

Dear parent / guardian

My name is Shelley O'Connor and I am the Communication Lead here at Brookfields.

I would like to share information with you around how we work alongside external speech and language therapists to support your child's development.

Chatterbugs therapists are in school across two days a week and support your child in a range of ways including:

- Review of their progress – in this the therapists observe your child and talk with the class teacher about their progress and any areas where there may be difficulties or success
- Blocks of therapy for some children
- Single sessions where methods and resources are shared with the class team in order for them to be carried out effectively by the class teams
- Some clinic sessions are now being held in school which is a positive and familiar environment for your child

Chatterbugs work alongside school staff through:

- Provision of care plans with targets that are incorporated into your child's IEP
- Drop in sessions for staff teams to discuss your child's plan or any training needs
- Training sessions for staff
- Provision of some resources
- Half-termly meetings with myself and where relevant Sara or Harry
- Regular email correspondence with myself and teaching staff

If your child becomes discharged from Chatterbugs this may be for a number of reasons:

- New pupils – a full referral will be made by your child's teacher
- Chatterbugs may be unable to contact you - please ensure they have up to date emails and contact numbers. If this happens, school will also be notified and your child's class teacher or I will send contact details for you to reinstate your child's care plan. I would like to reassure you that school support towards your child's communication needs continue throughout.
- Your child has made sufficient progress and can develop under the school curriculum at that time without additional guidance. In these instances, school staff will continue to work with your child based upon their therapist recommendations and our own assessment around communication and interaction. If you wish for a review to take place then please contact Chatterbugs or your child's class teacher.

If you have any question or queries around your child's care plan and support from this service for at home, you can contact Hannah at Chatterbugs, her contact details are as follows:

- <https://chatter-bug.com/halton/>
- **01928 511 075**
- hannah.burton@chatter-bug.com

Please also use this contact number if you are unable to attend clinic or review appointments.

As a school we employ additional speech and language therapists from Jane Mullen SALT over two days of the week. Jude and Janice engage in the following ways:

- Time in classes supporting communication development across all curriculum pathways
- Specialism around AAC and LAMP devices

- Supporting staff through observations of the children and sharing of strategies and ideas
- Provision of some resources
- Working with groups of children on specific skills with examples including speech development, social skills such as turn taking or emotions
- Working with individual pupils on their targets set by Chatterbugs
- Training sessions for staff
- Half-termly meetings with myself and where relevant Sara or Harry
- Regular email correspondence with myself and teaching staff

Communication development lies at the heart of our school ethos and is embedded within each curriculum pathway. Staff keep up to date with training that can be accessed based on individual need or whole school approaches such as Attention Autism [bucket therapy]. Within each class team, staff are experienced in carrying out programmes identified by speech therapists and know how and where to access required support. Alongside our curriculum, your child has paperwork specifically highlighting individual communication targets such as IEPs, communication passports and Chatterbugs care plans.

I want to thank you for your liaison with school via your class teachers, Louise our family support worker and our senior leadership team. This enables us to work together with your child's best interests at heart.

Kind Regards

Shelley O'Connor