

SEND: Keeping in touch

SEND Newsletter for schools - Summer Term 2021

Welcome to the new term.

Welcome to the summer term, I hope you all had a restful Easter break.

As you are all aware, I took over from Rhian Ireland at the end of February. Rhian was with West Berkshire for many years and I know will be missed by you all, she has been fabulous in supporting me in my new role. I will endeavour to continue her excellent work in learning support and I very much look forward to working with you all.

Karen Bartlett

(Learning Support Services Manager)

karen.bartlett1@westberks.gov.uk

In this newsletter you will find:

- SENCO Meetings
- Training from Learning Support Teams
- News from Cognition and Learning Team
- News from the Autism Team
- Emotional Health Academy
- Early Years SEND partnership working
- Swings & Smiles - outreach in schools
- In Other News
- SEND Contact List

SENCO Meetings

Due to the uncertainty around face to face events there will be **one Network meeting this term which will be held via Zoom.** It will take place on 29 June 2021 between 3:30pm and 5pm.

Please note if you originally booked the Cluster Meeting on 30 June, you will need to contact training@westberks.gov.uk to cancel your place and rebook it on 29 June.

Agenda

1. Dyslexia – What is it? How is it diagnosed? How can it be supported?

(Karen Bartlett, Learning Support Services Manager)

2. Virtual School – The importance of using standardised tests with Looked After Children

(Helen Beckett, Virtual School)

3. Feedback on the recent Learning Support Service Survey – Moving forwards with your suggestions

(Karen Bartlett, Learning Support Services Manager)

All SENCO meetings remain part of the **Free Core Offer** for the SENCO to attend.

Additional places at the SENCO Networks can be booked if there is capacity, at a cost of £30 per place. Please contact training@westberks.gov.uk to book your place.

Karen Bartlett

karen.bartlett1@westberks.gov.uk



West Berkshire
C O U N C I L

Training from Learning Support Teams

Training during the Summer Term will continue using ZOOM.

Please see the Training Brochure for information, if you have any queries do contact us.

For general queries about training:
Learningsupportteam@westberks.gov.uk

Contact the Training Team for bookings:
training@westberks.gov.uk

Contact SLA Online for queries about using SLA online: educationtrading@westberks.gov.uk

If you are interested in bespoke training, we will can deliver this in the Summer Term – the delivery of this will be decided on between the team co-ordinator and the school - this may be via Zoom or face to face.

If there is a topic you are interested in and cannot find it on the Training Brochure, please let us know, we can look into running something bespoke for you, or add to the central training offered.

Karen Bartlett
karen.bartlett1@westberks.gov.uk

News from Cognition and Learning Team



LAL assessments

LAL assessments this year will be carried out via Zoom. We are contacting schools and arranging to carry out the assessments for those pupils in Y4 scoring <85SS on the Salford Sentence Reading Test. Schools will receive a brief report outlining the results of

each individual test and a recommendation as to whether or not the pupil has met the criteria to be put forward to the LAL panel. The closing date for submitting applications is the 7th June.

SENCO forum – NASEN

This SENCO Forum is an independent community of people, mainly education professionals, with a particular interest in special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Many members are SENCOs (special educational needs coordinators) but this is not a requirement – everyone who is involved in SEND is welcome, including class teachers, teaching assistants, advisers, consultants, parents, young people etc. The forum also welcomes members from across the United Kingdom and has a significant international membership (e.g. SENCOs working in international schools or support services).

The forum provides opportunities for people to ask questions, offer suggestions, discuss and debate, and share information and resources, in the field of SEND. To join the forum, follow this link:

www.sendgateway.org.uk/page/send-forums

KIT emails

Thank you for your feedback on the Keeping In Touch emails that CALT have been sending out on a weekly basis throughout lockdown. Your responses were very positive and you found much of the information we sent useful for you or your staff.

As a result of your comments we are going to continue to send you a KIT email but it will now be a monthly mail shot. If there is a particular theme or idea that would be relevant or useful please do let us know.

Teachers' Handbook

It was really good to see so many of you at the last SENCo network meeting. You should have received an e version of the Teachers' Handbook: Identification and Provision For Pupils with SEND. Please do let us know if you didn't receive it.

The handbook was written for schools, SENCos and particularly class teachers to help them identify a pupil's special educational needs and consider appropriate provision in the classroom. We hope that you are able to share this handbook with staff and as mentioned at the network meeting we will be seeking your feedback on the handbook in our meetings with you in the autumn term.

