



WHO'S WHO AT OWPS?

Welcome to the first newsletter for parents and carers of pupils on our register of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The newsletter will be published each term, so I can keep you informed with updates about the provision at Orton Wistow Primary School; some or all of which your child may access.

In our first newsletter, I would like to introduce you to the team who provide some of the support available in school



I am Mrs Harries, the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo). I have been the SENCo for many years now; I hold the National Award for Special Educational Needs Co-ordination (NASENCo). I co-ordinate the provision in school and work closely with class teachers, teaching assistants and other professionals who support children within school.

Mrs MacColl is the Assistant SENCo. She undertakes some administrative roles on my behalf, but her main area of expertise is delivering speech and language programmes. Mrs MacColl also liaises with the Occupational Therapy service.



Mrs Johnson is the Learning Mentor. She supports children within school who have a range of social, emotional and mental health needs. Mrs Johnson offers a safe space to children, where they can discuss their worries and concerns, often done whilst they are undertaking creative activities. Mrs Johnson is also Webster Stratton trained and offers support to some of our parents.

If you ever have any queries or requests for me, please contact me directly on lharries@owps.org.uk or alternatively, via the school office on office@owps.org.uk. I work on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; I will contact you as soon as is possible.

Supporting Pupils with Sensory Processing Needs and those who can become overwhelmed by their emotions



Most children spend all their time in their classroom with their class teacher, however, some pupils access 'The Nest' at times during the school day.

The Nest is set up to help children who may have sensory processing needs. Some children struggle to process the information that comes from their body's senses; The Nest offers activities and equipment that can suitably calm or alert their senses; these are set up as a Sensory Circuit.

It is also set up as a safe space in school; this is for children to access when they are feeling overwhelmed by their emotions. The Nest allows them a place and the time to calm down before returning to class.

Some children have an individual Calm Box. They have chosen the resources included in this, as they help to calm them; use of the calm box may be enough to regulate their emotions.



Head Teacher. Mr Colin Marks

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The Outside Environment



We are very lucky to have wonderful grounds available for us to use. We make use of these to support children, who often feel more settled when they are engaged in physical activities outside.

We make good use of the Wistow Mile track to help some children with their sensory integration.

We are currently developing a Wellbeing Garden; this will provide the children with a Safe Space outside.

We intend to introduce Forest School sessions as an additional provision that some children can access. Mrs Scarborough-Mace, another of our HLTAs, is trained to deliver this exciting initiative. More information will be provided in a future newsletter.



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Throughout last year, the Trust SENCOs worked closely together to further develop positive partnerships with parents and to establish processes for improved co-production as part of the graduated approach. We are all at slightly different places in our journey, however we agreed on some targets that we would all meet by the end of 2024.

One of the the actions was to produce a newsletter each term that is specifically for parents of children who have SEND. This is the first publication; the newsletter will be published each term and will reflect the subjects that you are interested in. This first newsletter is an introduction and I have chosen the content. If you would like me to include something of particular concern to you, please contact me and let me know. My direct email is lharries@owps.org.uk

We also agreed to strengthen our links with Family Voice. They are a charity run by parents for parents of children who have SEND. They have a shared 'lived experience' to many of you; something that many professionals don't have. They are here to be your voice, whether that be with school, the Local Authority or the NHS. They hold regular events and will signpost parents to avenues of support.

On the 19th September, we hosted our first Family Voice Café. This was attended by a small group of parents; we met over coffee and Mrs Anderson's delicious cakes and cookies. Family Voice were represented by Shazia and Karen. We had a frank and open discussion about difficulties parents have encountered; it was appreciated by all who attended and one parent said it would be good to have more opportunities to meet; it helps to know that you are not the only parent who struggles at times and just have a chance to offload.





There is a second café scheduled for the 19th October at 1.30pm. A flyer will follow with a link to an online booking form. It would be lovely to see you at the next café if you can make it.

Our third action was to seek your voice and to record it as part of the Assess, Plan, Do, Review process. This culminates in the review of your child's Learning Plan and the setting of new targets for the coming term. We have been sending home a form for you to complete prior to the APDR meeting and scheduling a meeting to discuss the plan for some time now. We now need to consider how we best reflect your voice in the targets set for your child, so the Learning Plan is co-produced and not just shared with you. This will be something to develop throughout this academic year.

Our final aim was to ensure that we review the accessibility of all SEND related information for parents on our school website and to work towards the co-production of the information. This will be something for me to concentrate on this year. If you have not looked at the SEND section of the website, please do. Our policy, SEN Information report, Accessibility Plan and various other documents are to be found here. Newsletters from the LA are also uploaded here and regularly updated.

I hope you find the newsletter useful and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have a suggestion about content or any other concern you have regarding your child's needs that you wish to raise with me.

