



SEND Newsletter

Issue 8, Summer 2024

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



Lilian Koder, SENDCo

After 5 years as SENDCo, it is time for me to say goodbye to Dulwich Hamlet. I am incredibly proud to have been part of this outstanding school and my role in ensuring that our pupils with SEND have the best provision possible, which was recognised by Ofsted last year. I have loved working with your children and in partnership with many parents and carers over the years.

As previously communicated by Mrs Purcell, the new SENDCo, Helen Bansback, will be taking over from September and I have been working with her to hand over as thoroughly as possible. Helen brings a wealth of experience with her and I know that she is excited and raring to go! You will be able to contact Helen via the school office from September.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your children all the best for the future as well as a lovely summer.

Playful Parenting

We enjoyed hosting parents for our workshop in April led by Asia (Art Therapist). During this workshop, we learnt the importance of bringing play into our everyday lives and parent-child relationships, to boost positive brain chemicals and attachment.

Below are some more ideas, to bring some extra joy and oxytocin to our family relationships!

Pass the Can:

- Find a cup, can or ball
- Sit in a circle or opposite one another using your feet
- How many times can you pass it?!



All About Me Collage:

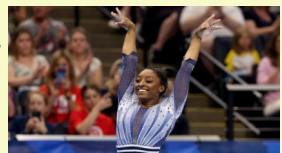
- First write your name (using art materials or cut out letters)
- Then draw/collage around your name with all your likes, dislikes, interests, hobbies and character traits (use old magazines, flyers, newspapers etc)
- Ask your child to share their image with you, have you learnt something new or surprising about them?!
- Parents can make one too, alongside their child/children



Neurodiversity in Sport

With this summer being dubbed the Summer of Sport, Mrs Koder's assembly earlier this month took a look at neurodiversity within sport, taking inspiration from Michael Phelps, Greg Halford, Simone Biles and Charis Pavely amongst many others who use their neurodivergence as their superpower.

You can watch an inspiring video featuring the record-breaking gymnast Simone Biles, who has ADHD, [here](#).



Transition Support at the Hamlet

Moving up to the next year group and having a new teacher and/or teaching assistant is an exciting time but we recognise that it can also be a tricky transition for some children. We try to make the transition as smooth as possible by putting in place the following:

- Meet the Teacher sessions for all children to spend time in their new classes with their new teachers.
- Thorough handover meetings between current and receiving class teachers before the end of term.
- Handover of key information and documents between teachers, SENDCo and teaching assistants.
- Time set aside for pupils who need extra support with transition to get to know their new teacher, classroom and support staff. Some children also create an All About Me sheet for their new teacher and/or a transition booklet with photos to bring home over the holidays.
- We also held a café on 10th July for parents and carers of Year 6 pupils with SEND transferring to Charter North and East with Will Cannock (Trust SEND Lead) who has an overview of systems and policies across the trust.

Transition Advice from Southwark Autism Support Team

- Practice your journey to school (make a map, take pictures along the way).
- Look at pictures/school website to familiarise the child with the new school setting.
- Meet up with/video chat with friends from school.
- Make a list of things they are looking forward to at school.
- Write a letter/draw a picture to share with your child's teacher.
- Take some photos of your child with favourite things to show the teacher.
- Practice putting on school uniform.



Useful Resources for Transition

Parental survival guide & cheat sheet - [BBC Bitesize](#)

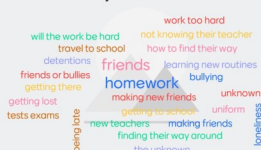
[Video - Things I wish I'd known before starting secondary school - BBC Bitesize](#)

Secondary School Transition [Booklet](#) (compass-uk.org)

Ten Ways for parents to help children cope with change
[_top-ten-tips-for-parents.pdf](#)
([youngminds.org.uk](#))

Anna Freud guidance for parents and carers - [Anna Freud Centre](#)

What might your child worry about for the transition to secondary school



Edukey Learning Plans



Just a reminder that if your child is on the SEND register you will receive their reviewed summer term learning plan before the summer

holidays. This will include the class teacher's comments on their progress against each outcome. You will also be able to read some comments about their progress in some of the interventions they have participated in this term. We hope that this will give you a better picture of how your child is supported in school and the impact these interventions are having on their progress and development.

How to get in touch

In the first instance, contact your child's class teacher. If you need to contact the SENDCo, from September onwards please email or phone the school office and ask for **Helen Bansback**.

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

Useful Links

Southwark Autism Support Team (AST)

- contact Mr B for advice on 078 0286 0871 or blagoje.vucinic@southwark.gov.uk

Southwark Information and Advice Service (SIAS) 0207 525 3104 or

sias@southwark.gov.uk

Bell House, Dulwich - [courses and events](#) including the Dyslexia Fair and touch-typing courses.

Touch-Typing Programmes for the summer holidays - BBC Dance Mat Typing (free); Doorway Online Typing (free); Nessy Fingers.

Fun summer holiday activities for children with SEND in [Southwark](#) and [Lambeth](#).



Inclusive cycling sessions at Herne Hill Velodrome:

<https://wheelsforwellbeing.org.uk/cycling-sessions/>

