

Welcome to the seventh edition of thrive – A newsletter which aims to pull together information, resources and updates on all things send (special educational needs and disabilities) and well being in our school community, region and beyond.

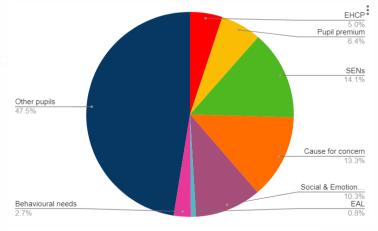
## WOW! WHAT A YEAR OUR PREVIOUS ONE WAS! WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE AND CELEBRATE SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS WE MADE OVER THE PAST ACADEMIC YEAR.....

Lots of changes took place within our SEND and Pastoral Team last year with the welcomed addition of Mrs Robbins as a full time school ELSA and Mrs Bates as our SEN administrator. Mrs Dakin our school ELSA reduced her hours in school to start her degree in Psychology.

We introduced our 'Coffee & Chat' sessions which brought parents and carers to come together and also offered information and advice from various external agencies. As a school we invested in NEW options a private speech and language service to work with some of our pupils who we identified as having difficulties with various aspects of communication and language. In addition we completed a total of 31 referrals to the NHS Speech and Language therapy service.

The Neurodiversity team reopened their doors for referrals in October 2022. As a school we referred 20 pupils to the service for either Autism or Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder.

Over the year we also worked closely with various other professionals such as: Private Clinical Psychologists, Speech and Language therapists, Educational Psychologists, Children's Centre, Occupational Therapists, School Nursing Team, Specialist Nurses, NHS Wellbeing Practitioners, 0-25 Team, SENDIASS, Secondary School SENDco, Dyslexia Assessor, Behaviour support team, Sensory and Physical Teaching Service and Physiotherapists.



PLEASE CONTINUE TO EMAIL ANY SEND OR PASTORAL ENQUIRIES TO SEND@EPSCH.CO.UK

Elloughton Primary School Areas of Pupil Support

### WE WOULD LIKE TO SHOW SOME APPRECIATION FOR OUR LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Our school would not be what we are without our wonderful Learning Support Assistants who are a huge part of the foundations of learning for all our pupils. We thought we would share a little more about why they are so valuable:

#### WHAT IS A LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT (LSA)?

A Learning Support Assistant is a valued member of our team who tailors support to the specific needs of pupils. They build very good relationships with our pupils, parents and staff through promoting high expectations and enthusiasm for learning. They provide support through delivering interventions and nurturing our pupils to support their emotional, health and wellbeing.

#### HOW MANY LSAS DO WE CURRENTLY HAVE WORKING IN SCHOOL?

We currently have 24 Learning Support Assistants working across our school, providing our pupils with a range of support in and outside the classroom.

#### WHAT TRAINING DO OUR LSAS HAVE?

Our LSAs have an incredible range of varied experience, knowledge and skills amongst them. Many have had specialist training in areas such as; Autism, Speech and Language intervention programmes, Dyslexia, working memory, Dyspraxia, attachment and mental health.

#### WHAT SPECIALIST SUPPORT DO OUR LSAS PROVIDE FOR OUR CHILDREN?

Learning Support Assistants provide specialist support through adapting a child's learning to meet their specific needs. They also provide our pupils with small intervention groups where needed across various curricular subjects.

## LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT SOME OF THE INTERVENTION GROUPS IMPLEMENTED IN SCHOOL

### LEGO THERAPY & SOCIAL SKILLS GROUPS

These groups support learning by improving skills, knowledge and understanding in the following key areas; communication skills, problem solving/ following rules, self-esteem, sharing/ turn taking, working as a team and finding resolutions to conflict.

## FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

The aim of these sessions are to explore friendship generally to develop skills and self-awareness in this area. The group is encouraged to explore what they look for in friendships, why friendships are important but also to give pupils the opportunity to reflect on past difficulties they may have had so that they can resolve problems and navigate the ups and downs. The sessions will also look at boundaries in friendships and warning signs that something isn't right, in order to strengthen their sense of self as they enter a period when peers become increasingly important and pressure to fit in grows. Communication is also explored with an emphasis on being assertive rather than passive or aggressive and the benefits of this.

