



SEND Newsletter

September-October 2025



Welcome to the first of this years' SEND newsletters and an even bigger welcome to new parents and carers that have joined our family at Whitehills Primary School. This newsletter aims to keep you up to date as to how we are supporting your child while raising parental awareness about SEND. I will sign post you to courses and local events as advertised through our local offer. localoffer@westnorthants.gov.uk

These first few weeks of term are always an adjustment period for our children and families as we get back into the routines of school and build new relationships with teachers and learning support staff. We feel that our approach to transition in the summer term has had a positive impact on our children as they have settled well throughout school. Some of our children and parents visited their classroom prior to the beginning of term to reduce any anxieties about coming back to school which prepared them for the following day. The visits were very positive as the families engaged with staff and looked around their classroom.

Transitioning back to school: Establishing Routines

Read advice and support in establishing new routines after a period of time off school. [bardarnas.org.uk](https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/support-for-parents-and-carers/further-support/support-going-back-to-school/transitioning-back-school-establishing-routines)
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Supporting your child if they're struggling to settle back at school

We look at how we can support your child if they are struggling to settle back at school despite having been back for several weeks [family-action.org.uk](https://family-action.org.uk/self-help/supporting-your-child-if-theyre-struggling-to-settle-back-at-school/)
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To ease the transition into school, we have introduced sensory circuits to some of our children at an earlier time of 8.30am, to enable them to have a 'soft' start to the day. This supports preparing the children to join their peers at 8.50am feeling regulated.



Pupil
voice

I like doing the obstacle course and the relaxation. I feel happy and it helps me go into class.

George

I enjoy it. I like the stepping stones as they are fun. It helps me to wake up and it calms me down before going into class.

Otis

I like the fact that I can meet new people.
I like the activities as they help me with relaxation. It helps me get into the classroom properly.

Scarlett

This term, we have been delighted to offer a new lunchtime club called Laidback Lunches. The club provides an opportunity for children to socialise and develop confidence within a structured lunchtime, which we know can benefit some children. The children eat their lunch in a smaller and quieter room and are supported by pastoral and lunchtime staff. Rather than going outside onto the playground, the children have an opportunity to alternatively access The Hive (our pastoral room) to participate in activities such as; board games, Lego, craft activities and listening to stories. They also have access to the butterfly garden for a smaller, quieter outdoor environment.

Governors Matt Cappell and Harvie Hughes have visited our lunchtime provision.



Pupil
voice

It makes me feel happy.
Motunrayo

I feel happy being with my
friends and doing the
activities.
Rosie

I really like it
because it's quieter
and doesn't hurt my
ears.
Nova

In response to our commitment to adaptive teaching, staff training has been prioritised to ensure all teachers and learning support assistants can effectively support our most vulnerable learners. This initiative will be ongoing throughout the academic year. SLT have completed lesson visits alongside Mrs Charlie Vickers (Specialist SEND Teacher, School Effectiveness Team) who is working closely with school and staff. She will be returning next term when further lesson visits will be completed.



Our family support workers, Mrs Currell and Mrs Connors, are actively assisting children experiencing Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) by creating personalised timetables aimed at fostering a therapeutic response for children to manage their anxieties around school. Over time, this will provide them with a toolkit which they can use to regulate their emotions and reduce their anxiety.



We are pleased to announce that Miss Wilkins is now an accredited Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) helping children understand and manage their emotions. Each afternoon, Miss Wilkins supports individual children or small group sessions, which the children are enjoying.



On Wednesdays, Freddie our therapy dog, comes into school (alongside Dave) Children visit him to support well-being. Both staff and children enjoy his weekly visits and Freddie meets lots of children on his walk into school!

At the beginning of term, we held several successful coffee morning events for parents. We will also repeat this next term. Information will be shared following half term.

Following on from the SEND Coffee Events held at the beginning of term, I would like to signpost the online Sleep workshop by Together Trust being held on Monday 3rd November at 7.00-9.00pm. Children struggling with their sleep can be challenging for many families, especially parents and carers of SEND children.

If you would like to attend, please reserve your space by purchasing your ticket (free of charge) using this link <https://buytickets.at/westnorthantsvoicesinpartnership/1686597>

Through our membership of the SEND Partnership, parents have accessed several online courses which were delivered by external professionals. I have received positive feedback from parents regarding both content and delivery.

JOGO Behaviour Support



Blossom Occupational Therapy Service



We have also shared information that is provided by West Northants Local offer which enables families to access a wide range of free or affordable activities across the county. I will share the link again as half term activities are advertised.



<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/XitmGhfsKgBFTcOa?ref=Link&loc=play>

If you would like to sign up for the West Northants newsletter, please use the link [newsletter](#)



West Northants Local Offer

✉ localoffer@westnorthants.gov.uk
www.westnorthants.gov.uk/local-offer

Facebook: [LocalOfferWN](#)
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As always, if you have any SEND questions or queries which your child's class teacher cannot help with, please email me between the hours of 8.30am – 5.30pm (Monday-Thursday) and 8.30am – 4.30pm (Friday) senco@whitehills.northants-ecl.gov.uk I will respond to emails within three working days.

I do hope many of you will access the 'SEND Drop-in sessions' which are available to book every Thursday afternoon, in Autumn Term 2. Mrs Currell (Family Support worker) and Mrs Connors (*Early Help and Well-being Support*) will also be available to offer support and advice. Appointments can be booked through the school office – 01604 843780.

I hope you enjoy the half term holiday.

With best wishes

Mrs Elaine Ayton
SENDCO