Please contact your CALT advisory teacher if you think it would be helpful for them to present the handbook to your staff or to support you in a meeting where you present it to staff.

SEND landscape

We thought it might be helpful if we reminded you of a document that has proved useful for many settings: the SEND landscape. As things settle down in schools this might be a useful tool to help facilitate a review of your school's provision.

The document has key questions each one is split into:

1. Information i.e. what evidence could you gather?
2. Timings i.e. how often might you gather that evidence?
3. Interrogation questions. These are more detailed questions to ensure you have adequate evidence to back up your rating/answer/prioritisation. This allows for a 'deep dive' into one area
4. Possible actions. This is the 'so what' section. You may find an area you wish to develop but what are you planning to do to develop it?

Please speak to your CALT advisory teacher if you would like any help or support with this

One more thing...

Even if you have not purchased Core Service Plus from CALT, you can still access their support and expertise on a pay as go basis including:

- CALT/SENCO Support meetings
- Staff meetings: leading/contributing/attending
- Individual pupil assessments and written reports: including recommendations and advice
- Meeting individual members of staff/other professionals
- Monitoring the impact of interventions and quality of delivery through observation
- Learning walks and work scrutiny (with a focus on SEND)
- Modelling Literacy Assessment Packs (LAPs)/Numeracy Assessment Packs (NAPs)
- Modelling Interventions
- Personalised/Bespoke 1:1 programmes (with a focus on Literacy and/or Numeracy) following a CALT assessment
- Training

Please contact your CALT advisory teacher should this be of interest.

Finally Saying Goodbye

Sadly we have to say goodbye to Hayley at the end of the summer term as she is retiring.

Hayley has been a valuable and valued member of the Cognition and Learning Team since January 2013 and I know that, just like us, the schools and staff she has supported and worked alongside would like to thank her and will miss her. We wish her a very happy retirement.

We are currently recruiting for this post.

News from the Autism Spectrum Team

News from the Autism Team



We hope the return to school is going smoothly and our expanded team is here to support you.

Pilot Projects

Our pilot projects are now underway and are supporting EBSA pupils in secondary schools and some pupils who need extra input around emotional regulation in primary schools. As time goes on we hope to roll out the projects to more schools and we will be sharing the results with you all so that everyone can benefit.

Autism Toolkit

We are also delighted to have launched our **Autism Toolkit** at the last SENCO network meeting. This includes our protocols and a wide range of topics and strategies such as anxiety, sensory profiles, behaviour, executive functioning, social communication and interaction, autism and ADHD. If you have not received your copy please contact the Learning Support Team. It will be updated and added to on a regular basis and we welcome your feedback on this and hope you enjoy using it and sharing it in your setting.

Emotional Regulation Week

This has been identified as a real need by our team and so we are planning to hold an Emotional Regulation Week the week beginning 24th May. This will include sessions for parents/carers and school staff on strategies such as how to identify emotions and feelings, making a 5 Point Scale and how to use this in school and at home and how to maintain the impact this has:

Parents and professionals - 25 May at 7pm (Zoom)
Professionals - 27 May at 1:30pm-3pm (Zoom)
To book please contact:
Training@westberks.gov.uk

Transition

We are aware that at this time of year, many are thinking about transition. Our Year 6 to 7 transition evening for parents/carers took place on the 22 April

For those thinking about options post 16 we have an evening on the 17 June from 6:30pm – 9pm on Zoom. This is open to parents/carers and the young people themselves in Year 10 or above.

To book your place please contact
learningsupportteam@westberks.gov.uk

Courses

We continue to offer a wide range of courses over Zoom for parents/carers and school staff. Please refer to our Autism Calendar for further details or email us or the Learning Support Team learningsupportteam@westberks.gov.uk

Free Autism Network Meetings

Emotional Regulation - 27 May
Comic Strip Conversations - 17 June
Both 1:30pm – 3pm on Zoom

These follow the usual pattern of half an hour to forty minutes of input from the team followed by an hour of solution focused discussion.

To book contact: Training@westberks.gov.uk

Our full range of training can be seen on our Autism Calendar.

If you would like a copy please contact:
Learningsupportteam@westberks.gov.uk

You can also find more about training through
www.westberkseducation.co.uk/training

Parent Courses

A range of parent course will also be taking place. As well as emotional regulation workshops, we will be running courses on sensory processing, communication, Parent Awareness (PAWS) plus a range of coffee mornings.

