

THE ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

SEN Trust Southend



Academy Trust - Special School

Mountdale Gardens, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 4AW

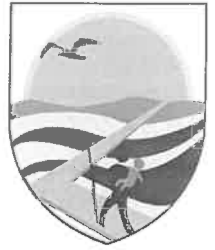
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10th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the school year 2018/2019. Considering we had 31 new pupils who started, it was a calm and settled beginning. We have a total of 229 pupils this year, which is our highest number of starters and 17 over our subscribed funded number.

We also welcome 8 new members of staff. Miss Van der Merwe, Miss Johnson, Mrs Gambling, Mrs Jiggins, Miss Coffey, Mrs Wolfe, Miss Chapman and Mr Latham.

School Development and Parking

Enterprise Centre, 97 Mountdale Gardens (the house next to the school)

Work has been on-going throughout the summer and we have tried to get the majority of the outside messy work completed. However we have lost 3 – 4 parking spaces for work and deliveries which means parking is very tight in and around the school. The loss of these spaces is temporary and we will get them back by the end of October. Could everyone please be extra careful and considerate with parking in and around the school whilst the work is completed.

There will be an opening event in the second half of the term to show everyone our new facility and the plans for its use.

School Photographs

We have booked the school photographer for the year. Primary pupil's photo day is Wednesday 19th September and Secondary pupils is Thursday 20th September.

Primary Parents Evening – Wednesday 17th October

Further information and appointment times will be sent out nearer the time. This is a chance to see how the pupils have settled into their new groups/school.

Medical Information

Please be aware we do have some children who have serious allergies to nuts or nut products. We avoid all nut based products in school meals and cookery and ask that parents who send in packed lunches also cooperate with us and do not send in any nuts or bars with nuts in. Even a small trace eaten in the dinner hall can leave air borne particles that can cause a reaction, so please avoid using any nut based products in school (including coconut).

Sepsis

Please see attached a leaflet that we have been asked to send out to all families. We have not had any cases in school but agreed to send information out to all to help with awareness to keep everyone up to date with this issue.



Learning Outside the Classroom



Southend-on-Sea

Part of SEN Trust Southend, a charity and company registered in England Number 07973980 – Limited by guarantee



Medication

Some pupils need to take medication in school, which we are happy to do and various forms need to be completed to ensure this is safe. If your son/daughter is taking regular medication at home, please can you make sure we are aware of it, its name, dosage etc. in case of emergencies in school. We do have a first aid leader, but please be aware there is no 'nurse' attached or present in the school.

Staffing News/Therapies

As well as welcoming our new staff, we also have staff moving on. Mrs Horton, Speech and Language Therapist will be on maternity leave from 7th September and Miss Thomas, Speech and Language Therapist will be moving on to a new post at the end of October. This leaves us with Ms Hitchen as the Senior Speech and Language Therapist in school. Although we have advertised for new Speech and Language Therapists, classroom based staff have had considerable training and have worked alongside our Speech and Language Team for some time. They will be carrying out activities and programmes within the class, overseen by Mrs Hitchen. This will be kept under review but we thought you would like to be informed of this situation. A similar programme of 'in class' and individual support is arranged regarding sensory integration and occupational therapy. As we mentioned previously, Mrs Boyle left at the end of the last school year to pursue other career options. We have all the programmes which were designed in school and therefore we can carry these out. We do ask advice and support on specific physiotherapy programmes from the NHS physiotherapist, who comes in once a term for these programmes. We also have our sensory room facilities and use these when needed. We will keep you updated of any developments.

After School Clubs

Information about after school clubs will be out soon. These are very popular so if you wish your child to take part, please return as soon as possible.

Lion King Production

Copies of the Lion King production have all been sent home and I hope you enjoy watching them with your child and remembering what a fantastic event it was last summer.

Uniform

Could we please ask you to ensure all of your child's clothing is labelled.

It is going to be another challenging year where new opportunities and challenges are faced by all. Thank you to everyone that has sent back comments on the new report format. Staff worked extremely hard on these and we are pleased they were appreciated.

Yours faithfully



Jackie Mullan
Executive Headteacher



Louise Brown
Head of School



LOtC Mark (Gold)
Learning Outside the Classroom



Do you know the signs?

SEPSIS
IS A RARE BUT SERIOUS COMPLICATION
OF AN INFECTION

FREE training for parents and carers of children with special needs including learning disabilities / physical disabilities

What every parent needs to know about sepsis

You know when your child is poorly, but would you like to learn about spotting the signs of Sepsis/further deterioration?

- How to identify Sepsis
- What to do
- How to / when to get help

Book your place at our **FREE Sepsis training** session on:

Thursday 27th September 2018, from 10.00am to 2.00pm
at The Skylark Hotel, Aviation Way, Southend SS2 6UN
Refreshments and lunch will be provided

To book your place or for more information,
please contact: Sharon.earl@nhs.net

Please note this training is for parents and carers of children with special needs including learning disabilities / physical difficulties.

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