



Dear Parents,

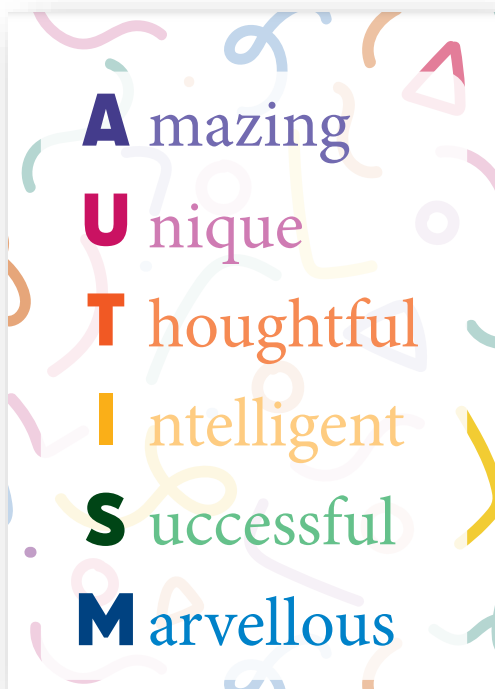
Following the success of our first SEND Newsletter, I am delighted to share with you this second edition.

Our SEND newsletters aim 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


World Autism Acceptance Week

We acknowledged Autism Acceptance Week in school from 21st-31st April.



Myself and Mrs Carter, lead assemblies on Celebrating Difference and understanding more about Autism. During the assembly we watched the video '[Amazing Things Happen](#)' from the National Autistic Society. The children then went on the complete follow-up activities, back in their classes.

An example of a Learning Scenario from the Autism Education Trust (AET) is shown below:

<p>Scenario 1</p> <p>A boy at school hardly talks and doesn't make eye contact. He stays on his own during playtime. He has tried to join in games before but his classmates laughed.</p>	<p>How do you think this made him feel? How could you help?</p> 
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Intervention Spotlight: The Big A

This term, Mrs Carter has been working with some of our children with a diagnosis of Autism on an intervention called The Big A. This is a carefully delivered programme that is used to support our older children in understanding more about their diagnosis.

One of the activities is shown below:

True or False Cards About Autism

Autism is invisible & no one can see it?	Autism effects the way my brain works?
People with autism can't do what other people do?	Autism means that I have something wrong with me?
Autism means that I might do things differently from most people?	Autism means that I might have trouble understanding other people?

BigA
Kook23@hotmail.co.uk

If you would like to find out more about The Big A, or speak to Mrs Carter, our Autism Lead, please contact school.

Phonics – Read Write Inc.

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



There is a wealth of information about Read Write Inc. for parents, including videos and downloadable resources on the Oxford Owl website. [Click here](#) to view.

SEN and Pastoral Coffee Afternoons

On 31st January we held a SEN and Pastoral Coffee afternoon. This was well attended by parents and we had a lot of positive feedback – thank you 😊

During the afternoon, parents and carers had the opportunity to meet with a variety of school staff as well as Katie from Ordinary Magic.

We also used the opportunity to showcase our wonderful phonics scheme – Read Write Inc, our Wellbeing Books and Parent Guides.

We will be holding another SEN and Pastoral Coffee afternoon during the Summer Term - further information, including confirmation of date, to follow.

SEN Review Meetings – April 2023

If your child is on the SEND Register, you should have received an appointment for a review meeting at the end of April or early in May.

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. You can attend either in person or via TEAMS, whichever is the most convenient.

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

Year 3	Thursday 20 th April
Year 4	Friday 21 st April
Year 5	Tuesday 25 th April / Friday 28 th April
Year 6	Friday 5 th May

During the meeting we will review your child's progress towards their Spring Term IEP targets. We will then discuss and set targets for the Summer term. For parents of children in Year 6, we can also discuss support for Secondary Transition. You will also of course get the opportunity to ask any questions and/or share any concerns.

Last term, **97%** of parents of children on the SEN Register, attended their child's review meeting. Thank you for your support 😊

A selection of comments from the parent feedback form, completed following January review meetings are shown below:

"I'd like to thank you for the help and support you are giving XXXX, it is really appreciated."

"Great to meet both teacher and Mrs Mills, shows school takes SEN support seriously, which I knew anyway."

"It was really nice to sit down and hear how well XXXX has progressed, with the additional support provided. It is very much appreciated, many thanks."

All of the teachers involved with XXXX are absolutely wonderful. I feel they all have a brilliant bond with both XXXX and myself and it's a joy to work with them to get the best for XXXX.

"Lovely to feel that both XXXX and I have a voice and are fully supported. Thank you so much, it is a huge relief!"

Attendance Summary – Spring Term

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

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.

Whole School Average Spring Term	95.11%
SEND children Average Spring Term	94.49%

Positive Feedback

I am always thrilled when professionals comment on the high quality of our SEN provision. I am proud of the work we do in school to ensure we meet the needs of *all* of the children in our care.

