



Welcome back to 2024. We do hope that you had an enjoyable break whether you were celebrating Christmas or spending time with family and friends. We are sure the children (and you) will be ready to be back at school to see their friends and continue their learning. As always, we will continue to support children and parents through various pathways including meetings with class teachers, the school office, Mrs Sutton (pastoral officer), Mrs Power (pastoral officer) and myself. Meetings will more often than not be with your child's class teacher as they know them best and have the daily interactions with them. Once again, thank you for your continued support.



### HUB

The hub continues to be very successful for a significant number of our pupils. Some attend full time, while others have time in the hub and within their classes. This is also a space that is used at lunchtimes to support pupils who need additional social interaction and building friendships support.

**Parent support information — ChatAutism** is a messaging service that provides a safe and easy way to send a text message to a healthcare professional and get confidential help and advice.

Through ChatAutism, diagnosed or non-diagnosed autistic people – or their family and carers – are able to access advice and support directly from the Specialist Autism Team on topics such as:

- ⇒ emotional wellbeing
- ⇒ how to have a healthy lifestyle
- ⇒ how to have healthy relationships
- ⇒ advice on drugs, alcohol and smoking
- ⇒ support with understanding autism
- ⇒ signposting to helpful resources
- ⇒ assessment and diagnosis advice.

This service is open to people of all ages.

Text the Specialist Autism Team on: 07312 277097

The service is available 9am-5pm every week day, excluding bank holidays. The text line stays open during the school holidays too. You will receive a response within 24 hours, Monday to Friday.



Hi, I'm Faye. I help to answer all the messages that come through to the ChatAutism text messaging service. I also know first-hand what it is like to care for someone who is autistic.

I am kind, caring and want to help and support people as best I can. I am also a good listener and like to have a joke when the time is right.

Please get in touch and tell me how you're feeling so I can try and improve things for you.



## REPORT REQUESTS

We are being asked to provide and complete an increasing number of letters, questionnaires and documents to support in getting referrals to paediatricians and medical professionals. Many of these follow conversations you have had with your child's class teacher and we want to support wherever we can.

With these request, we can only report what we have experienced and how the child presents in school. We will of course include information from you but have to make it clear that this is what you have reported to us and not always what we will have seen at school. We recognise that at times this can be frustrating but our information has to be factual.

Things that might be included in reports (not an exhaustive list) will be:

- Pupil tracking data
- Whether they are on the SEND register and if so their individual targets
- Suspensions the child may have had
- Physical interventions that may have happened
- Areas the child may struggle in, for example — friendships, loud noises, changes in routine, transitions at the start and end of day
- Interventions children may have had (including dates and outcomes)
- External agency reports including speech and language, SEMH team etc if appropriate
- Minutes of reviews and /or other meetings that have been held
- Relevant health observations
- School assessments including standardised testing/checklists/observations
- Attendance data
- Behaviour records

Class teachers, who know your child well and work with them on a daily basis, will usually complete these documents and then a meeting will usually be arranged with yourselves to go through the information and to see if you wish anything adding from your perspective. Update reports to those already on waiting lists etc may not require a meeting. All information from teachers will be shared with the SENCO.

You will then be given a copy for your records and a copy will be sent directly to the relevant professional.

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust runs a confidential secure text messaging service for parents of children aged 0-19 years in Leicester city and parents of children aged 0-11 years in Leicestershire and Rutland, called **ChatHealth**.



The service operates Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, excluding bank holidays. All texts will be responded to by a public health nurse (health visitor/school nurse) within 24 hours. Outside of the service working hours, you'll receive a message back to inform you that your text will be responded to once the line reopens.

Parents/carers living in Leicester city: **text 07520 615381**

## WEBSITE

We are continuing to develop the school website so that parents can find support and information about SEND. Please do take a look and let us know anything you think would help other parents



[Mental Health Support Teams in Schools \(MHST\)](#) are part of a national programme to reduce inequalities and increase access to mental health support for children and young people. The service works with Marriott to offer support to children and young people who are experiencing:



**Leicestershire Partnership**  
NHS Trust

- low mood
- worry
- anxiety and avoidance (e.g. simple phobias or separation anxiety)
- sleep difficulties

The team can provide techniques and strategies to children and young people, either on a direct 1:1 basis, or within school groups. MHST also work closely with parents/carers to help them understand and support their child's mental health.

They have also just launched [Online Support and Intervention \(OSI\)](#) which is an online platform designed to help parents and carers to learn tools and techniques to help their child to overcome difficulties with anxieties linked to:

- Bedtime fears
- Being away from caregivers
- Phobias (e.g. spider, dogs)
- School worries
- Social worries

If you feel your child would benefit from either of these programme please speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Sutton.

### **PARENT'S EVENING**

If you feel you require a meeting with the class teacher and myself about your child's progress then please do let your child's class teacher know so that we can try and arrange this. It may not be possible on the actual evenings depending on other commitments. Please do remember that the class teacher knows them best and is involved with them on a daily basis. I meet with the teachers regularly and they can update me on things if needed so please do not be concerned if you don't see me.

### **KEY DATES**

NSPCC Number Day: 2nd Feb 24  
Parent's Evening: 28th and 29th Feb 24  
Term ends for half term: Fri 16th Feb 24  
Term begins: Mon 26th Feb 24  
World Book Day: 7th March 24

If you would like a printed copy of this newsletter then please contact the office.

