



Autism Awareness

'Celebrating Difference'

Dear Parents/ Carers,

April is autism awareness month. With so many children being diagnosed with autism it is important for us as a school to promote peoples understanding.

Throughout this week the children will be participating in a range of activities learning about autism and celebrating difference, i.e. creating a video celebrating their talents and special interests, writing poetry and art projects.

Every day this week an information leaflet will be sent home explaining about the key areas of difficulties that people with autism may face and some strategies that can help to support.

We hope this will be an informative week for all involved.

Mrs Nikki Kennedy
(Head of Autism)

18.04.16



What is autism?

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects the way a person communicates and relates to the people and world around them. It is part of the 'autism spectrum' and is sometimes referred to as an autism spectrum disorder, or an ASD. The term 'spectrum' is used because, while all people with autism share three main areas of difficulty, their condition may affect them in very different ways. Some are able to live relatively independent lives; others may require a lifetime of specialist support. The three main areas of difficulty which all people with autism share are known as the 'triad of impairments'. The following areas are affected, social imagination (also known as inflexibility of thought), social communication and social understanding. In addition many people on the autism spectrum experience some form of sensory processing difficulties.

People with autism have said that the world to them is a mass of people, places and events which they struggle to make sense of, which can cause them considerable stress and anxiety. In particular, understanding and relating to other people and taking part in everyday family and social life may be harder for them. Many people appear to know, intuitively, how to communicate and interact with each other, while people with autism might find this particularly difficult.