



EAST RIDING
OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

Sensory & Physical Teaching Service (SaPTS)

Newsletter

Sensory and Physical Teaching Service (SaPTS) Newsletter January 2021

Happy New Year to you all. I think everyone was expecting this to be a new start and see the back of the Coronavirus and hopefully by the end of the year, if not sooner, we will.

The start of this term sees us in Lockdown 3 with many of you home teaching. SaPTS is continuing to support all your children both at home and in school.

As an essential service, we continue to visit education settings where pupils are being educated in order to meet the statutory needs of those with an Education, Health and Care Plan. For those at home with and EHCP we will provide remote support.

If your child does not have an EHCP we are still supporting but it may not be as frequently. We will be in touch through email, phone calls or remote sessions. As always, please do get in touch if you have concerns or queries.

We are still aiming to see all children this academic year whether it be a face-to-face visit or a virtual one. We ask you to continue to bear with us during this time.

HI Team News

Hello to all our children, young people and their families. We hope you are staying well throughout this challenging time and understand how difficult things will be for you, particularly if your child is taking part in on-line learning. If we have not been in touch with you for a while, please do not think we have forgotten you. With the current lockdown in place we are even more restricted to the number of pupils we can see in school and are having to prioritise a small number of pupils, these being those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who we would usually visit regularly (i.e. weekly/fortnightly). For those pupils within this group, but who are remaining at home during this current lockdown, your Teacher of the Deaf will be in contact to discuss how best to support your child. If your child is not in the 'regular' pupil category, we will endeavour to make contact with you as soon as we can and visit when the lockdown restrictions allow us to do so.

Government Guidelines have been widened so more children are entitled to a school place. Your child is entitled to attend school if they:

- Have an Education, Health and Care Plan
- Will be disadvantaged by learning from home – deaf children fit this criteria.

If you have any questions, concerns or worries about your child's hearing equipment, exemptions that may apply to them or home learning please know we are here to support you. Our technician is also available to help with radio aid issues.

You will have already received a copy of the guidance we have sent to schools about how best to support pupils with on-line learning and we have also produced guidance around providing our own remote sessions at home. This guidance will be provided if virtual sessions are delivered.

Due to the current restrictions, we are unable to carry out home visits. We are providing support by either telephone or remote 'virtual' sessions. The virtual sessions are proving to be very successful and allow us to have that all-important contact with you and your child.

VI Team News

The VI team are working in a range of different ways. We are arranging virtual parent training sessions for the summer term for parents of pupils from 0-25. Our habilitation officer is producing parent training on Independent living skills, which will be provided in a virtual way and offer parents the opportunities to share their experiences of issues with independence with our habilitation officer. We are maintaining contact with all pupils on caseload and visiting pupils in settings where the pupils are attending school. We are working closely with families and schools to support with the online learning process to ensure children with a visual impairment can access this new style of learning successfully.

PD Team News

The PD team continue to see priority pupils and provide training. We continue to deliver Moving & Handling training, Supporting Pupils with Motor Skills Difficulties training and Introduction to Handwriting training. We remain committed to providing physical support for our pupils and are doing this by keeping in touch with SENDCos and parents in addition to virtual pupil visits if appropriate. We are continuing to attend Annual Reviews and take on new referrals if they meet our threshold. We are maintaining our national links through virtual attendance at meetings for PD.Net and the National Handwriting Association.

Good news

We are very keen to hear from you about any 'good news' stories or special achievements. Has your child received a certificate from school, have they baked a lockdown cake, or have they produced a piece of art or other creation? Whatever their achievement, we would love to hear about it and with your permission include this in one of our future newsletters.



It is very important that we have up-to-date contact details for your child so if you have recently changed your phone number or email address it would be very helpful if you could let us know.

Please know we are here to support you and your child/young person. Although the support we can offer now may be limited we will do everything we can to help you and your child/young person at this difficult time.

Useful numbers / contacts

SaPTS – 01482 394000 option 5, option 1

SpecialistServices.HUB@eastriding.gov.uk

East Riding Audiology – 01482 623072

York Audiology – 01904 726344

SENDIASS- 01482 396469