



Tuesday 14th March 2023

RE: Neurodiversity Celebration Week

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As you may know, this week is Neurodiversity Celebration Week. With the support of the Special Educational Needs Team (SEN Team), Longmoor are proud to say that we will be actively taking part in this significant celebration over the next few weeks.

What is Neurodiversity Celebration Week?

Neurodiversity Celebration Week is a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences. It aims to transform how neurodivergent individuals are perceived and supported by providing schools, universities and organisations with the opportunity to recognise the many talents and advantages of being neurodivergent, while creating more inclusive and equitable cultures that celebrate differences and empower every individual.

What Does Neurodivergent Mean?

The term 'neurodivergent' is a term that describes differences in brain function. It means they have different strengths and challenges than other people. The possible differences include conditions such as Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Sensory Processing Disorder and many more.

Where did it Begin?

Siena Castellon founded Neurodiversity Celebration Week in 2018.

Her passion arose 'because I wanted to change the way learning differences are perceived. As a teenager who is autistic and has ADHD, dyslexia, and dyspraxia, my experience has been that people often focus on the challenges of neurological diversity. I wanted to change the narrative and create a balanced view which focuses equally on our talents and strengths.'

What Will the Children Be Doing?

Neurodiversity is an integral part of our society and our school and we are thrilled that we have the opportunity to celebrate differences and how special they make us.

As educators, it is vital for us to use our platform to deepen the understanding of neurodiversity in our school. Therefore, the SEN Team will be providing information to each area of the school, on neurodiversity and what this means at an age-appropriate level.

Together we grow, explore, discover.

**DETERMINATION
RESPECT INTEGRITY
VALOUR EXCELLENCE**

Additionally, each cohort will be studying and celebrating a book based on a specific branch of neurodiversity and the benefits and challenges people with this condition may face. They will be completing a range of activities based on this book and exploring neurodiversity, at an age-appropriate level.

What Support Can Parents Access?

At Longmoor, we strive ourselves on supporting our families. We have a dedicated SEN Team of three SENCOs (Mrs Astell, Mrs Gough and Miss Monaghan) who are available to provide support, should you feel you or your child needs it. Within this, we can provide you with bespoke advice, support and training opportunities to extend your own knowledge on the needs of your child/ their neurodiversity.

As a starting point, the SEN Team have put together information packs on the following areas of neurodiversity:

- ADHD,
- ASC,
- Dyslexia,
- Dyspraxia.

If you would like to request a pack or have any concerns/ questions about your child's neurodiversity, then please do not hesitate to contact the SEN Team via sen@longmoorcps.co.uk.

We look forward to showing you some of the wonderful things we have done over the next few weeks in our weekly newsletter.

Many thanks,

The SEN Team

Mrs Astell, Mrs Gough and Miss Monaghan