

WellComm Speech, Language and Communication Screening Programme

As part of our continuing efforts to provide the best learning and development opportunities for the children at Dovedale Primary School we are focusing on ensuring that our children's speech, language and communication needs are addressed appropriately from the beginning of the school year.

In recent years we have worked closely with speech and language therapists and adopted the use of *WellComm* in our school. *WellComm* is a complete screening and intervention toolkit designed to support practitioners working with children aged 6 months to 6 years. Using the toolkit enables us to identify any areas of concern in each child's language, communication, and interaction development; and ensures that they will receive the appropriate intervention to enhance their learning and development in relation to their current needs.

The children are screened using a combination of techniques, observation and discussion with staff. Screening strategies involve asking the child to complete a variety of tasks using a picture book and various toy items. The screening takes 10-15 minutes and is fun and motivating for the children. The screening looks at the amount and type of language that the children are both 'using' (expressive language) and 'understanding' (receptive language).

At Dovedale this process is led by Mrs Claire Haymes SALT therapy Assistant and Mrs Judith Boyce, Inclusion LSA Speech and Language lead and involves the staff teams and children in each of our 4 EYFS classes. All staff involved are skilled in supporting children's Speech, Language and Communication needs and are experienced in undertaking the *WellComm* speech and language screening with children.

Every child in EYFS will be screened in the first few weeks of school to ensure any intervention required can be put in place as soon as possible.

If the screening shows that your child would benefit from intervention from a member of the school's Inclusion team, you will be informed of the targets they will be working on, so that you can also support your child at home. Intervention may be in small groups or on a 1:1 basis, need depending.

Targets are also given to the class teachers and opportunities to address these areas planned into Continuous Provision. This is a valuable opportunity for your children to be supported to develop their skills and for us to effectively nurture and support your children's early speech and language development.

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or contact Mrs Boyce or Mrs Milton directly.