

7TH MARCH 2025

ISSUE 21

PRIORY SCHOOL NEWS

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Headteacher's News

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all keeping well as we settle into this busy half-term. A huge thank you to those of you who have already signed up for Arbor—your engagement has made the transition much smoother.

Action Required: Arbor Sign-Up – Don't Miss Important School Updates!

As you know, we have now fully migrated from SIMS to Arbor, which means all school communication now goes through Arbor. If you have not yet signed up, please do so as soon as possible—we will no longer be able to send emails, letters, or messages to parents who are not registered on Arbor.

 We need your help! If you know any parents who haven't signed up yet, please remind them how important it is—they won't receive any school communications unless they are on Arbor.

To support this transition, we will be sending out a paper flyer to all families, but if you need help signing up, please email arborenquiries@prioryschool.com.

Our New Website Has Launched!

We are delighted to announce that our new school website is now live! 🎉 You can visit it at www.prioryschool.co.uk. We encourage all parents to explore the updated design, information, and photos—we hope you love it as much as we do!

Finding Nemo – A Stunning Performance!

A huge congratulations to our Year 3 & 4 pupils for their phenomenal performances of Finding Nemo this week.

The dedication and talent of our children shone through, and we were thrilled to welcome special guests from the local community, including school governors, Councillor Bedi, the Director of Education, and the Director of Children's Services, all of whom were incredibly impressed by the pupils' abilities.

A massive thank you to the teachers and support staff who worked tirelessly to make this production such a success—it simply wouldn't have been possible without them!

Supporting Our Families During Ramadan

We want to extend our warmest wishes to all our families observing Ramadan this month. To support our pupils who are fasting, we are providing:

- ✓ Dedicated prayer spaces
- ✓ Quiet areas at lunchtime for those who wish to rest
- ✓ Nasheeds and discussions in assemblies to acknowledge the significance of this time

If your child is fasting intermittently or you anticipate that they may struggle to fast all day, please send in a snack for them, as we may not have enough food left in the canteen if they have not pre-ordered a lunch.

If your child has any specific needs during Ramadan, please let us know so we can support them appropriately.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

There are lots of exciting activities planned in the coming weeks:

-  7th March – World Book Day (celebrated on Friday, 7th March)
-  7th–16th March – Science Week
-  10th March – Holi Colour Run (After-school clubs will be cancelled this day)
-  14th March – Holi Festival Celebrations
-  30th or 31st March – Eid Celebrations
-  2nd April – Easter Egg Hunt (House competition!)
-  4th April – Priory's Got Talent 🎭 (House points up for grabs!)
-  7th April – Easter Holiday begins

Reminders for Parents

- Check Arbor regularly – all communication will now come through the Arbor app.
- Encourage other parents to sign up – if they are not on Arbor, they won't receive any school updates.
- Visit our new website – www.prioryschool.co.uk.

We wish all our families observing Ramadan a peaceful and blessed month, and we thank you for your continued support.

Attendance

Weekly attendance percentages - W/C 3rd March

Whole School - 94.4%

Year 1 - 93.6%

Year 2 - 92.7%

Year 3 - 97.6%

Year 4 - 96.2%

Year 5 - 93.8%

Year 6 - 95.3%

Congratulations to 3Nightingale with 98.7% the highest attendance this week!

Important dates:

[Click here](#) to link to the school calendar

[Click here](#) to see term dates for 2024-2025

Leaflets and letters:

Please [click here](#) to go to our leaflets page on the website and choose external providers

Sign of the week:

World Book Day

<https://youtu.be/uIOugUZs1y8>

Nursery Peek at the Week

7th March 2025

Our Learning

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

This week we have been reminding the children to 'choose it', 'use it' and then 'put it away'. They are very good at saying our rhyme but sometimes we need to encourage them to put it into action!!



Monday 10th March 3:30pm-4pm
Holi Colour Run on the school field.



We look forward to you joining us.

Communication & Language Development



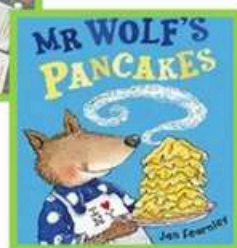
We have been reading our Book Week focus book: Giraffe's Can't Dance. We have been talking about being **determined** to try different activities that we find difficult and learning how important it is to encourage our friends as they try new skills.

Physical Development

As part of our Jigsaw (PHSE) program, we have been thinking about exercise and how it is good for us. We found out that when we did lots of exercise, our hearts started beating faster. When we then rested and relaxed, our hearts slowed down.