This was the first line of an email I received from a Lead Professional and Specialist Advisory teacher following a visit to Shirley Heath and The Nest in particular, last week:

'Thank you for having me to visit your lovely school yesterday, it was a real joy to see such great inclusive practice happening and making such a difference to the children.'

All about... ADHD

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, or ADHD, is a condition that affects a person's behaviour. People with ADHD may seem restless, may have trouble concentrating and may act on impulse.

In school, we use a variety of strategies to support children with ADHD, or similar needs. Some examples are as follows:

- Breaking instructions down into small chunks
- Clear routines and expectations – with visuals to reinforce
- Movement breaks
- Concentration aids (aka fiddle toys)
- Carefully considered classroom seating – seating away from windows, doors and any 'passing traffic'

I Have ADHD...

My brain works in a different way. Many other children experience ADHD too.

There are many successful people in the world who have ADHD.

There are lots of positives to having ADHD, such as being creative, imaginative, quick-thinking and good at problem-solving.

With ADHD, I may sometimes need to move around more than others. I might find it hard to concentrate, I may want to talk most of the time or find it hard to get along with others. Sometimes, I might want to wander around the classroom or interrupt others. This is all part of my ADHD.

It may be helpful for me to talk to an adult and have an open conversation about my ADHD. This may help me appreciate my unique characteristics.

To keep myself calm, I can:

- practise deep breathing;
- sit and relax in a safe space (maybe outdoors);
- listen to music;
- read a book;
- go for a walk, run or do some exercise;
- do yoga or meditate;
- drink a glass of water.

It is OK to ask questions about my ADHD and to want to know more.

It is important to remember that everyone is different and unique, with their own talents, interests and qualities.

Like with any Special Educational Need or difference, it's important to identify and recognise the positives, as well as the challenges, of ADHD. Some of these are celebrated below:

Celebrate ADHD

- I am spontaneous. I sometimes like to try new things and am fun to be around.
- I can be laser focused. I can do something in double the time as someone else. I get stuck into my interests and really get in the 'flow' of life.
- I make the world a better place. We need people to think outside the box, discover new places, create awesome ideas and act inspiringly.
- I have a zest for life. Life can feel so good, and I do tasks that require lots of energy really well.
- I have unlimited creativity. I can go on an amazing adventure in my mind. I have original, fresh and inventive ideas which is a really cool skill in life.
- There are some amazing and successful people like me who have ADHD. Will.i.am, Richard Branson and Simone Biles.
- Thank you for being you!

Further information about ADHD can be found on the NHS website [here](#).

Inclusion – Sporting Events

SEND is at the forefront of our thinking and planning throughout our curriculum, including School Sport. School Sport provides all children with the opportunity to represent 'Team Shirley Heath' at various events.

Many children with SEND have represented the school at several different events this year. These events have included indoor athletics, football, cross-country and cheerleading. Across the year, we have also completed several SEND specific events, with more in the pipeline; these have included bowling, rowing and archery.

Well done to Lottie and Lawcie who competed in the KS2 Archery even this term and came joint 3rd for Shirley Heath!

"We really enjoyed archery – it was fun!"



We aim to ensure that every child is offered the chance to represent Team Shirley Heath at a sporting event across the year.

As of March 2023, and considering that every child in Y3 will participate in the Tri-Golf festival in July, and every child in Years 4 and 5 will represent the school at the Cricket Festival, a fabulous **98.41%** of children with SEND will have represented the school this academic year. This is already an improvement on last year where 87.5% of children with SEND donned the red and black of Shirley Heath at sporting events.

As always, we appreciate all of your support with School Sport and we look forward to seeing your child represent us again in the future. Mr Dowson (P.E. Subject Leader) & Mr Baldwin (Sports Leader).

SISS Autism Team Parent Workshops

Please see the information below from the SISS Autism Team regarding their Summer Term workshops for parents.

If you would like to attend, the form to complete and return is available in the school office.

[SISS Autism Team Parent Workshops](#)
[Understanding my child's autism.](#)

Can I book a place?

- My child has a diagnosis of autism.
- My child is in a school or nursery setting in Solihull
- I can commit to attending all sessions as set out below.

If **yes to all the above points**, please complete the form below and return to:

sisupportservice@solihull.gov.uk

Please book in as early as possible as places become filled quickly. We aim to confirm your place within a week of receiving your booking form.

If you choose the online workshops you will have 5 morning sessions to attend.

If you choose the face to face workshops there are 2 in-person workshops and 1 final online session via Microsoft Teams.

When will the workshops run?

Summer Term 2023

Microsoft Teams 9.30am - 12pm	Face to Face 9.30am - 2.45pm
28.4.23	18.5.23
5.5.23	25.5.23
12.5.23	
19.5.23	
All together on Teams with external services and visitors presenting information to offer support moving forward: 26.5.2023 9.30am - 12pm	

Question and concerns – Who to ask?

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

If your question or concern is specific to your child's SEN, then an appointment with the SENDCo can be made via the school office.

Community Links – 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 Easter 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 after school clubs for girls and boys with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition. Further information about this and other after school clubs can be found [here](#).