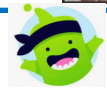




Welcome to the newsletter for SEND of 2024. This will continue to be issued every half-term to help keep parents informed, know who to speak to with concerns and keep families up to date with our school. Mrs Sarah Humpleby



Contact me here: sarah.humpleby@fairfield-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk , 01298 22441 or Dojo.



P.I.N.S. update

We have been busy participating in the *Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools* (PINS) project. The SEN Stay and Play event last month, in collaboration with DPCV, was well attended. To date, school staff have attended training on supporting neurodiverse pupils at break times, ADHD, Mental Health and whole class strategies., and there is lots more to come. Please look out for further PINS information in 2025.



SEN Support Services

Following the Derbyshire Local Authority restructuring, we have begun working on our Action Plan with our new Inclusion Support Advisory Teacher (ISAT), Frances Hambleton-Briggs. She has conducted a couple of visits and we look forward to further improving our provision with her support.



Christmas events in school

We know that joining in whole school events is challenging for some of our pupils. Staff will always encourage participation, but please let us know if you feel your child is distressed or if there is extra support we can put in place for them. If you are invited to attend a school event, and notice that your child is struggling, please remember that this is just a snapshot. They may have loved every rehearsal, but just couldn't manage the audience. As a school community we celebrate ALL pupils and recognise they may participate in different ways.



SEN Drop-in

As you will be aware, we have had some significant staff absence this half-term. This has meant that the planned SEN drop-in has been delayed. The next date for your diary is



Thursday January 23rd 2025. Please come along to the Community Hub for a cuppa and chat. No need to book-just turn up and I will be there.

Spotlight on Surviving Christmas!



For some children the excitement, changes in routine and sensory overwhelm can be difficult to handle. Here are some tips to make life a little bit easier:

Safe Space

Wherever you are visiting, set up a “safe space” for your child so that he/she can be alone.

Maintain routines as much as possible

Keep some parts of the day the same e.g. food items, bedtime routines etc. This will help your child feel calmer and more secure.

Pick your battles

It doesn't matter if chicken dinosaurs is on the menu on Christmas Day, as long as everyone is happy.

Fun isn't compulsory

If it feels too much, then let your child opt out. When they are ready to join you everyone will be more relaxed.

Make adjustments

Ear defenders, weighted blankets, fidget tools etc. can help calm a dysregulated child. If these are part of your child's support at home, then take everything you might need with you.

Share the load

Ask for help if you need a break, and be direct with people about what you and your child need. If they don't like hugs then that is fine! If presents are overwhelming put them away for another day.

Keep it slow

Put decorations up one at a time, keep one room Christmas-free, and don't do all the presents on the same day if you know that is a trigger.

Make it work for your family, and ignore everyone else-

It doesn't have to be Insta-worthy to be worthwhile!