



SEND NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our SEND newsletter

As we come to the end of another academic year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly successful and memorable year for our children, families and staff.

I am incredibly proud of every child for the progress they have made, the challenges they have overcome and the resilience, kindness and determination they have shown throughout the year. I am also grateful to our families and staff for their ongoing support, collaboration and commitment.

This year has been particularly exciting as we have continued to invest in creating an inclusive environment where every child feels valued, supported and able to succeed. Some of the highlights for me have been the wonderful sensory visits from Father Christmas and the Easter Bunny, which brought so much joy to our children and provided meaningful experiences for those who benefit from a quieter, more personalised approach.

We have also made significant improvements to our SEND provision through the investment in our three sensory rooms, the installation of our sensory pod on the playground and the addition of the sensory circuit wall. These spaces and resources are already having a positive impact, helping children to regulate, engage and access learning more successfully throughout the school day.

As SENDCo, I was absolutely over the moon to see the feedback from our recent parent survey. One hundred percent of parents of children with SEND reported that they are happy with the support their child receives in school! Seeing this feedback was incredibly special and means so much because it reflects the strong partnerships we have built with families and the dedication, care and commitment shown by our staff every single day. We know that supporting children with additional needs is most successful when school and home work together, and I am so proud that parents feel listened to, involved and supported on that journey.

The survey also highlighted how much parents value the nurturing, inclusive and caring ethos that runs through our school community. Families recognised the support provided for children's emotional wellbeing, confidence and personal development, as well as the positive relationships between staff, children and parents. To know that families feel their children are happy, safe and supported is one of the greatest achievements we could hope for.

Looking ahead, I am delighted that work will begin over the summer holidays on our new sensory garden. I am incredibly excited to see this develop and know it will provide a calm, engaging and therapeutic space for our children to enjoy for years to come. Alongside our existing sensory spaces, this will further strengthen our commitment to ensuring every child can thrive and flourish.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Wishing all of our families a happy, restful and well-deserved summer break, and the very best of luck to our Year 2 children as they move on to Year 3 and begin their next exciting chapter.



Mrs Hannah Owen
SENDCo



Spotlight on Supporting Children over the Summer

The summer holidays are an exciting time for children, but for some they can also bring worries about change and the unknown. Whether your child is moving to a new class, a new year group or even a new school, there are lots of simple things you can do over the summer to help them feel confident and prepared for September.

1. Explore the Transition Books Together

Our transition books have been created to help children become familiar with their new classroom, teachers and routines.

Try:

- Reading the book regularly over the summer.
- Looking at photographs together and talking positively about what they can see.
- Encouraging your child to ask questions.
- Talking about what they are looking forward to.

For some children, revisiting the transition book little and often can help reduce anxiety and build confidence.

2. Talk About School in a Positive Way

Children often take their lead from the adults around them. Keep conversations about school positive and reassuring.

You might say:

- "Your new teacher is looking forward to meeting you."
- "You already know lots about school and you'll be able to show your new teacher."
- "It's okay to feel a little nervous and excited at the same time."

3. Re-establish Routines Before September

After a long summer break, returning straight to school routines can feel like a shock to the system!

Around a week before school starts:

- Begin moving bedtime slightly earlier each evening.
- Wake children a little earlier each morning.
- Reintroduce morning routines such as getting dressed and having breakfast at a similar time to school days.

A gradual approach often makes the first week back much easier.

4. Keep Reading Over the Summer

Reading is one of the best ways to support learning during the holidays. Even 10 minutes a day can make a huge difference.

Remember:

- Reading together should be enjoyable, not a battle.
- Audiobooks and shared reading all count.
- Re-reading favourite books helps build confidence and fluency.
- Talking about stories is just as important as reading the words.

A visit to your local library can also be a lovely summer activity and helps children choose books that genuinely interest them.

Books That Can Help With School Transitions

These books can be particularly helpful for children who may be feeling anxious about returning to school or starting somewhere new:

- *The Colour Monster Goes to School* – Anna Llenas
- *Starting School* – Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- *Harry and the Dinosaurs Go to School* – Ian Whybrow
- *Topsy and Tim Start School* – Jean and Gareth Adamson
- *The First Day Jitters* – Julie Danneberg

Supporting Worries and Big Feelings

- *Ruby's Worry* – Tom Percival
- *The Koala Who Could* – Rachel Bright
- *The Huge Bag of Worries* – Virginia Ironside
- *The Invisible String* – Patrice Karst
- *Giraffes Can't Dance* – Giles Andreae

5. Summer Activities That Build Confidence and Independence

The summer holidays provide lots of opportunities to develop skills that will help children feel confident when they return to school.

Encourage independence

- Practise putting on coats, jumpers and shoes independently.
- Encourage children to carry their own backpack on outings.
- Let them help to pack snacks, water bottles or belongings for family days out.
- Encourage them to tidy up after activities and take responsibility for simple tasks.

