



S ENCO Newsletter



CONTENTS:

ISSUE 45

16 JULY 2021

Page 1: Welcome and diary dates

Page 2: Greenwich parent carer forum feedback

Page 3: **Hearing aid battery safety information**

Page 4: *new 'Designated Social Care Officer' (DSCO)*

Page 5: Summer holiday scheme

Page 6: Independent Travel Support

Page 7: Attention Autism Training 2021

Page 8: ASD Training Courses

Page 9: ASD Training Courses

Page 10: STEPS Training 2021/2021

Hi all

This is the final newsletter of the year and a time to reflect on all the amazing things that have happened over the last year in our schools.

We are very proud of the way that schools and services have been able to “step up” in Covid to ensure that families and children with the greatest needs still received support over this time. This was done in a range of ways including being in school and receiving remote support.

Our short breaks offer continued to run in a Covid safe way and there were some great initiatives especially early on such as opening up the Willow Dene playground and some other space through Charlton Athletic to ensure that families had some time in a safe space to play with their children.

Services have found many new ways to work, many of which we will continue outside of Covid restrictions as they have been really effective to engage with families and schools, such as the remote dyslexia teaching, work we have done discussing ASD diagnoses with children and their families and remote training.

However, we are looking forward to times next year when we hope we will be able to run training in person again and also deliver some of the courses that have been harder to deliver that way such as practical sensory sessions and our parent workshops.

Some schools have been part of SEN audit meetings this year and we hope to continue these next year and visit more of you, hopefully in person, to review your SEN budgets and systems with you. The feedback from schools so far is that these have really helped to plan and understand the context of individual schools within the local and national context.

Finally, I want to wish you all a very happy and relaxing summer holiday. I know it will be different to typical times, but is still a time to re-charge batteries and enjoy time with family and friends.

See you all next term....Roz

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NEXT SENCO FORUM :

29/09/21 2– 5.30 PM

NEXT SENCO TWILIGHT: 06/10/21 3-5 PM





GREENWICH PARENT CARER FORUM FEEDBACK

Local Offer: As you may be aware we have a small working group of families and RBG officers working to develop the Local offer in terms of both content and reach. The recent initiative of this group is the development of a Local offer newsletter that was sent to you all to distribute to families in the last newsletter.

Unfortunately it seems that many schools were not able to get this out as we had requested. It's a really important piece of information and we need your support to reach all families. If there is an easier way to do this, so possibly go via your school SAO who may be sending things out themselves we could look at that too. We will have another edition towards the end of term and would request your support in getting it out to families.

ASD Diagnosis: Families have asked us to stress to you that RBG will carry out needs assessments and issue EHCPs if needed for children who do NOT have an ASD diagnosis but are waiting for an assessment. The panel looks at needs and so is not dependent on a diagnosis as long as the level of need is clear and as usual a clear APDR cycle/s completed. Please give us as much information as you can BUT there is no need to wait for a diagnosis if you think an assessment is needed and thresholds met. It is the perception of some families that at the moment some schools are waiting for a definitive diagnosis before proceeding. Clearly some provision is dependent on a diagnosis but agreeing an EHCP is not.

SEND Inclusion funding: Families have said they think that some schools are not clear about SENIF funding available to schools for children in nursery classes before applying for an EHCP assessment. This funding is for children who are likely to meet the threshold for an EHCP in nursery classes but are very young, to ensure that they are able to be included within an early year setting while the assessment proceeds. If you are not clear about this funding stream then please contact Anita Smith on anita.smith@royalgreenwich.gov.uk. If a lot of people respond she may arrange an online session for a group to attend.

There is also a lot of really good information available on the Early Years Inclusion team Local offer page which you may want to share with families

<https://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk/kb5/greenwich/directory/service.page?>





Hearing aid battery safety information

Recent tragic news has highlighted risks associated with button type batteries. These come in different sizes. They are used in hearing aids and Cochlear Implant Processors. Batteries pose a risk of choking and when swallowed release a dangerous chemical which is harmful. This will happen even if the battery is not damaged and can happen with used batteries.

If you suspect a child has swallowed a battery or placed one in their ear or nose, it is important you follow NHS advice.

The NHS advise you not to panic but take the child immediately to the Accident Emergency department at your nearest hospital.

Any risks associated with hearing aid batteries can be minimised by following some simple points:

1. Keep new batteries in their packaging
2. Place every single battery somewhere out of reach of children as soon as they are removed from Hearing Aids and/ or Cochlear Implant Processors.
3. Dispose of them properly and safely as soon as you can.
4. Do not leave children alone when the battery door is open on the hearing aids and/or Cochlear Implant Processors.
5. If you feel that the child's hearing aid and/or Cochlear Implant Processors should have a lockable battery door please let Audiology and/ or your Teacher of the Deaf know.
6. Place hearing aids and/or Cochlear Implant Processors in a safe place when not being worn.
7. If you are encouraging the child to be independent in using their hearing aids and/or Cochlear Implant Processors make sure they understand the importance of disposing of the batteries safely. For their and their sibling's safety, continue to monitor the safe use and disposal of batteries.
8. Remember there are also numerous devices that use these types of battery, so ensure that none of these batteries can be removed easily.

