katherine's.

Mrs Caroline Loveland – SENCO

Transition

At this time of the year, many parents worry about how their children will cope with transitioning from one year group, where they feel settled and happy, into a new year group with a new teacher. These concerns are often greater if your child has particular needs or if they are going to move onto a new school.



Transition to Secondary School

All the local secondary schools invite children in for Induction Days during Term 6. In some cases, extra days may be offered for those children who need additional sessions. Alongside this, the Year 7 teachers from the secondary schools, and often the SENCO, will meet with the Year 6 teachers and myself to talk about the children who are joining them. This provides an excellent opportunity for us to share anything that has helped the child while they have been at St Katherine's. In addition to this, the Specialist Teaching and Learning Service, STLS, offer some additional sessions. Some of our children are supported through the SEMH transition project, where they will visit their new school as part of a small group with a specialist teacher and her therapy dog, Yogi.

Transition within St Katherine's

By the end of Term 6, most children are ready to move on to the next year group and start their next chapter at St Katherine's. For some children, reassurance is often needed, which can come from both home and school.

We know it is essential that personal/ contextual information is passed on to the next teacher. Time is mapped out for teachers to get together and have thorough handover meetings. All our children will have at least two opportunities to visit their new classroom and meet their new teacher.

We will also provide information to take home for the summer with visual reminders for those children who may need it. Each teacher will also produce a PowerPoint page outlining key information which will be shared with families before the end of the academic year.



Contact reminders

- NHS Kent Community Health will direct families to support via their website.
<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/>
- NHS Children's Therapies, The Pod provides links and videos to support children
<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/childrens-therapies-the-pod/>
- National Autistic Society provide Early Bird courses for parents.
<https://www.autism.org.uk/>
- Barnardo's provide Cygnet parenting support programme.
<https://barnardos-parenting.org.uk/>
- Space to be me support children with disabilities and SEND in Kent.
<https://space2beme.org.uk/>
- Young Minds offers information and advice on wellbeing.
<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>



Coffee Morning/Afternoon

It has been lovely to chat to parents at our previous SEND coffee mornings. The next session will be on **Thursday 4th July, from 2.30pm.** Please feel free to come along and chat whether your child is on the SEN register or not.

The focus of the next coffee morning will be preparing for the next school year.



Parents of Year 5 and 6

Coffee Morning

On Thursday 20th June, Miss Moody, the SENCO at Holmesdale School, will be joining me to meet with parents of children who are going to Holmesdale in September 2024 or parents who are considering different options for September 2025. Please do come along and ask questions and find out about the support, which can be offered at Holmesdale.



Speech, Language and Communication

the pod

Children's therapies



The POD is an NHS website with lots of information and activities for families and schools. Please see the link above.

One area that is focused on is speech, language and communication. This includes support for children with communication difficulties associated with autism and highlights the importance of signs and symbols to support children with communication.

There are videos to watch with information about different types of language development and suggestions for supporting children at home.

Parent / carer workshop:
Supporting school aged children with
Speech, Language and Communication
Needs (SLCN)
Children's Speech and Language
Therapy Service



<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/childrens-therapies-the-pod/>

At St Katherine's we aim to make all our classrooms communication friendly. This means that we make sure there are visuals to support children's learning and we try to keep rooms and displays clear, informative and accessible to all children.