Celebrating Shrove Tuesday also known as Pancake Day.



Child of the week: **Aliza** for always following our class charter, being a polite and kind friend and making everybody around her smile.

Nursery rhyme of the week: Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Please encourage your child to watch and join in

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QiybnY9SPJk&feature=youtu.be>



Contact us: nursery@priorschool.com

01628 600300



Peek at the Week–Reception

07/03/25

What a fun week we've had in Reception!

On Friday we celebrated World Book Day! The children were so excited to show off their fantastic costumes, and we had a range of book themed activities. After reading *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, the children had the opportunity to mix up their own delicious concoctions—with delicious lemons, limes and mint.

At the Gruffalo station, we read a recipe for Gruffalo Crumble and had lots of fun mixing the ingredients together.

In the construction area, the Three Little Pigs needed a new house built!

Our focus book for the day was *Giraffe's Can't Dance* and we had lots of giraffe themed activities. The African savannah small world was a very popular station, as the children recreated the Jungle Dance!



Monday 10th—Holi Colour Run

Understanding the World

This week we have been reading *Mr Wolf's Pancakes*, a story which perfectly combined our topic of Traditional Tales with pancake day.



We have been learning about Ramadan this week, and some of the children have really enjoyed sharing what they do at home. We wish all our families Ramadan Kareem!



Reception song of the week:

[Pancake Song](#)

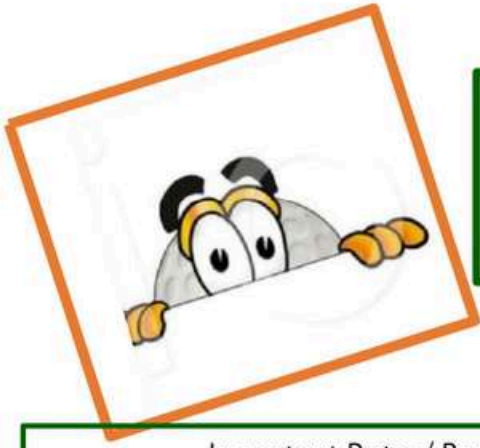


All of our children were stars this week!



Contact us: reception@prioryschool.com

01628 600300



Peek at the Week

Year 1 – 7th March 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

Please can all book bags be brought in on a Thursday so library books and reading books can be changed.

Please log in to Numbots.

Homework

- Please read with your child for at least 15 minutes a day and record it in their reading diary.
- Focus core math skill: Adding numbers to 20.
- Please log on to numbots



Upcoming events

- Monday 10th March - Holi colour run

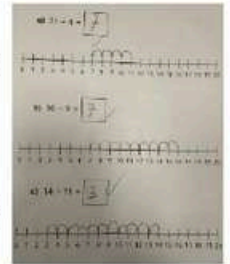
This week, we have started to tidy our garden ready for summer!



Our Learning

This Week:

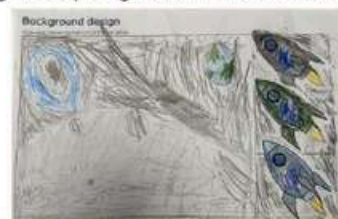
In **math**, we continued focusing on addition and subtraction within 20. The children practiced subtracting on a number line by counting backwards. Initially, this skill was quite tricky for them, but they have shown great determination and have become much more confident! Next week, we will focus on finding the difference between two numbers up to 20.



In **English**, we reflected on the farm trip that took place last week, taking time to share our favourite and least favourite parts of the visit. The children then wrote their own recounts of the trip. The tortoise was definitely a favourite among the children, while many reported they didn't like the turkeys due to their appearance!



In afternoon sessions, the children worked on creating their own animations using Scratch Jr. They also had the opportunity to design their own backgrounds and rockets, which they will program into a rocket race next week!



Star of the week

1Donaldson: Victoria

1Jeffer: Inarah



Words of the Week: **thought** **through** **once** **laugh** **because**



Peek at the Week

Year 2 – 7th February 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

10.03.25 – Holi Celebration

13.03.25 – Windsor Castle Trip

27.03.25 – 9.15am The King's Hat Year 2 performance

04.04.25 - Last day 1:30pm finish



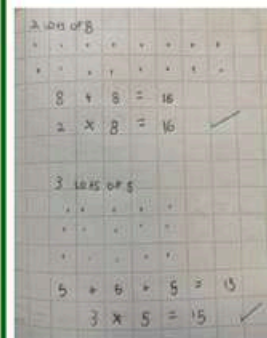
Please read with and to your child every day and discuss what you are reading. Once the children have used their phonics to decode the words in the book, please re-read the book several times over the week to help them build up their pace and fluency.

