

### Our Mission

We are an ambitious and inclusive Church of England School, dedicated to ensuring all students live life to the full.

So, another exciting term begins... We have welcomed our new Pastoral Support Worker, Louise Pearson to the Learning Support Team and she has been meeting students for mentoring support. Louise is highly trained and experienced in supporting student, particularly those with social, emotional and mental health needs.

We have also welcomed Nicola Wellesley, who will manage admin for the SEND team. She is likely to be your first point of contact with the SEND support team. Kayliegh Cowley, who had this role previously, has moved to support attendance.

### Parent Forum

Thank you to those who attended our Parent Forum last year.

The aims of our parent forum are:

- To improve communication and collaboration between school and parents.
- To introduce parents to one another as parenting a child with additional needs can be isolating and it may help to share experiences with one another.
- To explore areas that the school could better address to meet the needs of parents and families.
- To offer additional advice and guidance about common areas of interest.

Any parent or carer is welcome to attend.

Our next Parent Forum will be held from 2.30-4pm on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

The focus for our next forum will be DIAS – who offer free, confidential and impartial advice for parents and carers.



**DIAS**  
Devon Information  
Advice and Support  
for Special Educational Needs and Disability

### MAX Card

The Max Card is free to families with children aged 0-25 who have SEND and it allows eligible children and young people free or discounted admission to more than 800 attractions nationwide, over 60 of which are in Devon and Cornwall.

For more information, visit the [Max Card website](#).

#### How do I get a Max Card?

When you are registered as part of the Disability Network through Devon County Council they will send you a Max Card. Max Cards are valid for 2 years from the date of issue.

More information about the Disability Network for Devon can be found [here](#).



### Speech and Language

This term we are delighted to host intervention sessions from the Trust's specialist Speech and Language team. Our link therapy worker, Darcie Harper, is working with key Year 7s to develop their language skills, following a screening of the whole year group. Research shows that improving students' language skills where there are issues, can make a big difference to their life chances.

### Literacy Interventions

We have now screened students to identify who will need literacy interventions this year.

We have Lexia and Little Wandle interventions running, as well as literacy lessons in place of MFL for some. A small number of 1:1 and small group sessions also take place in the LSR.

This is in addition to Sparx Reader and tutor reading.

We are tracking the intervention progress data closely. Last year, student receiving interventions tended to make rapid progress.

### Autism Awareness Card

An autism awareness card is a good way to alert people that you have autism, especially in a stressful situation. The card explains how people can help and also allows you to record details of a family member or friend who could be called if necessary.

More information about how to get a free autism awareness card can be found here [I am autistic card](https://www.autism.org.uk) (autism.org.uk)



### Devon's Local Offer

Devon produces information and advice about the support available to children, young people and families with SEND in Devon. "We want every child in Devon to dream, believe and achieve, and fulfil their potential, some just need a little extra help and support to do this." The Local Offer can be found here: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families/send-local-offer/>

### Additional help:



You can always access free, impartial and confidential help about SEND issues through DIAS.

<https://devonias.org.uk/> tel:441392383080 [devonias@devon.gov.uk](mailto:devonias@devon.gov.uk)



Early Help is the extra support your family can get if you need it. It may be that you want to prevent a problem, or change things for your family before the problem becomes more serious.

It is not a specific service or team, it's an approach that brings together people from a range of services and teams who will work together with your whole family to help improve the situation for everyone.

It can offer support to families from pre-birth to adolescents with all sorts of issues from parenting, employment and school attendance to emotional wellbeing or anti-social behaviour. If you would like to know more then please email

[Tracey.Wadeley@stlukescofe.school](mailto:Tracey.Wadeley@stlukescofe.school)

For Wellbeing support and also to find our One Minute Guides to SEND and also Early Help, please visit our website page

<https://stlukescofe.school/send/>