



SEND Newsletter

Spring 2026



How to get in touch

In the first instance, contact your child's class teacher.
If you need to contact the SENDCo, you can email: hbansback3.210@lgflmail.org

or phone the school office on 020 7525 9188 and ask for Helen Bansback



Welcome to this term's edition of our SEND newsletter produced for parents and carers of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) at DHJS.

It was really encouraging to hear the feedback from our Challenge Partners Review earlier this term. The team commented on how SEND pupils were fully engaged in learning. Here are some of the areas the reviewers praised:

- ❖ **Early & Swift Support:** A clear structure enables staff to raise any concerns, with SEND and pastoral teams working closely together.
- ❖ **Adaptive Teaching:** Teachers use "High Value" strategies, such as careful seating, "learning partners" to talk through ideas, and tools like math manipulatives and word banks to foster independence.
- ❖ **Assistive Technology:** The use of tech—like digital reading supports for *The Iron Man* and music composition tools like *Purple Mash*—ensures all pupils participate fully.
- ❖ **Specialist Provision:** The school was commended for sourcing its own Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy to provide expert care on-site.
- ❖ **Strong Partnerships:** Our Parent Cafés were highlighted as an excellent way for families to connect and have their voices heard.

The review also found that our disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND achieve outcomes above the national average, performing in line with all pupils nationally. You can read the whole report [here](#) on our website.

Please continue to share your feedback on areas of SEND you would find helpful for me to cover in Parent Café's or if you need advice or signposting about anything more specific for you or your child. Just drop me an email or speak to me in the Village playground, I am usually there most mornings and afternoons with the exception of Fridays.

Read on for the latest SEND reform updates, a short focus on ADHD, and a guide to how Clicker (assistive technology software) supports our pupils with SEND. We've also rounded up the best ways to access support for you and your child in school and the local area.

I wish you and your families a wonderful spring break and the children a well-deserved rest.

Very best wishes,

Helen



SEND Reform 2026: Keeping You in the Loop

You might have seen the news about the Government's new White Paper, *Every Child Achieving and Thriving*. These are big proposals for the future of SEND, and there's a public consultation running until May 18, 2026.

We know how important it is to feel secure about your child's support, so here is a quick guide on what this might mean for us at Dulwich Hamlet Junior School.

What does this mean if your child has an EHCP?

- **Your current plan is safe:** If your child already has an EHCP, it stays exactly as it is—it's still a legally binding document. No child in primary school will be moved to the new system until at least September 2030, and even then, it would usually happen when they move up to secondary school.
- **Going Digital:** Plans are set to become digital and easier to manage. This should make them much easier to update and take with you if you move house or change schools.
- **Your rights stay the same:** The SEND Tribunal isn't going anywhere. You'll still have the right to appeal decisions about assessments or school placements.

What about children on SEND Support?

- **More weight behind the support:** At the moment, SEND Support is managed through our school records. The new Individual Support Plan (ISP) will be a formal, legal document.
- **Working together:** For the first time, schools will have a formal duty to co-produce these digital plans with you. This means you'll be even more involved in deciding what support your child needs.
- **Experts on tap:** A new "Experts at Hand" service is being launched. The idea is to give more direct access to professionals such as Speech Therapists and Educational Psychologists *before* a child even needs an EHCP.
- **Support as standard:** The goal is for specialist help to be a normal part of the school day. As a school we feel that we are already investing in our SEND school offer at the SEND support level as well as for children on an EHCP. Hopefully any changes will continue to provide robust SEND support for all children who need it.

31 Key Dates for your Diary

- **Now – 18 May 2026:** The consultation is open! [It's a great time to share your views.](#)
- **September 2026:** We'll start seeing new national training for all our teachers.
- **September 2030:** The very earliest any existing EHCPs would start moving to the new system.



SEND Reform 2026: The Hamlet Response

- We will be strengthening SEND Support provision through consistent adaptive teaching, effective use of assistive technology for pupils with cognition and learning needs, upskilling support staff in key areas (dyslexia and speech and language), and continued investment in the pastoral team.
- Developing our SEND Learning Plans to improve recording, monitoring, and evaluation of provision in preparation for a transfer to a legal document which has been suggested.
- Continue to work in collaboration with in-school and external professionals to support all our SEND pupils as needed.



How do we ensure that children with ADHD make progress at Dulwich Hamlet?

At Dulwich Hamlet, our approach is to ensure that teachers and support staff are using High Value Strategies to support all our learners in class. These key adaptive teaching practices are based on supporting executive functioning skills, ensuring all children are able to engage with their learning and develop independence.

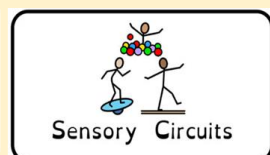
We have a number of children in the school diagnosed with ADHD. We are aware that small adjustments in the school environment and our approaches to learning can make a huge difference and help children to thrive.

High Value Strategies in the Classroom

To support executive functioning, we focus on making the "invisible" parts of learning more visible:

- **Brain Breaks:** We use short "movement breaks" to help reset the nervous system. This could be a quick stretch or a classroom errand.
- **Visual Timetables:** Knowing exactly what is coming next reduces anxiety and helps with transitions between subjects.
- **Chunking Tasks:** We break work into smaller, more manageable tasks.
- **Fidget Aids:** For many children, moving their hands actually helps their brain focus on the teacher's voice. (Please note fidget aids need to be agreed with the class teacher)

Some children need more targeted support and so timetabled movement breaks or sessions in the sensory room are arranged as part of their SEND provision.





Clicker – Assistive Technology to support writing, language and vocabulary in the classroom

We are excited to share how we use **Clicker** to support our pupils' literacy journeys. Clicker is a versatile tool designed to remove barriers to reading and writing, helping every child succeed independently.

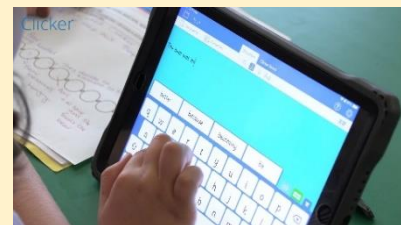
What is Clicker?

Clicker, developed by [Crick Software](#), is a specialised, assistive word processor designed to support primary school children with their reading and writing skills. It is widely used as a tool for "adaptive teaching" to help students of all abilities—including those with dyslexia, autism, or physical disabilities—work more independently.

Who can access Clicker at Dulwich Hamlet?

The class teacher will decide which children in the class may benefit from regular or occasional use of Clicker to support their writing.

- Children with SEND working below age-related expectations in writing
- Children with dyslexia
- Children who struggle to access topic vocabulary
- Children with speech and language difficulties
- Children who have English as an additional language



What does Clicker do?

Empowering Writing

Clicker provides "scaffolds" for writing, such as Sentence Sets for building phrases and Word Banks to encourage ambitious vocabulary. It also includes clever assistive tools:

- **Speech Feedback:** Reads sentences back so children can hear their own mistakes.
- **Predictor & Spell Checker:** Suggests words to help with spelling and fluency.
- **Voice Notes:** Allows children to record ideas orally before they start typing.

Interactive Reading

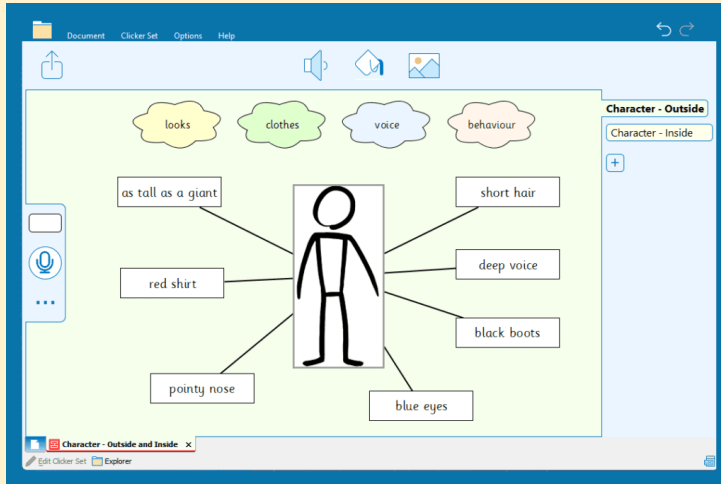
Children can access **Clicker Books** and **Decodable Stories** that read aloud, helping them engage with the curriculum regardless of their reading level.

Planning & Organising

Using the **Clicker Board**, students can create visual mind maps with pictures and recordings to organise their thoughts before they even begin to write.



Examples of Clicker resources that we use in school:



Mind mapping and organising ideas



Interactive reading



Word banks and sentence building



SEND Local Offer

You can find more useful information about our School SEND offer [here](#) or read our SEND policy [here](#).