Spellings are sent home on Fridays with a spelling quiz the following Friday. Please practice writing these spellings daily if possible. Please also login in to NumBots and Times Table Rockstars to practise both number bonds and times tables.

Please send your child in the correct PE uniform on **Wednesdays**.

Our Learning

This week in English, we enjoyed learning our class story version of The Queen's Hat. We acted it out, used our class story map and made up actions to help us retell it.



In maths, we have continued with multiplication and used arrays, repeated addition and multiplication number sentences to represent different statements.

In the garden we had fun with the pancake tuff tray and dressing up and retelling our favourite stories as part of our World Book Day celebrations.



Next week, we will start planning our own version of The Queen's Hat story in English and we will be looking at the 2 x and 5 x tables.

We are all looking forward to a busy but exciting week: rehearsing for our performance, joining in with British Science week and going on our trip to Windsor Castle on Thursday!

Please note that we will not be changing the children's reading books next week.

In DT this week, we looked at how to make shortbread, where the ingredients come from and designed posters to show this. We then had a great time making our own shortbread biscuits!



Child of the Week

2Newton: Sargun

2Franklin: Halie



Contact us: year2@priorschool.com

01628 600300



Peek at the Week Year 3 - 7th March 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

10.03.25 Holi Celebration 21.03.25 Red Nose Day – wear red to school for a donation to RND.

04.04.24 Last day 1:30pm finish

07.04.25-21.04.25 Easter Holidays

22.04.25 INSET Day HOMEWORK

Please read with your child for at least 15

minutes every day and record this in their reading record. Ideas for reading at home can include reading a library book, a book from school or home, reading a bedtime story or following a recipe among other opportunities!

Books can also be read online at [https://](https://www.collinshub.co.uk/login/)

www.collinshub.co.uk/login/

Please practise number bonds and multiplication tables with your child. Times Tables Rockstars:

<https://trockstars.com/>

Don't forget that your child needs to wear the correct PE uniform to school each Monday.

Our Learning

This week, we have had a busy week with our performances and World Book Day. Well done Year 3 for your brilliant show!

In Maths, we have been learning how to calculate the perimeter of 2d shapes and beginning a unit of work focussing of fractions. In English, we have continued to explore how poems are constructed. In Art, we created a collage drawing together what we have learnt.

Next week, we will begin a unit of work in Science linked to magnetism. We will be exploring what materials are magnetic and what the poles of a magnet are.

In English, we will be learning more about constructing a poem and in Maths developing our knowledge of fractions.



Word of the Week: consider Follow this link to find more super daily activities:

www.morningchallenge.co.uk/

Contact us: year3@priorschool.com

01628 600300



Year 4 Peek at the Week

Friday 7th March 2025

Important Dates /Reminders

Wednesdays: wear the correct PE uniform to school. Please bring in a water bottle.

Fridays: Spelling test. Please remember to read at least three times a week and record it in the reading record. Your child also need to be practising their times tables as much as possible.

Dates for the Spring Term

Year 4 trip to Ufton Court–
Thursday 27th March.

Please can children bring in plastic bottles next week for an activity we will be doing for STEM week.

Our Learning

This week we have been so proud of the Year 3 and Year 4 children who performed their wonderful performance of ' Finding Nemo'. The children loved learning the songs, dressing up and performing to their families. It was an absolute joy to see the children lighting up on the stage and showing off their amazing talents.

In English, the children have moved on to the new book 'The boy at the back of the classroom'. The children have been learning about the author and starting to think about the main character.

In Maths, the children have been continuing to work out the perimeter of rectilinear shapes with missing lengths. The children found this challenging so we have continued to practise this throughout the week.

Next week in English, we will be learning about refugees and how we are all different from each other. The children will then be thinking about what makes them special.

In Maths, we are moving on to fractions and the children will be learning about what makes a whole and the difference in value between different mixed numbers.

In the afternoons, we will be learning about the main festivals in Buddhism.

Child of the week:

4 Turing: Alyan 4 Lovelace: Eze 4 Chamberlain: Valentino



Remember to read 3 times a week and practise your timetables on Rockstar Maths.

