



Inclusion Newsletter

20th May 2022

Welcome to this term's Inclusion newsletter.

Firstly, I wanted to make you aware that this term, we have welcomed a new member of staff to the SEND team at Riverside. Faye Harbard is the SEND administrative assistant at Twydall Primary School, but as a result of our schools now working more closely together under Mrs Wilmer's Executive Headship, Faye will now be working part of the week at Riverside. This is great news for our capacity and means that those of you who have children with additional needs may find that it is Faye who now contacts you for things like arranging meetings or completing paperwork. Rest assured I am still available as before for any matters related to Inclusion. You can contact me directly via Class Dojo or through the school office if you would like to speak to me.

Some of you may have seen that the government has recently published a Green Paper related to SEND. This document is the outcome of the SEND Review, which was launched in 2019 in response to national concerns that children with SEND generally achieve poor outcomes, parents and carers face difficulties and delays when trying to get support, and the processes for schools to access additional funding for children with SEND are complex and flawed. The Green Paper sets out the government's plans for reforming the entire English SEND system to try to address these issues. There is a consultation which you can take part in if you wish to share your views about this, which will remain open until 22nd July. You can find out more about the proposals and respond to the consultation at <https://sendreview.campaign.gov.uk/> Medway Local Authority are also currently considering ways to reform some of their local systems for inclusion funding and are trying to address the significant shortfall in specialist education placements in this area. These issues have affected many of our families, so hopefully we will start to see some positive change happening soon.

A reminder that on Tuesday of next week, we are looking forward to welcoming athlete and Invictus Games competitor Darran Challis into school. Darran sustained spinal, leg and pelvis injuries when he was on active duty in the army, and he now works with the 'Sports for Schools' programme to show that having a disability does not stop you from taking part in sport. He will be taking part in a Q&A session and then leading the children in a sponsored sporting event, so please make sure you've collected some sponsors! We are sure that the children will enjoy meeting Darran and will take inspiration from his resilience.

As always, if you have any queries related to SEND or Inclusion, or wish to discuss your child's needs further, please don't hesitate to contact me at the school.

Mrs Z Huggett
Assistant Headteacher/Inclusion Manager



Dyslexia



Dyslexia is a specific learning difficulty which affects a person's ability to learn and process information. Most commonly, dyslexic people find it hard to read and spell accurately, but the condition can also cause difficulties with memory, concentration, organisation and co-ordination.

It is thought that approximately 10% of the population have dyslexia, although many of them remain undiagnosed.

Tom Cruise, Steven Spielberg, Jamie Oliver and Richard Branson are just a few examples of people with dyslexia who have achieved amazing success.

~ Dyslexic pupils can find homework particularly challenging as they may not have access to the practical resources that support them in class. You can help by dividing homework tasks into smaller chunks, with breaks in between. If your child is slow to complete work, encourage them to use a timer and challenge them to see how much they can complete in two, five or ten minutes. Over time, you can extend the amount they are asked to do in the same period. When necessary and appropriate, you could scribe for your child so that they can get their ideas on paper more easily and accurately. If homework is regularly taking excessively long or is too difficult for your child to manage independently, you should discuss this with their class teacher.

Helpful
Tips

~ Help your child to use technology effectively for work, especially as they get older. Encourage them to learn touch typing skills - the BBC website has a good free typing tutor! The Office 365 version of Word also has a 'dictate' function which turns spoken language into written text - this can really help children who struggle with writing.

~ There are lots of different fonts which have been specially designed to make them easier for dyslexics to read. You can find them online and download them for free.

This Is an
example of
the Open Dyslexic
Typeface

~ Dyslexics can benefit from playing memory training games, lots of which are available as apps. Have a look at the links below for some more ideas.

Useful websites:

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

<http://dyslexiahelp.umich.edu>

<http://www.beatingdyslexia.com>