

# CHIEFS

Churchtown Inclusion Effective Family Support

Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup> 2017

## Present:

Gemma Midgley  
Danielle Gillette  
Susie Copeland Doyle  
Kate Hannon  
Sarah Mawer  
Kathryn Threlfall  
Heather Barclay

## Agenda

- **Transition support- Mrs Anderson**

Enhanced transition plans were outlined for all children.

### **Year 6**

Mrs Anderson explained that all Year 6 pupils will be making a visit to their new high school on Wednesday June 28<sup>th</sup>. Prior to this, all pupils who are on the Special Educational Needs register, or who are anxious about moving to high school will be attending additional visits to ensure that they feel as confident and relaxed as possible when they attend on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Some pupils have also been taken on after school visits to their high school, so that they could look around and meet staff when the school was quiet.

Transitional dates were shared for Meols Cop, Stanley High, Birkdale High and Tarleton High.

Pupils are also completing the High School Readiness Transition Pack over this last half term.

## **Whole School Transition Plan**

As soon as staff are informed which class they are having next year, those children who they feel need additional transition support, are sent to take messages etc to their new teacher, so they get used to their face. Teachers will also be arranging to visit their new class during PPA, to observe them in class.

Two whole school transition visits are planned for the afternoons of July 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. On these afternoons, the children will be taught by their new teacher in their new classroom. A third afternoon session is planned for pupils from Reception to Year 2 on the 14<sup>th</sup> July.

Teachers also spend time in two designated staff meetings, talking through handing over information to the new teacher who will be taking their class, and receiving information from the teacher who has taught the class they will be getting.

All SEN Passport information is discussed during these meetings.

Children, who will benefit from it, will be given a two page Transition Passport for their bedroom wall for over the summer holiday. This will contain photos of their new teacher, TAs working in their class, the classroom itself, and other useful information.

This year, we will also be trialling the use of Talking Photograph Albums, for younger, more vulnerable pupils. These children will be able to look at photos and also hear the voices of the staff who will work with them next year.

## **Early Years**

Parents meetings have been arranged as follows:

June 26<sup>th</sup>- New to Nursery

June 27<sup>th</sup>- New to Reception

Transition visits for the children have also been arranged

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June (9:15 until 10:30) - visits for pupils not attending Churchtown Nursery

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 9:15-10:15, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2pm-3pm

For children who attend Churchtown Nursery

Staff from Reception will be visiting private nursey settings to observe children before they start, and Nursery Teachers will also be making home visits for the children who will be starting in nursery.

We have also arranged additional after school visits for some pupils who would benefit from seeing school in a calmer, quieter context initially.

- **Disability Awareness- Mrs Anderson**

As a school, we usually address issues linked to this through PSHE lessons and Circle Time. Class Teachers generally approach it from the perspective of learning difference, and that we are all different as people with different strengths and areas to develop.

We have had some occasions over time, where we have done some work in relation to a specific child's disability, to increase understanding and empathy from peers. This is always done in consultation with parents and the child if age appropriate. The Circle of Friends Intervention has been very useful and has led to increased peer support.

Mrs Anderson explained how Circle of Friends might work in a classroom context.

During National Autism Week, a former pupil, who is now in Year 7, returned to school and spoke to various classes. He talked about what Autism is, using a children's picture book, what he is good at and what he finds tricky. He also gave some examples of how children can help him when he is having a difficult moment. There was very positive feedback, from children and teachers.

The parents present at the meeting felt this was a lovely idea, and that it is particularly useful to share information with children in classes about what ADHD and ASD is, so they have a better understanding of why certain children can behave in different ways. Parents shared information about situations they have found themselves in.

- **Referral Journey what happens next- Donna Buck (School Nurse)**

Mrs Anderson introduced Donna Buck, and spoke of the vital role she plays in helping pull medical information together about school pupils, who attend

many appointments, as feedback from hospital to community can take a long time.

Parents shared their experiences.

Donna said that parents should ensure that school and school nurse are copied into any clinic reports. This ensures that information is shared effectively.

Donna told parents that there are currently several Paediatricians covering North Sefton and that they are slowly bringing the waiting list down.

Mrs Anderson spoke about the referral process to Occupational Therapy. Children are generally referred for two main reasons:

- Concerns linked to their fine motor skills and manual dexterity
- Concerns linked to their processing of sensory information

Where the referral is linked to fine motor and manual dexterity, an appointment is offered by the team, and assessment work undertaken. School and home usually receive a programme, which helps to boost skills.

For sensory referrals, parents receive a questionnaire, which gathers information about their child's sensory profile. Parents are then invited to attend a Sensory Workshop, where sensory processing differences are explained, and they have opportunity to discuss their individual child's profile.

For Speech and Language referrals, Mrs Anderson explained that school complete a referral form and the Class Teacher completes a graded questionnaire. Where responses to the questionnaire reflect a milder level of language difficulty, school will put an appropriate language intervention in place, and will monitor this over time, possibly making a future referral, if the child does not make progress.

Where the questionnaire reveals a more significant level of language difficulty, the child is referred straight away, but an intervention programme is also put in place, so the child can complete this, while they are on the waiting list to be seen.

- **Aiming High Team- Who they are, what they do**

John Lee from the Aiming High Team attended the meeting. He explained the Team's role in providing respite through short breaks and activities. He gave parents an overview of what is available to families during the week and also over the Summer Holiday period. Only children who are registered with the

team can attend activities.

Referrals can be made by Mrs Anderson. John explained that as the Team's funding has been cut; they have had to ensure that their service is targeted at the children with the most need. The Team's support is generally targeted at children who have ASD, and John said that generally referrals for children who have ADHD are no longer accepted. Mrs Anderson asked about those children with ADHD who have a significant level of need. John said it would be worth referring, and the Team will look at the child's individual needs.

Any parents who would like their child to be referred to the team, should make an appointment to see Mrs Anderson

- **AOB**

Mrs Anderson talked about the issue raised by parents around the possibility of inviting parents from other schools to attend the CHIEFs meeting. She said that to avoid possibly appearing like Churchtown are trying to poach other school's pupils, it would be better to invite SENCOs from other schools to attend. This would enable them to set up their own school group. The parents present thought that this seemed a good idea.

Parents wanted to advertise that the Play @ Presfield Club, that takes place between 3:30 and 4:45 each Wednesday is a really great session for children with ASD.

- **Date of next meeting: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

**Simon Ward EP- Question and Answer Session for parents**