These are listed on the Autism Calendar or contact:

Learningsupportteam@westberks.gov.uk

The Autism Team

Autism Advisors for Schools:

Lesley.Botchway@westberks.gov.uk

Sue.Granger1@westberks.gov.uk

Autism Family Advisor:

Melissa.Hutchings@westberks.gov.uk

Autism Specialist Teaching Assistants:

Kelly.Evans1@westberks.gov.uk

Gilly.Rogers1@westberks.gov.uk

Learningsupportteam@westberks.gov.uk

And finally.... due to the backlog assessments caused by Covid we have seen an increase of 4 x the number of new diagnoses in the past few weeks. We aim to see everyone with a new diagnosis within 8 weeks, however due to this massive increase this won't be possible.

Please bear with us, we will be in contact as soon as we can.

Emotional
Health
Academy



Our April 2021- March 2022 annual and bespoke packages are available on the Education Portal. Please contact us on 01635 503200 if you would like to discuss these. We are also able to offer pro- rated termly contracts which can start in September or January – please contact us if this is something you are

interested in.

The EHA are able to offer a variety of parenting workshops to primary and secondary schools. Our most popular workshops are around anxiety and building resilience in young people, but in collaboration with schools we can provide workshops on any aspect of emotional health. We have received lots of positive verbal feedback from parents who have attended, particularly in relation to how useful they are in the current circumstances.

These workshops are free to schools – we ask that the school provide the venue and then we will charge parents £5 per ticket to attend via the councils Booking Bug website. Please call 01635 503200 to discuss availability.

Our Resilience Rangers after school club for KS2 pupils is also available. It explores a variety of topics, such as resilience, feelings and cooperation, over 6 sessions through engaging activities. This can be purchased directly by the school or paid for by parents. Recent feedback from a parent said 'The lessons not only gave knowledge and insight but presented an opportunity to grow as a person and get involved in something bigger.'

There is now a central booking system for Primary Perspectives in Education and Primary Care Training (PPEP Care) to schools. This is free training around a variety of emotional difficulties.

PPEP Care has been designed to help staff in education to recognise and understand mental health difficulties in children and young people and offer appropriate support and guidance to children, young people and their families using psycho-education and relevant psychological techniques (e.g. using a cognitive behavioural framework). Training consists of didactic teaching, experiential learning, group discussion and DVD material and is delivered by appropriately qualified and supported staff from local authorities and CAMHS. The training

can be delivered in a flexible fashion to suit your needs and time available at your school. Modules include anxiety, self-harm, low mood and resilience.

Please follow the link below to find out more information and to book PPEPCare training:

<https://cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services/other-services/services-for-professionals-ppepcare-training/>

Emotional Health Triage

Emotional Health Triage continues to receive a large amount of referrals and to hold our weekly triage meetings. In the light of the current pandemic and return to schools, please don't hesitate to place a referral if you feel a young person may be in need of support. Our Multiagency panel will discuss referrals and recommend support options. These include the EHA, SAFE, Time to Talk and a variety of other options, as well as self-help resources and websites.



As always, if you have any queries around referrals please contact us on 01635 519018.

Early Years SEND Partnership Work with Contact

Over the past few terms, West Berkshire Early Years Team, parents and a number of colleagues from schools, early years providers and different local services including Health have been meeting with Contact to receive training and further develop how we work with parents of children with SEND to deliver our services through co-production.



This has been a thought provoking programme of support funded by the DfE and one that we

are very pleased to have been a part of. We have reviewed where we feel the LA is as a whole against Contact's Four Cornerstones of Co-Production and plan to ensure that this work is fed into the SEND Strategy Review.

If you would like to know more about this work with the EY SEND Partnership Programme please feel free to get in touch with Sarah Whatmore sarah.whatmore@westberks.gov.uk

More information about the programme as a whole can be found here:

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/early-years-send-partnership>

More information about the free resources and training that is on offer as part of this programme can be found here:

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/early-years-send-partnership/training-resources-and-support/eysend-training>

Swings & Smiles - Outreach in schools

Our Outreach service in schools is very popular and we are able to offer this to any child with Special Educational Needs or a disability.

All referrals will be assessed on an individual basis and we will be able to advise you what level of support we think is appropriate based on this information. Our capacity may mean we have to limit the amount of support we are able to offer to one setting.

Large group/Class sensory sessions

These can be themed in line with current learning or we will bring out a selection of our sensory resources for children to explore

WELCOME AND CARE

VALUE AND INCLUDE

COMMUNICATE

WORK IN PARTNERSHIP

Developing and nurturing each of these to build

TRUST



as a group. Sessions can include messy play, sensory story time and Attention Autism sessions.

