



SEND Newsletter

Spring Term 2026



Welcome to SJV's first SEND Newsletter!

Each term I will be sharing local updates, useful information and resources and details of any upcoming events. There will be a 'Spotlight' section specific to a different area of need in each edition. I really want this newsletter to be a helpful source of information and support for families and I value your thoughts, ideas and feedback. Please do speak to me or email me if you have anything that you would like to be included or comments to make.

My email is: Leanne.mills@sthelens.org.uk or message me on Dojo.

Mrs Mills

Meet our SEND Governor

Hello, I am Nova Charlton, a Councillor for Thatto Heath and the Local Authority school governor. I am currently the Portfolio holder for Children and Young Peoples Services (CYPS) in St Helens Council and have responsibility for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).



I have a long-standing relationship with St John Vianney as my children attended the school. I have been a governor for a number of years and have spent some time in school reading with children and supporting the school.

I work closely with Mrs Mills to ensure our SEND provision is a priority and the school has well established systems in place to support SEND needs.

I look forward to supporting the school as you continue on your journey.

Councillor Nova Charlton

SENCo Surgery



As a school we have an open door policy and welcome the opportunity to discuss your child's special educational needs and how, as a school, we can support your child's learning.

I will be available for:

SENCo Surgeries every fortnight on a Tuesday from Tuesday 20th January 2:30pm - 3:30pm

You will be able to drop in and discuss any specific information about your child. Alternatively, I am also available for longer appointments which can be made through the school office or email.

Book Recommendation

The Kid's Guide to Staying Awesome and In Control

by Lauren Brunker

This book is aimed at children 7-14 years old and uses 'child speak' to help them explore how different emotions might make their body feel, how to recognise different feelings and provides lots of ways to manage anger, frustration, worry and excitement.



Fancy a Cuppa?

Following some recent feedback, I am hoping to run a termly coffee morning /afternoon for SEND families in school starting this Term. These will include either a short presentation from me based on things parents would like more information on, followed by a chance to have a drink, some biscuits and cake whilst having a chat with other parents of children with SEND in school. I will also be looking to invite external professionals to come along to the sessions too. Please do let me know if this is something you would like to attend and if you have any topics that you would like covered. Our first coffee afternoon will be on:

Thursday 12th February 2026 - 2pm -3pm



Individual Education Plans (IEPs)



You should now have received your child's reviewed IEP for the Autumn Term and their new IEP for the Spring. If you have not received this, please speak with your child's class teacher. When you receive the Spring IEP, you will see that it is on our new single document IEP format which we hope will continue to strengthen our SEND provision at SJV and make your child's journey clearer and easier to track over time.

All feedback is welcome.



Useful Dates

Tuesday 20th January – SENCo Surgery drop in 2:30pm-3:30pm

Tuesday 3rd February - SENCo Surgery drop in 2:30pm-3:30pm

Tuesday 24th February – SENCo Surgery drop in 2:30pm-3:30pm

Thursday 12th February – Coffee Afternoon for SEND parents 2pm-3pm

Tuesday 24th February – SENCo Surgery drop in 2:30pm-3:30pm

Tuesday 24th March – SENCo Surgery drop in 2:30pm-3:30pm





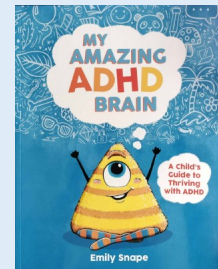
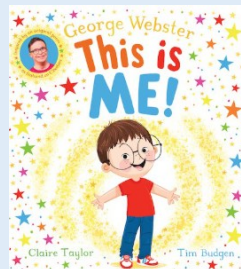
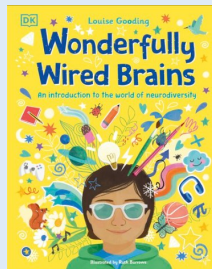
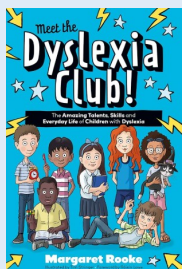
16th –22nd March 2026

Neurodiversity refers to the way the brain works and interprets information. Estimates suggest that around 1 in 7 of the UK population is neurodivergent, meaning that the brain functions, learns and processes information differently to someone who is neurotypical. Neurodivergence can include ADD, ADHD, Autism, Dyscalculia, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Executive Dysfunction, OCD, stammering, Tourette's, tics and stimming, amongst others. Neurodivergent people often experience more than one of these conditions.

