

Issue no. 6

SEND Newsletter

Your termly newsletter about our school!

Half Term!

We hope everyone has a restful half term and we look forward to seeing you after the half term break!

A piece of Inspiration

“If they can't learn the way we teach, We teach the way they learn!”

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“Every child is gifted. They just unwrap their packages at different times.”

In this term's newsletter

- Get to know...
Miss Tyson
- Fireworks and SEND
- Learn some Makaton
- Local SEND activities
- Dates for the diary

Dates for the diary

- Inset Day Monday 4th November
- Back to school Tuesday 5th November
- SEND Coffee Morning 26th November -
An introduction to Makaton

Local Activities

Magic Movers

Magic Movers' is a creative dance class for those aged 7+ with additional needs who are able to follow instruction and participant independently. The class aims to build confidence and social skills through dance based activities and routines.

www.clubhubuk.co.uk/club/s/magic-movers-hitchin

Contact our SEND team

 01582 359412

 sendteam@surreystreetprimary.com





Meet the Staff...



Who: Miss Sarah Tyson

Job title: Foxes Room Lead

Describe your role: As the room lead in foxes class, I support the class teacher to lead a dedicated team, provide training and mentorship to create a supportive environment that is tailored to each child's individual and unique needs. I help to maintain open communication with our families, keeping them updated and involved in their child's progress. I continuously monitor and evaluate each child's development and adjust current strategies to meet their ever evolving needs.

How long have you worked at SSPS? I joined Surrey Street Primary in 2018 as a volunteer whilst studying for my Level 2 Childcare NVQ.

What do you think makes you the best person for the job? Having started as a volunteer I have gained a lot of varied skills and expanded my expertise over the years whilst working within the SEND department. My most recent course was in Makaton which has helped me to develop effective communication with some of our students, I have learnt that every child is individual and unique, and often had to adapt to their needs and behaviours. Some of which can be challenging but extremely rewarding once they've reached their milestones and set targets. Over the years I have learnt that the key to working in foxes is being proactive, a willingness to learn, being engaging with the children, a lot of patience and flexibility and of course enthusiasm.

What do you like doing in your free time?

I enjoy spending time with my family, walking my dog and listening to music.

Fireworks and SEND

Many SEND adults and parents of SEND children choose not to celebrate bonfire night because it is too noisy, unpredictable and unsettling. For some, the unexpected nature of displays can cause anxiety and stress, and for those with sensory issues, fireworks can be very distressing.

But - unless you want to avoid it all together - there are ways to make bonfire night a positive experience.

Good planning and communication can help you navigate many of these difficulties.

Simple changes like agreeing a plan for the evening, letting your autistic neighbours know if you're releasing fireworks, wearing ear defenders, or even watching firework displays on television at home, can help to ease stress and anxiety. As ever, it's important to remember that every SEND child and adult is different and that they must be involved in all planning.

Follow these tips and use your SENSES





Tips for

Fireworks and SEND

SENSES



S - Stick to a plan

SEND individuals can find unexpected events and sudden changes confusing and distressing, so try to stick to a plan as much as you can.

Talk to your family, or the people you live with about Bonfire Night, so that everyone knows what to expect, even if you are not celebrating. If you are going to have your own fireworks or sparklers, decide what they are going to be and find out as much as possible about what they will look and sound like (this information should come with the firework). If you are attending an event, ask the host for this information. Plan or find out when and how they will be set them off and explain this to any autistic children or adults who may benefit - you could write it down or create a visual story.

E - Eat well and keep warm

Comforting and familiar snacks and drinks can act as a distraction and also help keep everyone calm. Warm clothes can be a great comfort. Find items that help soothe - such as a weighted vest or blanket, a favourite toy or handheld game.

N - Noise.

Ear defenders or noise-cancelling headphones can help to block noise and reduce the anxiety that people with sensory sensitivities may experience. Some block out noise but still allow speech to be heard, which can be reassuring.

You could also use headphones to play music as a distraction. Be mindful of making noise. If you are going to set off fireworks, try to warn neighbours in advance. Try to provide a quiet place or somewhere to go, to get completely out of the way, if the noise gets overwhelming.

S - Safety speech

Do not miss this perfect opportunity to talk about fire safety and the dangers associated with fireworks with your family. Be aware that some SEND children's dislike of fireworks may come from anxiety or fear of being hurt. Reassure them that you have safety rules, but provide somewhere else for them to go if they don't want to take part.

E - Extra distractions.

A familiar TV show, music or favourite computer game could help to drown out or distract from the noise and flashing of fireworks, if you or others find Bonfire Night uncomfortable or distressing. Watch an online firework display, if you or those in your care want to celebrate Bonfire Night but you do not want to go outside.

S - Set an example

If you feel confident around fireworks and bonfires, try to show that you are calm and having fun, as this can be reassuring for those around you who may be anxious or unsure.

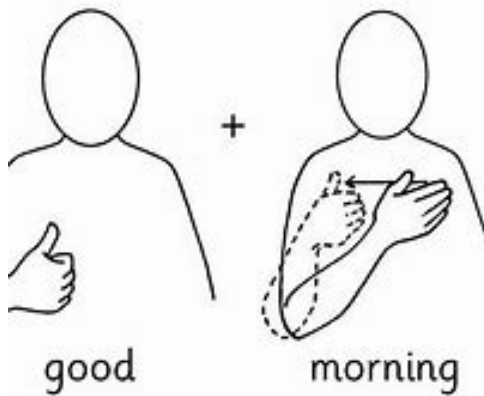
Take notice of how others around you are feeling and try to help everyone relax and have fun. If you are feeling anxious or overwhelmed, tell people around you so that together you can find ways to be more comfortable.

Being open about this sets a good example. It shows that it is okay to find things difficult and to ask for help, so everyone can enjoy the celebrations.



What is Makaton? Makaton is a language programme that uses signs and symbols to help communication. It is designed to support spoken language and the signs and symbols are used with speech, in spoken order. In the UK, the signs used in Makaton are from British Sign Language (BSL), which is the language of the deaf community in Britain. The symbols are simple black and white drawings that show what words mean. They make it easier to communicate a message and can be used by people who prefer not to sign. Speech is also used alongside the signs and symbols. Mr Tumble is a big fan of using Makaton!

Introduction to Makaton



To follow more of Mr Tumble and simple Makaton signs please see:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/playlist-something-special-really-useful-makaton-signs>

