Yorkshire Rose Dyslexia

Edition 1
September 2026

YRD Newsletter

September 2026 – Edition 1

IN THIS ISSUE

– Welcome from Yorkshire Rose Dyslexia
01 SEND Reform News
02 Dyslexia Awareness Month – October
03 Newsletters, Reports, Articles
04 More Events & Recordings
05 Resources & Offers
06 Dyslexia Stories
07 . . . and finally
– Become a Member

Yorkshire Dyslexia Festival

Saturday 3rd October 2026

Pudsey Civic Hall · Free entry

Check the programme and book tickets:
yorkshiredyslexiafestival.co.uk

WELCOME FROM YORKSHIRE ROSE DYSLEXIA

Supporting dyslexics and their families

At Yorkshire Rose Dyslexia, we believe in a dyslexic-friendly society that enables all neurodiverse persons of all ages to reach their full potential.

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter: news, events, resources and stories from across the dyslexia community, gathered in one place.

How we can help

Our Helpline

We operate a helpline service run by volunteers. Please be considerate when calling, our helpliners are volunteers and some have full time jobs but give what time they can to help.

Read more about our helpline →

Tutors & Assessors Directory

Have a look at our Tutors & Assessors Directory to find a specialist close to you. If you are a YRD Professional Member and hold a recognised dyslexia/SpLD qualification, you can also create a public profile on the directory.

Find a tutor or assessor →

Touch Typing at School

We support schools implementing touch typing to help their pupils in class, with homework & exam access. Touch typing helps memory, reading, writing, spelling, confidence and more.

Touch typing for schools →

Touch Typing at Home

We think typing by touch is one of the most valuable skills for dyslexics. Help your child to learn at home or sign up for an online tutored course, in the holidays, in term time or both.

Touch typing at home →

YRD events and training

Saturday 3rd October 2026

Yorkshire Dyslexia Festival

The Yorkshire Dyslexia Festival is back at the Pudsey Civic Hall. Free entry – check the programme and book your tickets.

yorkshiredyslexiafestival.co.uk →

All year

Events, webinars and training

Explore our event calendar to see our upcoming events, webinars, and other activities in the dyslexia community.

See our events calendar →

01

SEND Reform News

Special Needs Jungle

The Unacceptable Truth: 20 SEND legal rights at risk from the Government's SEND reforms

. . . and many more articles at Special Needs Jungle.

→ Special Needs Jungle - News, resources & informed opinion about Special Educational Needs specialneedsjungle.com

Dyscalculia Network

What do you want to see change?



Our apologies for the delay in sharing our SEND Consultation response.

You can read about our key concerns and recommendations here:

→ Dyscalculia Network SEND consultation response
dyscalculianetwork.com

IPSEA

SEND Tribunal pilot for section I only appeals registered from 17 August 2026

The SEND Tribunal is going to case manage appeals which are only about placement differently.

What you need to know for section I only appeals:

- Hearing dates will not be included in the initial case directions sent out on registration.
- After the bundle deadline, the SEND Tribunal will respond to any SEND7 Request for change forms (earlier responses will only be in exceptional circumstances) and consider if the appeal is ready to be heard.
- If the appeal is ready to be heard, it will be listed for the next available hearing date and/or a JADR hearing.

- If the appeal is not ready at that point, the SEND Tribunal will set further directions. This may include a revised timetable or action relating to non-compliance.

IPSEA

16,000 children are now educated otherwise than in school



That is a 38.8% rise in a single year and behind every number is a child whose individual needs cannot be appropriately supported in a school setting.

Families with children on EOTIS packages often face extraordinary challenges - many are living with severe anxiety, complex mental health needs or significant sensory differences.

Every child deserves legal protection, wherever they are educated.

You can read more in our article 'IPSEA manifesto for SEND reform' on our website.

→ Read the full blog ipsea.org.uk

→ IPSEA manifesto for SEND reform

The SENDcast

Where are specific learning

difficulties in the SEND reforms?

with Louise Selby and Janet Goring

The SEND reforms have generated a lot of discussion – but one significant gap has gone largely unnoticed. Where do specific learning difficulties fit in?

Dale is joined by Louise Selby, a dyslexia specialist, and Janet Goring, an SpLD specialist, for a lively and at times eye-opening conversation about what the shift from four broad areas of need to five areas of development could mean for children with SpLD.