Build communication skills

- Talk about your day together.
- Encourage your child to ask questions when out and about.
- Play turn-taking games and board games as a family.

Explore new places

- Visit a park, library, museum or local attraction.
- Looking at maps, signs and unfamiliar environments can help children become more confident with change and new experiences.

Practise following routines

- Have simple jobs at home such as feeding a pet, laying the table or helping with laundry.
- Following a daily routine helps children feel more secure and prepared for the structure of school.

Develop fine motor skills through play

- Drawing, colouring, painting and craft activities.
- Lego, construction toys and puzzles.
- Playdough, threading and cutting activities.
- Baking and cooking together.

These fun activities help build the confidence, resilience and independence that support children both in school and beyond.

6. Make a Summer Memory Book

A lovely activity is to create a simple scrapbook or memory book over the holidays.

Children could:

- Draw pictures of special days.
- Stick in photographs, tickets or postcards.
- Write labels, captions or simple sentences.
- Collect leaves, flowers or mementos from days out.

Not only does this encourage reading and writing, but it also gives children something positive to share with their new teacher in September.

7. Keep School Skills Ticking Over

Learning doesn't need to feel like school during the holidays. Small everyday opportunities can make a big difference:

- Count shells at the beach or items in the supermarket.
- Read menus, signs and shopping lists together.
- Practise writing names, labels or postcards.
- Play games that involve counting, matching or problem solving.
- Explore nature and talk about what you see.

A Final Reminder-

Most children will have a mixture of emotions about returning to school and that is completely normal. With plenty of reassurance, predictable routines and opportunities to talk about their feelings, children are often much more ready for the new academic year than we think.

The most important thing children need over the summer is time to play, rest, explore and spend time with the people they love. These everyday experiences help children return to school feeling happy, confident and ready for a fantastic new year ahead.

SEND activities in Warwickshire over the Summer holidays:

With the summer holidays fast approaching, there are a number of exciting SEND-friendly activities and opportunities available for children and young people to enjoy over the break in Warwickshire.

Whether your child enjoys being active, getting creative, exploring the outdoors or meeting new friends, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Quirky Kids - Disability Groups and support - Holiday Club Tuesdays of school holidays 1pm until 3pm
<https://searchout.warwickshire.gov.uk/organisation/65/quirky-kids>

Draycote Water Family Social - Wednesday 5 August 2026 - 9am to 11am with Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1329089452737810>

Entrust Care Partnership holiday breaks- <https://entrustcarepartnership.org.uk/what-we-do/holiday-breaks/>

Ladybug Lodge – activities on offer include Stay and Play, Swimming, Forest School, Open Theatre, Dance. Sessions running from Monday 27 July to Thursday 20 August.
<https://www.ladybuglodge.co.uk/activities>

Quiet Time at The Wave, Coventry – 30 July and 14 August.
<https://bookings.thewavecoventry.com/>

Free Community Fun Day - Sunday 9 August, Willoughby in Rugby with Fitness By Bobby

Boxing Classes and SEN Play and Explore with Fitness By Bobby Tuesdays, Thursday and Saturdays.

The British Motor Museum – Mellow Mondays on 3 August, 3-5pm and Summer Access Day on Thursday 13 August. <https://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk/whats-on>

Rugby Art Gallery and Museum – Relaxed Hour – Monday 10 August, 10.30-11.30am.
<https://www.ragm.co.uk/holidayfun>

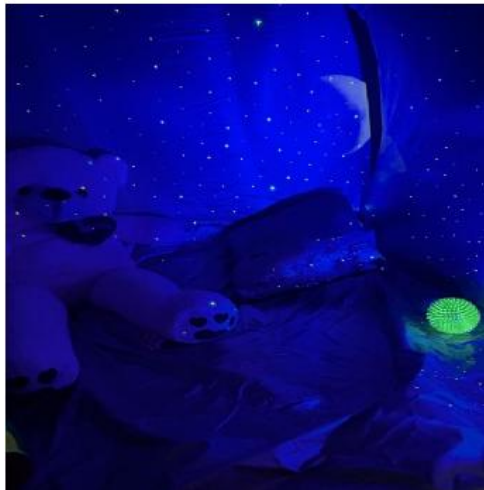
Accessible Cinema Screenings – check the website for autism friendly and accessible cinema screenings near you - <https://accessiblescreeningsuk.co.uk/autism-friendly-screenings/>

AirHop Trampoline Park, Warwick and Birmingham – SEN Sessions – every Monday 6-7pm.
<https://www.airhop.co.uk/>

MessyBeanz – Stay and play sensory sessions – various dates in July and August.
<https://www.messybeanz.co.uk/book-now>

Highlights from the year:

Investment in our 3 sensory rooms



Sensory friendly Father Christmas and Easter bunny visits



Enjoying the snow



Sensory trail/ circuit

That's a wrap!



For questions and clarifications, you may reach out to me directly on hannah.owen@dunchurch.covmat.org or via class dojo.

