

SEND Newsletter December - 2022-23

**Every Teacher is a Teacher
of SEND Pupils**

A Message from the SENDCo, Mr. Bray:

Hello everyone. We've made it to the end of term and what a way to do it: a Christmas Fayre, Nativities and a Carol Service. What a wonderful way for us to mark the end to such a jam-packed term!

One of our whole school improvement focuses this year relates to the support we provide for our SEND children in school. Since starting at Saint Mary's, I have introduced a new system teaching staff which the teaching staff are now using to record the work they do with our SEND children. The Governors have approved our new SEND Policy and SEND Information Report, that you can access via our School Website. Furthermore, I have led training with our support staff and will continue to work closely with them in the new term. Lastly, but no-means least, I have introduced this SEND Newsletter and worked with numerous parents in meetings and completing paperwork to support your children with their needs.

Next term, I will continue to do the same. At the start of the term, I will send out a letter and the SEND Survey again. I would really appreciate your responses as it will inform the work we do in school for your children. Your voice matters - this month's theme reflects this!

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and an even better New Year!

Take care. Mr. Bray



Q & A:

What is 'masking'?

Masking means to 'surpress,' a particular need. Commonly, children with tendencies of ADHD or Autism use this as a way of trying to 'fit in' with their peers. If you are concerned that your child may have a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND) and is doing this, please arrange to meet with Mr. Bray and we can discuss this further.

December's theme is... "I think my child has..."

If we notice tendencies at school:

As a school, we do not diagnose your child with a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND). We may speak with you if we feel your child 'shows tendencies,' of a particular need. Commonly, this might be - ADHD, Dyslexia or Autism, but there are various other needs we may discuss with you as well. Due to the complex nature of these needs, there are assessments I as SENDCo, or Specialist Staff (Example: Educational Psychologists) can carry out. As a result of this, I encourage our teaching and support staff to 'meet the needs,' of your child the best they can while we seek support to get a diagnosis - if yourselves as parents / carers consent to us doing so. However, this process can take several months to complete due to the large amount of evidence we need to forward to the Local Authority and a backlog of requests currently in the Leicestershire system.

If we don't notice tendencies at school:

Identifying SEND is complex. Some needs may appear to be obvious, but they still take time to go through a process for your child to get a diagnosis. However, some children can 'mask,' the tendencies of their special needs. For example: a child with tendencies of ADHD may mask this by leg bouncing, as they struggle to stay sitting still. In these cases, you may experience we don't see the signs at school. As SENDCo, I am more than happy to sit down with you and discuss the different options on what support we can do to support you the best we can. Please contact Mr. Bray via the School Office or on Class Dojo to arrange a meeting.

Examples of ADHD Masking



verywell