



SEND News!

SENCo Drop-ins

The holding of SENCo drop-ins this academic year has proved extremely successful. Thank you to all the parents, who have taken up this opportunity to speak to me, as the school SENCo, about any concerns they have had regarding their child's education. As a result of the positive response to these sessions, I will continue holding these 3 times during the next academic year on **Wednesday 13th November, 2024, between 1pm and 3pm, Wednesday 26th February, 2025, between 1pm and 3pm and Wednesday 11th June, 2025, between 1pm and 3pm.** Your child does not have to be on the SEND register to take advantage of these sessions. Any previous or new concerns can be discussed regarding academic and emotional well-being needs. Please do remember that it is your child's class teacher, who knows your child best, and so they should be your first point of contact to discuss any concerns that you may have.

Staff Training

We are very fortunate here at Urchfont School, that we have a highly experienced staff. It is however, always important to refresh and update SEND knowledge and look at new teaching strategies and resources. This year all staff have been engaged in a series of ASD workshops: Autism in Girls, Mindfulness in Schools to help regulate and Autism and Friendship.

Our school EP (Educational Psychologist) delivered a very informative workshop to staff based on the vast range of sensory needs that children may experience. In preparation for this, we introduced a sensory audit for all children on the SEND register, to help us to identify needs and to strive to meet them. We have already ensured, for example, that calming, natural colours are being used for classroom display boards, fidget toys are available in classrooms, wobble cushions are available for children who need them and a quiet area was organised during Sport's Day for those who wished to use it.

Parent Workshop

Thank you to all parents, who supported the Sensory Needs Parent Workshop, led by our EP and thank you for your positive feedback. We hope that you found the workshop helpful.

New Resources

As a small village primary school, we are sure that you can understand that buying expensive resources and equipment can sometimes be a challenge. We are pleased to say that recently we have been able to purchase wobble cushions to be used in classrooms, Velcro visual timetables, so that children can remove an activity from the timetable once completed. (Every classroom had a visual timetable, but they were all different, having the same visual timetable in all classrooms provides consistency), new coloured overlays to help reading and a reading pen to help give children, who find reading a challenge, confidence across the curriculum. Laptops are starting to be available for children, who require speech to text and typing instead of handwriting. It is hoped more of these will be available from September.

Interventions

Our teachers and staff work hard to ensure that the right interventions are available to meet the needs of all children. These interventions take place on a 1:1 basis and in small groups. The Little Wandle Phonics Catch-up programme and morphological approach to spelling intervention have both proved highly beneficial and we have seen amazing progress made by children. We have started a touch-typing intervention for children, who require a laptop to record their work. Children have been engaged in Listen and Do, memory skills and social skills interventions and our ELSA has begun a new growth mindset group intervention, which we are intending to continue next year. In addition, in every classroom, interventions are constantly evolving in maths, reading and writing. At the beginning of the year in T1 and T2, I worked with groups of children (Sunshine Club) developing strategies that they can draw upon when they feel stressed, anxious or worried to help them to self-regulate. We are pleased to see children successfully using these strategies in class and practising them at home too.