



## SEND work this year so far

We have started the new school year with the priority of settling the children into their new classes, assessing their needs and endeavouring to meet each child's individual needs. We completely understand parents' worries when children move into new classes but would like to reassure parents that staff have a high level of communication when transferring children. As mentioned previously, staff liaise closely and share information about children's needs in detail so that their transition is well supported. Our staff have a great deal of expertise in reassuring children and getting to know them quickly, so transitions are usually smooth and happy. We also feel it is very important to give children and staff a period of time to familiarise themselves. During this time, a significant amount of support is given to children but this needs to be reassessed within their new class context. We thank parents for their understating and appreciation of this. Please let your child's class teacher know if you have any worries.



So far this school year in SEND, we have updated our SEND policy, refreshed staff knowledge on Dyslexia and planned whole staff training in ASD, which we hope will have a very positive impact. We are also planning some work around Neurodiversity to link with our *Children in Need* fundraising. This will include refreshing the children's understanding of neurodiversity, raising awareness of a range of needs and most importantly working with children to help them to understand and support their peers. This will take the form of assemblies and sensitive discussion in class at appropriate levels. Neurodiversity is supported sensitively and celebrated in school - we emphasise with the children that we all have different brains, talents and challenges.

## EHC Plans

Any child about whom we have concerns that extend beyond our classroom provision will be placed, with parental agreement on the school's SEND register to meet additional needs. Children on the SEND register have a termly Individual Provision Map (IPM). This outlines a range of support specific to each child and is known as the "assess, plan, do, review" cycle.



We are often asked about EHC Plans. An EHCP is a legal document which has to be agreed and allocated by the Local Authority for children at the highest level of need. The process is lengthy and complex and school can only request this assessment if we have had sufficient advice to do so.

## Mind set



In meeting children's needs in school, we find that one of the main barriers to children's learning is their mind set. We completely understand parents' concerns if their child is struggling, but a key issue is trying to prevent children from being affected by these worries. We teach the children that everybody has different skills and talents and that equally, everybody has something they may find more challenging. A positive approach of saying; "This might be tricky but I can do my

best" and encouraging children to celebrate what they have achieved can really help. Parents have a huge impact on their child's mind set and remaining positive even if you have concerns is the best way to help your child.

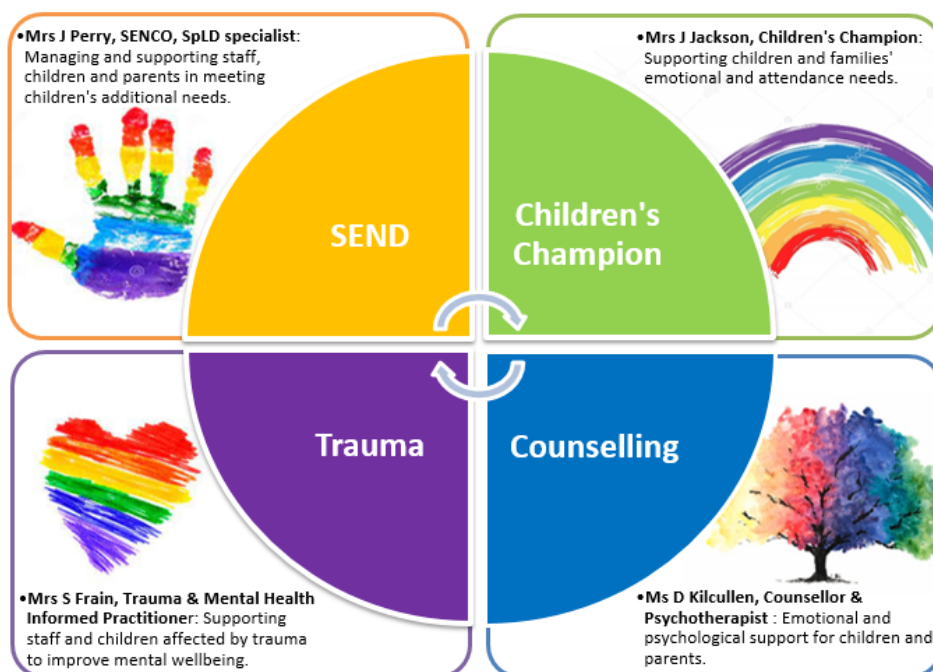
For children with a diagnosis, sharing the basic implications of the diagnosis in an age appropriate way is helpful and we can help you with this if preferred. Remaining positive about what your child can do and what support s/he needs will impact hugely on your child's self-esteem as a learner. Please let us know if we can support with this.

## Emotional Needs

As previously mentioned, many children experience a need for support with their emotional needs. If your child is experiencing significant anxieties, please contact your child's class teacher via class email. We are here to help and can quickly put strategies in place to offer support. We have a range of resources to support children with this in our wellbeing section of the school website. Please visit <https://www.helmshoreprimaryschool.co.uk/wellbeing/> for book recommendations, supportive resources and signposted support.



Here is a reminder of our multi-layered system to ensure that all children's needs are met fully.



## Channels of support



There are many lovely and carefully selected channels of support and resources on our school website, accessed via this link:

<https://www.helmshoreprimaryschool.co.uk/our-curriculum/send/>

These are constantly being developed and we are always very grateful for your support! Please also look on Twitter/X for regular posts signposting a range of support.

## NHS services

We are able to refer children to Speech and Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy but it is vital that parents understand the service operate on an “opt in” basis. Following our referral, the service will contact parents and if there is no response within a short time, children will unfortunately be discharged without accessing the service. School are not informed of the initial contact with parents, so we do need parents to engage quickly with these important services which can be very beneficial to children needing them.

A diagnosis of ASD can be accessed via referral to the ASD Pathway and must involve paediatric assessment. The initial referral can be submitted by school. A diagnosis of ADHD can be accessed via a GP referral to a paediatrician - school are not able to make this referral directly. Mrs Perry is always happy to discuss channels of support with parents and also support assessment towards diagnoses.

## Lancashire SEND Services

Wider support is offered by Lancashire SEND partnership.

Visit: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/lancashire-send-partnership/> for further information.



<https://www.facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer/>

A copy of the Autumn issue of the **Lancashire SEND Newsletter** can be found on our school website via the link below: <https://www.helmshoreprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/send-newsletter-autumn-2023.pdf>

## Talk to us!



Please remember to talk to your child's class teacher if you have any concerns. Mrs Perry (SENCO) is always happy to provide support. The best way to contact Mrs Perry is via email: [office@helmshore.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:office@helmshore.lancs.sch.uk)

Our admin staff are very efficient in passing on messages via the office directly to Mrs Perry.

We want every single child, whatever their needs to be happy, confident and “the best they are able to be”.

***Thank you for reading this newsletter!***