

Welcome!

Welcome to our first newsletter dedicated specifically for Special Educational Needs. We hope you find this useful for information and to keep you up to date with all the SEND news and updates that take place here at Holy Trinity. If you have any suggestions of what you would like in future SEND newsletters, please let the school office know.

Meet the team



Mrs Taylor
ELSA/Nurture
Support



Mrs Wickens
SENDCo



Mrs McGeehan
Acting
Headteacher



Pauline
Brookes
SEND Governor

Jen Evans
SEMH
Governor

Some Useful Contacts/Weblinks:

Oxfordshire Local Offer - The Oxfordshire Local Offer is a way of providing information to families with children with special educational needs and disabilities in Oxfordshire.

[Oxfordshire SEND local offer | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

SENDIASS - Information and advice, for parents/carers, children, and young people with Special Educational Needs.

[SENDIASS Oxfordshire | Information, advice & support in Oxfordshire](#)

Drop in SEND Support Group - Open to all parents of children with diagnosed or undiagnosed additional needs. This is a free,

SEND Glossary

We know that sometimes schools and other professionals can use terms or phrases that not everyone is aware of. This section will aim to shed some light on some terms each issue:

ADHD: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

ASD: Autistic Spectrum Disorder

CAMHS: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

EHCP: Education, Health and Care Plan

PDA: Pathological Demand Avoidance

<p>supportive space to share triumphs and build knowledge together.</p> <p>Family Information Service Drop in SEND Support Group</p> <p>The BBC has put together a Parent's Toolkit with activities, advice and personal stories about parenting and special educational needs and disabilities to help support families.</p> <p>SEND tips and advice - BBC Parents' Toolkit - BBC Bitesize</p> <p>Christmas tips for autistic people and their families from the National Autistic Society</p> <p>Tips</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Updated SEND Pupil Profiles</u></p> <p>Mrs McGeehan and I decided to update our SEND Pupil Profiles this academic year so you can see the journey your child takes this academic year all on one document. It high-lights your child's strengths and interests (the things they are good at and the things that interest them), their barriers to learning (the things they find tricky) and the strategies we are going to use to support your child. You will have seen this document at your Parents' Evening in October 2024 and we will meet again in January 2025 to review your child's progress so far.</p> <p>We hope you find this new format helpful and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher first, as they are supporting your child on a daily basis and if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Well-Being Warriors</u></p> <p>We have introduced Well-Being Warriors this academic year where every child will have the opportunity to wear our 'Well-Being Warrior' badge with pride. Two children will be chosen on a weekly basis to take on this role. Their job is to ensure they check-in on their classmates and all the adults working in their classroom to make sure they are doing ok and if they are not what can we do to help them. They can also make suggestions to Mrs McGeehan, Mrs Taylor, myself or Jen Evans on how we can look after each other's wellbeing.</p> <p>Hopefully you will see your child wearing of these badges very soon.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SEND Coffee Afternoon</u></p> <p>We hope you have enjoyed our first two SEND Coffee Afternoons - they have been a big success and it has been a delight to see how one small idea has grown into a lovely support network where we can only help each other to support our children.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lunchtime at Holy Trinity</u></p> <p>We are sure you have heard about our change in provision at lunchtime. The children now have the option to explore and engage with a variety of different activities on a daily basis. We have taken the idea of Continuous Provision from Early Years and we now have Continuous Provision available to the Whole School during lunchtime. The children are able to choose between a box of</p>

We are extremely grateful for your support. Our next SEND Coffee Afternoon will be on Monday 20th January 14:30 till 15:15. We have already booked a visitor from SENDiass to come and join us. SENDiass stands for special educational needs and disability information advice and support service. Children and their parents/carers where a child has or may have special educational needs or a disability are able to access this service for free, impartial and confidential information and advice.

Creative activities - colourings, drawings, pens, pencils
Dress-up activities - a box full of material, scarves, hats, clothes where they can enjoy dressing up and taking on different roles
A sporting box - full of different sporting activities which are being supported by our YR6 Play Leaders)
A box of cars, trucks and trains - the children enjoy using the car mat to create their own tracks and adventures
A box of books and magazines - if your child enjoys reading during their lunchtime they can relax and enjoy finding a quiet area where they can read to their hearts content.
Sound system - the children can listen to music and have a boogie with their friends whilst listening to the latest hits

As you see, we have a wide variety of activities for the children to access at lunchtime. If you have any further suggestions or any resources you would happily donate then please do come and speak to either Mrs McGeehan, Mr Whybrow or myself.

Food for thought - A family's experience with ADHD, ASD and PDA

"We're Raising a Cat in a Dog World"

"I've used the cat-dog metaphor to describe what it's like to raise my son, who is gifted, with ADHD and autistic PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance). The latter is a term increasingly used to describe autistic children who exhibit extreme resistance to demands and requests, no matter how big or small, even if the demands are of obvious benefit and interest to them."

One of the most challenging parts of raising a unique child is accurately explaining who he is and how our lives operate to family, friends, teachers, and others. Over time, I have developed this metaphor to help describe our experiences, as well as our different parenting style: Most people have dogs, but I have a cat. My cat is amazing, but most people insist that he is a dog. Which, of course, he just isn't.

Like most cats, my cat will not follow orders to sit and stay — even when so directed by experts who have successfully trained thousands of dogs to do these things on command. While people understand and accept that cats don't do dog things, many continue to insist that my cat is a dog, and that my cat can do dog things. They refuse my explanations to the contrary. People who think I have a dog may "helpfully suggest" compliance training methods, but I know from experience that most dog methods don't work on my cat. I see and acknowledge that I have a cat (despite his often looking like a dog to others!). Treating him like a dog who can be compliant only results in significant frustration for all involved. Those who treat my cat like a cately on end up with far more rewarding relationships. I've learned to limit contact with people who insist I have a dog, and especially those who try to force dog methods on my cat while criticising my cat methods. What has helped is finding people who have cats themselves and asking them what is effective with their cats. Even

though cats have similar traits, it's important to understand that each cat is unique, and to accept that many things that work well for other cats might not work for yours.

<https://www.additudemag.com/pathological-demand-avoidance-autism-adhd/>

How do we help our Cats be ready to explore the Dog shaped world?

As always, thank you for all your support and encouragement. Please remember if you have any questions regarding SEND your child's class teacher is the first port of call as they support your child on a daily basis. If you then have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office and make an appointment to meet with me. I am at Holy Trinity on a Monday and a Friday.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Wickens