Hearing aids and/or Cochlear Implant Processors provide important benefit for children and are used by hundreds of thousands of children safely.

The Children and Young People's Audiology department at St Thomas' Hospital ensure that tamper proof battery doors are offered for all young children and those with young siblings at home.

If you are concerned that it has become easier to remove batteries from the child's hearing aids and/or Cochlear Implant Processors contact your Audiology department and/or your Teacher of the Deaf for advice.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Rory McDonnell,
Team Leader, Sensory Service, 07921285953 rory.mcdonnell@royalgreenwich.gov.uk



Dear SENCO's

My name is Amie Clement, and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as I have recently taken over a new role as a 'Designated Social Care Officer' (DSCO) in the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Service in Greenwich. By way of background, I am a qualified social worker and have worked in various social work teams in Greenwich Children Services since 2016, as well as other areas since qualification in 2012.

My role as a DSCO is to:

- Support colleagues to ensure they meet their statutory duties for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, in line with the SEN Code of Practice.*
- Work alongside colleagues to ensure high quality social care input and engagement with the Education Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment and planning process, as well as the tribunal process (in some cases).*
- Consider whether there may be any unmet social care needs for Children and Families we are working with in the SEN service and to signpost appropriately to services.*

As part of my role, I am assisting my SEN colleagues in making decisions about whether an EHC needs assessment should be carried out. I also attend NA2 panel and contribute to multi-agency decisions about whether or not to issue an EHC plan. I look forward to meeting many of you at this panel as well as in other settings.

I welcome any questions you may have for me, in relation to my role so if you would like to get in touch, please contact me via the SEN duty line on 0208 921 8029.

SUMMER ! SUMMER ! SUMMER! SUMMER ! SUMMER

t a s

SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAYSCHEME

Come and join us at **TAS** for a fun packed summer holiday with our passionate, kind and friendly staff who goes above and beyond to support our children and families.

ACTIVITIES

Trips
Arts and crafts
Music sessions
Games
Yoga

Mobile farm
Lego therapy
Sensory & Immersion room
Cooking healthy foods
Active play and sports

Early Years children's play room
Outdoor area
ICT room

FROM JUST
£5 /HR

your child will learn
and have fun at
our centre.

We also provide care
for SEND children.



Address: 3 North Road Plumstead SE18 1BS
Email: bookings@thetascentre.co.uk **Tel:** 02036514863

Independent Travel Support

The Road Safety team recognise the importance of Travel Support initiatives to allow everyone to maximise the opportunities available to them. Below is a brief description of what we can offer.



Primary School

Tigers independent travel group.

For children from Year 4 – 6, we cover the following topics.

- * Choosing the best place to cross
- * Decision making
- * Bus safety
- * Phone use & communication
- * Route planning
- * Road crossing
- * Personal safety (including stranger danger)
- * Dog safety
- * Money and time

All participants get their own folder of resources which they also keep work evidence in. We help set this group up by taking the first 6 sessions, which will see a gradual handover to school staff. Support is always available by telephone or email, but visits will be limited by other commitments. The first 3 sessions are in the classroom, then we go outside to practice each week. Full risk assessments are done and a letter of consent for parents to sign is provided.

To set up a group it is best that we meet in person or over Teams. Please email to set up a meeting.

Secondary School

Travel Safe groups are a continuation of Tigers.

Independent Travel Bus in partnership with TfL, Stagecoach and the Safer Transport Police Team.

For those in Tigers & Travel Safe groups or it is felt would benefit.

Departs from Woolwich most months at 10.00am or 12.30pm.

Advice given on bus safety, road safety and personal safety through practical work and scenarios.

Information attached. This service has stopped due to covid but will start again in September 21.

Stepping Stones are our Independent travel workshops that take place in the Easter and Summer holidays. This gives us the opportunity to work with parents as well as children. Previously consisting of 2 four hour sessions based from the Woolwich town hall, last year it became 2 x two hour 1-1 sessions to fit in with covid restrictions. Once details are finalised I will send out via my SENCo list. Please email me if you would like to confirm you are on it.

Travel support

We offer limited 1-1 travel support for those that are ready to travel independently on a specific journey (adults & children). Please contact me for a referral form. There is a waiting list for this service.

We also offer Road Safety workshops for the whole class, all years.

