



SEND Newsletter

Autumn Term 2024



How to get in touch

In the first instance, contact your child's class teacher.
If you need to contact the SENDCo, you can email:
hbansback3.210@lgflmail.org

or phone the school office on 020 7525 9188 and ask for Helen

Welcome to this term's edition of our SEND newsletter specially produced for parents and carers of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) at DHJS.

Firstly, a tremendous thank you for all the support, encouragement, smiles and conversations from so many parents and carers over the term as I have settled in to the school. You have made me feel so welcome! Hopefully the handover has felt fairly smooth for you as I have found my feet and familiarised myself with the support and provision in place for pupils with SEND here at Dulwich Hamlet.

A warm welcome also to new parents joining the school this year. I hope that your children have settled in well to their classes, have built good relationships with their adults in school, and that they have also discovered all the creative and exciting opportunities we have here for all our pupils to access and enjoy.

In this newsletter I will be sharing some of my priorities for the year ahead and also including highlights of the Dyslexia Parent Café held in November. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers attend this event and we hope there were some helpful tips, advice and resources, as well as gaining an understanding of how we support children with dyslexia in the school.

Please do continue to share your feedback on other areas of SEND you would find helpful for me to cover in Parent Café's or if you need advice or signposting about anything more specific for you or your child. Just drop me an email or speak to me in the Village playground, I am usually there most mornings and afternoons with the exception of Fridays.

I wish you and your families a wonderful winter break and the children a well-deserved rest.

Very best wishes,
Helen

Christmas can be a challenging time for some autistic children and their families.

Here are some ideas and resources suggested by Southwark Autism Support Team:

Christmas tips from the National Autistic Society:
<https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/leisure/christmas/>

A set of resources and links to other organisations:
<https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/professional-practice/christmas-resources>

Some advice for the season from Dr Michelle Garnett and Professor Tony Attwood:
<https://attwoodandgarnettevents.com/how-to-survive-christmas-with-autism/>

The views of autistic adults and family members of autistic people:
<https://www.autistica.org.uk/news/autism-friendly-holiday-season>

BBC Bitesize with Christine McGuinness:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zq8wwnb>





SEND Action Plan 2024-25

Some of my key priorities this year at Dulwich Hamlet:

- Embed adaptive teaching strategies in classrooms
- Develop the use of pupil passports for pupils with SEND
- Introduce and respond to Pupil Voice for pupils with SEND
- Support with the development of the Pastoral Team, led by Beth Harris (AHT)
- Set up and resource the sensory space so that it is accessible for all pupils who need it



These are just a few of things I will be working on this year. Please do come and ask me about any of them and check how I am getting on!!

You can find our SEND Policy and SEND Information Report [here](#).

Learning Plans & Provision Maps
Provision Map

SEND Learning Plans

If your child is on the SEND register you will receive a termly learning plan for your child. This plan will be emailed to you and will include an overview of your child's needs and the targets and provision in place each term. You will have received your first plan before the October half-term break. This plan will now be reviewed by your child's class teacher and you will receive a copy of this in January, as well as their new Spring term SEND Learning Plan.

I am working with the teachers to improve the information and targets on the plan so that they accurately reflect your child's strengths and needs and also link to the four areas of SEND:

- Cognition and Learning
- Communication and Interaction
- Social, Emotional and Mental health
- Physical and Sensory

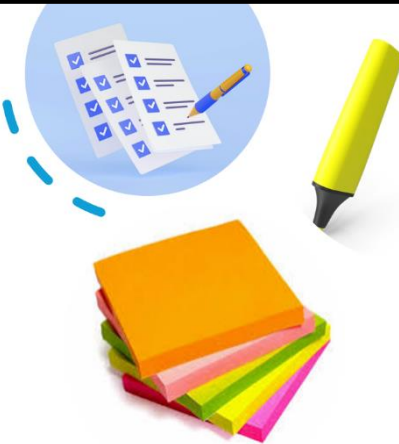
So please bear with me as I make tweaks and improvements so that you have all the information you need about your child's provision and support.

How do we ensure that children with dyslexia make progress at Dulwich Hamlet?

Our approach at Dulwich Hamlet is to ensure that all teachers and support staff are using High Value Strategies to support all our learners in class. These key adaptive teaching practices are proven to make a difference and highly recommended for pupils with dyslexia.

High value strategies for children with dyslexia

1. Slow down
2. Summarise: chunk and freeze
3. Visual and gestural cues
4. Reframing and checking
5. Planning and organisation



This is part of our universal provision and is in place all of the time and will support all of our pupils who are neurodivergent.

In addition to Quality First Teaching to support pupils with dyslexia or specific difficulties with literacy and numeracy, we also have a number of interventions and provision for pupils who need further groups and paired support:

- Year group planned and delivered spelling and phonics interventions
- Nessy (IT phonics programme for reading and spelling)
- Access to assistive technology in the classroom

Our two HLTA's Amanda Freshwater and Helen Mardling are both dyslexia trained and support a number of pupils in small groups. For more information, please speak to your class teacher or myself.

Or find out more in our SEND School Offer: [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) Report 2024-25](#) (New version should be on the website soon!)

If you would like the slides and presentation from Ruth Pierce (Dyslexia trained assessor, tutor and volunteer at Bell House) from the Parent Café please do drop me an email.



Information and advice

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

Training resources and sharing information

<https://www.madebydyslexia.org/>

Support for parents

<https://dyslexia-assist.org.uk/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zdtvbnb>

Local support

<https://www.bellhouse.co.uk/dyslexia-support>

See dyslexia differently...

It is important to remember that there are positives to thinking differently.

Many dyslexic people show strengths in areas such as reasoning and in visual and creative fields.

Watch this [video clip](#) with your child:

Dyslexia support at Bell House

- Please join our mailing list at www.bellhouse.co.uk
- Dyslexia screeners and assessments
- Support the Dyslexic Learner course – six sessions for parents and educators.
- Touch-typing course for Year 5 and 6
- Study skills courses for secondary schools.
- Annual Dyslexia Fair in September
- Bell House Readers – Adult Literacy tuition.
- Watch out for monthly talks and advice clinics coming soon.





National Autistic Society

1st Friday of the month, 9.30 am to 11.30 am

Parents & Carers Coffee Morning. Join us at Carnegie Library for a free relaxed coffee morning with regular speakers. Meet other parents & carers of autistic people over a coffee and biscuits.

No diagnosis necessary.

Free tea, coffee and biscuits.

Listen and chat to regular speakers. Find out what's going on in the world of autism in Lambeth and find out our plans for 2024-2025.

No registration needed. Please see **Book now** for more information or [email](#) us

Listen in...

If you get a spare moment to yourself, this podcast has some really interesting topics. Even though they are aimed at SENDCo's and teachers, I think there are some really useful discussions relevant to parents too. Here are a few I thought may be of interest...

- **Emotional Regulation Resources for SEND with Kerry Thalia**
<https://thesendcast.com/emotional-regulation-resources-for-send/>
- **Dyslexia Myth Busting with Louise Selby**
<https://thesendcast.com/dyslexia-myth-busting/>
- **The Magic of 'High Value' Strategies for Pupils with SEND in the Classroom with Angela Scott**
<https://thesendcast.com/the-magic-of-high-value-strategies-for-pupils-with-send/>

