SEND Newsletter—Autumn 2 2024

Welcome to our new 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 Speech, Language and Communication difficulties.

We hope everyone in our school community finds this useful.

What are Speech, Language and Communication difficulties?

Speech, Language and Communication needs (SLCN) is the term used to describe difficulties with the following;

- Producing speech sounds accurately.
- Stammering and/or voice problems, such as hoarseness and loss of voice.
- Difficulties in using words and/or sentences to describe and express the world around you.
- The understanding of language (making sense of what people say).
- Expressing and using language socially.

How do you identify SCLN?

In the early years...

These can be initially identified by parents, who may be concerned about speech and language development. Parents can go to their health visitor, GP or pre-school/nursery staff to be referred to the NHS service. Children may be assessed by an NHS Speech and Language therapist and the pre-school and parents would be given targets and suggestions of things to support the child.

At Primary school...

If a child comes into Year R and SLCN has not yet been identified, the NHS service ask schools to monitor and wait until the child turns 5.

When the child turns 5, we can complete a speech and language screening assessment and notify the NHS service of our concerns. The class teacher and SENDCO can do a consultation with the NHS speech therapist and strategies are suggested to help and support. The NHS therapist comes back to monitor progress, this is usually every two terms. Most children are discharged as progress is made and the school can continue to support.

At Primary school, the NHS Speech and Language service tend to focus on children who struggle to produce speech sounds accurately, supporting the understanding of language and social communication can be supported by the school.

Our current attached NHS Speech and Language Therapist is called Saara, she currently works mainly with Mrs Webb and Mrs Pearson in Year R and 1. Early intervention is key to supporting children with SLCN as it can have such an impact on reading and writing in later years.

What can parents do to help?

If you are worried about your child's speech, language and communication needs, there is a handy 'ages and stages' page on Speech and Language UK website.

https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/help-for-families/ages-and-stages/

Here you can check the development of your child against the typical development of speech and language.

There are lots of games and resources to support speech and language development at home;

https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/childrens-speech-and-language-resources

The best advice, is to be a good speaking and listening role-model, parents play a crucial role in developing these skills. The skill of speaking and listening underpin all education and support your child in making progress.

What do we do at All Saints to support children with Speech, Language and communication difficulties?

- A range of visual supports to aid communication and understanding
- Listening and attention prompts in class
- Pre-teaching/overlearning of topic vocabulary
- Word mats to support understanding of language
- Targeted support to help make verbal contributions in class
- Peer support to share ideas (sensitive, small groups)
- Frequent checking of understanding
- Extra phonics interventions (if required)
- Resources that alleviate cognitive load, such as planning structures, checklists, sequence boards
- We use the Solent therapy NHS advice pack—this gives advice like supporting children in making the sounds, using rhyme and rhythm to help with speech.
- We work with NHS Speech and Language therapist to put in place suggested provision and support
- We work with private speech and language therapists if parents commission this support

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 in January.