SEND Newsletter—Spring 1 2025

Welcome to our half termly SEND newsletter addressing all things related to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities here at All Saints! Please check past newsletters about SEND, Dyslexia and our school Padlet on our website. This half term's newsletter is about ELSA — Emotional Literacy Support Assistant.

What is an ELSA?

ELSA stands for 'Emotional Literacy Support Assistant'. Our school ELSA is Mrs Leslie. Mrs Leslie, as our school ELSA has been trained to support children with emotional and social difficulties. ELSA's help children to develop skills to manage anxiety, self-esteem, social skills, amongst other areas of social and emotional needs. ELSAs are trained to build positive, strong relationships with children and they plan and deliver sessions which are often creative and engaging.

What do ELSA's do?

Mrs Leslie works closely with class teachers and the SENDCO (Mrs Darling-Chalke) to plan for individual children or small groups and their social and emotional needs. ELSA's need to plan clear objectives for what can be achieved during the ELSA sessions. An ELSA intervention lasts between 6-8 weeks and is designed to support, teach and make things better for the child.

The sessions are tailor made for the child/children the ELSA is working with and designed to be engaging using the child's interests and skills to support. The sessions may include games, creative tasks, role-play/puppets and lots of time for speaking and listening.

Before the ELSA intervention starts, Mrs Leslie completes a questionnaire with staff to see what social and emotional skills the child needs help to develop. This is repeated after the intervention and Mrs Leslie can monitor the progress being made.

ELSA is a popular intervention and Mrs Leslie often has a waiting list of children to help and support. ELSA is not an ongoing intervention, children need to practice and apply the social and emotional skills learnt independently. However, Mrs Leslie will always check in if needed and children can have another 6-8 week intervention if we feel this will benefit the child.

What can ELSA intervention support?

ELSA can support;

- Development of social skills, such as turn taking, conversation, friendship skills
- Understanding emotions
- Managing bereavement and loss
- Understanding neurodiversity
- Supporting emotional regulation
- Boosting self-esteem and wellbeing
- Giving ideas to support/manage anxiety
- Developing greater self-awareness, managing school or home-life better
- Children feel listened to and understood

How can parents support?

School staff and parents can identify if children would benefit from an ELSA intervention and parents can sign to give permission for Mrs Leslie to work with their child.

Parents can come and talk to either Mrs Leslie or Mrs Darling-Chalke before ELSA starts to chat through any difficulties and how you think we can help. During the ELSA intervention, Mrs Leslie and Mrs Darling-Chalke will not divulge the sessions with parents, instead, we encourage the child to talk to you about what they are learning and how you can help them at home. Resources may be sent home for you to look at together. Before and after the ELSA intervention we would encourage parents to continue to;

- Find time to listen to your child
- Encourage your child to see the positives in every situation
- Encourage problem solving to find peaceful solutions
- Help your child to see things from the view of other people

Mrs Darling-Chalke is our school SENDCO. She works as our SENDCO on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. If you would like to talk to her, please make an appointment with the school office.

Don't forget, past SEND newsletters can be found on our school website.

https://www.allsaintsceprimary.co.uk/send-information/

The next newsletter will be out after February half term.