John Butcher
Road Safety Officer
Transport Planning
Royal Borough of Greenwich
Tel - 020 8921 4817

✉ The Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington Street, London SE18 6HQ

📧 john.butcher@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

ATTENTION AUTISM TRAINING 2021

Many of you have approached us regarding Attention Autism training for your staff.

We are obviously not in a position to confirm whether any actual training can safely take place in the Autumn Term but instead have managed to secure an online training course for Greenwich practitioners only in November – December 2021, at a greatly discounted price of £210/person (the standard fee is £295/person if you were to book an individual a place via Gina Davies's website).

Two of our staff attended this VIRTUAL training this year and were really positive about it:

"I was lucky enough to attend the aa course last year with Gina Davies and Lyndsay Barlow. Despite my reservations about it being virtual, it was possibly the most engaging training I've had and was well paced, well judged and brilliantly delivered each session. The timing was handy as it was just after an educational day finishes so it doesn't eat into the evening and the hosts were very thoughtful of participants having had busy days. The training requires you to submit 2 videos of yourself leading an AA session which doesn't have to be at school or involve children. I delivered my sessions to various cats, cuddly toys and was filmed by my partner. The feedback from Gina each time was extensive, personalised and much appreciated for an online training."

'an amazing virtual training course that is engaging and fun... the course makes you feel motivated and is extremely professional without being boring!!'

The course will have two trainers, one of them being Siobhan Ray, who has delivered many courses for us in the past.

The dates and times are as follows:

Session 1 – Monday 8th November

Session 2 – Tuesday 9th November

Film 1 submission – Monday 15th November 6pm

Session 3 – Monday 22nd November

Session 4 – Tuesday 23rd November

Session 5 – Monday 29th November

Session 6 – Tuesday 30th November

Film 2 submission – Monday 6th December

The times for these sessions would be 10am-11.15am

Please note that each attendee needs access to a laptop, PC or a tablet. (A bigger screen means you get a better view. Attendees watching sessions on their phone have difficulty seeing the live demonstrations and film footage in enough detail.)

Each attendee would also need to provide

1. Small A4 whiteboard and whiteboard marker pen and wiper. If a whiteboard is not possible please can they bring a laminated blank piece
2. In the Session 2 training please can all attendees bring a bucket with a lid, a box with a lid or any other container with 3 small toys inside.
3. In Session 4 training please can each attendee bring a bag of flour in a see-through container with a lid, a sieve, a shower curtain and a large piece of black paper in a basket.
4. In session 6 please can all attendees each bring to a stool /swivel chair.

If you are interested in booking a place(s) for your staff, could you kindly email Minna on minna.anaukwu@royalgreenwich.gov.uk with the staff members' names and email addresses by 16th July 2021 – this is binding commitment for purchasing a place(s), unless we get a cancellation from you **in writing (email) by 3rd September 2021.**

If we have not heard from you by this date, you will be sent an invoice for the number of places you have booked before the training commences in November.

We understand that not all schools/settings would have made final decisions about their staff allocations for next year – therefore you can book a provisional place(s) but again, this will need to be confirmed in writing by 3rd September 2021 at the very latest. After that we will assume that you need the place and will send an invoice to you for the number of places you have booked.

Please do not hesitate to contact Minna via an email should you require any further information about the course.



Most of our courses are completely free. Please find details below on our courses that are starting shortly. For further details on all other courses we offer please click on the link below. They are also on the PDC website.

To apply for any of the following courses please click on the link and register:

[Services to schools](#)

ASD SCHOOL COURSES				
Title	Date	Duration	Tutor	Venue
September				
Setting up a Sensory Programme for children with an ASD in your school: To include sensory circuits and sensory diets . Half day virtual course + pre recorded session	22/09/2021	1.30am-4pm	Minna & Nutan	virtual
SENCO Network Meeting	29/09/2021	2-5.30pm	RW	PDC
October				
Twilight SENCo Support Session	06/10/2021	3pm-5pm	RW	KP
Using Visual Support for Pupils with an ASD	04/10/2021	9.30am-12.30pm	Kim & O/W	KP
November				
New SENCo Induction Programme 5 weeks	04/11/2021 11/11/2021 18/11/2021 25/11/2021 02/12/2021	1.30pm-5.30pm	RW	KP
Supporting Students with an ASD in Primary Schools x5 weeks	01/11/2021 08/11/2021 15/11/2021 22/11/2021 29/11/2021	9.30am-12.30pm	John	KP
December				
How to support a Child/Young Person to understand their ASD diagnosis	09/12/2021	9.30am-12.30pm	Wendy & Christo	KP
January				
Supporting Students with an ASD in Foundation stage ALL DAY COURSE	06/01/2022	9am-4pm	Minna	KP
SENCO Network Meeting	19/01/2022	2pm-5.30pm	RW	PDC
Using Sensory Stories for children with an ASD at an early stage of literacy development in schools	20/01/2022	9.30am-12.30pm	John	KP
February				

COVID SCHOOLS LANGUAGE CATCH UP PROJECT 2021

Schools Forum approved a proposal to deliver a “communication catch-up” programme across all RBG schools during the academic year 2021/22. All schools and maintained nursery schools, will have the offer of a catch-up intervention programme as described below, provided they can commit to the necessary staffing commitments and purchase the screening tool, to enable the programme to be successful. The SALT Service have already trialled the impact this has had in one Greenwich school which is available to schools on request.

