

January 2022 Newsletter

Please add m.lindsay@stns.org.uk to your address book.



Dear Parents and Carers

We have returned to school for 2022 and the COVID-19 situation is still very challenging. We have numbers of staff who are unwell with the virus and consequently there will still be times when we may need to reintroduce some of the restrictions we operated previously even though the self-isolation period has now been reduced to five days. This could include partial or full closures of classes when the staffing levels fall too low. Already face-coverings in secondary classes have been reintroduced and staff are regularly testing themselves with lateral flow tests. We are continuing with the hygiene, ventilation and cleaning regimes we set up last year. It remains very important to keep your child off school if they are unwell and if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 obtain a PCR test for them and communicating to us the results as soon as you have received them.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter the governors of the school are in the process of recruiting a new headteacher for the school for September and they will keep you up to date with these developments. The job has been

advertised and prospective applicants are visiting. Given this change, for the school, the governors are very keen to have a forum to communicate with parents and carers about what is happening in the school. I described a Parents and Carers Council in the last newsletter and asked if you wanted be involved to let us know. Can I ask again as I appreciate it was a busy time of the year when I originally asked. It would be really positive if we could start this council up soon. We see it as a really useful communication channel between the school and yourselves.

Kent County Council have launched a new special needs strategy and are reviewing a lot of their special needs services. This will have consequence for the way the school works but as yet these are not fully clear. As we learn more about how they affect us I will let you know. At the same time the government have said that they will shortly publish their special educational needs review which has also promised significant changes as well as a white paper about the whole of the educational system including the future for schools as academies. This year therefore is set to be a year of significant changes.

Best wishes

Daniel

Get to know the Wellbeing Team

with Counselling Diplomas

part of the Creative Therapies Team

Emma Wellard



**Wellbeing Team
Manager**

**Integrative and
Specialist Learning
Disability Counsellor**

Emma has qualifications in Level 2, 3, 4 Counselling Diploma, Level 5 and 6 CYP training, Clinical supervisor in training, Proact instructor and DSL. She is also the Designated Mental Health Lead and a Staff Governor

Her perfect weekend includes spending time with her family, chatting with her three cats and pottering in the garden; which is her therapy. Emma would like to get more cats, but her family won't let her!

In the summer Emma tried to learn how to paddle board... without much success! She is hoping to try again next summer. [Click here](#)

Kate Taylor



**Wellbeing Practitioner
Integrative Counsellor**

Kate has qualifications in Level 2, 3, 4 Counselling Diploma and Level 5 and 6 CYP training.

Kate's time outside work is very busy with her large family and two cats.

She likes to spend time doing things that she enjoys and she likes to keep fit by running and doing classes at the gym Kate finds this is really important for her health and wellbeing. [Click here](#)

Stephanie Box



Wellbeing Practitioner

Integrative Counsellor

Stephanie has qualification in Level 2, 3, 4 Counselling Diploma.

Steph likes to spend as much time outside when she am not at work. She keeps busy looking after her horse and two dogs and exercise them daily. This is an important part of her self-care. [Click here](#)

Focus on Bear Class

Each newsletter will focus on a class. Please use our website to see up to date news on your individual classes.

Bucket



Bear Class love their Bucket sessions. Bucket is a fantastic approach to develop engagement and participation, turn-taking skills and spontaneous communication. This is our most popular session and the students are doing brilliantly attending to these sessions! Here is a picture of one of our many great Bucket sessions.

Maths



In Bear Class we have been working on our counting and number recognition. Here is a wonderful maths activity with our train set where students recognised the number of each stop. The Bears have been working so hard with their learning and we are all so proud of them.

Lego



Every week Bear Class have a lego sessions. In this lesson the Bears use communication boards to request the block they want by colour and size. Previously, they have been focusing on building their own towers. This term we will focusing on building a tower in pairs, taking turns requesting what blocks we want and passing it to our friends.

[Click Here](#)



ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22

Term 3

Staff Development Day: Tuesday 4 January 2022

Start: Wednesday 5 January 2022

Finish: Friday 11 February 2022

Term 4

Start: Monday 21 February

Finish: Friday 1 April

[Click Here](#)

Important Dates

COVID-19 Immunisation for 12 - 17 year old pupils

St Nicholas School Site - Wednesday 23 February