



IncludEd

THE COMPASS INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

FAMILY EDITION

ISSUE 2 – SPRING 2025

Hello and Welcome to the IncludEd Family newsletter!

For us, a great school is one where every child is supported to achieve, belong, and prepare for a future in which they contribute to society. In this newsletter, we will tell you about some of the great work happening in schools across Compass to develop our inclusive teaching and raise awareness. We will also share links to activities, events, and support in your local area.

Partnership with parents and carers is vital, and we are delighted to share an article written by one of our parents in this edition. If you want to contribute to our next newsletter, contact us!

Thank you for being so supportive. We can provide the very best for children through strong, connected communities.

MEET YOUR SENCO



**Hello, my
name is
Michelle
Kutchesfahani**

I have been a teacher for 28 years. After starting my career in the classroom, I went on to train as a specialist dyslexia teacher and later qualified as an assessor. I joined Horn Park in 2014 and, for the past three years, have extended my role to SENCO.

If you feel your child may need additional support or if you would like advice on how best to support their needs, please speak with your child's teacher. They will pass any concerns on to me. I will do my best to answer your questions, offer guidance and support, or connect you with relevant external agencies.

You can contact me via the school's email address:
hornpark@compassps.uk

SPOTLIGHT

ON SUCCESS

Siblings and grandparents work at Willow Dene

At Willow Dene, children and their families are at the centre of everything we do. We have been developing our work with the wider family over the last couple of years, with our most recent focus being on siblings and grandparents/family elders.

We have developed a range of initiatives to engage these family members in the school life of the child who attends our school, including projects and competitions, teenage sibling and younger sibling events, grandparents stay and play, workshops and coffee mornings.

Our work is being recognised nationally and internationally by charities, journalists and academics. We are very proud of this work and continue to see the benefits of working closely with our families to achieve the very best outcomes for our children, young people and their families.

5 A DAY...

The "Five a Day" strategies support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) as well as all learners. One of these strategies is scaffolding.

Scaffolding refers to the support provided to children as they learn new concepts. This support is gradually withdrawn as children gain confidence and capability. Scaffolding strategies help children develop skills and independence.

At Deansfield, teachers offer various tools, such as writing frames and word banks, to assist students at a whole-class level. Teaching Assistants, in collaboration with SENCO Julie Huggett, foster children's independence by encouraging them to utilise available resources and providing minimal assistance initially, such as a clue or prompt, before correcting and supplying the answer.

A Deansfield Governor shared, "...in every class it was difficult to identify the pupils with SEND, as they were so well integrated into the class. Even when a Teaching Assistant was sitting at a table working with a group, it was hard to notice, as all pupils were engaged in the same task. It was simply that some required a bit more help than others."

At John Ray Junior School, teachers are promoting writing independence through tools like 'memory books' that aid students' retrieval of concepts. They also employ 'Colourful Semantics' to teach sentence structure, enabling children to compose simple sentences confidently.

PARENT FORUM

TIPS TO SUPPORT PARENTS

By Christine, a Compass parent

The Power of Social Stories

For parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), life often feels like an unpredictable game of Jumanji—you never know what challenge will come next. One of the most daunting transitions? Returning to school after a break. Dreading the post-holiday struggle, I introduced my son to a social story—a simple, structured narrative designed to prepare him for upcoming events. I read it to him when he was calm, reinforcing what to expect. The difference was remarkable. To my relief, that first morning back at school was noticeably smoother. He was calmer, more prepared, and significantly less anxious. Now, social stories are my go-to strategy. Whether I use an app like Widget or create personalised versions with pictures of him engaged in specific activities, these narratives provide structure and reassurance. Meltdowns still happen—such is the reality of SEND parenting—but even in those tough moments, calmly repeating key phrases from the story helps him process and self-regulate. I can actually see the tension lift. For any parent struggling with transitions and unpredictability, social stories might just be the game-changer you've been searching for. Sometimes, the simplest tools make the biggest difference.

There is a free social stories app that parents might like to try available from the University of Bath [Download and get started with the Stories Online For Autism \(SOFA\) app](#)



OUT & ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY

What is happening for children with SEND in and around Greenwich?



Sensory Experience – LUSH - [Sensory Experience at LUSH Lakeside Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)



The Glades - Sensory Borrow Backpacks – [Enhancing the Shopping Experience: Sensory Borrow Backpacks at The Glades - The Glades](#)



Royal Observatory - [Audio Universe: Tour of the Solar System | Royal Museums Greenwich](#)



Horniman Museum – Spring Fair - [Horniman Spring Fair - Horniman Museum and Gardens](#)



A range of shows and experiences at Tramshed - [What's On -Tramshed](#)



SEN Sessions at Gravity - [Gravity SEN Sessions | Tailored Active Fun for Special Needs](#)



For Parents/Carers – Greenwich Carers Voices Choir - [About 5 — Carers Social Group, Greenwich](#)



Easter Crafternoon – Woolwich Works - [Crafternoon: Easter Special | Woolwich Works](#)



The Amazing Bubble Man – Woolwich Works – Free carer/companion ticket - [The Amazing Bubble Man | Woolwich Works](#)



Autistic Inclusive Meets - [Meet Ups | AIM UK](#)