

January 2025

JCT Newsletter

Communication is everyone's business.

Welcome to our January Newsletter

Happy new year and welcome to the first JCT newsletter of 2025!

In this newsletter we are going to focus on learning English as an additional language [EAL], which is a subject we always receive lots of questions about.

If you would like to learn more about including children and young people who are learning EAL and supporting them to make progress, we **highly recommend signing up for an Inclusive EAL workshop** - information on the next page.

We have another jam-packed schedule of workshops available this term, with a few new additions! We hope to see you at one of them soon.

Paul, Alison, Aimee, Moira and Jos

The JCT Team



What is English as an additional language (EAL)?

'A pupil's first language is defined as any language other than English that a child was exposed to during early development and continues to be exposed to in the home or community.' DfE 2016

Get in touch

E-mail: inspirehf@lbhf.gov.uk

Visit our website:
lbhfinspirehub.com



Upcoming Workshops this half term

Understanding Echolalia

Wednesday 12th February - 3:30 - 5:00pm

Communication For All - Embracing Different Communication Methods

Tuesday 28th January - 3:30 - 4:15pm

Communication 4 All: Enabling Interactions for Children with Communication Differences

Thursday 13th February - 3:30 - 4:30pm

Understanding Spoken Language (Primary)

Wednesday 29th January - 3:30 - 4:15pm

Enabling Learning Environments - Primary

Thursday 30th January - 3:30 - 4:15pm

Enabling Learning Environments - EYFS

Thursday 6th February - 3:30 - 4:15pm

Promoting Oracy in the Classroom - Primary

Monday 3rd February - 3:40 - 4:40pm

Talking to Parents and Caregivers about SLCN

Tuesday 11th February - 3:30 - 4:15pm

Inclusive EAL (EYFS)

Wednesday 22nd January - 8:15 - 9:15pm

Wednesday 5th February - 4:00 - 5:00pm

Inclusive EAL and Progress Tracking (Primary)

Monday 27th January - 3:40 - 4:40pm

Monday 10th February - 3:40 - 4:40pm

Wednesday 12th February - 3:40 - 4:40pm

Enabling Learning Environments - Secondary

Wednesday 5th February - 3:30 - 4:15pm

Understanding Spoken Language - Secondary

Thursday 30th January - 8:30 - 9:15am

Strategies to Support SLCN in the Classroom - Secondary

Wednesday 5th February - 8:30 - 9:15am



Workshops of the month

Inclusive EAL and Progress Tracking

Inclusion will allow children to develop their English language proficiency without detracting from their full learning experience and all that the school has to offer. The session will:

- Share strategies/ideas to understand and include EAL children in accessing learning;
- Explore ways to support communication with EAL families;
- Introduce the Bell Foundation tracker which allows you to assess and monitor EAL children’s English acquisition. [The tracker provides specific strategies to suit all levels of English acquisition.]



Book here

The importance of home language

Maintaining a child’s home language is **vital** for their education and it also helps them to retain their own culture and identity as this language has been passed down from one generation to the next.

A child’s home language provides a firm foundation on which they can build upon to acquire English language skills. Research proves that children with well-developed home language skills acquire additional languages more quickly. Children who do not continue to develop their home language may have trouble with their English language skills.

Please remind parents & caregivers to speak in their home language at home

In the Classroom

Oral language is the first encounter everyone has with a language. Therefore, every task, where possible should allow the EAL child to discuss their ideas using their home language or the English they have learnt so far. This will depend on where they are in their learning journey.

Bilingualism or multilingualism is something that should be celebrated

- It increases cognitive ability and allows the brain to stay alert and active.
- Knowing more than one language allows the individual to engage in more opportunities: locally and globally.
- It allows the learner to be connected to their cultural identity and gives the child a sense of belonging



Resource of the month

Here is a useful guide for parents and caregivers all about learning English as an additional language. You could share this with families or use it to inform conversations with them.

Home- Language- Guide-Parents- Caregivers.pdf

Do you have any feedback or requests for future newsletters? Is there an area of speech, language and communication you would like to learn more about? Perhaps you have some questions you’d like answered... Let us know here:

