



Welcome to
Mansfield SEND!
Your newsletter for
parents and carers of
children and young



Inside this issue:

Celebrating Neurodiversity
Celebration Week.

Links to information and
articles about the
government's SEND White
Paper

- ◇ What you need to know.
- ◇ How to respond.

On the back page

What's on in and around
Mansfield over the Easter
Holidays. Details and links
of events in and around
Mansfield.

Mansfield Send

Spring Term B

March 2026

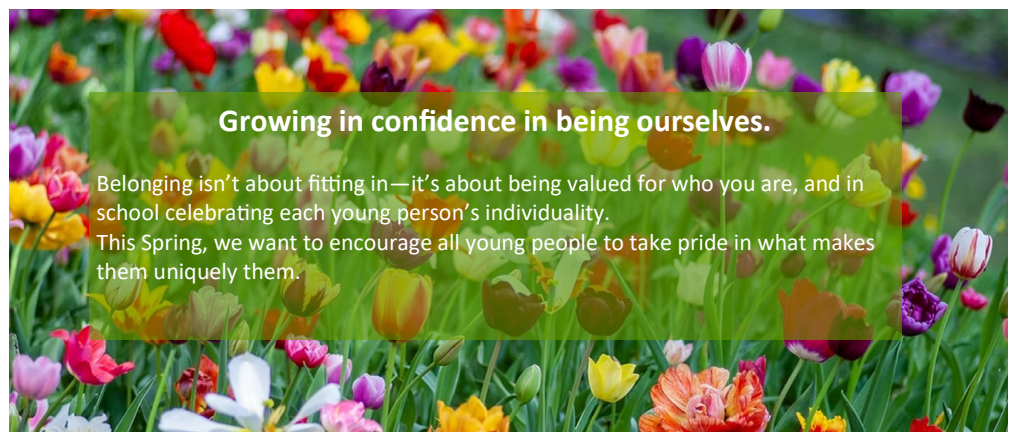


After what has felt like a very long and wet winter, it is lovely to move into Spring, and see some of the bulbs starting to flower. Hopefully things are feeling a bit lighter for everyone as the nights are drawing back out, and the weather is feeling warmer.

Last month, the government finally released the long awaited White Paper, looking at reforms to the SEND system. If any of you have tried to look at it online, there is a lot to wade through, and so we have found some links for easy reads and summaries to try and make understanding it all a bit easier. There are also links to help with responses to the consultation., as it is really important for your voices, as parents, to be heard.

Following on from Neurodiversity Celebration Week earlier in the month, it is lovely to be able to share some work from the children at Church Vale Primary School. Across the local authority, we see lots of schools embracing and celebrating differences and diversity, and it is lovely to have the opportunity to share some of that with you.

And finally, on the back page, we also have links to some of the SEND friendly activities going on over Easter in Mansfield.



Growing in confidence in being ourselves.

Belonging isn't about fitting in—it's about being valued for who you are, and in school celebrating each young person's individuality. This Spring, we want to encourage all young people to take pride in what makes them uniquely them.

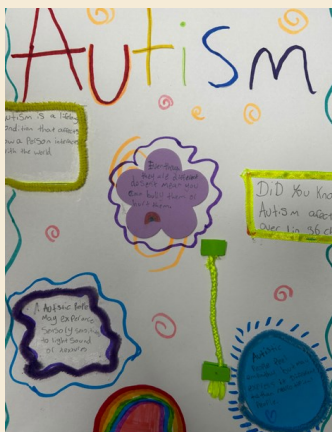
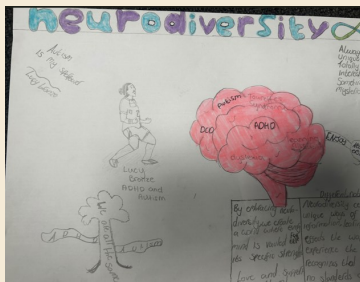
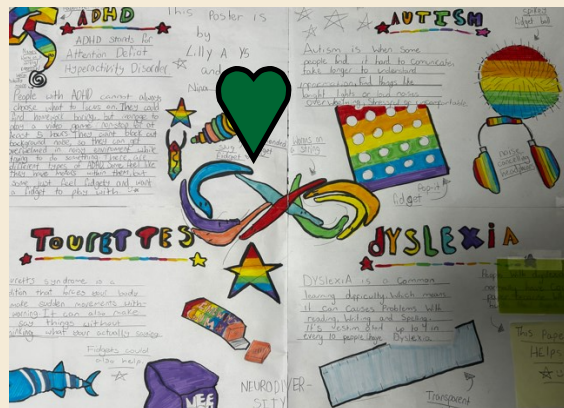
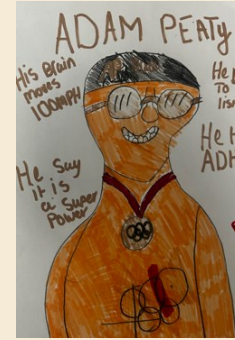
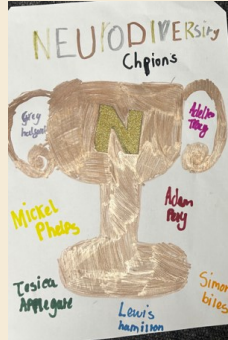
Celebrating Neurodiversity



Neurodiversity Celebration Week aims to transform how neurodiversity is perceived by providing the opportunity to recognise the many skills and talents of neurodivergent individuals.



Thank you to Church Vale Primary School for sharing the posters their pupils made during Neurodiversity Celebration week. We love them! Well done everyone.



Neurodiversity Celebration Week
March 16 - 20, 2024

Neurodiversity Celebration Week is a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences.

The SEND White Paper

What is the SEND white paper?

The **SEND White Paper** is called “**Every Child Achieving and Thriving**” and was published in February 2026. It is a government plan that explains how support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) will change in the future. It sets out what the government wants schools, local authorities, and services to do to make sure every child gets the help they need to learn and thrive.

What does it say?

In brief, this is what the White Paper says...

- The government wants better early support for children with additional needs.
- Schools will use a clearer, more consistent system to support children at different levels, starting with good classroom teaching and adding extra help if needed.
- Every child with SEND will have a new Individual Support Plan (ISP) that shows what support they need and how school will provide it.
- EHCPs will still exist, but mainly for children with the most complex needs. Other children will use ISPs instead.
- The aim is to make the SEND system simpler, fairer, and more consistent, no matter where a family lives.

What does that mean for young people and their families?

There are parts of the white paper that schools and families are welcoming, particularly around easier access to services, and better early support for young people with SEND. However, there are also concerns around changes to EHCP rights and assessments, and the means by which families can challenge decisions.

If you would like to find out more, the links below are a starting point...

[Brief overview of the Schools White Paper in England](#)

[Webinar on SEND reform proposals](#)

[Government publishes White Paper on SEND reform and invites people's views](#)

If you would like to respond to the consultation, you have until 18th May, and the link is below..

[SEND reform: putting children and young people first - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)



WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND MANSFIELD OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS?



There is plenty on at Mansfield Palace Theatre over Easter to keep you occupied, from an Easter pantomime, to an interactive story for under fives. Click on the link below for more details or to book.

[Page 1 - Events – Mansfield Palace Theatre](#)

For a day out in the countryside, Vicar Water Country Park offers fishing, café, play area, footpaths and cycle trails.



[Vicar Water Country Park | Newark & Sherwood District Council](#)

Sherwood Pines offers their Room on the Broom trail, as well as play areas, Go Ape, walking or cycling trails.



[Sherwood Pines | Forestry England](#)

At Sherwood Forest you can enter the 'Realm of Dragons' Easter Trail, as well as taking a tour with the Sherriff of Nottingham, or doing some Easter Crafts with the Forest Fae.

[Events - Sherwood Forest](#)



Events from March 28 – July 25 – White Post Farm

From Saturday 21st March—Sunday 19th April, join the BIG Easter trail at Rufford Abbey Country Park. Follow the trail, uncover hidden surprises, and enjoy a treat with every trail sheet. £3 a child. You could also have brunch with the Easter Bunny on 28th or 29th March, meet some furry or scaly friends on White Post Wednesdays (1st or 8th April) or have storytime with Belle on 9th April.



[Easter at Rufford - Rufford Abbey Country Park](#)