Contact us: year4@priorschool.com 01628 600300



Year 5 Peek at the Week

7th March 2025

Important Dates / Reminders

- Science Week – 7th-16th March
- Holi – 14th March (Colour Run on 10th March)
- Science Museum – 20th March
- Eid celebrations – 30th or 31st March
- Priory's Got Talent – 4th April

This week, we started our RE unit on the Islam. In our first lesson, we looked at a range of artefacts and made inferences about the people who may have used them.



Our Learning

This week, we continued exploring the Islamic Empire before starting our RE unit in which we learnt all about Islam as a religion.

In maths, we continued to learn new strategies across percentages, linking them to: fractions, decimals, rectilinear shapes.

In English, we researched our chosen topic and wrote our own persuasive pitch focusing on either walking to school, fast fashion or planting trees in public spaces.

This term in PSHRE, we began our 'Healthy Me' topic and looked at making healthy choices as we grow older.

Next week, we will begin our art unit which focus on pattern making, photography and mix media artworks. We will learn about tessellation; Islamic geometric and vegetal artworks; Lalla Essaydi's photography; calligraphy; and Yayoi Kusama's installation pieces.

In maths, we will complete our assessments in arithmetic and Reasoning.

In English, we will complete Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Assessments and a Reading Assessment. This will support the children to develop their test stamina and build up their confidence for the SATs next year.

Child of the Week

5Dawe: **Rizqin** 5Maple: **Moksha** 5Ofili: **Harper**

Word of the Week: **physical**

Remember to read 3 times a week and practise your timetables on Rockstar Maths.

Contact us: year5@prioryschool.com

01628 600300



Year 6 Peek at the Week

Friday 7th February 2025

Important Dates /Reminders

10.03.25 – 14.03.25 – Mock SATs Week

10.03.10 – Holi Colour Run

17.03.25 – Natural History Trip Thursdays:

Wear the correct PE uniform to school.

Thursdays: Spelling quiz. Homework due.

Our Learning

This week, in history, we learnt more about the by Mayan Gods and their importance in Mayan society. In computing, we used the software 'scratch' and used 'coding' to make our spirits move!

In English, we explored more of the story through drama and conscience alleys. We made informed decisions and put ourselves in the role of the character.

In maths, we completed our topic on percentages. Next, we explored the area and perimeter of rectilinear shapes.

Next week, in art, we will begin our study on Frieda Kahlo, improving our drawing skills on self-portraits and applying this in our sketchbooks.

In English, we will continue reading more of the The Last Wild.

In maths, we will focus on working out the volume of shapes by counting cubes. We will also have the opportunity to revise some topics before our test papers.

Y6 MOCK SATS WEEK

Monday – SPAG paper

Tuesday – Reading paper

Wednesday - Maths paper 1 and maths paper 2

Friday - Maths paper 3

Whilst we understand that some of our pupils will be fasting, we encourage all other pupils to eat a healthy and filling breakfast each morning.

PSHRE Focus: Healthy Me. In PSHRE this term, we will learn how to take responsibility for our wellbeing. We will know about different types of drugs and how they affect the human body – particularly the liver and the heart. I will understand that some people can be exploited and made to do things that are against the law. I will know why some people join gangs and the risks this involves. I understand what it means to be emotionally well and can explore people's attitudes towards mental health/illness.

Child of the week:



6 Attenborough: Ugne 6 Anning: Arthur 6 Darwin: Satveer

Word of the Week: nuisance

Follow this link to find more super daily activities: www.morningchallenge.co.uk/

Contact us: year6@priorschool.com 01628 600300



The Orchard–Peek of the Term

Week commencing: 03/03/2025

Important Dates

Cherry class– Community trip Monday

Plum class– TVAP Wednesday

Apple class– Swimming Thursday

If you have any of these items at home please can you bring them in for Art:

Bottles and lids
Yoghurt pots
Toilet and kitchen roll holders
Butter containers

Thank you

Our Learning

In Maths, the children have had fun placing different objects in boat to see if they are heavy or light.

In English, we went on a sensory walk. The children walked bare foot through the ant and the frog station. They touched snail slime and caught bugs using magnifying glasses. Between the stations, the children acted actions for each mini beast.

In Art, the children have been making animal sculptures using recycled materials. This was modelled to them first then they created their own by following instructions and using communication boards

For world book day, the children have been busy doing activities relating to the class story. They have had fun making biscuits, acting out the stories and chasing the gingerbread on the priory mile.