Suitable for: *Special schools and specialist units*

Smaller group/Individual sensory sessions

A fun and engaging session that has a different theme each week and gives children the opportunity to find new ways to play. They will have time to explore different textures, smells and sounds to meet their sensory needs.

Suitable for: *Special schools, specialist units and mainstream schools*

Small group/Individual relaxation sessions

A fun and relaxed session where we practice techniques that can help the child or young person feel calm and learn ways that they may be able to feel more positive outside of the session.

Suitable for: *Special schools, specialist units and mainstream schools (especially secondary schools)*

For more information and to contact us please go to: www.swingsandsmiles.co.uk/

In Other News

Survey Monkey

Thank you to everyone who completed the recent Survey Monkey, we had 53 schools contribute. We will be analysing the results and will present our findings at the summer SENCo Network meeting.

SEND Contact List

Service/Name:	Email address:	Phone number:
Learning Support Services (CALT, EDIT, AS Team, Sensory Consortium)		
Administrative Team	LearningSupportTeam@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503646
Karen Bartlett (Learning Support Services Manager)	karen.bartlett1@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503646
Cognition and Learning Team (CALT)		
Sue Whiting (CALT Co-ordinator)	sue.whiting@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503646
Lindsey Bishop (Advisory Teacher)	lindsey.bishop@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503646
Corinne Minstrell-Palmer (Advisory Teacher)	corinne.minstrell-palmer@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503646
Hayley Gittins (Advisory Teacher)	hayley.gittins@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503646
Jen Crick (Advisory Teacher)	jen.crick@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503646
Early Development and Inclusion Team (EDIT)		
Jo Gordon & Lesley Bungay (EDIT Co-ordinator)	Jo.gordon@westberks.gov.uk Lesley.bungay@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503646
Autism Team		
Lesley Botchway (Autism Team Coordinator)	lesley.botchway@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503646
Sue Granger (Autism Advisor for Schools – Primary)	sue.granger1@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503646
Melissa Hutchings (Autism Advisor for Families)	melissa.hutchings@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503646
Gilly Rogers (Autism Specialist TA)	gilly.rogers1@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503646
Kelly Evans (Autism Specialist TA)	kelly.evans1@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503646
Sensory Consortium Service		
Jane Peters (Head of Service, SCS)	jane.peters@rbwm.gov.uk	01628 796786 07887 540921
Tanya Edwards	tanya.edwards@achievingforchildren.org.uk	
Jody Lewington-Long	jody.lewington-long@achievingforchildren.org.uk	
Sian Brown	sian.brown@rbwm.gov.uk	
Carol Newby	carol.newby@rbwm.gov.uk	
SEN Assessment Team		
Administrative Team	senteam@westberks.gov.uk	
Nicola Ponton (SEN Manager)	nicola.ponton@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519713
Shalon Smith (Assistant SEN Manager)	shalon.smith@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519713

Lucy Manners (Assistant SEN Manager) – on maternity leave	lucy.manners@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519713
Susanne Fisher (Assistant SEN Manager)	Susanne.Fisher@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519713
Anna Wickham-Smith (Assistant SEN Manager)	anna.wickham-smith@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519713
Clair-Louise Lawes (EHC Co-ordinator)	clair-louise.lawes@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519713
Gilly Stent (EHC Co-ordinator)	gilly.stent@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519713
Lucy Frear (EHC Coordinator)	lucy.frear1@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519713
Amanda Boyce (Locum EHC Coordinator)	Amanda.Boyce1@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519713
Jane Edwards (Case Officer)	jane.edwards@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519191
Bob Woodrow (Case Officer)	bob.woodrow@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519712
Coral Taylor (Case Officer)	coral.taylor@wesberks.gov.uk	01635 519713
Nina Wylde (Case Officer)	nina.wylde1@wesberks.gov.uk	01635 519713
Educational Psychology Service		
Hazel Loomes (Social Inclusion Admin Officer)	hazel.loomes@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519026
Carly Jeger (SEMH Admin Assistant)	Carly.Jeger1@westberks.gov.uk	
Dr Michelle Sancho (SEMH Service Manager & Principal EP)	michelle.sancho@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519026
Cate Wilkes (Senior EP)	cate.wilkes@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519026
Elinor Kelly (ELSA Lead)	elinor.kelly@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519026
Fiona Richards (Placement Students Lead)	fiona.richards@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519026
Dr Amy Bushell (EP)	amy.bushell1@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519026
Dr Samantha Broomfield (Early Years Lead)	samantha.broomfield1@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519026
Dr Beth Cartwright (Senior EP)	beth.cartwright@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519026
Kate Pike (MHST Manager Downs & JOG Cluster)	kate.pike@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519026
Neal Ridley (CiC Lead)	Neal.Ridley1@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519026
Emotional Health Academy		
June Errington (Acting EHA Manager (Maternity Cover))	June.Errington1@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503629
Alison Ashby (EHA Coordinator)	alison.ashby@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503643
Referrals	Emotional.Health.Triage@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519018
Therapeutic Thinking Support Team (previously Behaviour Intervention Team - BIT)		
Dr Beth Cartwright (Manager)	beth.cartwright@westberks.gov.uk	07585 986658
Lucy Hillyard (Therapeutic Thinking Strategic Lead)	lucy.hillyard1@westberks.gov.uk	07795 645295
Nicky Taylor (Assistant EP Therapeutic Thinking)	nicky.taylor1@westberks.gov.uk	

