





SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE THIRTY SIX
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You can find coronavirus information including FAQ's and useful homeschooling resources for parents, teachers and SENCOs on the Swindon Local Offer by [clicking here](#).

Below are a few examples of social and contact stories that are currently available on the homeschooling resources page:

- [Coronavirus](#) - A book for children aged 5-9 A free information book explaining the coronavirus to children. 
- [Swindon Speech and language therapy](#) - Resources for specific activities to do at home. 
- [Coronavirus social story](#) - Coronavirus social story for children (ease their anxiety). 

To see more helpful resources please [click here](#). 

SEND Service contact details

The SEND Service aim to provide you with excellent customer service and we're committed to getting back to you within 48-72 hours. To speak to a member of staff, please call 07824 868353 or 07971 715864 (telephone lines are open Monday to Thursday 8-5 and 8-4.30 Friday) or email SENAT@swindon.gov.uk.

Good Practice and Positive Feedback

Swindon Borough Council (SBC) values the importance of any positive feedback from the customers we serve as well as celebrating examples of best practice in the local area. The feedback provided by Rebecca Fidan, SENCO at Commonweal School, show the positive impact that settings have had on the lives of children, young people and families during these unprecedented times.

Rebecca noted, "(We) are very proud of our students, not only have they adjusted to a completely different way of learning, but they have also produced some excellent work during this very difficult and stressful time. We, at Commonweal, have continued to communicate with our students and their parents throughout lockdown. This has enabled us to support them in their learning either online or in school. Support has taken the form of phone calls, video calls, house calls and face to face at school.

Our students have risen to the challenge admirably. We are all looking forward to welcoming them back full time into school.

Some of our parents have commented:

"I would like to comment that the SENCO and the SPLD coordinator have been very supportive of my son during this difficult period and have kept in contact with my son to check up on how he is doing, and when he was finding everything difficult arrangements were put in place so he could come into school and get the extra support that he required."

"I would just like to comment how well informed I have been whilst in lockdown. My son had great support. To begin with he was doing well with his study at home with our support and the SPLD coordinator ringing him. A couple of weeks ago I informed her that now me and my partner are working my son has lost his way with his schoolwork. She has called my son more regularly and we have now got him back at work 3 days a week with the key worker children which he is happy with. So we are very grateful."

"My opinion is that as it was a state of emergency when we all went into lock down no one knew what was happening but Commonweal School put all into place to support the pupils and sort out the vouchers. We both have been supplied and supported to meet our needs and everyone has pulled together."

"The weekly welfare call from my son's key worker has made a huge difference during the last few months. For both myself and for my son. Being able to discuss concerns regarding the amount of school work, extra support with certain subjects and enabling contact with certain teachers which has resulted in some one : one sessions has been invaluable."