Makaton sign:



Star of the week



Plum Class–Ethan for fantastic writing Pear Class– Adam K for his great work in lessons Cherry class– Aran for his hard work in all his lessons Apple class–Zain for settling well in Apple Class



Contact us: sen@priorschool.com

01628 600300

Music News

Instrumental Lunchtime Concerts

Congratulations to each one of our 40 KS2 musicians who performed in their lunchtime concerts this week - you were amazing!

For several children, this was their very first opportunity to play their instrument in front of an audience, and we are so proud of our performers for courageously overcoming their nerves and taking the opportunity to share a little of what they have been learning in their lessons.

Thank you to friends, family and staff who came to listen to our young musicians - it was lovely to see you, and your warm support was much appreciated. Our next series of concerts will take place in June. See you there!

PLEASE JOIN US TO
CELEBRATE

Holi!

FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

MONDAY MARCH 10TH

3.30 PM

PRIORY SCHOOL FIELD

NON-UNIFORM DAY

CHILDREN AND STAFF CAN WEAR THEIR
BRIGHTEST COLOURS FOR A £1.00 CONTRIBUTION.

COME AND JOIN THE FUN AFTER SCHOOL!

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE COLOUR RUN AT 3.30PM
£1.00 ENTRY FEE PER PERSON (EXCLUDING PRIORY SCHOOL
CHILDREN)
CASH ONLY

PLEASE SEE LETTER THAT WAS EMAILED OUT FOR MORE
INFORMATION.

A COPY IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL
WEBSITE

UPCOMING EVENTS

20
25

FEB
27

FARM VISIT EY &
YEAR 1

YEAR 3 & 4 DISNEY'S
FINDING NEMO KIDS
2 PM

MAR
04

MAR
05

YEAR 3 & 4 DISNEY'S
FINDING NEMO KIDS
10 AM

TRAVELLING BOOK FAIR
WEEK

3.15 - 4.00PM

MAR
03 - 07

MAR
07

WORLD BOOK
DAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK THE
UNDERLINED EVENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

20
25

MAR
10

HOLI COLOUR RUN
3.15PM

YEAR 2 WINDSOR
CASTLE TRIP

MAR
13

MAR
17

YEAR 6 NATURAL
HISTORY TRIP

YEAR 5 SCIENCE
MUSEUM TRIP

MAR
20

MAR
27

YEAR 4 ANGLO
SAXON TRIP TO
UFTON COURT

FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK THE
UNDERLINED EVENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

20
25

MAR
27

YEAR 2 SHARING
ASSEMBLY
THE KING'S HAT

SCHOOL EASTER EGG
HUNT (IN SCHOOL EVENT)

APR
02

APR
03

NURSERY ONLY
LAST DAY OF TERM

PRIORY'S GOT TALENT
(IN SCHOOL EVENT)

APR
04

APR
04

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
SCHOOL FINISH TIME
1.30PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK THE
INDIVIDUAL EVENT



Arabic is the main official national language in 22 countries in the Middle East and North Africa: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Mauritania, Comoros, and Djibouti.



My name is Natalie and I am Syrian.
اسمي ناتالي وأنا سوري.
aismi natali wa'ana suri.

I can speak and write English and Arabic.
أستطيع التحدث والكتابة باللغتين الإنجليزية والعربية.
'astatie altahaduth walkitabat biallughatayn al'iinjiliziat walearabia

I like to eat soup and chicken during Ramadan.
أحب تناول الحساء والدجاج خلال شهر رمضان.
'uhibu tanawul alhisa' waldajaj khilal shahr ramadan.

I like going to the mosque with my family.
أحب الذهاب إلى المسجد مع عائلتي.
'uhibu aldhahab 'iilaa almasjid mae eayilati.



The Register **السجل**

Arabic	English
Sabah alkhair صباح الخير	Good morning
Sayidati سيدتي	Madam
Saidy سيدي	Sir
Massao alkhair مساء الخير	Good afternoon

Sabah alkhair sayidati.
صباح الخير سيدتي

Massao alkhair sayidati.
مساء الخير سيدتي

Sabah alkhair saidy.
صباح الخير سيدي

Massao alkhair saidy.
مساء الخير سيدي



Colours **الألوان** al'alwan

Alazrak
الأزرق

Alahmr
الأحمر

Alasfr
الأصفر

Alakhdr
الأخضر

Albortkaly
البرتقالي

Colour song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q07g-165esg&t=162s>



Lunch ghada' غداء

Ay lown?
أي لون؟

Albortkaly
Shokrn Ik
البرتقالي
شكرًا لك

Alakhdr
Mnfadlek
الأخضر
من فضلك

Alasfr
Mnfadlek
الأصفر
من فضلك

Arabic	English
Mnfadlek من فضلك	please
Shokrn Ik شكرًا لك	thank you
Ay lown? أي لون؟	Which colour?

