

Gretton Primary School

SEND Newsletter

November 2023

I hope that you and your families are well. In this monthly SEND newsletter, I hope to give you some further insight on the resources and support that is available at school along with some ideas to support your child out of school too.

This term I am in school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and I am always happy to meet with you during these times to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. If you wish to contact me at any other time, please feel free to do so, either by emailing me - adodd@gretton.gloucs.sch.uk or calling school to make an appointment.

Best Wishes, Mrs Alison Dodd, SENDCo

Reading Support

Reading is a great passion of mine and I feel that it is one of the most important skills that we can teach a child. For children, it's a chance to discover new ideas, escape to another place, engage with the story, empathise with the characters and (most importantly) reflect on their own thoughts, feelings, and emotions. However, some children with SEND can find reading very challenging and almost scary.



Here are some top tips to boost confidence and enthusiasm in reading:

1. Children with SEND, are often very visual learners. When reading with your child, start with books that they are interested in. Use the pictures to support their understanding and talk about what is going on before you begin with the text.
2. Draw on their phonics knowledge to help to help them to decode new words.
3. Highlight words, particularly tricky words that are repeated, to support the child in recognising and remembering the word.
4. Share the reading. This means alternating between you and your child so your child can copy your expressions and tone of voice when reading a story.
5. Don't forget to consistently praise your child, especially if they have made a mistake and then corrected it themselves. This is where the learning is happening!
6. Relax and enjoy your time together.



Next term, I will be running a 'Biscuits and Books club' for the children after school and I hope that we can continue to spread a love of reading for all children.



Over the past two terms, I have been training to become an ELSA (not related to the Frozen films in any way at all!) An ELSA in a school is an **Emotional Literacy Support Assistant**. ELSAs are specialists with a wealth of experience of working with children and young people. ELSAs are trained and regularly supervised by Educational Psychologists.

What areas does an ELSA help with?

- Loss and bereavement
- Emotional Literacy
- Self-esteem
- Social Skills
- Friendship issues
- Relationships
- Managing strong feelings
- Anxiety and worries
- Bullying
- Conflict
- Emotional Regulation
- Growth Mindset
- Problem solving

Myself and class teachers identify children who we feel may benefit from a weekly ELSA session and if we feel that your child may benefit, we will of course discuss this with you. We are so pleased to be able to offer this additional level of support to our children.

Extra Curricular Activities

We appreciate that for some pupils with SEND, learning can feel challenging at times. We actively encourage all children to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities with other children both in school and during after school clubs. Please do sign up your child for the clubs on offer in school. They are a great opportunity for your child to learn new skills, build friendships and develop other interests. We also love to hear about their successes out of school too. Amongst our wonderful children we have musicians, footballers, dog trainers, gymnasts, martial arts champions, writers and we love to see these skills develop too.



My Happy mind has proven to be a huge success so far with the children throughout the school. They are so engaged with the lessons and their knowledge of the brain is phenomenal. Do take a moment to ask them about Team H-A-P!

If you haven't yet done so, please also download the my happy mind app. The resources allow children to continue to practise some of the habits they have developed at school, such as Happy Breathing, and also provides information about what they are learning in the programme. Also included on the app are activities for you to do together at home, to complement the in-school lessons.

To access these materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> and enter your name, email, and authentication code. Your authentication code is 137854 We really encourage you to make use of this free content so that you can support your child in getting the best out of the curriculum.

Amazon Wishlist

Following last years successful feedback, I have continued to add to our amazon wishlist which is specifically for resources to support our pupils with SEND. The resources have all be recommended or researched and will benefit a huge number of pupils in our school.

Of course there is certainly no pressure to do so but if you should wish to purchase anything from our list, please see the link here. We are most grateful for your support.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/127QZ6FT6FC86?ref=wl_s_hare

Useful links

Please see below for agencies and details of further support available to families.

- SEND Information report - <https://www.gretton.gloucs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/SEND-Information-report-Sept-2023-1.pdf>
- SENDiass provide information, advice and support on matters relating to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The service is offered to parents and carers of children and young people aged between 0 and 25 years old. <https://sendiassglos.org.uk/>
- Early Help - https://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/family.page?familychannel=1_1
- Gloucestershire families directory - The Service offers a wide range of information to support families, children and young people from 0 – 19 years of age (25 for young people with additional needs) They can also provide information on family support, tax credits, benefits, funding and much, much more. <https://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/home.page>
- Gloucestershire support for families with SEND - [Glosfamilies Directory | Support for Families with SEND - Gloucestershire's Local Offer for Parent & Carers](#)
- School nurse team - <https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/children-and-young-people/physical-health/school-nursing/>