

CHAWSON FIRST SCHOOL

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITIES NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2022



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We are already 5 weeks in to the 2022/2023 academic year and I hope your child has settled back into life at Chawson.

I am excited to be able to share two staff updates this year to improve the support for our pupils. Mrs Smith, our Assistant Headteacher, will be taking on the role of SENCO in our pre-school to ensure any additional needs are identified early and each child has the best possible start to their education.

We have also purchased additional support from the NHS Speech and Language Therapy Service and will receive weekly input from our School Therapist Alexis Crabtree. She will be working closely with myself and Mrs Gilfoyle, a Sp&L teaching assistant, to support children with these specific difficulties. Historically, Sp&L have contacted parents via a letter to inform you of a visit but due to now having weekly visits, Alexis may work with your child if they are available during her time in school. As a result of any assessment by Alexis, you will receive a report to share her findings.

If you have any questions about SEND provision please get in touch.

Mrs Karen Sage

Special Educational Needs Coordinator

Who's who-



Mrs Sage- SENCO
Yr R-4



Mrs Smith- SENCO
Pre-school



Alexis Crabtree
School Sp&L Therapist

My Plans

If your child is on the special needs register, you will hopefully have received their My Plan for 2022/2023. This document will allow us to follow the typical **assess, plan, do, review cycle** throughout the year.

Before the October half term, your child's class teacher will get in touch with you to get your views for the plan.

At the end of the Autumn term My Plans will be reviewed and targets updated for the Spring term. This information will be shared with you to again allow for your views in the cycle. Additional provision will run throughout the course of the Spring term.

At the end of the Spring term the cycle is repeated, targets are reviewed and updated ready for the Summer term. Provision continues again through the Summer term.

Near the end of the Summer term, class teachers will review My Plans and write next steps/ targets which will be passed on to your child's class teacher ready for the cycle to continue in the next academic year.

If at any point you have a question about your child's My Plan please contact myself or your child's class teacher.

How do we identify a Special Educational Need?

Being told your child has a 'special need' can be a worrying time for any family. It is important to remember that staff have used evidence and their expertise to identify a barrier to your child making progress through the curriculum. They have identified that at this specific time, your child has an additional learning need that requires support. We will be asking ourselves-

- How should we change/adapt to best support an individual child?
- What are their specific or individual needs?
- Does a child need whole class, targeted or specialist support?

In line with the SEND Code of Practice, we recognise that early identification of children with SEN is advantageous. The earlier action is taken, the more responsive the child is likely to be.

SEN pupils are identified through teacher assessment, information obtained from parents, whole school tracking data and pupil progress meetings. The pupil progress meetings identify and track pupils who are not making expected progress. Teaching and learning approaches are used, as outlined in the Worcester 'Graduated Response' document. Interventions and support programmes are also implemented and monitored to ensure progress.

If pupils continue to show lack of progress over time, including:

- Significantly slower progress than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- Failure to match or better the child's previous rate of progress
- Failure to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers
- Widening of the attainment gap

they will be referred to the SENCO and after discussion with parents, may be placed on the SEN register where a clear graduated response of assess, plan, do and review will take place.

Where can you get extra advice/information?



Worcester County Council have produced a **Local Offer** which provides information about the provision families can expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people who have Special Educational Needs (SEN) or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. You can find out about resources, services, support, activities and events on their website-

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer>

One of the most important documents is the **Graduated Response Guidance** which is intended to be used as a tool for schools and settings and those partner agencies working with them and has been created in collaboration with SEND professionals, parents and carers and young people. The guidance has been designed to help ensure children and young people across the County with Special Educational Needs reach their full potential. It sets out Local Authority expectations for the ways in which all schools and settings should meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.

Graduated Response- https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20842/graduated_response_send_support_in_education_provision



SENDIAS are an SEND Information, Advice and Support Service covering Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

At SENDIASS they have a dedicated team of advisors offering legally-based and easily accessible information and advice about special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

They support parents, carers, children and young people with SEND and the service is impartial and confidential. There are a number of training workshops and online information sessions available throughout the year. <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sendiassworcestershiresandherefordshire/>

School website-

Our school website shares our SEN policy, SEN information report and a number of useful links for parents. <https://www.chawson.worcs.sch.uk/sen/>