

### Term 3

## WHAT'S GOING ON...

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As a Therapy Team, we have decided to begin a termly newsletter to help keep in touch with parents and school staff in what we have been doing, as well as providing some extra support and guidance on what you can be doing at home or in the classroom.

We aim to do our best to support the children within the school and always welcome any questions parents or school may have.

## WHAT WE ARE DOING:

We are hoping to set up a '**lending library**' for AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) for those at the school who would like to trial use of such devices.

Our therapy team will be attending parent's evening on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May and will be available to talk to if you wish to do so.

Joint Paediatric Neurodisability (**JPN**) clinics will be run at Meadowfield school on the following dates: 30.01.24 / 26.03.24 / 21.05.24.

We are hoping to set up an '**inspire day**', where we will have accessible toys and activities available, which will allow for therapy activities to be completed in fun ways and we can share ideas to make therapy fun and functional!

Regular joint therapy and Meadowfield Meetings have started and any questions or concerns should be forwarded to Vickie King or Sarah Blake and Liz Hymus, Joe White or Caroline Jaques.



## Workshops:

We will be running workshops online for staff members to attend, which will offer advice and support for some of the different needs within the school.

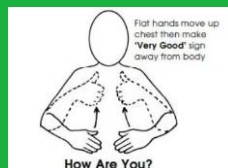
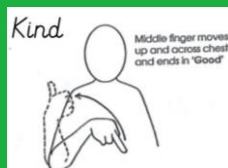
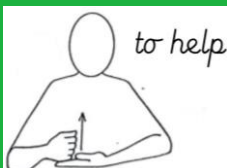
These include:

- **CUED ARTICULATION**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> February 2pm)
- **SYMBOL'S USE**  
(1<sup>st</sup> March 2pm)
- **SENSORY**  
(19<sup>th</sup> April 2pm)
- **COLOURFUL SEMANTICS**  
(TBC)

If you are a teacher and wish to attend, please email [medch.orchards@nhs.net](mailto:medch.orchards@nhs.net) with a title of 'MF workshop'. **Please note, if there are less than 5 attendees, we will not run the workshop.**

If you are a parent and interested in attending any of these, please email [medch.orchards@nhs.net](mailto:medch.orchards@nhs.net) with your child's name and D.O.B, expressing your interest.

### SIGNS OF THE TERM...



## HELPFUL STRATEGIES:

- Keep distractions to a minimum to avoid flitting between activities.
- Use simple language and short instructions.
- Use gestures and Makaton where possible.
- Use visual strategies, such as symbols, sand timers and visual timetables.
- Use a colour coded approach to language building (colourful semantics).
- Model good language throughout the day.
- Sensory strategies to support regulation throughout the day e.g., brushing, joint compressions, wobble cushion, etc.

## SEPTEMBER UNTIL NOW:

Since the beginning of the school year, our team have been working hard to support teachers and children.

Our occupational therapists and physiotherapists have been completing regular equipment checks and assessments with reps for seating, walkers and standers. Blocks of therapy have been provided and programs have been updated.

Our speech and language therapists have been visiting classes and offering support to teachers with targets and making visual's and symbol's more easily accessible. Blocks of therapy for speech sounds are being provided to children with severe speech difficulties.

Our therapy instructors have been supporting therapists with delivering therapy and giving teachers advise and resources.



## MEET THE TEAM...

**Occupational Therapist = OT**

**Occupational Therapy Apprentice = OTA**

**Physiotherapist = PT**

**Speech and Language Therapist = SaLT**

**Therapy Instructor = TI**



**Sarah**  
Dietitian  
Team Manager



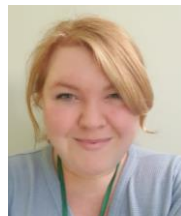
**Beccs**  
OT



**Michelle**  
OT



**Vickie**  
OT



**Nic**  
OTA



**Janine**  
PT



**Alice**  
SaLT



**Amy**  
SaLT



**Chloe**  
SaLT



**Polly**  
SaLT



**Holly**  
TI



**Jo**  
TI



## Contact us:

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact us at [medch.orchards@nhs.net](mailto:medch.orchards@nhs.net) or call 03001233444. Please include your child's name and date of birth so they can forward your concerns on to the correct therapists.