02

Dyslexia Awareness Month – October

British Dyslexia Association

Dyslexia Awareness Week 2026 – Dyslexia in real life: At work

5 – 11 October



We're pleased to announce the theme for Dyslexia Awareness Week 2026 – Dyslexia in real life: At work. Running from 5 to 11 October, the week will focus on dyslexic adults and their experiences at work, looking at how recruitment, communication, workplace systems, management and access to adjustments can affect dyslexic employees.

Dyslexia is often associated with school, reading and spelling, but it is lifelong and can affect many aspects of working life, from applying for jobs and managing workloads to developing and progressing in a career. Dyslexic employees bring valuable skills and different ways of thinking to the workplace, but when workplaces are not designed with different ways of thinking in mind, they can create unnecessary barriers to success.

Throughout the week, we will share new research, lived experiences and practical guidance for employers, managers and employees, to help build understanding and encourage workplaces where dyslexic people can thrive.

There will also be resources for schools and educators!

In the meantime, download our education pack to start planning your assembly, or join one of our upcoming webinars, delivered in partnership with organisations that share our drive for a dyslexia-friendly society.

Schools pack

At the heart of the resource is a simple message: we all have different minds and different ways of doing things, and a tool or adjustment is not an unfair advantage. It helps a person take part, learn and show what they can do.

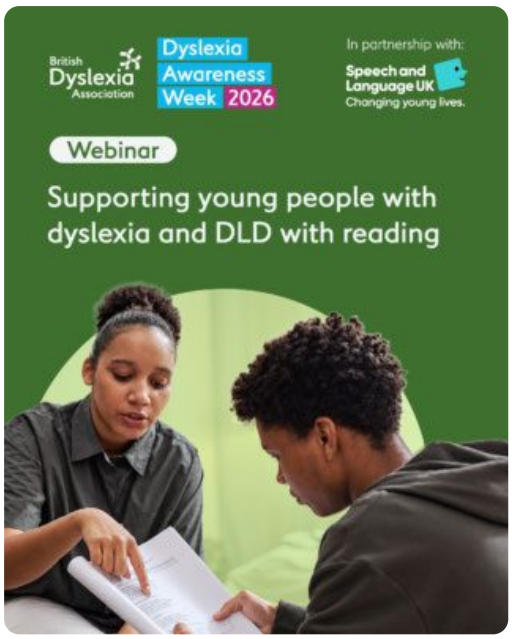
Follow us on social media for more facts, stories, practical tips.

→ Download the pack cdn.bdadyslexia.org.uk

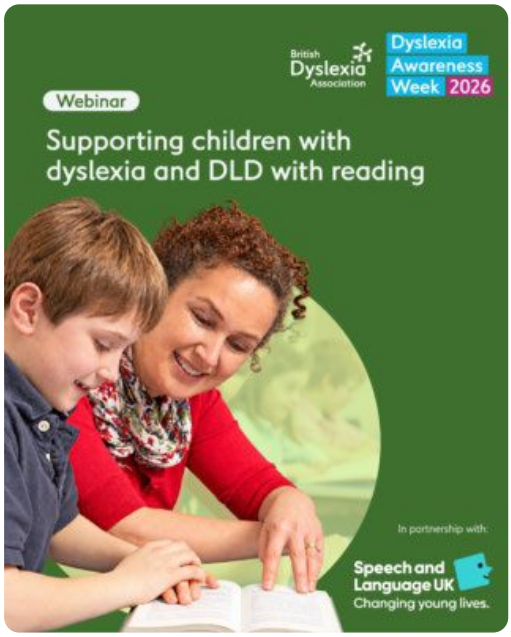
→ Download the PowerPoint presentation cdn.bdadyslexia.org.uk

