

SEND NEWSLETTER



WHO WE ARE

Hello! We are Michael Syddall School's new SENCOs (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators) and are working together as a team to support and serve the families in our school community. We will be continuing to improve and expand our offer so every child feels supported and thrives in their time at our school. We are both experienced teachers with a passion for SEN and look forward to this next chapter for our school. Watch this space...



Mrs Richardson and Miss Robinson



Support Groups and local charities

Home Start Richmond

Home Start are a charity that helps families with young children. Their friendly and caring volunteers understand the joys, frustrations and challenges of bringing up children. A volunteer visits a family at home once a week for 2-3 hours offering time, friendship, support, encouragement and practical help for as long as is needed.

You can contact Home-Start Richmondshire yourself or you can be referred by a professional person or organisation. Their Co-ordinators will contact you and visit you to give you more information about Home-Start Richmondshire and find out how they may be able to help you.



A few reminders

Your child's teacher is your first point of contact if you have any concerns. If you would like to speak to a SENDCO, you can email the main office (admin@michael-syddall.n-yorks.sch.uk) and a member of the team will contact you in due course.



Parent coffee morning

We will be hosting an informal coffee morning for parents. This is an opportunity to speak to Mrs Richardson and Miss Robinson, meet other parents and share experiences, tips and strategies.

Our first coffee morning will provide a relaxed, low-pressure environment for you to introduce yourself and any concerns you have in regard to your child/ren. This coffee morning is open to all parents not just those with SEND children. We hope to create a vital support network for parents who often face similar challenges and emotional demands.

Friday 23rd January 2026
8.45-9.45



LOCAL ACTIVITIES



Pendragon Multi-sensory Centre Northallerton

We have some wonderful places and opportunities specifically for SEND children in our area.

Pendragon is a light, modern multi-sensory centre in Northallerton. The centre offers a safe environment and is fully padded, visitors can enjoy a colourful experience with a giant soft slide, interactive walls and floors, a ball pool, an infinity hut, a waterbed, bubble tubes and the very latest projection, lights and music alongside many smaller items.



Savoy Cinema Catterick

Supportive screening is their dedicated autism-friendly show. Every Sunday morning at 10am they show a carefully selected U or PG-rated film in conditions designed to make it more accessible for those with additional needs.



During these screenings the auditorium lights remain on at a low level, and the volume of the film's soundtrack is reduced. It is fine for customers to make a little noise, stand up, or take a break during the film.

Colburn Community Sensory Room

The sensory haven is designed to provide a soothing, stimulating environment for individuals with sensory processing needs. Equipped with a variety of sensory experiences including lights, textures, sounds and interactive displays.



Catterick Leisure Centre SEN Sessions

Their SEN swimming sessions are specialized swimming sessions designed for individuals with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). These sessions aim to provide a supportive and inclusive environment where participants can develop their swimming skills and build confidence in the water. Their centre offers a tailored session which includes no music, separate changing facilities and the use of floats and toys, to accommodate the needs of those with sensory sensitivities.

DISCLAIMER: THE RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED ARE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY.

AN AUTISM-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS

TIPS FOR A CALM, HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON!



1. Keep routines steady

Where possible, try to keep daily routines—like mealtimes and bedtimes—consistent.



2. Use visual supports

A visual calendar or social story can help your child understand what will happen and when. Clear, visual information can make the festive period feel more predictable.

3. Introduce decorations gradually

Rather than transforming the home or classroom all at once, try adding decorations slowly.

4. Be mindful of sensory sensitivities

Christmas can be full of noise, lights, and new smells. Consider quieter spaces, soft lighting, or familiar sensory toys to help your child feel calm and safe.

5. Prepare for gift giving

If surprises can be stressful, show your child what gifts they'll receive ahead of time, or use clear wrapping so they can see what's inside.

6. Offer familiar foods

Alongside festive treats, include some of your child's favourite familiar foods so they can enjoy mealtimes without worry.

7. Manage social events gently

Let your child know who they will see, how long visits will last, and where they can go for quiet time if needed.

8. Allow time to rest and recharge

After busy days, plan quiet recovery time at home to help your child (and the whole family!) unwind.