Alazrak
Shokrn Ik
الأزرق
شكرًا لك

Alahmr
Shokrn Ik.
الأحمر شكرًا لك



Good morning
Sabah alkhair
صباح الخير

Thank you
Shokrn Ik
شكرًا لك

Yes
Naeam
نعم

Hello
Mrhban
مرحبًا

Sorry
Asf
أسف

Well done
'ahsant
أحسننت

Please
Mnfadlek
من فضلك

Good afternoon
Massao alkhair
مساء الخير

No
La
لا

Goodbye
Mae alsalama
مع السلامة

Good morning song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeIrUtlIxjw>



One ١
Wahid
واحد

Three ٣
Thalatha
ثلاثة

Five ٥
Khamsa
خمسة

Two ٢
Aithnayn
اثنان

Four ٤
'arbaea
أربعة

Six ٦
Sita
ستة

Eight ٨
Thamania
ثمانية

Ten ١٠
Eashra
عشرة

Seven ٧
Sabea
سبعة

Nine ٩
Tisea
تسعة



Numbers 1-10:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Hb6fDjxGPw>



Useful websites:

Facts

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/yemen>

Animals

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/caracal>





Ramadan Kareem!

رمضان كريم

It is currently the month of **Ramadan** where Muslims around the world will observe a fast each day from sunrise to sunset.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/23286976>

Nasheeds are a special type of song or chant that are about Islam's values and teachings. Traditionally sung in Arabic, many are now written and sung in other languages too for Muslims all around the world.

Below are links to some Arabic Nasheeds:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71hi9H6fZuc> (Ya Adheeman)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vqfy4ScRXFQ> (Ya Nabi Salam Alayka)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWCgZjSc67Y> (Nasheed Medley)



Contacting the SEND Team | Thank you Liz! | Our SEND Conference January 2025 | Feedback for our Inclusion Team
Introducing our Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO) | Slough Local Area Partnership Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Inspection | SEND Team Update /Phase Transfer
Upcoming careers event hosted by Together as One and Slough & Langley College | Staffing update | Newsletter feedback

As we move forward into the warmer weather (hopefully!) this edition highlights key updates, upcoming events, and important developments in our work. From recent successes to future plans, we're excited to share the latest with you. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Thank you Liz!

Liz Flaherty is the special needs adviser commissioned by the Department for Education to work with Slough Borough Council.

Liz's role is to both challenge and support us in all our work relating to special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Liz regularly meets with stakeholders and senior officers across the Special Educational Needs agenda, to help us to continually strive to improve the lived experience and outcomes for children and young people within the borough, who have a special educational need, and their families.

Liz has been working with Slough for nearly five years and has a deep understanding of the journey we have been on, striving to make, and continue to make improvements in our SEND related services.

After teaching in the secondary school sector for nearly thirty years, always with a particular focus on



children with SEND, Liz began working in a large shire SEND service, including as Head of Service for SEND. She was an OFSTED inspector for the SEND local area inspections before taking up her current role as a professional SEND adviser.

Liz, thank you for all the support you are giving to Slough.

Contacting the SEND Team

There are two dedicated email addresses to help you contact us, and to help us effectively respond to you, we would ask that you please use the correct email address depending on the nature of your contact with us:

SEND_ECHNArequest@slough.gov.uk

This email is the address to send all your ECH Needs Assessment requests.

SENDteam@slough.gov.uk

This email is for all other enquiries.

Or call us on **01753 787676**.

Join our mailing list, so you don't miss out on future updates on the service!

Anyone can join our SEND newsletter mailing list, so please encourage your fellow SEND parents and carers and fellow professionals to subscribe for direct updates and information. They can email us directly at SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk to be added to the mailing list.

We are changing the way that we do things, and we want you, and our children and young people to be at the heart of everything that we do!



Our SEND Conference January 2025

In January we held our Annual SEND Conference for SEND partnership professionals.

This was the second SEND conference, guided by Slough's SEND & Inclusion Strategy with a focus on strengthening partnership working.

Partner agencies played a key role in delivering workshops, including Berkshire Healthcare's NHSSpeech and Language Therapy team,

Angela Mumford - Head Teacher at Littledown School, Jovi Armotrading from Together as One, and Slough's Early Years and Inclusion Team.

