



Send/Parenting Newsletter Issue 2

January 2024



Happy New Year! Welcome back to school!

This is the second issue of our SEND/Parenting Newsletters. I hope that you will find it useful and informative. I want to ensure that I am continuing to work closely with the Hollesley and Waldringfield Communities to support the pupils and their families on their journey through school.

❖ Meet the team:-

Mrs Theresa Elder



Mrs Elder is the SENDCo for both schools. Mrs Elder is also a Reception class Teacher and Senior Teacher at Hollesley. Although Mrs Elder does have other commitments, she is contactable via email Theresa.elder@hollesley.suffolk.sch.uk or phone 01394 411616 and will respond to any messages as soon as she can.

Mrs Caroline Haylett



Mrs Haylett works as a Teaching assistant at Hollesley. Her role has changed this academic year. Mrs Haylett will be carrying out interventions (at Hollesley) that will be supporting children who have a specific educational need. She works very closely with Mrs Elder to ensure the children are receiving the support and resources they require.

Mrs Maria Smith



Mrs Smith works as a Teaching assistant at Waldringfield. Mrs Smith carries out interventions (at Waldringfield) that support children who have a specific educational need. She works very closely with Mrs Elder to ensure the children are receiving the support and resources they require.

Mr Adam Riches



Mr Riches is a Parent Governor and has a child who attends Waldringfield School.

He oversees SEND across both schools.

❖ SEND Surgeries:-

Every month I run a SEND surgery at both schools. These sessions are very informal and their purpose is to give any Parents the opportunity to come and share any concerns or questions they may have about their child. You don't need to make an appointment, you just turn up (your child does not need to have a special need to come along). I have tea, coffee and biscuits at the ready and enjoy getting to meet with Parents on a 1 to 1 basis. The SEND surgeries run from 1:15pm until home time. The dates for the surgeries this term are –

Hollesley	Waldringfield
Friday 12 th January	Thursday 11 th January
Friday 9 th February	Thursday 08 th February
Tuesday 19 th March	Monday 18 th March

If you would rather meet with me at a different time, that is absolutely fine too! Just email me or phone either school to make an appointment.

❖ How do I know if my child has SEND (Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities)?

A child has SEND if they require support/interventions that are above and beyond or different to the work that we are doing in class. If a child struggles in maths and is not attaining the age appropriate level that they should be, this may not have anything to do with SEND. The child may need more of the same work or support in that lesson or they just might not be destined to be a Mathematician yet! However, a child who has SEND may require some support and activities to develop their short term memory (working memory) to enable them to be able to remember their number bonds or times tables.

❖ There are 4 different types of SEND:-

1. Communication and Interaction
2. Cognition and Learning
3. Social, Emotional and Mental Health
4. Sensory and/or Physical

❖ Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can affect a child's ability to learn. As a SENDCo, it is my role to support teachers to establish what barriers to learning a child may have, and to support the child and their families to lessen and/or overcome these barriers.

❖ Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

In September, any child who is on the SEND register, was given a new 'strengths based' IEP. It is child friendly and was completed by the child, their parents and Mrs Elder. These IEPs are in a booklet format and are available to the child, and adults in the classroom throughout the day. The IEPs are reviewed every term and from this term, the class teacher will be holding the review meetings. The child will always be the main focus in the constructing of, the support given and the reviewing of the IEPs. The class teachers will contact you to arrange a meeting to discuss your child's IEPs in the next week or so.

- ❖ Transition back to school – Top Tips – This was given in the previous newsletter but thought it may be beneficial now!

Transition back to school after the holidays.

1. Talk positively about going back to school days ahead of time.
2. Set up a play date with some school friends
3. Prep some helpful transition items such as a stress ball, their favourite drinks bottle, favourite food in their packed lunch box/snack – involve your child in the decision making for these things.
4. Get to bed early 2-3 days ahead of time, and wake up on time.
5. Call in support – Arrange to start work later or have a grandparent over to help on the first few mornings.
6. Decompress and debrief – When they get home ask a couple of questions but allow them space to relax or exercise.

For more ideas and support see the following website. Although it is American, they have some great tips!

<https://yourkidstable.com/transitioning-back-to-school-after-holiday-break/>

- ❖ Parenting Hubs

During the Autumn Term both schools had a Parents hub meeting with Kay Witchalls (Area Parenting Co-ordinator). The meeting gave Parents the opportunity to find out what courses were available for Parents and to ask any questions they had about Parenting. From the hub meetings, I arranged for Kay to come to Hollesley to run the Triple P Parenting course. Parents from both schools could sign up to do the course which starts 15.1.24. Please contact the school office for more information. At present, only 3 parents have signed up and we need 8 to be able to go ahead with the course.

- ❖ Workshops

Lucy Beales from the NHS Speech and Language team came into Hollesley during the Autumn Term to give information to Parents about speech and language development. She also answered questions and gave advice regarding any speech and language difficulties children may have. Lucy will be doing the same presentation at Waldringfield on 7th February at 2:30pm. Please let the school know if you would be interested in attending this.

- ❖ Workshops for the Spring and Summer

I am more than happy to arrange for other professionals to come into school and provide information and support regarding different Parenting concerns. It would be good to know what areas of Parenting you would like to find out more about. We need parents to attend these sessions and would like them to be beneficial. Please let me know what support/guidance/advice you would like?

- ❖ Positive Parenting

Please find attached a booklet from the NSPCC which is all about positive parenting. It looks at:-

- Understanding your child's needs
- How can I set boundaries?
- Rewards and discipline
- Keeping your cool
- Building positive relationships
- Who can I talk to?

If any Parents have a 'Top Tip' that they would like to share with our school communities, please let me know.

Have a wonderful Spring Term and I look forward to meeting you along the way.

Theresa Elder