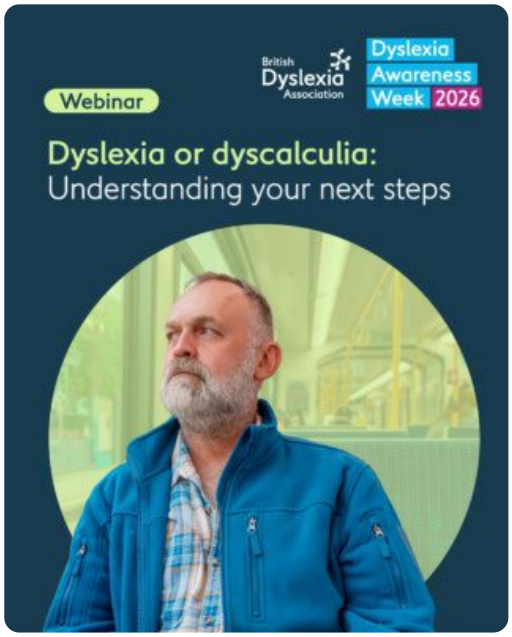
British Dyslexia Association

Free webinars









Monday 5 October, 3.30 – 4.15pm

Reading unlocked: Dyslexia and DLD: KS3 teachers and school staff

Find out more and register →

Tuesday 6 October, 1.00 – 2.00pm

Dyslexia at work: practical tips to help you succeed

Find out more and register →

Wednesday 7 October, 7.00 – 8.00pm

Dyslexia or dyscalculia: understanding your next steps

Find out more and register →

Thursday 8 October, 3.30 – 4.30pm

Reading unlocked: Dyslexia and DLD: Teaching assistants and reading volunteers

Find out more and register →

03

Newsletters, Reports, Articles

Special Needs Jungle

Numerous new articles



News, resources & informed opinion about Special Educational Needs . . .

APPG for Dyslexia, Autism and ADHD

Joint Meeting: Neurodivergent Young People and Mental Health

The APPGs for Dyslexia, Autism and ADHD held their first joint meeting to explore the relationship between neurodivergence and mental health in children and young people. Chaired by Juliet Campbell MP, the meeting brought together parliamentarians, charities, experts and people with lived experience to consider how better support across education, health and society could improve outcomes.

Opening the meeting, Juliet Campbell MP explained that the three APPGs had come together because of the significant overlap between dyslexia, ADHD and autism. She emphasised that poor mental health should not be seen as an inevitable consequence

of neurodivergence, but often results from systems that fail to identify, understand and support children and young people early enough.

Key conclusions

There was broad consensus that improving outcomes for neurodivergent children and young people requires:

- Earlier identification and intervention.
- Better-informed schools and teachers through improved training and access to specialist expertise.
- Timely access to appropriate mental health and wider support services.
- Greater collaboration across education, health and employment.
- A more joined-up approach to neurodiversity that recognises the overlap between conditions while responding to individual needs.
- Continued involvement of people with lived experience in shaping policy and services.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment from the three APPGs to continue working collaboratively to influence Government policy and improve outcomes for neurodivergent children and young people.

→ Full details at July 2026 - APPG for Dyslexia, Autism and ADHD
bdadyslexia.org.uk

British Dyslexia Association

Reading for Pleasure



This is a House of Commons committee report, with recommendations to government. The Government had two months to respond.

The BDA were pleased to contribute to this Education Select Committee's consultation and welcome the publication of its report and recommendations.

CEO, Ellen Broome, gave evidence on the importance of reading for pleasure for children with dyslexia, highlighting the barriers many face:

> "They have quite a heavy backpack of educational failure, or feelings of failure, embarrassment and stigma around their reading."

Every child deserves the opportunity to discover the joy of reading. We hope these recommendations help drive meaningful change and create more inclusive reading experiences for all.

Tes

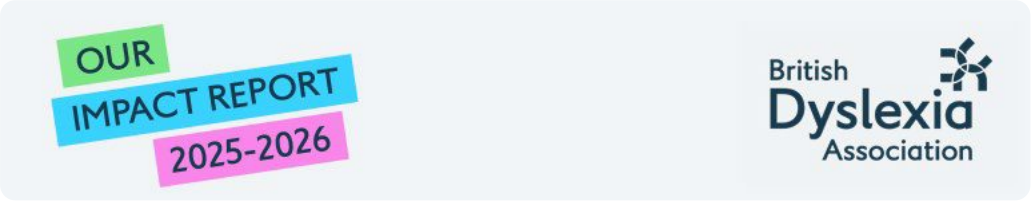
Does the GCSE system set up

students to fail English and maths?

Another year of declining proportions of resit students achieving a grade 4 in maths and English has resulted in much discussion about whether young people are being set up to fail – and whether a grade 4 really is necessary for future work.

British Dyslexia Association

Together, we're making a difference



Every day, dyslexic people face barriers to education, work and everyday life. Together with our community, volunteers, supporters and partners, we're creating a more dyslexia-inclusive UK by supporting individuals and families, equipping professionals and influencing the policies and systems that affect millions of dyslexic people.