The gathering of partners from various organisations that support and work with children and young people was a positive experience. It fostered new connections, and improved our collective understanding of how we can create a meaningful impact for all

children and young people with SEND.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, offered their support, and gave us some constructive feedback. Please see a snapshot of the event below.

If you have any comments or suggestions for next year, please don't hesitate to get in touch via email:

samantha.caley@slough.gov.uk



Feedback for our Inclusion Team

"Thank you for the training yesterday - I'm new so lots to learn! Could you send the slides? I might use the one about Slough statistics in a staff meeting!"

"We sent two staff members on the previous training, back in the summer, and have booked for another to attend on 25th, however, because of the excellent feedback from the first two staff members, we'd love to send the rest of our staff. Can I add another eight to the one I've booked for 25th please?"

"Thank you for the resources. It was a fantastic training day. It really got everyone thinking about the needs of the children and we have something concrete to support them moving forward. The second part of the day we focused on what we need to put in place to support children's sensory processing needs, but in a more inclusive way so all children will benefit. We are now better informed about sensory circuits and can plan and ensure we incorporated all 3-stages and reflected on the active movement start we do with all children too.

"Thank you so much for delivering an engaging and very informative day and the resources will be used to move us closer to our goal."

Introducing our Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO)



Let me introduce myself, I'm Stephen Mason, Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO), you may hear the role referred to as the "disco," so you can imagine the jokes I get!

I was delighted to join Slough at the beginning of February and play a role in developing the DSCO role as part of the children's services improvement journey. I'm still getting to know Slough, so do feel free to contact me and introduce yourself.

stephen.mason@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk

So, what does a DSCO do?

Primarily it's to have a passion and commitment to promoting and developing quality services that promote inclusion and positive outcomes, for our Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND).

Social care and SEND

The DSCO is the single point of contact for information in and out of social care, ensuring social care meets its statutory responsibilities, by providing quality advice for Education Health & Care Assessments, joining up our plans and interventions with Education and Health. Also, ensuring social care contributions to annual reviews. When plans and meetings join up it is easier for parent carers, and children and young people, and makes the best use of our resources.

Listening and learning

An important part of the role is listening to the experiences of parent carers, and children and young people, understanding what works well, and what we can do better. This supports co-production, working together to make positive changes including in our systems and processes.

Preparing for adulthood

Working with colleagues in adult social care by ensuring we understand the support a young person may need beyond the age of 18. Effective preparation for adulthood and 'transition' ensures an effective handover to adult services, encouraging and supporting independence, inclusion, and a purposeful adult life.

Quality matters

This involves quality assuring colleagues' work, through auditing advice and files, so we can identify and share best practice and keep learning.

Inclusion, independence and success

And finally, it's about championing the needs and the inclusion of our children and young people with additional needs, by having a good understanding and appreciation of the challenges faced, having high aspirations and expectations, and looking for ways to encourage skills and independence, across all our services and local communities.

So, I don't think I'll have any time to be bored. There is much to be celebrated and built upon in the work within social care and the SEND partnership, but clearly there is a more to do. I welcome the challenge and look forward to working in partnership with everyone, so we can proudly say and evidence that our children and young people with SEND are **Happy, Safe & Loved, Thriving.**

Slough Local Area Partnership Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Inspection

Agencies in the Slough Local Area SEND partnership are expecting an imminent phone call from Ofsted and CQC to announce a Local Area Partnership SEND inspection.

Most parents and carers are familiar with the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED). This organisation inspects all our education settings and social care services. Some parents and carers are less familiar with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). They inspect our Health Services and General Practitioner Services. Together these agencies will inspect the quality of the Special Educational Needs and Disability services across Slough (SEND) focusing on the experiences of children and young people with SEND aged 0 to 25 who need extra support to learn and grow.

Area SEND inspections also include looking at services for children and young people who live in the local area, but go to school or are cared for in other areas.

The inspection process aims to find out about the positive and not so positive experiences, of parents and carers, and children and young people, who receive services. This includes education services e.g. schools, early years settings and colleges; health services including CAMHS and therapies such as Speech and Language Therapy; care services such as Early Help and support from the Children with Disabilities Team and the offer of short breaks. Inspectors will also talk to Special Voices (our Parent Carer Forum) and other parent groups.

Crucially inspectors want to know how well local services work in partnership to improve the lives of children and young people with SEND.