The target population will be:

EYFS and Year 1 as:

- Many have missed out on vital Early Years school experiences
- Strong evidence base for the impact of early intervention with communication having lasting impact on learning

The programme will offer:

- Training for a MINIMUM of TWO staff members in the delivery of a universal screening tool called the WellComm language screening tool <https://www.teachwire.net/products/gl-assessment-wellcomm-primary-speech-and-language-toolkit-for-screening-and-intervention>
- Block of training delivered by the SALT service to support an identified TA/LSA in each group (Nursery, Reception and Year 1) to deliver the linked interventions
- Follow up school visits delivered by supervised SALT students in Autumn term 2021.

This will be additional to services already on offer by:

- Delivering a universal offer for training plus in-house support within the core RBG contract
- Training staff to deliver a universal screen that will identify all those with a language delay and enable interventions to “catch up” those that can make quick progress and reduce risk of other areas of learning being affected
- Identifying at the end of the year long programme of intervention, a core group of children needing targeted interventions in the longer term supported by SALT and school will be identified
- Using SALT students to have a wider impact on schools/children and enable interventions to be modelled and supported with a training+ model
- Having a sustainable impact with staff able to use the assessment and interventions long term

More details will be available at the start of next term about the commitments needed and linked costs to each school.

For further information please contact:

Roz Weeks

SEND Outreach Services Manager

Roz.weeks@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Using Intensive Interaction to support students with an ASD in school	03/02/2022	9.30am-12.30pm	SALT Kim	KP
March				
Supporting Students with an ASD in Primary Schools x5 weeks	03/03/2022 10/03/2022 17/03/2022 24/03/2022 31/03/2022	9.30am-12.30pm	Christo	KP
Twilight SENCo Support Session	17/03/2022	3pm-5pm	RW	KP or virtual
Setting up a Sensory Programme for children with an ASD in your school: To include sensory circuits and sensory diets ALL DAY COURSE	23/03/2022	9am-4pm	Minna	KP
Analysing and Managing behaviour for Children with an ASD in a school setting	30/03/2022	9.30am-4pm	John	KP
Attention Autism, Course 1: Day 1	tbc		External Trainer	
April				
Using iPads/ICT to support Literacy and Social Communication in pupils with ASD and Social Communications Difficulties	21/04/2022	9am-4pm	Christo & Gemma	KP
May				
Attention Autism, Course 1: Day 2	tbc		External Trainer	tbc
Using Social Interventions to support children with an ASD in schools	04/05/2022	9.30am-12.30pm	Christo	KP
Transition day for all vulnerable students including those with SEND transferring to secondary school September 2022	19/05/2022	9am-4.30pm	Wendy & STEPS	PDC
June				
Attention Autism, Course 2: Day 1	tbc		External Trainer	tbc
SENCO Network Meeting	08/06/2022	2pm-5.30pm	RW	PDC
Supporting Students with an ASD in Primary Schools x5 weeks	16/06/2022 23/06/2022 30/06/2022 07/07/2022 14/07/2022	9.30am-12.30pm	Minna	KP
Setting up a Sensory Programme for children with an ASD in your school: To include sensory circuits and sensory diets ALL DAY COURSE	29/06/2022	9am-4.30pm	John & Nutan	KP
July				
Twilight SENCo Support Session	07/07/2022	3pm-5pm	RW	KP
Autism and Mental Health	12/07/2022	9.30am-12.30pm	Christo	KP
Attention Autism, Course 2: Day 2	tbc		External Trainer	tbc

STEPS TRAINING 2021-22		
Title	Date	Duration
SEPT		
Phonics programme 'STEPS to Success'	07/09/21 14/09/21 21/09/21 28/09/21	4 x session consecutive Tuesday's 9.00am – 12.00pm
Catch up for Dyslexia Friendly Schools	27/09/21	1 x session 4.00 – 6.00pm
OCT		
'WORD UP' approach	05/10/21	1 session 9.30am – 3:00pm
Down Syndrome Training	12/10/21	1 x session 9.30 – 4.00 pm
NOV		
Story/Maths Box	09/11/21 10/18/19y correct from date of print 01/03/19t	1x Session 9.30am – 11.00am
Supporting children with complex needs in the classroom	16/11/21	1x session 9.30am – 3.00pm
Assessment of children with Complex needs	30/11/21	1 x session 9.30am -12.30