



St Matthew's CE News

The Newsletter that keeps St Matthews's CE families and friends informed!

Autumn Term 1 2019

Welcome to our newsletter dedicated specifically to Special Educational Needs (SEN). We hope that you find this useful for information and to keep you up to date with all the SEN news and updates here at St Matthew's. We hope to publish a newsletter on a termly basis. If you have anything that you would like included in future newsletters, then please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

When to contact the SEN Co-ordinators.

This year Miss Keates' SEN time is now on a Monday afternoon and a Thursday all day. She would ask that if parent's need any advice regarding SEN that they contact her on these days, on other days she is teaching full time and may be in meetings before/after school. For any immediate SEN issues then please speak to your child's class teacher within the first instance. If you would like to contact Miss Keates in the mean time then emails can be sent via the office email address; office@stmatthewsce.bradford.sch.uk. She will try and respond as soon as she possibly can.

WELLCOMM

All of our children in Nursery and Reception have recently been screened on WELLCOMM. WELLCOMM is an early Speech and Language screening tool that aims to assess children's understanding of vocabulary at an early stage. Children's understanding is assessed against expectations for their age. If children score below this then they are put into an intervention group which aims to bring their understanding up to age related levels therefore reducing the need for Speech and Language Intervention in the future. Staff within school have been trained to deliver these interventions by Bradford Speech and Language Therapists. Interventions are carried out by Mrs Ali in Reception and Miss Mahmood in Nursery. We have been running these interventions for 3 years now and we have seen them have a huge impact in children's academic results. If your child has been identified as needing an intervention then you will receive a letter shortly to inform you of this. Should you have any further questions then there will be a short presentation and drop-in session for parents on Thursday 24th October at 2:30. Both myself and our commissioned Speech and Language Therapist Christine Gareis will be available to speak with you.

Changes to the Enhancement Room and Nurture Provision.

We are excited to announce that we will be opening a new nurture provision within St Matthew's. This will be located in the old Caretaker house and will be run by Mrs Singh and Mrs Harrison. Children can be referred for nurture provision by their class teacher. There are a variety of interventions that will take place in order to improve children's confidence and social skills. These will include; friendship groups, social groups, art therapy and modelled play. If you have any questions about this then please do not hesitate to contact the Enhancement and Nurture Team.

Parent Support.

If you would like any additional support or to attend any events within Bradford to support you with SEN then these can be found on the Bradford Local Offer Website: <https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk/services/whats-new?id=2>

This includes information, workshops and fun days organised specifically for children with Special Educational Needs.

Changes to SEN Assessment.

There have been some recent changes to SEN assessment within Bradford Local Authority. Ranges no longer exist and children are now assessed against the 'Bradford Matrix of Need'. This allows schools to assess the amount of provision needed for a child's Special Educational Need and whether or not they are eligible for an EHCP. The Local Authority is also moving away from Individual Education plans and these will soon be replaced with My Support Plans. In order to make you aware of the changes to SEN Assessment, I would like to invite all parents of SEN children to attend a workshop on Monday 11th November at 2:30, in the small hall. I hope to see you then.

