

Welcome

Welcome to the DSPL Dacorum Newsletter for parents and carers. We hope that it will give you a sense of what's going on with DSPL and special educational needs in Dacorum, and also let you know how you can get involved or be supported.

DSPL Dacorum Team

Paula Harris -Lead Head for DSPL Dacorum, and is Headteacher of Kings Langley Primary School.

Maria Oliver - DSPL Manager

Jan Nethercoat - DSPL Administrator

Please contact us - we are always happy to hear from you.

Maria oliverm05@kingslangley.herts.sch.uk

Jan nethercoatj05@kingslangley.herts.sch.uk

Maria: 07711556792

Jan: 07525 917125

www.dacorumspl.org.uk

Speech and Language Bases

If your child has an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) which lists Speech, Language and Communication as the primary need, she or he might benefit from being referred to a Speech and Language Base. Chaulden Infants' and Nursery School, and Chaulden Junior School both have Speech and Language Bases which serve all of West Hertfordshire.

The aim of the Bases is to work with each child to reintegrate them back into school as quickly as possible. Children are given space and time to communicate independently in a specially designed classroom, rather than relying on adults to communicate for them. Early intervention is key; children who attend the Base during Key Stage 1 have their issues addressed at an early age so that they don't translate into social and emotional issues as they get older.

If you would like to find out more, please speak to your child's Speech and Language Therapist to find out whether they think a referral would help.



Down Syndrome

We have surveyed Dacorum schools to find out where children and young people with Down Syndrome are being educated, as this data is not currently available from Hertfordshire County Council. We ran a training session in January for Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) and teachers from these schools, to offer practical solutions for communication and behaviour management issues. The training session was really well received, and we're now looking at organising a parent group for parents of children with Down Syndrome. If you'd like to find out more about the parent group, please contact us.

Understanding Autism and ADHD

ADD-Vance has recently run a series of afternoon and twilight sessions for parents. If you've missed these sessions but would be interested in attending one in the Summer term in Hemel Hempstead, please contact us to register your interest. ADD-Vance is a registered charity, providing specialist information, training and advice for professionals, as well as support for children, adults and families on issues relating to Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and related conditions. To find out more about ADD-Vance, please visit their website: www.add-vance.org



What else is Dacorum DSPL doing?

We are funding training for staff in all Dacorum schools on:

- **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)**
Teachers and Teaching Assistants are attending training courses on understanding ASD and ADHD, including practical advice on how to support children with ASD and/or ADHD in the classroom. The training is run by ADD-Vance (see front page). There has been high demand for these courses and we're now running another course in the summer term.
- **Behaviour Management** – Hertfordshire Steps is a positive approach to behaviour management, and Dacorum DSPL is paying for all staff in schools and early years settings in Dacorum to undergo training and keep up to date.
- **Speech, Language and Communication** – Dacorum DSPL will be funding training in speech and language support for staff in schools and early years settings.
- **Nurture Groups** – Dacorum schools will have the opportunity to run a Nurture Group in their own school, working with experienced staff from Dacorum Education Support Centre. Nurture groups assess learning and social and emotional needs and give whatever help is needed to remove the barriers to learning. Schools who run a Nurture Group will also have training for their staff so that they can continue to run the group themselves. For more information about nurture groups, visit the Nurture Group Network website at <http://www.nurturegroups.org/>

Help, Support & Advice

Parent Support Group

Woodfield School runs a Parent Support Group on Wednesday mornings during term-time – please see their website at:

<http://www.woodfield.herts.sch.uk/2013-01-09-15-46-47/coffeemornings>



School Family Workers

Dacorum has four Family Service teams, who support families of children attending Dacorum Schools. Advice and support is available on a range of issues, including supporting families of children with additional needs. School Family Workers can also help with the facilitation of Education, Health and Care Plans. The teams also run parenting courses and advice sessions, for example with specialists in special educational needs.

The areas covered by the different teams are listed below – please feel free to get in touch:

Gade Schools Family Support - covering Old Town, Chaulden, Warners End and Gadebridge, Boxmoor & Apsley. Contact: 01442 278792 www.gadeschoolsfamilysupport.co.uk

Link Family Services - covering Adeyfield, Highfield, Grove Hill, Woodhall Farm.

Contact: 01442 230768 www.linkfamilyservices.co.uk

Dacorum Family Services - covering Bennetts End, Leverstock Green, Corner Hall, Tring & villages, Berkhamsted & villages. Contact: 07780008651 www.dacorumspl.org.uk

Kings Langley Partnership of Schools - covering Kings Langley, Nash Mills, Bovington, Chipperfield, Sarratt and Bedmond. Contact: 01923 271744

Hertfordshire SEND Information, Advice & Support Service (SENDIASS)

Formerly known as Parent Partnership Service, SENDIASS is an impartial information, advice and support service funded by Hertfordshire County Council for parents, carers, young people (0-25) and professionals. Phone 01992 555847 or email parent.partnership@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

Find out more at <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/healthsoc/childfam/specialneeds/educ/parpart/>



The KIDS East and West HUBs www.kids.org.uk/hub 01923 676549

The KIDS HUB offers information and support for parents and carers of disabled children / children with additional needs. aged 0-19 in Hertfordshire.