School Improvement & Governance		
Donna Fox (Principal Adviser for School Improvement & Governance)	donna.fox1@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503655
Specialist Inclusion Support Service		
Karen Bartlett (Learning Support Services Manager)	karen.bartlett1@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503646
Early Years Team		
Sarah Whatmore	earlyyears@westberks.gov.uk sarah.whatmore@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503500
Virtual School		
Robin Douglas Virtual School Headteacher	robin.douglas@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503195
Sue Shephard Virtual School Business Manager	susan.shephard@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519940
Sarah Whatmore Teacher Consultant (Early Years) (Plus maternity cover)	sarah.whatmore@westberks.gov.uk	
Helen Beckett Teacher Consultant (Literacy and Numeracy Lead)	helen.beckett@westberks.gov.uk	
Carla Cumberland Teacher Consultant (Safeguarding Lead)	carla.cumberland@westberks.gov.uk	
Karishma McKendrick Teacher Consultant (SENCO) (currently on maternity leave)	karishma.mckendrick@westberks.gov.uk	
Liane Chard Consultant (UASC Lead)	liane.chard@westberks.gov.uk	
Education Welfare Service		
Linda Curtis (Principal Education Welfare Officer/Lead Officer for Safeguarding)	linda.curtis@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519788
Medical Tuition		
Jackie Powell (Medical Tuition Coordinator)	jackie.powell1@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503428
Elective Home Education		
Caroline Cleghorn (Elective Home Education Officer)	caroline.cleghorn1@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503337
Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS)		
Joyce Barnett EMTAS Administrative Assistant	Joyce.Barnett@westberks.gov.uk	0118 916 7770 Ext. 8659
Pamela Voss EMTAS Team Leader	Pamela.Voss@westberks.gov.uk	07717 347839
Joanna Hassan EMTAS Pupil Support Officer (Gypsy/Roma/Traveller Pupils)	Joanna.Hassan@westberks.gov.uk	07554 458854
Katarzyna Collis Learning Advisor for EAL	Katarzyna.Collis@westberks.gov.uk	07867 900334

Ramona Panzaru EMTAS Pupil Support Officer	Ramona.Panzaru1@westberks.gov.uk	07770 876500
Monica Vecchi Igoe EMTAS Pupil Support Officer	Monica.Vecchilgoe1@westberks.gov.uk	07825 263649
Subika Mehdi EMTAS Pupil Support Officer	Subika.Mehdi@westberks.gov.uk	07774 332907
TRAINING		
West Berkshire Education Training	training@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503033
SLA Online	educationtrading@westberks.gov.uk	
OTHER CONTACTS		
SEND Strategy Officer: Jack Caine	jack.caine1@westberks.gov.uk	
Local Offer: Christina Butler Jessica Monteith-Chachuat	Christina.Butler2@westberks.gov.uk Jessica.Monteith-Chachuat1@westberks.gov.uk	01635 519773
Exclusions Officer: Roslyn Arthur	roslyn.arthur@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503409 07775 546326
Health and Wellbeing in Schools Coordinator: Nikki Davies	nikki.davies@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503654 07500 097115
Children, Young People and Families Healthhub– Health – Therapy services for children	https://cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services/therapy-services-cypit/	0300 365 1234
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)	https://cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services/mental-health-services-camhs/	0300 365 1234
SIMS	mis@westberks.gov.uk	01635 503040/519256