

SEND Newsletter

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023 which is dedicated to special educational needs and disabilities. We hope you find this useful, if you have any suggestions of what you would like in future newsletters, please let Mrs Kane know.

At Burradon Community Primary School, we are proud of our 'open door' policy, so please do not hesitate to get in touch, if you have any concerns, queries or require further support from our team. You can make an appointment with the class teacher by phoning the school office or emailing the school. Our SEND Governor is Mrs Watts. For further information, please visit our dedicated SEND page on our school website where you will find the Local Offer, external links for charities or support websites.

Spotlight on Working Memory

Working memory is a part of the brain in which all new learning is processed first. So whatever your mind is thinking or processing right now is all happening in your working memory. Working memory can be viewed as a temporary storage area and processing plant for information. If the circumstances are right, then it can be committed to long-term memory. If the information is used frequently, thought about, reviewed and recapped, it switches to long term memory. This makes it more easily accessible.

An analogy of bookshelves to support the understanding of working memory: :

Imagine putting up a new – very small – bookshelf in the entrance hallway of a house. This bookshelf can only hold three to five books (depending on their thickness). Trying to put more books on the shelf will mean that some of them will fall off because the bookshelf is too small to hold any more (mirroring limited working memory capacity).

Here are some ways to support a child with their working memory:

*Play memory games such as memory matching, I went to the shops and bought... or Kim's game (see below).

Place different items in front of the child, let them take a really good look. Ask the child to close eyes, remove one of the items. Show the items back to the child, which item is missing?



*Use check lists – this can be post it notes in order to tick off or scrunch up once completed, use of visuals (pictures) or key word or phrases and pictures together.

*Be patient – practise, repeat and recall information frequently needed.

*Break down instructions into key steps – ask your child to repeat back.