



Inclusion Newsletter

11th October 2024

Welcome to the first Inclusion newsletter of this academic year. My name is Mrs Huggett and I am the Assistant Headteacher and Inclusion Manager at Riverside, which means I am the main point of contact for parents of children with any additional needs. For those of you who are new to the school, this Inclusion Newsletter is sent out once a term to keep you up-to-date with developments either in school, Medway or nationally, related to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It also provides information and advice related to specific areas of need, detailing the support we provide in school and how you can help your child at home.

As well as me, there is a team of other staff working to support additional needs in the school. Mrs Wood, our Home School Support Worker, is available to give guidance to parents/carers who may need some support with managing anxieties, behaviour or any other issues or circumstances at home that may be affecting children's learning or attendance. She also runs interventions to support emotional wellbeing in school and co-ordinates our programme of parent workshops, as well as hosting our regular 'Time to Talk' sessions. Keep an eye out on Dojo for her updates – it would be great to see some new faces at these events this year.

Mrs Barber is our Wellbeing Coach, a role introduced last year to increase our capacity to support wellbeing across the school. Mrs Barber works with pupils, staff and parents to help manage any emotional wellbeing needs, support dysregulated behaviours and ensure children are ready to learn.

Our fantastic team of Teaching Assistants work alongside the class teachers to provide a range of support to our pupils both in and out of class. Mrs Allen is back at Riverside full time this year and is leading our new 'Nest' provision, and we continue to provide support through external professionals such as Speech and Language and Counselling.

Finally, Miss White has returned from her maternity leave and is now at Riverside on Thursdays and Fridays in her SEND Administrator role.

Your child's class teacher is always the best person to speak to first if you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning, but if you wish to discuss your child's needs further, or need additional support with an aspect of SEND, please don't hesitate to contact me at the school.

Mrs Z Huggett
Inclusion Manager



Dyscalculia

Dyscalculia is a term used for a specific learning difficulty related to maths. Dyscalculic learners may struggle to understand basic number concepts and find it hard to learn, recall and apply number facts. Research is still in its early stages and some experts believe there may be a neurological cause. Interventions that support children with dyscalculia are also effective for those who may not have the condition, but find maths tricky and need additional help.



It is thought that about 5% of children may have dyscalculia.

- ~ Children who struggle with maths need lots of repetition and over-learning, so try to practise skills little and often.
- ~ It helps to focus on specific areas of learning such as times tables, rather than trying to solve problems or do tasks that use lots of areas of maths at once.
- ~ Practical resources like counters, Dienes apparatus or bead strings can really help children understand mathematical concepts. At home you can use things like bottle tops, Lego pieces or coins in place of the equipment we have in school.
- ~ Drawing pictures (eg. circles to represent coins) is a great way of helping children move from using concrete materials to abstract recording (where they only write down numbers).
- ~ Games are a great, fun way to reinforce skills and concepts and keep children engaged with maths for longer periods. Some super games and activities are available online and all of our children have access to these on sites like Numbots (FS/KS1) and TT Rockstars (KS2). Children can also complete maths activities on Purple Mash for extra practice. There are also lots of apps available for smartphones or tablets, many of them free, which allow children to practise their maths skills, so have a look in your app store!

Helpful
Tips

Useful websites:

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

www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/child-learning-disabilities/dyscalculia/what-is-dyscalculia