

SEND newsletter for parents – November 2020



Introductions

My name is Pauline Adams, and I have been SENCo at Winford since 2005.

I work 1.5 days a week (or 3 days a fortnight). This Autumn Term this has been every Tuesday and alternate Wednesdays.

My role is to coordinate provision for children with SEND / additional needs. This involves a range of things such as reviewing support strategies with staff; accessing resources and training; referring to external agencies; applying for Top Up Funding; and managing the requirements of Education, Health and Care Plans for those children with more complex needs. I spend a lot of my time with teaching and support staff, and with external professionals, and this year will continue to build on my contact with children and parents (as Covid restrictions allow!).

Should you wish to contact me directly, to share information, discuss concerns, or request a meeting / phone call, you can send an email to the school office and Mrs Greenham or Mrs Hobson will pass it on.

Useful website links

- <https://www.winford.n-somerset.sch.uk/website/sen/> (school website including information report)
- <http://www.supportiveparents.org.uk/> (Parent Partnership Service)
- <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/children-young-people-families/north-somerset-online-directory-local-offer> (Local Offer)



Support in light of Covid

We realise that coming back to school after the first lockdown in the Spring, followed by the Summer break, may have been more challenging for a number of our children. This Autumn Term we have been doing all we can to give all our children the support and time and space they have needed to settle back into school life, particularly as we weren't able to do our usual work around transition between classes in the Summer Term.

As I'm sure everyone will appreciate, in the current situation there has been a lot to sort out in terms of timetables, staffing, bubbles, rooms etc, and this has changed / continues to change as guidance changes! The teaching and support staff are working incredibly hard despite the restrictions in place, and I thank them for their continued dedication to all the children in our schools, including those with additional needs.

We are of course making every effort to put all the usual support in place, but there are some things that are still a little different currently ...

School support ...

- **Class Support** - the Class Teachers have taken time in Term 1 to assess where the needs are, and have put support and interventions in place accordingly. The support needed has not all been as expected as we know that some children moved on further than others during that time at home during the first lockdown, while some children have had other challenges. Support and interventions are much more class based currently, as some of the smaller group rooms / areas are out of use, and also to minimise movement around the school. Interventions are also being carried out within class bubbles, to avoid children from different classes mixing in a group together.
- **Specialised resources** - where possible (within restrictions around equipment), we are still making every effort to provide children with any additional resources to support them in class, such as coloured overlays, wobble cushions, pencil grips, fiddle objects and so on.
- **Nessy** - children who have access to Nessy will still be able to access this at home, and we will aim to give those children time in school as well, within restrictions around equipment.

External support ...

- **Outside agencies in school** - we are now able to have visits in schools from other professionals such as a Speech & Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Advisory Teachers, etc. Again, there are some restrictions in place to manage these visits.
- **Clinic appointments** - if your child is receiving support outside school from a Paediatrician, Speech Therapist etc, please do make us aware of this by email, and check with the health professional that the school is being copied into any letters - this isn't always the case and the information is very useful! This is particularly important for our new families, if your child has received this while at preschool or another setting.
- **Medication** - if your child is being prescribed long term medication (perhaps relating to ADHD for example), again please do let us know by email, even if this is given at home. If this needs to be given in school we will need a copy of the letter from the medical professional involved. Please also speak to staff in the school office, as we have additional school paperwork for administering long-term medication, and we will need to manage how it is administered within current restrictions.

I hope that this has covered a lot of the questions which may have arisen. If you have any specific questions about your child, or if you have an update in terms of external support or medication, please do contact your child's Class Teacher or myself. Many thanks.