



### Dear Parents

Welcome to the first edition of Shirley Heath's SEND Newsletter.

The newsletter aims to provide parents with further information about the provision made for children with Special Educational Needs at our wonderful school. I hope you find it to be both interesting and informative.

Mrs Anne Mills  
SENDCo

### The Nest

#### *Rest-Regulate-Reset*

This term we have trialled a new provision at Shirley Heath – The Nest.

The Nest is open daily 1.30pm-2.30pm and is staffed by myself and other members of the SEND Team. It aims to provide a safe, nurturing environment where children receive the individual or group support they need to be successful in their learning.



Children can come to 'The Nest' to access the following SEN support:

- *Movement Break*
- *Sensory Activity*
- *Calm down/de-escalation/mindfulness*
- *Quiet space to work*
- *To access provision outside the classroom to help meet identified needs – ADHD, ASD etc*
- *To access support from an adult*



The Nest includes the following:

- *Calm Corner – cushions, comfy chairs, bean bags*
- *Movement Activities – Exercise bike, rowing machine, hula hoops, skipping ropes and an outside space*
- *Sensory Activities – Play doh, slime, water, sand etc*
- *Mindful Activities – Colouring, jigsaw puzzles, Lego, K'Nex*
- *Work Station(s) – Space away from the main classroom to work (and access support via SENCo/TA)*





The Nest has been visited by many children this term, and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive 😊

### SEN Review Meetings – January 2023

If your child is on the SEND Register, you should have received an appointment for a review meeting in January.

The meeting has been scheduled at a time which allows both myself *and* the class teacher to attend, so please try to keep to this day/time as much as possible.

There are a few individual exceptions, but in general, appointments are on the following dates:

<b>Year 3</b>	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
<b>Year 4</b>	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
<b>Year 5</b>	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
<b>Year 6</b>	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2023

During the meeting we will review your child's progress towards their Autumn Term IEP targets. We will then discuss and set targets for the upcoming term. You will also of course get the opportunity to ask any questions and/or share any concerns.

If you haven't yet done so, could you please complete the attached [form](#) to confirm your attendance and meeting preference - face to face or TEAMS.

### Attendance Summary – Autumn

School attendance data shows that the average attendance of SEND children this term is largely in line with the whole school average. 😊

<b>Whole School Average Autumn Term</b>	94.94%
<b>SEND children Average Autumn Term</b>	94.38%

**Our school attendance target is 97%**

Research has found that poor attendance is linked to poor academic attainment across all stages (EEF Rapid Evidence Review: Attendance Interventions, March 2022).

If you are finding it difficult to get your child into school in the morning and/or need support in improving your child's attendance, please contact either myself or Mrs G Mills (Pastoral Manager) via the school office.

### My child is not on the SEN Register. Can I still speak to the SENDCo?

Your child's class teacher should always be the first person you speak to if you have questions or concerns. Class teachers can easily be contacted via SeeSaw or via the school office.

Any concerns raised by class teachers or parents are then discussed during a weekly inclusion meeting. Our Inclusion Team consists of myself (SEN), Mr Taylor (behaviour) and Mrs G Mills (pastoral).

## Phonics – Read, Write Inc

In line with current guidance, Shirley Heath uses Read Write Inc, a government validated synthetic phonics programme for teaching early reading skills.



### *How will Read Write Inc teach my child to read?*

First, your child will learn to read:

- Set 1 Speed Sounds: these are sounds written with one letter:  
**m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h r j v**  
**y w z x** and sounds written with two letters  
(your child will call these 'special friends'): **sh th ch**  
**qu ng nk ck**
- Words containing these sounds, by sound-blending,  
e.g. m-a-t *mat*, c-a-t *cat*, g-o-t *got*, f-i-sh *fish*,  
s-p-o-t *spot*, b-e-s-t *best*, s-p-l-a-sh *splash*
- Blending Books and Red, Green and Purple Storybooks.

Second, he or she will learn to read:

- Set 2 Speed Sounds: **ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or**  
**air ir ou oy**
- Words containing these sounds
- Pink, Orange and Yellow Storybooks.

Third, he or she will learn to read:

- Set 3 Speed Sounds: **ea oi a-e i-e o-e u-e aw**  
**are ur er ow ai oa ew ire ear ure**
- Words containing these sounds
- Blue and Grey Storybooks.

Your child will be taught to say the sound for the letter and not the letter name, so 'm' as in 'mat', not 'em'; 's' as in 'sun' not 'es'.

If your child is accessing phonics support this will be listed on their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

For further information about Read Write Inc for parents [click here](#).

For further information about phonics and sound pronunciation in particular, [click here](#).

## Community Support - Ordinary Magic



Ordinary Magic is a local charity offering mental health and wellbeing support to children and families across Solihull and surrounding areas.

Over the Christmas holidays, they will be offering various activities for children – these are free for children in receipt of school meals. Further information can be found [here](#).

Ordinary Magic are also running a new after school club for girls with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition. Further information about this and other after school clubs can be found [here](#).