



Burbage C of E Infant School
SEND News
December 2023

Vision Statement



Loving



Living



Learning

Loving

We all belong to the Burbage Church of England Infants extended family - school, church, community. We all care for everyone within it. We believe everyone can be a good friend.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37

Living

We work hard to learn to live together and to be the best we can. We celebrate everybody's strengths and embrace each other's differences, respecting all and living honest lives together.

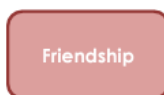
"Love your neighbour as you love yourself." Luke 10:27

Learning

Learning is amazing and we all strive to discover the next exciting adventure. We all believe that we can and if we can't now, we will soon.

"Everyone who hears these words and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24

School Values



Friendship



Truth



Compassion



Perseverance



Respect

Welcome! We hope this newsletter will provide useful information and support for parents and carers of children with SEND needs. The SENCo at Burbage C of E Infant School is Mrs Jesson.

Christmas



We are definitely heading into that festive time at schools now, so we thought it might be useful to share some resources. Our Autism Outreach practitioners recently held their 'An Autism Friendly Christmas' Link up session as many of our autistic children and young people can struggle with this time of year.

How to have an Autism Friendly Christmas.



1

Prepare, Prepare, Prepare!

- Be predictable; what is happening/when?
- Use social stories/ visual timetables.
- Consider the use of advent calendars.

2

'Christmas-Free Zones'

- Have 'Christmas Free Zones' dotted around the environment to allow for quiet spaces/ breaks.
- Instead, think about having a 'Christmas Room' which is full of things Christmas, but that does not overpower an entire environment.

3

Lights Out, All Out?

- If using lighting, pay attention to which ones.
- Limit the use of overly bright/ flashing lights.
- Try and get lighting which have functions you can control.

4

Food

- Christmas dinner may not look traditional for an Autistic person.
- Ask an Autistic person what they would like to eat for Christmas dinner, if this turns out to be pizza, it is PERFECTLY okay!

5

Presents

- Be mindful of gift giving in front of others; agree on whether gifts will be opened alone or with everyone.
- Surprises are not liked by all.
- Try and agree what gift you will be giving; get the Autistic person to give you wish list of things they would enjoy opening/receiving.

6

Games

- Pick inclusive games and that an Autistic person enjoys playing.
- Bear in mind that winning and losing games can be a trigger.





Autism Outreach Team



The Autism Outreach Team (AOT) is part of Leicestershire's Children & Family Services' Specialist Teaching Service. The Autism Outreach Team (AOT) are specialist teachers and practitioners who support education staff in Leicestershire's maintained schools and academies to develop improved understanding of Autism and to identify and implement strategies to support autistic children and young people.

The Autism Outreach Team (AOT) recognise that parent/carers are fundamental to supporting the children and young people we work with.

Parents/carers are the experts on their young person and offer great insight into their strengths and needs. We know that working in collaboration is essential to listen to the 'voice of the family' and develop our practice accordingly.

AOT also acknowledge the pressures and anxieties some parent/carers may face at times in parenting a child on the autism spectrum.

The views of the parents / carers are an integral part of the Referral Form which is completed when a request for pupil-specific Autism Outreach involvement is made. This ensures that parents/ carers are aware of the request for AOT involvement from the start and their views are sought.

Following this, the AOT teacher will liaise with the school's So to organise an initial referral meeting at school. This meeting must include parents/carers, the SENCo and where possible, other relevant school staff. At the referral meeting, parents/ carers will be asked to share the pupil's strengths and challenges, so that an initial understanding of the pupil's profile can be gained. Priorities for Autism Outreach involvement will be identified and next steps agreed.

Following the referral meeting, Autism Outreach may meet with parent/carers at review meetings, school meetings to discuss specific issues or areas of need, multi-agency meetings or EHCP Annual reviews.



We offer '**Time to Talk**' parent/carer appointments with Mrs Jesson (SENCo). It is an opportunity to ask any questions, talk about any concerns you might have or to discuss progress, additional needs or SEN support for your child. Appointments are available once a half term. The next sessions are scheduled for Monday 22nd January 2024 between 1:15pm and 3:15pm and can be made via the office - **telephone: 01455 239391** or by emailing pjesson@burbageinfants.org.

SEND Review meetings in the Spring Term



We are cancelling the SEND Review meetings scheduled for Wednesday 31st January 2024 until later in the year. The next review is scheduled for Wednesday 17th April 2024. You will receive an appointment and an invite nearer the time.

