

I hope that you and your families are all well. We are well and truly into the Summer Term here at school and I must admit, it's my favourite term! It's always filled with fun events and it's also the term where we really see how far the children have progressed over the year!

This month's SEND and wellbeing newsletter will be focussed on maths. I am in school again on Wednesdays and Thursdays this term and I am always happy to meet with you during these times to discuss any questions or concerns that 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 the school. I will be holding My Plan review meetings this term and will send further details about these imminently.

Best Wishes, Mrs Alison Dodd, SENDCo

Many people have heard of the term dyslexia but the term 'dyscalculia' is less well known.



What is Dyscalculia?

Dyscalculia is a specific and persistent difficulty in understanding numbers which can lead to a diverse range of difficulties with maths. It will be unexpected in relation to age, level of education and experience and occurs across all ages and abilities. Approximately 6% of people have dyscalculia.

Maths difficulties are best thought of as a continuum, not a distinct category, and they have many causal factors. Dyscalculia falls at one end of the spectrum and will be distinguishable from other maths issues due to the severity of difficulties with number sense, including subitising, calculations, mental maths and ordering. It can occur singly but often co-occurs with other specific learning difficulties, e.g. dyslexia, mathematics anxiety and medical conditions.

If we suspect that your child may have dyscalculia we will initially discuss this with you. We may then carry out some initial screening assessments. If the screening assessments identify that your child has dyscalculic tendencies we will suggest that they are seen by an independent specialist dyscalculia assessor who is able to analyse your child's maths skills in further detail.

Steve Chinn is an expert in the area of dyscalculia and we use some of his assessments tools and checklists in school. Please see his website for further details. - <https://www.stevchinn.co.uk>



The [National Numeracy Family Maths Toolkit](#) is full of ideas and free activities to help families enjoy maths together. You can access all of the resources and activities for free. These short, fun maths activities can help parents and carers boost their children's confidence with numbers.

All of the Family Maths activities support the national curriculum and the resources have a strong focus on problem solving and reasoning. They are designed to encourage discussion between children and their parents or carers. They also link to cultural events and things around the home, helping children to see how maths connects to real life.

Families don't need any special maths knowledge or equipment to enjoy the Family Maths activities. Children can draw pictures, write calculations, take photos or create diagrams in their answers. Creativity is encouraged! I have attached a couple of examples of the activities to this newsletter. There's plenty of fun activities to choose from!

Spotlight on Intervention

Number Stacks



This year we have purchased a new maths intervention which is called Number Stacks. Number Stacks uses a unique combination of stackable place value counters and video tutorials to enable children to master the foundations of the number system. The intervention builds children's confidence and ability in the key areas of the primary maths curriculum in a practical and fun way. The resource kits can also be purchased for home use. Please find further details [here](#).

Emotional and Mental Wellbeing



I am currently in the process of completing the Senior Mental Health Leadership Award. One of the areas of development that we have identified is supporting parents' emotional health and wellbeing. We have some great ideas to support parents' emotional health and well-being but would welcome yours too. I hope to run a workshop next term to give you the opportunity to share your views.

In the meantime, if things are getting you down, it's important to recognise this. Please do talk to someone you trust about how you are feeling. It is easy to go on struggling with very difficult situations because you feel that you should be able to cope and don't need any help. Please do feel free to come and talk to us, in confidence and let us know when things are tough. As much as you try to hide how you are feeling from your child, they will notice even the smallest changes so it is important to seek help.

Go to your GP if things are really getting on top of you. Asking for some support from your doctor or a referral to a counselling service is a sign of strength. [Mind](#) and have a wealth of resources that you may find useful too.

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](#)