You can also find information about your Local SEND offer here: [Southwark](#) & [Lambeth](#)

Southwark: Drop-ins & Events

Southwark services primarily run from **Sunshine House** and via the **Southwark Independent Voice (SIV)** forum.

- **SIAS Weekly Drop-in (Sunshine House):**
 - **When:** Every Thursday, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM (Term-time only).
 - **Where:** 27 Peckham Road, SE5 8UH.
 - **Details:** No appointment needed; first-come, first-served. Last entry at 4:30 PM.

- **SIV SEND Reforms Consultation:**
 - **Date:** Thursday, 23rd April 2026.
 - **Time:** 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
 - **Details:** A chance to hear about the latest local SEND changes and voice your concerns.
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- **Autism Support Team Coffee Mornings:**
 - **Dates:** Various sessions running throughout the 2025/26 academic year.
 - **Focus:** Practical strategies for post-diagnosis support. Check the Southwark Local Offer "Support Groups" page for the latest monthly location.



Lambeth: Coffee Mornings & Advice

Lambeth support is focused around We Are 336 (Brixton Road) and the Mary Sheridan Centre.

SEND & CWD (Children with Disabilities) Coffee Mornings:

When: 3rd Wednesday of every month (e.g., 15th April, 20th May, 17th June 2026).

Time: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM.

Where: We Are 336, 336 Brixton Road, SW9 7AA.

Contact Lambeth Fortnightly Drop-in:

When: Every other Friday, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM.

Where: Mary Sheridan Health Centre, SE11 4TH.

Details: Friendly, on-the-spot guidance for forms and advice for parents and families of children with SEND.

"Being a Parent" ADHD Course:

Dates: Starts Tuesday, 28th April 2026 (runs until 7th July).

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM.

Where: Hitherfield Children's Centre, SW16 2LW.

Details: A free 9-week course for parents of children with ADHD.

National Autistic Society

1st Friday of the month, 9.30 am to 11.30 am

Parents & Carers Coffee Morning. Join us at Carnegie Library for a free relaxed coffee morning with regular speakers. Meet other parents & carers of autistic people over a coffee and biscuits.

No diagnosis necessary. Free tea, coffee and biscuits.

Listen and chat to regular speakers. Find out what's going on in the world of autism in Lambeth and find out our plans for 2024-2025.

No registration needed. Please see **Book now** for more information or [email](#) us



Secondary transition support and advice:

Lambeth: "Ready for Secondary" Workshop

This workshop is run by the **Lambeth Autism Advisory Service (LAAS)** and is a key event for preparing children for the social and structural changes of secondary school.

- **Booking Link (Eventbrite):** [Enhanced Transition – Ready for Secondary - 19th May 2026](#)
- **Workshop Focus:** This session is specifically designed to give parents a "toolkit" for transition, including templates for transition books, strategies for managing new timetables, and tips for helping children navigate new social rules.

Southwark Secondary Transfer Drop-ins:

When: Every Thursday (Term-time), 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM.

Where: Sunshine House, SE5 8UH.

Best for: Face-to-face advice on transition paperwork and settling-in concerns.

Parent Café's coming up in the summer term

- ❖ Movement and sensory regulation in school
Monday 27th April @ 9 - 9:45
- ❖ Preparing children with SEND for secondary transition
Tuesday 16th June @ 9 - 9:45
- ❖ Transition support for children with SEND for the next academic year
Tuesday 30th June @ 9 – 9.45





Coming up in May...

We will be hosting [Parent Gym](#) on Friday mornings.

Parent Gym is a FREE 6-week programme designed by psychologists focused on sharing practical tips with other families in our community and equipping parents and carers to build a calmer, happier home.

The course will explore the following:

- 💬 Better communication (Chat)
- ♥ Strengthening bonds (Love)
- 🗑️ Setting fair boundaries (Behave)
- 🛏 Sleep & wellbeing (Care)
- 🌟 Encouraging curiosity (Discover)
- 🤝 Building a support network (Together)

The sessions last two hours and will be held here in school so that it is accessible for you to attend. They are not designed to be a lecture, but rather a small, supportive group of parents and carers sharing ideas and strategies to try at home. Many SEND parents attending at other primary schools have found the sessions on sleep, emotional regulation, and routines really useful.

The website has more information, so please find out more [here](#) and look out for the sign-up information as we start the summer term.

