



INCLUSION



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER
2025

WELCOME

Welcome to the first Inclusion newsletter of this academic year.

For those of you who are new to the school, Mrs Huggett is the Assistant Headteacher and Inclusion Manager (SENCo) at Riverside, and Mrs Richardson is the Assistant SENCo. Between us, we are the main points of contact for parents of children with any additional needs.

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.

OTHER SUPPORT

Mrs Barber is our new Home School Support Worker. She is available to give guidance to parents/carers who may need some support with managing their children's 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. We will soon be joined by a new Wellbeing Coach, taking over Mrs Barber's former role. This involves helping to manage any emotional wellbeing needs, supporting dysregulated behaviours and ensuring children are ready to learn.

STAY IN TOUCH

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 us at the school.



Mrs Huggett and Mrs Richardson



SPOTLIGHT ON



VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Key Information

Many people have some type of visual problem at some point in their lives. They are usually either short-sighted (unable to see things clearly at a distance) or long-sighted (unable to see things clearly close up). These issues may be present from childhood or may develop with age, but they are usually easily treated with corrective glasses or contact lenses.

However, when one or more parts of the eye or brain that are needed to process images become diseased or damaged, severe or total loss of vision can occur. In these cases, vision can't be fully restored even with medical treatment, surgery or corrective lenses. Visual impairment is a term experts use to describe any such kind of vision loss, whether it's someone who cannot see at all or someone who is partially sighted.

Some people are completely blind, and are unable to see anything at all, or even perceive light. Many others have what's called 'legal blindness'. They haven't totally lost their sight, but have significantly reduced vision, needing to be 20 metres or less from an object to see it as well as someone with perfect vision could from 200 metres away. At Riverside, there are children with all of these types of visual impairment.

Did You Know?

We are very proud of our special provision for children with Visual Impairment.

Our building is adapted to support VI mobility and we have a range of classroom resources and technology to help visually impaired children with their learning. We also have specialist VI trained staff, who are able to adapt and modify learning materials, including using Braille and other tactile resources where necessary.

Useful Websites



<http://www.allaboutvision.com/parents>

<https://www.specsavers.co.uk/childrens-eyecare>

Handy Hints

If your child has an uncorrected vision problem, it can have a huge impact on their ability to learn in the classroom. It can also be the cause of physical symptoms such as headaches or clumsiness. Opticians will be able to identify any issues with your child's sight, and can also spot early signs of eye conditions that could be potentially more serious if left untreated. Eye tests are free for children under the age of 16, and corrective lenses (where needed) are also highly subsidised, so please do ensure your child has regular eye tests with a reputable optician at least once every two years, but preferably annually.

