



WJPS Parents' SEND Newsletter June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now into the final half term of the year, and it feels like it has come around very quickly. It is one of the busiest times of year in school with things like Sport's Day, Summer Fairs and trips. It is also where we are thinking and looking at what we can do to support the children with their transitions, whether that be to a new year group, new key stage or new school.

It is one of the most important things for us to get right in school and I will be putting information about this in the next couple of newsletters. It is on the minds of school staff, parents and most importantly children. This can impact all children but those with additional needs can find these feelings of uncertainty and change even more of a challenge.

I have spoken a bit about transition throughout the previous newsletters, including sharing how we support children with those smaller transitions that happen day to day and many of those strategies are relevant when looking at the bigger transitions we are coming towards.

End of Year Transition

Last year, we worked hard to improve our transition offer and hopefully this year we will continue to build on that. These are some of the things that will be happening between now and the end of term.

For the children

- 2 transition mornings with their new teachers in their new classrooms
- Extra visits to the new classrooms and year group areas for those that need it
- Extra opportunities to meet the new teacher and say hello if needed
- Some small group sessions working on transition-based activities with Mrs Spanner
- Detailed and specific SEND teacher to teacher transition meetings to discuss children and their needs
- A specific and thorough focus on building relationships and getting to know each other during transition mornings and within the first week in September

For parents

- Meetings with the current class teacher and new class teacher as an opportunity to meet, but also share support plans as part of the summer review meetings for those children on the SEN Register
- Information and resources will be sent home regarding ways to support children at home, including a visual calendar to show the days when the children are at home and in school
- For parents of children in Year 6 moving up to Year 7, there will also be some specific transition group sessions for some children either led by the SEMH team, or using the resources from them

Thanks to one of our very talented and generous parents, we have an additional resource this year which we hope will have a really positive impact in terms of transition. We have created a special virtual tour of the school to help children feel comfortable getting to know the or new classroom and spaces. They will be able to virtually walk into the building through the entrance they will use in September to their new year group. They will then be able to walk to their classroom, have a look around inside their classroom and also other parts of the school that they will use. A temporary link and a bit more information about this will be sent out in the July newsletter ready to be accessed over the summer.

Pooky Knightsmith

Another really good resource that I have used, and many teachers have accessed through recommendations from professionals coming into school, is the work by Pooky Knightsmith. On her website, she says of herself:

'I'm proudly autistic, with a PhD in Psychological Medicine from the Institute of Psychiatry, and a parent to neurodivergent children. I translate research into clear, practical strategies for schools and families—no jargon, just ideas you can use tomorrow.' [About - Dr Pooky Knightsmith](#)

She publishes many videos and presentations of talks she has done around supporting children, parents and teachers. A lot of her stuff is free to access although for some, you do need to sign up for a Patreon account, which is free and with other bit, there is a cost. You can also become a member to access everything, but the cost is relatively small (£3 a month).

Most of the presentations or videos come with supporting note that you can download. These can range from things such as 'Eating Difficulties in Neurodivergent Learners', 'When School Feels Impossible', 'Tantrum v Meltdown' and 'PDA Communication' are just a few.

In terms of **transition**, below is a link to slides and supporting notes from a presentation talk she has done for parents about supporting autistic children with the transition from primary school to secondary school. [Supporting Your Autistic Child Moving to Secondary School - Dr Pooky Knightsmith](#)

Making the Newsletter Work for You

I have now been writing the newsletters for our SEND families for nearly 2 years. I have had a small amount of feedback in this time, but I am very keen to make sure they are useful to as many of you as possible. Therefore, if you have any feedback, either positive, sharing what works well, or additionally, areas for improvement or suggestions as to what you would like, I would really appreciate it if you could take 10 minutes to complete the survey on the link below. The link will be sent out to parents separately as well.

<https://forms.gle/QV7kSAHshYFjjRQD6>

Activities and Events

Below are links to the Newcastle Local Offer and their events calendar for SEND activities.

[Activities SEND Local Offer | Children and Families Newcastle](#)
[Events Calendar | Children and Families Newcastle](#)

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School Website <https://www.westjesmondprimary.org.uk/web/>





Newcastle Special
Educational Needs and
Disabilities Information,
Advice and Support
Service

SENDIASS

0191 2116255

<https://www.newcastlesendiass.co.uk/>



Introducing our mascot

Meet **GiRTrood**, our mascot. She's a flying penguin who represents the amazing things young people can achieve. With the right opportunities, they can go beyond expectations.

The Local Offer helps promote opportunities for children and young people with SEND, so they can reach their potential.



[SEND local offer | Children and Families Newcastle](#)



[The Toby Henderson Trust | Autism charity providing advice & support in Northumberland](#)