In addition, we will be sending out log in details for all parents/carers of children on the SEND register in the new year. This will enable you to access your child's file directly on Edukey.

Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

This year, as you will now be aware, we have introduced a new system to further develop the input that parents and carers have on their child's Individual Education Plan (IEP). In school, we now use an online system called Edukey Provision Map. This is how staff create and update your child's Individual Education Plan or pupil passport throughout the year. We will be providing you with your own personal log on so you are able to view your child's IEP or pupil passport at home whenever you wish.

At the SEND review meeting on Wednesday 6th December, your child's class teacher will have discussed your child's new IEP targets.

If you have any questions or concerns, please continue to speak directly with your child's class teacher or use Class Dojo. In addition, you may wish to contact the school office about arranging a meeting with Mrs Jesson, our SENCo.

In the spring term you will receive your unique access code to enable your access to your child's targets or pupil passport on Edukey from home. We will give you the details in January.

External help for parents and carers



Leicestershire's SEND Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) offers impartial and confidential Special Educational Needs and Disability information, advice and support for parents/carers, children (0-15yrs) and young people (16-25yrs).

You can access a wide amount of information and find out about the range of services on offer through their dedicated websites:

<https://sendiassleicestershire.org.uk/>

FREE Online Courses

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD



S O L I H U L L A P P R O A C H

NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland has partnered with the Solihull Approach to sponsor **FREE online courses** developed by psychologists and professionals.

These courses are designed to help you understand your child's feelings, as well as focus on your own feelings as you go through life as a family. You will also learn to understand the changes in your child's development and how to make the most out of each relationship.

We wholeheartedly recommend these courses – they are for everyone, for everyday parenting. They don't tell you how to parent, that's up to you. Instead, they give you a framework for understanding what might be going on and space to think about how you want to respond.

For ALL parents, carers, grandparents and teens. We all need a bit of headspace and thinking time occasionally.

From bump to 19+ years. Including adult relationships.

How to gain Access:

- [1 - Visit inourplace.co.uk](https://www.inourplace.co.uk)
- [2 - 'Apply Access Code'](#)
- 3 - Enter (copy and paste) this Access Code: **CURVE**
- 4 - Fill in your information and continue.

You can find more information on their website https://solihullapproachparenting.com/online-courses-leicestershire/?fbclid=IwAR18-bsljDnFnVK6bbbCU-n8EHbFCo0BO_xyrCiNCEa9oIBUjJmLWYWguTY

Attention ALL- This will take just 30 seconds to read and is a fantastic opportunity!

We have been contacted by The AIM Group who deliver **Free Online Level 2 Accredited Courses** to help better understand some key issues around young people's mental health and wellbeing, along with a range of other qualifications that may help with developing your own careers.

Here's some of the most popular subjects available:

- **Neuroscience in the Early Years**
- **Children and Young Peoples Mental Health**
- **Understanding Autism**
- **Specific Learning Difficulties**
- **Nutrition and Health**
- **Adverse Childhood Experiences**
- **Bullying in Children and Young People**
- **Distressed Behaviour in Children**
- **Mental Health Awareness**
- **Counselling**
- **Team Leading**
- **Business Administration**
- **Customer Service**
- **Functional Skills - Maths**
- **Functional Skills - English**

These are just the popular qualifications, but they have over 30 available!

The qualifications are completed within a 6–12 week period in your own leisure. They are equivalent to a GCSE Grade C. You can do as many as you like, however you can only do one at a time.

The only criteria you must meet to be eligible, is:

- Aged 19 or over on or before 31st August 2023
- Have lived in the UK/EU for 3+ years
- Not already on a Government funded course

If you are interested in undertaking one of these free online courses or would like further information, then please complete the following link **ASAP**. This will then allow The AIM Group to contact you to discuss and get you started on your chosen course:

<https://theaimgroup.co.uk/booking-form/001Q5000005EKiE>

If you have any questions prior to expressing interest, call **Shane Cooke on 0203 923 4013** or drop him an email at shane.cooke@theaimgroup.co.uk

Shane Cooke

Qualifications Executive | The AIM Group

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**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

The text 'MERRY CHRISTMAS' is rendered in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly overlapping and have a 3D effect with a white-to-red gradient. A small white snowflake icon is positioned between the 'I' and 'S' of 'CHRISTMAS'.