



# INCLUSION



# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER  
2026

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 Head and Inclusion Manager/SENCO, and Mrs Richardson is the Assistant SENCO. Between us, we are the main points of contact for parents of children with additional needs. This Inclusion newsletter is sent out once a term to keep you up-to-date with any SEND-related news, either within school, Medway or nationally. It also provides information and advice around a different focus area each term.

One big update to share is that Medway Community Healthcare (MCH), which provides a number of children's health services in Medway including the Snapdragons Children's Centre, community paediatric services and children's therapy services, has now joined with Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) as one organisation. They have advised that families should not experience any immediate changes to the way they access support. MCH staff will continue in their current roles and with their current caseloads, existing contact details will continue to work, and referral processes will remain the same for now.

The main focus of our newsletter this term is hearing. Hearing loss can develop at any age for a range of reasons, including experiencing a head injury, over-exposure to loud noises, excessive ear wax, an infection or other health issues. Keep a look out for the following signs which may indicate a problem:

- Red ears and/or pulling at their ears.
- Delayed speech and communication development.
- Mishearing things and/or mispronouncing words.
- Not hearing what's going on, especially if there's background noise.
- Not responding when called.
- Wanting the volume of the TV higher than others.

Please look overleaf for some more advice and information on this topic.



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, please don't hesitate to contact us at the school.

Mrs Huggett and Mrs Richardson



# SPOTLIGHT ON HEARING LOSS

## Key Information

Hearing loss can affect any child at any time. It can be temporary, but may be a long-term or permanent hearing impairment (HI).

There are more than 50,000 deaf children in the UK and half of these were born deaf. The other half become deaf during childhood. Every deaf child is different and may have different levels of hearing.

Lots of children will experience a condition called Glue ear at some point during childhood. Glue ear is where the middle part of the ear canal fills up with fluid. This can cause temporary hearing loss and usually clears up within 3 months. Glue ear can cause symptoms such as earache, tinnitus (hearing buzzing/ringing sounds) and problems with balance.

Any concerns about a child's hearing should always be checked with a GP, who can make a referral to an Audiologist if needed.

## Did You Know?

1 in 6 people in the UK are affected by some level of hearing loss.



## Useful Websites

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/glue-ear/>

<https://thelisteningroom.com/>

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/ear-nose-throat/Pages/Hearing-Loss.aspx>

## Handy Hints



- ~ Face children when you speak, as lip reading helps support communication. Talk slowly and clearly and in a normal tone.
- ~ Use lots of pictures, graphics, and written labels. Many children with hearing difficulties are visual learners and the use of pictures to support communication can be very effective.
- ~ Use technology to make learning easier. This includes having captioning (subtitles) on videos and using voice-recognition software on computers.
- ~ Minimise background noise when possible. This may mean finding quiet areas for a child to complete homework, read a book or to have a conversation.
- ~ Make seating/position changes. Children with hearing loss may need to sit closer to the front of the class to read lips or hear more clearly. At home, it is worth thinking about how standing and seating positions during conversations and activities can support a child with hearing loss.
- ~ Learn sign language. Many children benefit from learning to use signs to support their communication needs. Make learning signs fun and engaging as well as meaningful, for example through using games and challenges.