



National Teaching School
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National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Ludwick Nursery School
Holwell Road
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire
AL7 3RP
Tel: 01707 323693
Fax: 01707 348091
Email: admin@ludwick.herts.sch.uk



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LUDWICK NURSERY SCHOOL ENRICHMENT GROUP

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share some important information with you about changes to the funding for our Enrichment group.

As you may be aware, this group has offered specialist speech and language provision for children across Hertfordshire for forty years, in fact we had plans to celebrate our 40th birthday prior to the arrival of Covid!

There are two strands to the support that this group received:

1. Funding for specialist staff in school (3 staff to 10 children)
2. Input from a Speech and Language therapist for 1.5 days a week.
3. The funding for this group has been under threat for some years now, and I am sorry to say that despite making a complaint to Herts County Council (Simon Newland Operations Director, Education Children's Services) for this to continue, a decision was made at School's Forum in March 2020 that this funding should cease from this academic year. This decision was based on the provision not being equitable to all Hertfordshire children. As you can imagine this was a bitter disappointment to the Ludwick community. Our governors decided that we should continue to offer this group to your children for this academic year 2020 - 2021 as many of you by this stage had already been signposted to us. This group is now being funded through the school's own budget. At this point we did not have any information about changes to the Speech and Language Therapy offer (SALT).

A few weeks ago, I received an email from the Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust, informing me that they are no longer able to provide SALT support to us as HCC (who partly commission the SALT Service) no longer deem the Enrichment Group to be a specialist provision (shown by their decision to remove funding) and, therefore, the service is unable to provide specialist input that differs from SALT provision in other settings. This is another bitter disappointment to us. However, as a gesture of goodwill the SALT Service have offered us some transitional visits to support us with setting targets for your children.

Please be reassured that we remain committed to your child's needs. We will continue to offer intensive support through this small group and will be working closely with SALT to ensure your child receives the best support we can offer. We are well experienced and successful in making applications for education, health and care plans if these are needed and other types of support.

I hope that you feel we are offering the best that we can for your child and trust that you will support us through these challenging times. At Ludwick we are always positive and work hard to find solutions to challenges working for the best outcomes for our children and families.

Kind regards,

Mrs Helen Ackerman
Headteacher

