



SEND Newsletter



Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this term's SEND Newsletter.

As part of our commitment to working closely with families, we want to continue sharing information, resources, and celebrations that help support all of our children in school.

Each term, we will highlight different areas of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), share useful strategies for home, and celebrate the wonderful progress our pupils are making every day.

This term, we are shining a spotlight on Autism.



Useful contacts

SEND local offer

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/localoffer>

SENDIAS

<https://durhamsendiass.info/>

Little Treasures Autism Society

<https://www.littletreasures.org.uk/>

Peterlee Family Hub

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/PeterleeFamilyHub>

SEND Coffee mornings

Our first SEND Coffee morning of Autumn term will be on Friday 18th September 2026.

During this time, you will be able to find out more about the SEND provision in school and meet staff.

Please speak to Mrs Sweeney regarding topics or services that you would like to learn more about at our coffee morning discussions.

SEND Spotlight: Understanding Autism

Autism affects how a person communicates, experiences the world around them, and interacts socially. Every autistic child is unique, with their own strengths, interests, and ways of learning.

Some children may:

- Prefer routines and predictability
- Experience sensory sensitivities (noise, lights, textures, smells)
- Communicate differently from their peers
- Find social situations challenging or overwhelming
- Develop strong interests in particular topics or activities
- Need additional processing time when given instructions

Celebrating Strengths

Autistic children often demonstrate many incredible strengths, including:

- ★ Excellent attention to detail
- ★ Creative and imaginative thinking
- ★ Strong memory skills
- ★ Deep knowledge in areas of interest
- ★ Honest and direct communication
- ★ Unique ways of solving problems

At school, we are committed to recognising and celebrating these strengths every day.

How We Support Autistic Pupils in School

We use a range of strategies to help children feel safe, successful, and ready to learn.

These include:

- Visual timetables to support routines
- Clear and consistent classroom expectations
- Quiet spaces when children feel overwhelmed
- Sensory resources and movement breaks
- Structured transitions between activities
- Small group interventions when needed
- Regular communication between school and home

Our aim is to create an environment where every child feels understood and supported.

Supporting Your Child at Home

Small strategies can make a big difference.

Here are some helpful ideas:

- Keep routines predictable

Consistent routines help children feel secure.

- Use visual supports

Pictures, schedules, and checklists can make daily tasks easier.

- Give processing time

Some children need extra time to understand and respond.

- Prepare for changes

Talk through upcoming changes in advance whenever possible.

- Create calm spaces

A quiet area at home can help children regulate emotions when feeling overwhelmed.