

21/04/25

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Summer Term SEND Newsletter.

As we go into the final term of this academic year, I thought it would be a good opportunity to recap some of what we have focused on this year and share information about upcoming SENDCo meetings.

First of all, thank you to those parents who took advantage of our visit from Declan Farrell, SENDCo at Honiton Community College to talk about SEND provision during transition and at HCC. If you feel it would be useful to meet with him, but you weren't able to attend back in January, he can answer any questions you have on one of the HCC outreach dates. I will let you know as and when these take place.

SENDCo Family Meetings

I would like to offer all parents of children with a My Plan the opportunity to meet with me during the second half of the summer term. This will allow you to talk about any concerns you may have about progress, transition or just to recap from the year and check in regarding provision going forward. Just to reassure you, the support your child will have been receiving will continue into the autumn term, even if your child is changing classes or teachers. I will be sending out a letter for you to make this appointment in due course, with the hope that I can see everyone who wishes to see me shortly after the half-term break.

Working Memory and Executive Function

As a staff, we have had input on working memory which has come via the Educational Psychology Team at the council. This is particularly important for many of our children with SEND, as manipulating information in our working memory is key for much of our learning and can be particularly challenging for some children. In the link below you will find links to useful games and activities to help support working memory and executive function at all stages of development.

[Enhancing-and-Practicing-Executive-Function-Skills-with-Children-from-Infancy-to-Adolescence-1.pdf](#)

Reading Together

As we all know, reading is hugely important across many areas of your child's development; from language and cognitive development to building confidence and empathy as well as accessing learning throughout life. As a school we are championing reading together through our Friday whole-school reading sessions. Please see parent information on how to get the most out of your time reading together via this link from the Specific Learning Difficulties SEND Team at the council.

[Reading at home - Support for schools and settings](#)

It has been shown that prior knowledge and context is key to being able to access new concepts, so the more you can read at home together and discuss the content of what you are reading, the better.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Over the year to date, we have put a strong emphasis on **mental health and wellbeing** for all our pupils. We recognise that emotional wellbeing is just as important as academic progress, especially for children with additional learning needs.

Our focus areas include:

- **Developing emotional regulation skills**, through activities such as mindfulness exercises, breathing techniques, and regular conversations about feelings, as being able to name them and recognise feelings when they visit us is key to being able to regulate and manage them.
- **Building self-esteem**, by celebrating individual strengths and achievements, no matter how big or small, particularly through our new school compass of values.
- **Working with outside agencies**: These include the NHS Mental Health Support Team and this term, the Social, Emotional and Mental Health Team at the council on both whole class (decider skills), whole school (ten a day for mental health) and individual programmes. The School Nursing Team are also available for help and advice on individual referrals.

Our focus continues to be on providing a nurturing and inclusive environment where every child can thrive. As usual, if you have any specific concerns about your child, please do contact either myself (hsutton@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk) or your child's class teacher.

Best Wishes

Helen Sutton

SENDCo

Offwell C of E Primary School