

SEN Newsletter – Issue 4 – October 2023

Welcome!

Welcome back to our fourth newsletter dedicated specifically to Special Educational Needs. We hope you find this useful for information and to keep you up to date with all the SEN news and updates that take place here at GLPA. If you have any suggestions for what you would like in future SEN newsletters, please let the school office know.

SENCo Update



As you will have seen in the weekly newsletter, I will be covering Mrs Kirwan in the interim, during her maternity leave. I have been a SENCo for many years, starting my career at Hatfield Woodhouse in Doncaster. I was also the SENCo and Head of Academy at my previous school, Highfields Primary Academy, in Doncaster. I can be contacted via the office or info@glpa.org.uk. Please note that I do not use Class Dojo regularly.

Books featuring characters with SEN and disabilities

I am an avid reader of children's books and I recently read a book by the author Elle McNicoll, called 'Like a Charm'. The book features a character who was neuro-diverse, and the author is also neuro-diverse (Dyspraxia). The story was great, but I really enjoyed the introduction of diverse characters. Having characters which are identifiable to readers is really important, so I have found some great books which feature children with SEN or disabilities in them. These will be added to our libraries and reading areas for children to enjoy! If you have any further recommendations, please let me know.

I have also included a link to an article with Elle McNicoll, which describes her journey with Dyspraxia and her hopes for other children like her.

["The world needs unapologetically neurodivergent characters": Elle McNicoll on creating a character with Dyspraxia | BookTrust](#)





Spotlight Focus...Dyspraxia



Dyspraxia is a Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD), and people often are unaware of the disorder. Children with who are described as clumsy or disorganised can actually have Dyspraxia. Children with Dyspraxia may also have other conditions, such as ADHD, Dyslexia and ASD.

Signs and Symptoms in Children

Problems with movement and co-ordination are the main symptoms of Dyspraxia. Delays in reaching normal developmental milestones can be an early sign in young children. For example, your child may take slightly longer than expected to roll over, sit, crawl or walk.

Other symptoms may include difficulty when playing, walking up and down stairs, difficult in writing and drawing and other motor skills such as doing up zips and buttons. These types of symptoms can cause frustration and low self-esteem for children, so identifying this need is important.

Support for children with Dyspraxia in school:

- Sensory circuits
- Physical development programmes
- Fine and gross motor skill work
- Additional time to complete tasks
- Step by step instructions
- Reminder task lists to support organisation
- Support from professionals to identify key supportive strategies and resources.

Famous people with Dyspraxia



**Daniel Radcliffe, David Bailey, Jamie Oliver, Albert Einstein,
Florence Welch, Whoopi Goldberg, Marco Pierre White**

Useful links and further reading about Dyspraxia:

- www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk
- www.nhs.uk/conditions/developmental-coordination-disorder-dyspraxia/symptoms/
- <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/dyslexia/neurodiversity-and-co-occurring-differences/dyspraxia>
- www.dyspraxiakids.com

SEN contacts and information

GLPA – our SEN policies and information:

[SEND - Green Lane Primary \(glpa.org.uk\)](http://glpa.org.uk)

Leeds Local Offer - The Leeds Local Offer is a way of providing information to families with children with special educational needs and disabilities in Leeds. -

<http://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/>

SENDIASS - information and advice, for parents/carers, children, and young people with Special Educational Needs. - [Leeds SENDIASS](#)

STARS - STARS are a team of autism specialists who offer advice and training for schools. They also offer drop-in sessions and workshops for parents at Leeds City Library. - [Autism Leeds | STARS Autism Support Team \(starsteam.org.uk\)](#)

Garforth Extended Services – The Cluster comprises of Education, Social Care, Health, Youth Service, Children’s Centre, Leeds City Council and the Police. They provide a range of services and support for children, young people and families.

ABC Group Leeds - Leeds and District ABC Support Group is a regional resource for parents of children with an autistic spectrum condition. They aim to provide help, support and advice about services, facilities, education, care and welfare for parents and families of children displaying Autistic Spectrum Conditions - [Leeds ABC Group – Leeds and District Autism, Behaviour and Communication Support Group \(wordpress.com\)](#)

What CPD do staff receive to support pupils in school?

Staff regularly receive CPD on understanding different needs and how to support children. This can be linked to a specific child or a general course which supports all children or raises awareness of different types of need.

Here are some of the courses that staff will be able to attend this term:

- Makaton
- Understanding and screening for Speech, Language and Communication Needs
- Preverbal Communication - Understanding and Supporting
- Understanding and Supporting Children with DLD
- Dyspraxia - exploring developmental co-ordination needs.

SEN Plan Review – Graduated Approach

Please note that teachers are due to meet with parents to updated support plans in October/November. Class teachers will be in touch to arrange your meeting.

Please note that as part of my role, I quality assure all of the SEN plans to ensure that they have SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound) targets and give the right support for the identified targets.

SEN Service update:

Mind Mate

We have access to an in-school service from Mindmate, which focused on children's emotional well-being. This service is a separate arm to the GDA pathway service, which focuses on diagnosing certain needs.

In school, we identify pupils who we feel would benefit from the service. There is a maximum number who can be seen any one time, but please read the leaflet that is attached with the newsletter and let me know if you think this would be beneficial to your family.

Our next Spotlight Focus will be – DLD –
Developmental Language Disorder.