



Special Educational Needs
Newsletter



Aspire, Believe, Succeed

Issue 2

Date 08.04.22

Who is your school SENDCo?



I am Miss Beach. I have worked at Featherstone Primary school for thirteen years. During my time here I have been Early Years Foundation Stage Leader and Assistant Head. I am truly blessed to have taught so many of your wonderful children and spent time getting to know our families. I am now the SENDCo and one of the Designated Safeguarding Leaders.

Welcome

I am here to offer support and advice regarding additional needs or SEND support for your child. At Featherstone, we are proud of our 'open door' policy so please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher, myself or a member of the SEND team. For more information please visit our dedicated SEND area on our school website:

<https://www.featherstoneprimaryschool.co.uk>

or contact me on 0121 675 9740 or via email enquiry@feathstn.bham.sch.uk

Many thanks, Miss Beach (SENDCo)

Birmingham's Local Offer

On the local offer website, you will find help, advice and information about the services available for your child or young person from birth to 25 years with a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND).

<https://localofferbirmingham.co.uk>

Coping with school holidays

The school holidays are upon us again and unless you are travelling or holidaying away then there is the usual predicament of entertaining the children, managing to still get work/house/errands done, making sure siblings don't argue and trying to spend some quality time together too.

We know that for some children, lots of unstructured time can be difficult so here are some tips to help your child over the two week Easter break.

- Make a plan - draw up a list of activities everyone wants to do. Try to keep it simple and local. A bus ride, visit to the park, playing in the garden, baking or crafts at home.
- Keep informed - check the local council website for ideas about what's going on in the local area
- Create a calendar - Create a schedule for the two week break that fits your families life-style and routine. You could set out a daily plan with tasks lists and mealtimes if you think that might help your child.
- Ask for help - everybody needs support. Talk to friends and family to help plan ahead. Could anyone babysit? Can playdates be arranged?
- Balance - achieve a ratio of planned activities and free play.



Autism Acceptance Week



Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) is a lifelong condition that can affect a person's social skills, such as communication and the way they interact with other people. It is estimated that there are around 700,000 Autistic people in the UK. The aim of Autism Acceptance Week is to help more people understand what autism is, as well as the ways it can affect life for Autistic people.

The first ever Autism Acceptance Week (then called Autism Awareness Week) dates back to 2nd April 2007, when the first ever World Autism Acceptance Day happened. The original concept of educating people about Autism Spectrum Condition and celebrating the achievements of Autistic people continues to be the focus of these events today.

Communication and Autism Team

We work closely with Birmingham Local Authorities Communication and Autism Team. Our link worker for this service is Michelle Williams. She works closely with Miss Beach to ensure all our pupils with a diagnosis of Autism reach their full education potential.



The Communication and Autism Team (CAT) provide support to children and young people, parents, carers, schools and academies in Birmingham. They are a team of specialist staff who work closely with settings to develop good autism practice through utilising the Autism Education Trust (AET) framework.

Ongoing support and advice, to settings, ensures that autistic children and young people can access learning and develop life skills that will enable them to fulfil their educational, social and employment potential.

They work with children and young people with a diagnosis between the ages of 2 and 25 years.

Michelle is happy to support our school and families. If you need to get advice about anything she can be contacted via Miss Beach.

Facts About Autism



We want to have friends.



We enjoy playing games.



We can learn new things.



We might not understand how you are feeling.



Please tell us if something is going to change.



Words can be confusing for us.



Pictures help us to understand.



We might not like loud noises.



Be patient with us.



If we are upset, we need a quiet space to calm down.

Lead Practitioners

Lead Practitioners help promote better autism and SEN provision.

Having a Lead Practitioner in school leads to better outcomes for pupils with autism and SEN.

At Featherstone we have two Lead Autism Practitioners - Mrs Blair and Mrs McLaren, who are always happy to help.



We hope you enjoyed this half term's issue. Have a lovely Easter break and see you all back in school on the 25th April 2022! From Miss Beach, Mrs Blair and Miss Williamson.