

SENDCo Newsletter – Pentecost 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and have had a restful Easter break. To reintroduce myself, my name is Mrs Lawrence and I am the SENDCo and Year 5 class teacher here at English Martyrs'.



If your child has a **PSP (Personal Support Plan)**, you will have already discussed progress towards their individual targets before the holidays with their class teacher at your termly PSP review meeting. At this meeting, your child's class teacher will have shared their review of your child's progress towards their Lent targets and decided new targets with you for the Pentecost term.

In the initial weeks of the Pentecost term, **we would like to share a copy of your child's updated PSP with agreed Pentecost targets.** As always, we work with you and so if you have anything you would like to discuss or change in regards to your child's PSP targets, please discuss this with their class teacher.

These meetings are in addition to upcoming parents evening appointments, so please keep an eye out for your allocated date and time.

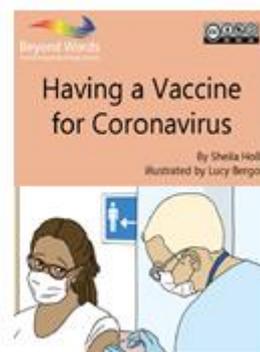
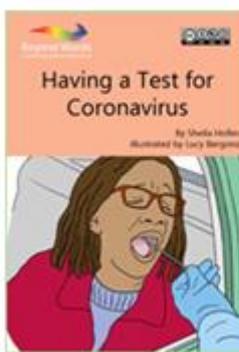
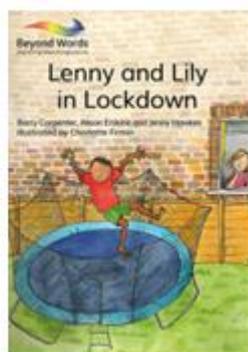
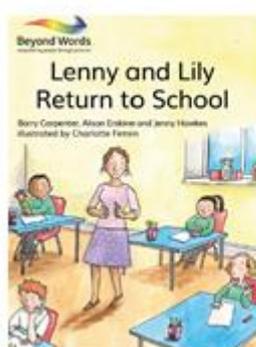
What to do if you have any concerns about your child

If you have any concerns about your child's progress, in the first instance, **please speak to your child's class teacher and/or the SENCo.** We will always listen and work with you to support your child in whatever way we can. If you would like a meeting, please ring the school office on **0115 9733209** or email enquiries@eng.srscmat.co.uk

Additional COVID-19 Resources

Barry Carpenter (developer of the Recovery Curriculum) has created wordless books to support children in understanding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which are available for free online. There is guidance that explains how to use the books with suggested stories at the end, but the idea is if the book has words in the child has to focus on decoding them and so any other emotional release in the brain would be blocked. The children co-produce the story themselves through discussion by looking at the pictures and telling their own story with their own experiences.

Some classes have used the 'return to school' book in lessons, but I thought it would also be useful to share with parents and carers as they are great for children who may have questions about coronavirus testing and vaccines work too. They're available online at <https://booksbeyondwords.co.uk/lenny-and-lily-childrens-stories>



Supporting you through transition periods

As we begin our last term of the academic year, we begin to look ahead to the period of transition in to your child's next year group. We understand that transition can be an anxious time for many children, particularly those with SEND. If we feel that any child requires additional or bespoke transition activities to that already in place, we will discuss this with you and your child. This is usually in cases where there is a transition to a new phase (EYFS to KS1, KS1 to KS2 or KS2 to secondary school). Please speak to your child's current class teacher if you have any questions regarding this.

Please be assured that we will inform children and parents of their next class teacher/s as soon as we are able to, in order to allow as much time as possible for these transition activities to take place.

Where else can parents get help?

Below are links to other means of support for parents and families of young people with SEND in Derbyshire.

Derbyshire Local Offer <https://localoffer.derbyshire.gov.uk/>

The Local Offer provides information for children and young people with special educational needs (SEND) and their parents or carers in a single place. It shows families what they can expect from a range of local agencies including education, health and social care.

Derbyshire Parent Forum <https://derbyshireparentforums.co.uk/>

A registered charity which is run by parent/carer volunteers with children/young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. They organise parent participation, providing the opportunity to talk about all the services they receive in Derbyshire.

DIASS (Derbyshire Information, Advice and Support Service for SEND)

<https://www.derbyshireiass.co.uk/home.aspx>

DIASS provides independent information, advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as their parents and carers. They are impartial, confidential, and works at arm's length from the local authority. Their advice is free and accessible to all parents of children with SEND.

Please continue to share any information with regards to updates for your children, for example medical appointments or letters received from professionals or agencies. This really helps us to support your children as best as we possibly can in school.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your continued support and for working with us.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lawrence

SENCo and Year 5 class teacher