

Additional Needs Newsletter – Lent Term 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you are all well and have had a lovely Christmas break. As promised, I would be in contact at the beginning of each half term with any relevant updates for you all.

All teachers have been busy updating targets and SEN plans for the children in their classes who require additional support. We have also introduced 'Pupil Passports' which are snapshots of each individual pupil's needs, with ways to support them effectively in class. This is a one page document, which will be regularly updated as your child moves through the school. Teachers will be asking for parental views should your child have one of these passports to ensure that we can provide a holistic approach.

If your child has an SEN plan, you will have had the opportunity to speak with your child's class teacher and talk through the updated plan and your child's revised targets for this term. This took place on Wednesday 11th January 2023. If you didn't manage to speak with your child's class teacher during this evening, please do book an appointment with them to follow this up. You can do this by emailing the class teacher directly via the class email address e.g. class7@stgeorges.derby.sch.uk. This way, you can also work with your child on some of the targets at home to further support the work we do in school. This plan is available via our online system, Edukey via <https://edukeyapp.com/parent>

Don't forget to ask your child's class teacher for your log on details, should you need them resetting, to ensure you have full access to all aspects of the additional support for your child. Here, you can make comments for the teacher to view and respond to. Please look to use this app as a means of communication regarding the SEN plan and to show your agreement to the targets. As always, we work with you and so if you have anything you would like to discuss or change with regards to your child's targets in between your review meetings, please discuss this with the class teacher.

Who can I contact regarding concerns about my 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 01332 766815 or email senco@geo.srscmat.co.uk.

Outside agency support

I'm sure this won't be a surprise to many of you considering the current news stories about how stretched the NHS and other multi-agency services are, but unfortunately such services are becoming far less accessible than ever before. This includes support for speech and language, autism and ADHD support, Education Psychologists, dyslexia support and Physiotherapists to name but a few. Please be assured, however, that I am striving to find private support as and where I can within an incredibly tight budget. Over the past few

years, we have acquired and developed a range of resources to support different areas of need and we will be using this large bank to support your children in the meantime.

Where can I go for further support?

If you live in Derby City, you can access their local offer [here](#)...

If you live in Derbyshire, you can access their local offer [here](#)...

Alternatively, you can contact an independent advice service, [SENDIASS](#) for Derby City and [DIASS](#) for Derbyshire.

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 does help us to support your children as best as we possibly can in school.

Finally, thank you for your really positive response to our school offering after school clubs first initially to SEND and Pupil Premium children free of charge. This really helps to develop the 'whole child' and ensure that they have every opportunity to shine.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes, Mrs Holmes (SENDCo)

Further Support for Parents/Carers on Social Media

Autism East Midlands's free drop-in hubs are back!

These free drop-in hubs are for parents, carers and children under 11. No autism diagnosis is necessary. Siblings are welcome. Families can go to whichever hub is most convenient for them or access multiple hubs if they would like to.

If you're on Facebook, there are many supportive groups and forums to support parents and carers of children with additional needs. A few of my favourite include:

- *Derby City Local Offer
- *Autism East Midlands
- *Autism Derby by Julie Fearn
- *Parent Carers Together C.I.C
- *Derby SEND Information Advice and Support Service
- *Special Needs Jungle

AEM

Autism East Midlands

Derby City Family Support Hub

Session dates for 2023

Chellaston Community Association
Barley Croft, Chellaston
Derby DE73 6TU

The aim of the hub is to offer support and a safe space for families who have children on the Autistic Spectrum. These are drop in sessions for the whole family to enjoy, aimed at children under 11 years of age. Children (including siblings) can participate at their own pace with support from parents and our staff team. Families can engage in activities or sit back and enjoy some refreshments, whilst talking to other families and sharing experiences or speaking with staff for advice and support.

No need to book a place – just turn up – but feel free to contact me if you have any questions - Hannah.Weir@aem.org.uk

Usually the last Saturday of the month, 2.30-5pm

January 28 th	February 25 th
March 25 th	April 29 th
May 27 th	June 24 th
July 29 th	August 26 th
September 30 th	October 28 th
November 25 th	December event TBC



For further information contact:- Hannah.Weir@aem.org.uk