



# Higham Primary School

## SEN Newsletter

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Higham Primary  
School SEN Newsletter

### Parents: Do you know how important you are?

Research has shown that a child's outcomes at school are much improved when their parents are positively engaged and supportive in their learning. These outcomes include:

- Better behaviour
- More confidence and greater self-esteem
- Higher attendance rates
- A lower risk of exclusion
- More enthusiasm about learning
- Better results

Parents play a very important role in helping their children achieve. You can find out more about this research and other support for parents at [www.parentkind.org.uk](http://www.parentkind.org.uk)

It was good to see so many of you at Parents' Evening earlier this term; our discussions with you help us build a better picture of your child's needs. Research shows that sometimes parents can be reluctant to engage with schools due to a variety of reasons including previous negative experiences when they themselves were at school; feeling they might be unfairly judged, or that their concerns won't be taken seriously. At Higham, we are grateful to have such positive working relationships with our parents as this helps us to achieve better outcomes for your children. Many staff at Higham are parents too, and understand the pressures on families particularly in the current climate; please do reach out to us if you feel we can help in any way (there's a reminder of our email addresses below!)

Best wishes for the Easter break,

Mrs Dunn & Mrs Smith (The SEN Team)

[senco@higham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:senco@higham.kent.sch.uk) Mrs Dunn, SENCo

[asenco@higham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:asenco@higham.kent.sch.uk) Mrs Smith, Assistant SENCo

## TERM 4

### Therapy Dog

Willow has been working on emotional intelligence this term, helping us to understand how our emotions look and feel to both ourselves as well as those around us. Through different fun and interactive games we learn valuable strategies to help us to change our feelings to positive ones.

Next term Willow will be introducing a 'Willow's Wall' to each class, where children can share work they are proud of. Willow will pop in each week to take a look and learn about their work.

Willow wishes you all a Happy Easter and is looking forward to seeing you next term.



## What are Interventions?

Interventions are activities which can be used to help target areas of difficulty. They are usually run during lesson times for small groups, although individual interventions can happen. In most cases, they should be short-term and based in class as much as possible. If a child is removed from class to attend an intervention, we need to weigh up the benefits of the intervention compared to what they are missing in class; it might actually make the situation harder if your child misses important classwork even to attend an intervention.

Staff regularly evaluate interventions and keep records of progress. Your child doesn't need to have a diagnosis in order for us to provide interventions or any other support; we will provide what's required based on their personal needs in school.

We are proud to offer a number of different interventions at Higham Primary School, here are a few details for some of them:

Intervention	Description	Approx. time and frequency
Clever Fingers	Short activities to help improve fine motor skills. This intervention can also be helpful for improving handwriting and pencil skills.	5-10 minutes per day, in class.
Sensory Breaks	All children have access to a short sensory break should the classroom environment becoming overwhelming.	2-5 minutes per break, just outside of the class or in a quieter space.
Dog Mentoring	Our school dog Willow is a fully trained mentor and helps children with all sorts of problems from emotional issues to behavioural problems.	20 minute session, once per week for 5-6 weeks.
Time to Talk	Mrs Smith, Willow our therapy dog and Mrs Dunn are on hand to speak to children throughout the day to help them discuss their worries and find their own solutions.	--
Sensory Circuits	For KS1 – a variety of physical activities designed to alert, organise and calm pupils.	20 minutes, 4x per week in the hall
Circuit Training	For KS2 – a variety of physical activities designed to alert, organise and calm pupils.	20 minutes, 4x per week in the hall, sensory corridor or outside.
Nessy	An online programme used to improve phonics, spelling and reading.	10-15 minutes 3x per week, in class.

