

Inclusion & SEND Newsletter – Issue 1: 8th June 2020

Message from the Inclusion Team:

Hello Sutton Park Primary! Now that schools have been closed (except for keyworker children) and we have been staying at home for quite a number of weeks, we thought it might be useful to put together all of the support available for parents of children with Special Educational Needs. There is a lot of support available but we understand that it can be difficult to find everything when it is not in one place. The idea of this newsletter is to put all of the information about support available into one place so you know where to find it if you need it.

We hope that you are all staying safe and we look forward to talking to you or seeing you soon. **Mrs Shotter & the Inclusion Team**

Support for Parents and Carers from the Birmingham Educational Psychology Service

Do you as a parent or carer at home with your child during school closures, feel that you need someone to talk to about how you can cope with this challenging time for families?

Birmingham Educational Psychology service is providing a telephone helpline for any parent or carer who feels they would benefit from a consultation with a psychologist to support them with any concerns arising at this time, for them or their families.

These concerns can be related to school or family life. If you would like to access this service, please email your name, preferred contact number, your child's school, any dates or times that you would **not** be available and whether you need an interpreter to kate.smith@birmingham.gov.uk

Support from our PACT Educational Psychologist

Early Years Solutions

Dr Anita Soni supports children with additional needs in all of the schools across the Trust. She is highly skilled and knowledgeable, and has a fabulous rapport with parents.

If your child has a specific Special Educational Need and you are struggling or have new concerns, you may benefit from a telephone consultation with Anita. If you think this might be supportive to you, please contact Mrs Shotter to discuss your concerns.



Follow us on twitter @Suttonparkpri

We often re-tweet and signpost things that might be useful from our partners and organisations that we work with. You might find something useful on here too.

Please keep up your engagement with our Twitter page. We love hearing from you and especially enjoy seeing the home learning happening during school closures.

We will continue to tweet new ideas and strategies that might support our children with additional needs and key information throughout school closure.

If you have any specific concerns or questions about your child's additional needs or Special Educational Needs you can contact Mrs Shotter via the email address below.

She will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible to answer any queries.

a.shotter@suttonparkprimary.co.uk

For all other enquiries, you can contact school during our closure via the email address below. We will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible to answer any queries.

schoolclosure@suttonparkprimary.co.uk

Advice from the Birmingham SEND Support Services

The support services that fall under Access to Education have provided lots of information for parents and carers on supporting children with additional needs.

<https://accesstoeducation.birmingham.gov.uk/parents/>

Support for children with Autism:



COMMUNICATION AND AUTISM TEAM (CAT)

COVID-19 & Advice for Parents / Carers

Currently the nation is experiencing a situation we have not seen before. It is requiring us all to change our normal routines and may be causing your child with autism to feel concerned and present some challenges for you as a parent and/or carer.

The Communication and Autism Team are here to help you during this difficult time. Our families and children are really important to us and we are here to provide you with support through our telephone helpline service.

You can get advice and support on a range of topics, including the following:

- Strategies to support access to home routines
- Motivating and engaging your child
- Tips for helping your child/young person to manage their school work at home
- Social communication and interaction
- Sleeping, eating and personal hygiene
- Wellbeing
- Structure and routine
- Coping with new routines
- Helping your child to understand what is happening
- Looking after yourself

We would like to assure you that our support remains available to you by telephone throughout this period.

If you would like to access this service please email CATParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk with the following information:

- Your name
- The telephone number you would like to be contacted on
- The name of your child's school
- Times and dates you are not available

We will then arrange for a member of the team to call you back as soon as possible.

"We can do this if we all work together as a family"

Birmingham SEND Youth Forum

Visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/focaleffer

Follow us on Twitter: @AZEducation #coronavirushelp



Support from the Physical Difficulties Support Service:



PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES SUPPORT SERVICE (PDSS)

Help and advice for parents of children with a physical difficulty



The PDSS Team are available to provide support and advice for parents of children with physical difficulties, who may be struggling at this time.

If you would like to talk to a PDSS teacher, please email pdssparentenquiry@birmingham.gov.uk giving your name, contact number, your child's school and any times or dates when you are **not** available.

Contact details for SEND Parent Link Service

You can contact the Parent link service to talk to someone about your child using the following email address:

parentlinkservice@birmingham.gov.uk

Speech and language support:

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Advice Line

Call: 0121 466 6231
Open Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm

We can offer advice and strategies to support parents, carers, schools and other professionals in relation to a child or young person's communication needs or eating and drinking concerns.

The child or young person you are calling about must be:
Aged 0-18 years (or up to 19 only if in full time special school education)
Registered with a Birmingham GP or Birmingham School
Visit our webpage for useful advice, strategies and support:
www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/childrens-SLT

Need to talk?:

Pause

Need someone to talk to?
Struggling to cope with feelings?
We're here for you.

We are operating a telephone-based service while Pause in Digbeth is closed.
Drop us an email on askbeam@childrenssociety.org.uk in the first instance.

Or call 0207 841 4470 and we will arrange for one of our friendly staff to call you back but email is much quicker.

Who can use us?
You can use us if you have a Birmingham GP and are:
• Under 25 years old (If you are under 14 you will need to have a parent / caregiver with you when we call to give consent).
• Or if you are a parent / caregiver looking for support for their child who is under 25 years old.

How can we help?
We can offer:
• Self-help strategies, skills for managing difficult situations and feelings.
• A non-judgemental listening ear.
• Details for other organisations that might also be able to help you.
• Each call lasts around 20-30 minutes which focuses on ways forward.

Our Opening Hours:
Email or Call Us - 10am - 6pm, 7 days a week

Home learning:

If you need any support with the home learning that is on our school website or the home learning packs, please feel free to ask and we will do our best to support. If you are finding the home learning tricky to do with your child, we may be able to offer alternative suggestions that might encourage them.

There are also some great ideas and links to websites you can use on the Access to Education website, which can be accessed here: <https://accesstoeducation.birmingham.gov.uk/parents/>