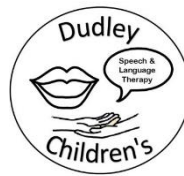


SEND Newsletter

Spring Term 1 (2023)



Welcome

Welcome to the **third** Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) newsletter.

Spring 1 has been a busy half term! Pupils settled back into school life after the Christmas break and enjoyed catching up with peers. Pupils on our KS3 intervention changed rotation to avoid missing big chunks of learning in curriculum subjects. Year 11 pupils conducted themselves extremely well over the mock exam period. Pupils who have access arrangements for exams, made use of these and hopefully feel more settled about what their summer examinations will look like.

As Children's Mental Health Awareness week fell in this half term, pupils not only had a session delivered by Phase Trust in the hall with their year groups, but also a follow up tutor time presentation to explore this year's theme of 'connection'.

We have reviewed the data produced from the Autumn term data drop and pupils progress to their personal targets. Keyworkers have met with pupils and discussed new targets and shared their successes. We have put measures in place to help those pupils who we feel would benefit from more support. Overall, we are impressed with the progress our students are making and their attitude to learning. We acknowledge that learning is more difficult for some than others, but efforts do not go unnoticed.

Dates for your diary:

- 28th Feb - 6th March 2023 - Eating Disorder Awareness Week
- Thursday 2nd March – Year 9 Parents Evening
- 21st - 27th March 2023 - Neurodiversity Celebration Week
- Thursday 30th March - Coffee and Cake Afternoon for parents of pupils with SEND – 2pm.
- April 2nd 2023 - World Autism Awareness Day
- April 2023 - Stress Awareness Month

Speech and Language Update

This year, the Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) School Age Service have offered some training sessions to ensure that in school we can support pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) effectively. Mrs Dunn (one of our HLTA's) has attended all courses and is in the process of putting together some intervention sessions that are bespoke to the needs of our pupils.

As SENDCo, I am also attending a training session this half term, which I will disseminate to teaching staff, as all class teachers are responsible for the universal SLCN provision for ALL children. We will be ensuring that our classrooms are communication friendly environments.

Coffee and Cake

During Autumn 2, we hosted our first Coffee and Cake afternoon. This informal event is designed for parents of Children with SEND to work collaboratively with us in school reviewing our SEND provision and to act as an opportunity to meet other parents who may have similar worries or questions.

Our next session is scheduled for **Thursday 30th March at 2pm**. During this session, I would like to gauge your thoughts on what is working well at present, any areas you feel we could improve and of course there will be plenty of time for coffee, cake and chatter!

It would be wonderful if you could join us.



Children's Mental Health Awareness

The final week of term was Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. In addition to the activities the children took part in, our staff bulletin was also focused on this topic, it consisted of information and strategies staff can utilise in the classroom to support children's mental health.

Did you know?

Mental health difficulties are increasingly common. More than one in seven young people (15.3%) aged 11–19 in England had at least one mental health disorder in 2017. Follow-up data collected in 2020 and 2021 suggests a further increase in the proportion of 11–16-year-olds with probable mental health disorders, from 12.6% in 2017 to 17.6% in 2020 and 17.7% in 2021.

Anna Freud Centre & Early Intervention Foundation - October 2022


Strategies to support mental health at home:

- Affirm your child. It's easier to build up a child than repair an adult. Choose your words wisely.
- Encourage your child to talk openly about new experiences and how they are thinking and feeling.
- Keep an eye open for any changes in behaviour – this may mean your child is worried about something.
- When talking to your child, listen to their needs. Be there for your child and show them love and care – whilst teenagers may not want to spend lots of time with their parents/carers, it's important that they know you are there if they need you.
- Be patient – don't pressure your child, let them talk to you in their own time. If they don't want to talk, can they write it?
- Help your child to effectively solve their problem. Create an environment where you involve your child in decision making.
- Help your child to learn some coping skills such as relaxation strategies. Encourage exercise and sport.
- Ask your child how you can support them in their wellbeing.



A new website has been launched to help young people, parents/carers and professionals in schools in Dudley find information about mental health. Happier Minds can help you find the mental wellbeing information you need. It also provides information on how to get help urgently for people in crisis. www.happierminds.org.uk

A reminder of the following opportunity and event which has been previously shared by email to relevant parents:



28/03/2023
A day in the life of Autism
5pm - 7.30pm
Glasshouse College
Wollaston Rd, Amblecote,
Stourbridge DY8 4HF

Come along and be a part of our celebration event and hear from people who live everyday as an autistic person.

Share your Day!

We want you to share a day in your life with us. This is for the celebration evening and you will be sharing your work at the Autism event.

You can do this by taking lots of photos, drawing, filming what you are up to or writing.

Be as creative as you can!

There are £30 vouchers for ten people as well as your film getting shared on the Autism Partnership Board website!

Over to you!

- Your title is - A day in my life
- How you record your day is up to you, just be creative!
- Send it over to us using WeTransfer to dudleyvoicesforchoice@gmail.com
- We will contact the winners and they will receive their vouchers and get their films on the website.