



SEND NEWSLETTER-AUTUMN 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

For those of you I haven't met yet, my name is Mrs Conley and I am the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) here at Parkside Community School. As SENCo, my role is to support children, families and staff so that children identified with additional needs can make the best possible progress, both personally and academically. Parkside School is committed to including all children in all aspects of school life, working closely with families to ensure that children reach their potential.

If your child has been identified with special educational needs or has a disability, I will be contacting you over the next few weeks to talk to you about your child and how we are supporting them in school. If your child has not yet been identified but you have concerns about their learning, speech and language, behaviour, mental health or physical development, you can contact me via the school office or by email to have an informal discussion. The school governor for SEND is Geoff Strack, who can also be contacted via the school office.

LOCAL OFFER

Hertfordshire's 'Local Offer' provides all kinds of information to families of children with special educational needs and disabilities. It enables you to make informed choices about the support you receive. It is designed to make sure that most of the information you'll need is all in one place. Find out more by visiting their website at www.hertsdirect.org/localoffer.

Information about how we at Parkside School identify and support pupils with special educational needs and disabilities can be found on our SEND Information report area on the school's website, along with our SEN policy.

PARENT/CARER FORUM

This term, I am hoping to set up a working party for parents of children with SEND to work on making our practice at Parkside even better. I would like to hear your ideas about what we do well, and what you think we could improve. In light of the current measures in place in school to prevent the spread of COVID 19, this may be more difficult to organise but please let me know if you are interested in joining a working party and sharing your ideas.

PARENTING COURSES

Talking ASD/ADHD are running two courses for parents this term for parents and carers of children aged 2-19yrs with suspected or diagnosed Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. The courses are:

5th October 2020 9.30-11.30am: Transition and Change Workshop

12th November 2020 9.30-11.30am: Anxiety and Stress workshop

Do check our website regularly for details of how to book these courses and more information about parenting courses in the local area.

Dyslexia Awareness Week-5th-11th October

Did you know that 10-15% of the population is dyslexic? Dyslexia is a learning difference which primarily affects reading and writing skills. Dyslexic people may have difficulty processing and remembering information they see and hear, which can affect learning and the acquisition of literacy skills. Dyslexia can also impact on other areas such as organisational skills. However, with the right support, dyslexia need not be a barrier to success; famous people with dyslexia include Steve Jobs, Richard Branson, Steven Spielberg, Leonardo De Vinci, Albert Einstein and Chris Robshaw.

Dyslexia Awareness Week is taking place from 5th-11th October. Find out more about dyslexia our school website SEND page or at www.bdadyslexia.org.uk.