There are lots of famous people who are neurodivergent, including superstar gymnast **Simone Biles** who has ADHD, presenter and conservationist **Chris Packham** who is Autistic, space scientist **Maggie Aderin-Pocock** who is dyslexic, and singers **Billie Eilish** and **Lewis Capaldi** have Tourette's.

Neurodiversity Celebration Week provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate neurodiversity and facilitate a school ethos that values difference and fosters a culture of empathy and understanding. We will be celebrating Neurodiversity Awareness Week in school and will be having a whole school assembly on **Thursday 19th March.**

We believe that books are a great way to raise awareness and improve understanding of different experiences. Books can be a helpful tool in opening children up to different realities and perspectives and help to counter misconceptions. They can also help children to feel seen and understood. We will be sharing lots of books this week....



Autism in Schools Project

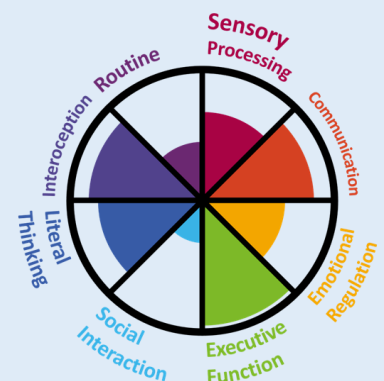
The Autism in Schools project is a national, NHS backed initiative that is working in partnership with the Autism Education Trust (now called Neuroinclusive Education Network) and is designed to improve support for Autistic children in mainstream schools by training staff, creating inclusive environments, and empowering children with self-advocacy and reducing anxiety through better understanding and child-centered approaches. This is something that we are really excited to be a part of and cannot wait to see the positive changes reflected in our provision.

Autism Spectrum

The autism spectrum is not linear



The autism spectrum looks more like



Did you know?



St Helens SEND Hub provides information about their Local Offer in one place for children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), their parents/carers and professionals.

The Local Offer includes information on local services to help children, young people, parents and carers make choices about the support they receive.

Access the SEND Hub for St Helens here:

<https://familyinfodirectory.sthelens.gov.uk/kb5/sthelens/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0>



Where can I get advice?



St Helens IASS provides free, confidential, impartial advice and helps parents play an active and informed role in their child's education.

Contact: Beverley Ellis

Telephone: 01744 673428

Email: IASS@sthelens.gov.uk



ADDvanced Solutions Community Network is an open access offer that supports the emotional health and wellbeing of neurodivergent children and young people, their families and the professionals that work with them.

Telephone: 01744 582172

Email: info@advancedsolutions.co.uk

Website: www.advancedsolutions.co.uk

Neurodevelopment pathway drop ins

NHS

Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Come along to one of our drop in sessions in St Helens.

Our team will answer questions you have about the neurodevelopment pathway process.

You don't need to be using our service, you can drop in if you have any questions to ask about this.

We look forward to meeting you.

Tuesdays at Parr Children's Centre and Central Link Family Hub

See details and times below

13 January at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

10 March at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

12 May at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

27 January at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

24 March at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

26 May at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

10 February at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

14 April at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

9 June at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

24 February at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

28 April at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

23 June at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

We work with children and young people with complex neurodevelopmental difficulties, who need an assessment to gain a better understanding of their needs.

Parr Children's Centre, Ashtons Green Drive, St Helens, WA9 2AP

Central Link Family Hub, Westfield Street, (off Peter Street), St Helens, WA10 1QF

If you need more information you can contact us on **01744 415 608** or email: mcn-tr.sthelensneuropathway@nhs.net



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14 July at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

8 September at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

10 November at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

28 July at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

22 September at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

24 November at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

11 August at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

13 October at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

8 December at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

25 August at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

27 October at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

22 December at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

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