

27th February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Speech, Language and Communication

We are writing to provide details on the support for speech, language and communication provided at Meadowfield School. With support from our NHS Speech and Language Therapy team, we are working to establish the Balanced System® to provide a whole school approach to speech, language and communication. This means that all students may encounter our NHS Speech and Language Therapy team within their classroom or around school.

You may have already read about some planned activities in the newsletter from our therapy team. We aim to offer the following training to all staff over the next few months:

- Cued Articulation
- The use of Visuals to Support Communication
- Sensory Processing impacting Activities of Daily Living and Communication
- Colourful Semantics
- Speech Sound Awareness
- DIR Floortime
- Parent Child Interaction (PCI) – Developing Communication Through Play

Parents/carers are also encouraged to attend the workshops (please note these will take place at Orchards or virtually on Teams) by emailing medch.orchards@nhs.net to book a place.

The NHS Speech and Language Therapy team will be hosting/attending a session for parents/carers wanting to understand more about how we are working to support speech, language and communication needs in Meadowfield under the new Balanced System®. If your child/young person is currently receiving services from NHS Speech and Language Therapy team, and you would like to discuss your child's communication, what their goals might be, and the level of support needed to achieve them please contact The Orchards to book a place on our upcoming events:

- Tuesday 23/04/24 Coffee Morning at Orchards 9am -11am
- Thursday 02/05/24 Parent's Evening at Meadowfield School 3:30-5pm

To book a place, please email medch.orchards@nhs.net with the name of the event you would like to attend and the name of your child. If you are unable to attend either of the events, please email us to arrange a phone call.

If your child is not receiving services from the NHS Speech and Language Therapy team currently and you have any questions or concerns, please speak with your child's teacher via the contact book.

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For more information about the Balanced System® at Meadowfield school, please see the enclosed leaflet for details and the link to the Balanced School System website.

We want to ensure that supporting and developing communication is a school priority, worked on throughout the child's day. We believe that this approach will better support parents/carers, develop staff expertise and most importantly ensure that each pupil receives the support they require to meet their communication goals.

Yours faithfully

Angela Howe
Principal

Attachments – Balanced System® Information & CTS Newsletter