### intervention groups

Some pupils may require additional support alongside high-quality teaching in order to make continuous progress according to their individual strengths and areas for development. The interventions are targeted at specific pupils using information gathered from their teachers assessments information. At Elloughton School our staff deliver a range of intervention programmes on a daily basis. These are sometimes delivered one to one or in small groups. Across the school our pupils receive intervention to develop their: phonological awareness, language skills, fine motor skills, reading fluency, listening and attention skills, handwriting, reading comprehension, maths fluency, spelling skills and speech. Same day intervention is also used to address misconceptions and support pupils to move onto their next day's learning. The use of learning apps is also embedded to support our intervention provision.

# introducing the treehouse...



In September 2023, we are delighted to have opened our new 'Treehouse' provision.

The Treehouse is a bespoke internal provision at the heart of our school to meet our children's individual needs whilst ensuring they remain part of our 'Elloughton Family'.

All pupils are unique and special individuals and 'TEAM ELLOUGHTON' wants to ensure that we do our best to constantly review our provision and adapt support to meet the needs of SEND pupils.

The 'Treehouse' with an integrated 'Dark Den' is in its infancy but we are already pleased to report the huge difference to our pupils, providing them with a smaller, quieter environment within our mainstream school.

Parental feedback has been extremely positive, promoting their child's communication skills. Having time to self - regulate in school also has proven to have a direct impact on how children are managing their emotions at home.

The Treehouse aims to support pupils with an Autistic Spectrum Condition diagnosis or identified significant social communication and interaction needs.

They may have difficulties in several of the following areas:

- Language development
- Social interaction
- Social communication
- Flexible thinking
- Sensory experiences

As part of this new initiative 'Team Elloughton' have also been working closely with Lucy Pugh, Senior Educational Psychologist and Rob Page, Inclusion Practitioner. Our September training day focused on Social Communication Skills and how we can support these children in school.

'The Nest formerly the SEA room is also a newly revamped sensory room within school, available for our pupils to have time to manage their emotions and support self-regulation.

# THE SLEEP CHARITY

The Sleep Charity offer a wonderful free service that can help parents and children to learn more about their sleep and develop better bedtime routines. Sleep is essential to brain function, by helping children to sleep better, we can help them to succeed in school.

They have a free helpline run by trained sleep advisors, many of whom are specialists in working with SEND. They can talk to young people directly, or parents (they can also talk to adults, including older people, about their sleep issues). The helpline is open 5 times a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday evenings 7-9pm, and Monday, Wednesday mornings 9-11am. The number is **03303 530 541**.

You can read more here: https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/national-sleep-helpline/



YOU CAN PURCHASE THE BOOK FROM AMAZON PLEASE CLICK THE BOOK TO TAKE YOU THERE

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What's on

Day 1 - To Infinity and Beyond - Space th

Day 2 - Halloween Spooktacular Session

Registration and booking essential

am on: T-0330 1332642 E-h

nummy races and scavenger hunts.

Session (Create your own rocket ship and space suit, explore a far-off planet with

The Huge Bag of Worries is amazing for helping your child with their fears and worries. It tells the story of a little girl called Jenny who carries around a huge bag filled with worries. Her worries follow her wherever she goes. The are with her at home and at school. They are in a big blue bag that she carries around with her. She tries lots of ways to get rid of the worries but they always come back. There is so much you can do with this book to open up those conversations about worries and anxieties.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

## COFFEE & CHAT EVENTS

OUR NEXT 'COFFEE AND CHAT' SESSION IS ON: THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER At 2PM MEETING IN THE LEARNING LODGE

If you have any suggestions or aspect of SEND/Pastoral support you would like more information on please let us know.

# ENERGISE THIS HALF TERM WITH ENDORPHINS ...

Energise is back this Doctober Half Term

inclusive holiday sessions for young people with SEND

> Enjoy fun and inclusive tivities and games suitable for all abilities!

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