SEND Team Update/Phased Transfer

It's been an incredibly busy few weeks in the SEND team as all school aged children with EHCPs who are moving from Nursery to Reception, and Year 6 to Year 7, go through what is called 'Phased Transfer'.

This means that the SEND Team have been working under pressure with parents and schools to name the children's schools for September 2025. Our performance has

improved this year and next year it will be even smoother.

Taking on board feedback from schools and parents, SEND team managers are carrying out briefing sessions on improvements to Phased Transfers for the next cycle. We will be consulting with schools and parents to arrange these sessions post Easter, so please look out for announcements.

Upcoming careers event hosted by Together as One and Slough & Langley College

This March, we are thrilled to partner with Slough & Langley College to host our inaugural careers event specifically designed for young people (16+) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The full event will take place on **Wednesday 5 March, 9.20am-2pm**, at the college, offering an enriching day for these young individuals to:

- meet with employers
- connect with people who have SEND and are thriving in the workplace
- learn new skills through interactive workshops.

The aim of the day is to spark an interest in different careers, and for students to find out about different work opportunities that will inspire them. While the structure of the day will feel familiar to many of you, we've tailored it to better meet the needs of the attendees. For instance, we will closely manage the

number of participants at any given time to avoid overwhelming those affected by sensory overload.

The day will consist of three sessions:

- stallholders to showcase opportunities and inspire attendees from 9.20am-12.40pm
- individuals within your organisation who have SEND and are willing to share their journeys will do so from 10am-1.20pm
- skills workshop leaders from 10.40am-2pm.

We look forward to hosting what promises to be an impactful and inspiring event.

For further information contact:

Jovi Armotrading
SEND Engagement and Participation Officer
Telephone: 07709 525687
Email: jovi@togetherasone.org.uk
Website: SEND - Together As One

Staffing update

Three Business Support Officers (BSOs) have started work to quality assure the data we hold for all children.

They are also assisting in streamlining annual reviews so that we can bring those up to date. The "Data Task Force" will be in post for up to three months and their work is already having positive results. Welcome to Charlie Randell, Kerry Gibson and Dupe (Mo) Jacobs.

Two of our interim SEND case officer colleagues are transitioning to new roles. Interviews will be held next week to fill their positions.

Plans are in place for recruitment of permanent staff in March. We look forward to providing you with an update you next month.

If you have further comments, suggestions or would even like to work for the SEND team, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Head of SEND via email at paul.crulley@slough.gov.uk



Newsletter feedback:

this is your newsletter!
If you would like to suggest any changes to this newsletter, see additional information, be added to the mailing list, and/or give feedback, please email sendnewsletter@slough.gov.uk

Thank you for taking the time to catch up with us.
If you would like to make any article contributions, in future editions, get in touch SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk. We would love to hear from you!



GEMS

ADHD & Autism Support Service
East Berkshire



Oral health support Virtual session Autism and ADHD

**Friday 16th May 2025
10am to 11:15am**

As part of National Smile month, GEMS would like to invite parents and carers to a virtual session to help support good oral health.

Criteria:

- Children who live in, or have a GP in, East Berkshire
- And are likely to have, are waiting for an assessment, or have been diagnosed with Autism and or ADHD.



email Gems.4health@nhs.net



Supported by

Community
Dental
Services



Fed up of stressful meal times? We're here to help you.

A parents, we want our children understand the importance of eating and to enjoy family mealtimes together.



Come along to our Fussy Eaters Workshop and get support and new ideas for:

- Encouraging your **child to try new foods** - and begin to enjoy them!
- Child-friendly foods that provide what they need to **grow and be healthy**
- **Happier family** mealtimes

Contact Priory School for more details:

-  **Wednesday 19th March**
-  **1:30pm** (1 hour session)
-  **rebecca.morris@prioryschool.com**





GEMS

Autism & ADHD Support Service
East Berkshire

Bear cubs



Ages 5 to 10

First and third Monday of the
month - 4pm to 5pm

7th April - Lego Fun - Dedworth Library, Windsor

21st April - Easter Monday - No session

5th May - May Bank Holiday - No session

19th May - Big on Bouncing - Slough (fee applies)

2nd June - Story Time - Langley Library

16th June - Picnic in the Park - Bracknell

**Please note activities may be subject to change*

Registration:

Gems.4Health@nhs.net
0800 999 1342

Criteria:

Children with or likely to have
ADHD and/or autism and
living in East Berkshire



For more information: Call 0800 999 1342 or visit www.Gems4Health.com