



# INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

July 2016



Dear parents/carers

Welcome to the last Inclusion update you will receive from St Mary's, for parents/carers of children with SEN - Special Educational Needs and/or EAL - English as an Additional Language. This is a special newsletter for parents/carers of **Y6 SEN/EAL pupils** only.

We normally review children's special needs provision at this time of year and write a new provision form, if appropriate, for the child to have as they make the transition into the next class. In the case of Y6 we do not write new provision forms but we are currently doing a lot of transition work for all Y6 children to ensure that secondary schools are aware of their needs.

Y6 teachers and/or myself have met with staff from the various secondary schools and completed requests for information from the schools. We pass on information about children's needs and the support they have received at St Mary's plus relevant SEN/EAL paperwork.

Your child will have been receiving SEN and/or EAL support in class/small group/1:1 this term if he/she has needed it.

May I take this opportunity to say how very much the Inclusion team and other staff members at St Mary's who have supported your child, hope that he/she will settle quickly into the new routines of secondary school and will do well as this new phase begins.

On the back of this newsletter you will find a checklist for you of ways in which you can help your child make the transition to secondary school. I hope you find some of them helpful and relevant to your child.

Many thanks for the support you have given your child and the school whilst they have been at St Mary's.

Kind regards

**Mrs L Schulze**  
**Inclusions Manager / Acting Assistant Headteacher**

## HELPING WITH TRANSITION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

### Parents' Checklist

- Make sure your child is confident about how they will be getting to and from school.
- Discuss the school rules with your child at home and make sure they understand what happens if they are broken.
- Suggest strategies that can be used to help your child if they get anxious or upset.
- Inform the school of any medical conditions, sensory difficulties or special dietary needs.
- Try the new school uniform on at least a week before so that you can find out if there are any problems which need addressing.
- Talk to your child about how they are settling into school and ask them if they have any problems they want to share. Find out if they are coping with anxiety and managing frustration/anger. Be aware, however that sometimes it will add to their stress to keep being asked about school.
- Maybe provide a box or suitable storage area at home where they can keep all their school books and equipment.
- Ensure that your child has the correct stationery and equipment for their pencil case e.g. spare ink cartridges.
- Encourage them to become independent and more organised. Suggest they pack everything they need for school the night before, such as school books, homework to be handed in, P.E. kit, dinner money etc.
- Make sure your child knows your mobile/home telephone number and address for emergencies. Also make sure they know who to contact if you are unavailable.
- Have a good routine for the morning and evening to give your child a familiar structure. Make a visual day planner/checklist.
- Keep a regular supply of change for dinner money and the bus and remember to give your child the correct amount each day.
- Check your child's homework diary and schoolbag each evening and make sure that you see all letters that come home from school.
- Make sure your child has the correct equipment for school such as the necessary ingredients for Food Technology.
- Display a copy of your child's timetable on the fridge and maybe in the child's bedroom.
- Make homework part of your child's routine and to help with organisation, construct a visual planner/timetable. Clear a space for them to work quietly at home, preferably away from the TV, computer or any other distractions. Make sure they label their homework and write the date, title and their name on it if it is a loose sheet. If homework becomes very stressful or a 'battle', contact the school to discuss how this can be alleviated. Attendance at a homework club may be an answer.

Above all, be positive, praise your child for every small achievement, encourage independence and boost their self-esteem at every opportunity. 😊