→ See our mini-impact report to discover the difference we're making

---

Dr Helen Ross

School & Beyond: Supporting Dyslexic and Neurodivergent Girls' Next Moves

Consultant & Researcher | Expert SEN & Dyslexia Advisor | Churchill Fellow 2025



I am chuffed to bits that my Churchill Fellowship report is out.

My Fellowship took me across Australia and the USA, where I explored how we can better support dyslexic and neurodivergent girls and young women as they move through education and into further study, training and employment.

The report considers what helps young people to develop the confidence, agency and practical skills they need for these transitions. It also highlights the importance of beginning this work early, listening properly to young people and recognising that successful transitions depend upon the environments around them, not simply upon the individual.

I have drawn together learning for schools, colleges, universities, employers, families and policymakers, with recommendations ranging from changes that can be made immediately to the longer-term structural reform that is still needed.

I am enormously grateful to everyone who shared their knowledge, experiences and time with me. The generosity and honesty of the young people, families, educators, researchers and professionals I met made this work possible.

I would love to hear your thoughts and to connect with others working to improve transitions and opportunities for neurodivergent young people.

→ Supporting Dyslexic and Neurodivergent Girls' Next Moves - The Churchill Fellowship churchillfellowship.org

AT Superstore

Dyslexia Support Doesn't Have to Cost the Earth

In our blog, Dyslexia Specialist Dr Helen Ross breaks down some simple, practical ways to help pupils with reading, writing and organising, without needing a big budget.

She's also put together a free downloadable guide: "The School's Guide to Dyslexia" (which you'll find linked in the blog.)

→ Read the blog and grab your free guide

→ Dyslexia And Tech In Your Class - Assistive Technology Superstore
atsuperstore.com

British Dyslexia Association

Dyslexic young people say school failed to prepare them for life after education with only half saying that teachers understand dyslexia



With more than one million young people in the UK currently not in education, employment or training (NEET), new British Dyslexia Association research finds late diagnosis and poor support at school are pushing dyslexic young people out of education, training and work.

The report, supported by Ryman, identifies a chain reaction: late or missed diagnosis leads to poor support in school, driving disengagement and lower attainment. This damages confidence,

narrows the routes into further education, training and employment, and leaves many young people at greater risk of becoming NEET.

Being NEET describes a young person's current situation in relation to education, employment and training, but not necessarily how they see themselves. Many do not identify as 'NEET', instead seeing themselves as looking for work, between jobs or courses, or working out what they want to do next.

→ BDA new report - Pathway interrupted: video and key findings bdadyslexia.org.uk

→ BDA Blog: Common adult dyslexic challenges no one talks about (from someone who lives them too) bdadyslexia.org.uk

→ BDA Blog - Functional Skills Qualifications: the route too many parents only hear about after GCSE failure bdadyslexia.org.uk

---

Council for Disabled Children

CDC Digest Summer 2026



Welcome to the latest edition of the CDC Digest.

In this Digest we aim to offer a range of articles and resources to keep you up to date with the work of CDC and the sector as a whole. We hope there is plenty for you to read and engage with.

→ Click here to read the Digest

Dyspraxia Magazine

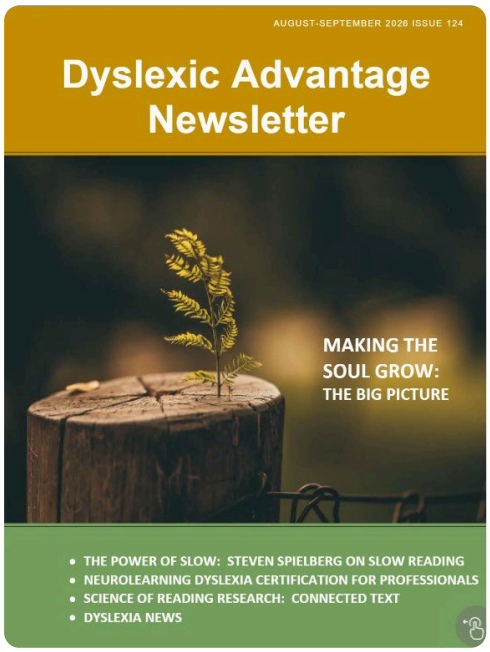
Download our latest issue here for free



Inside this edition you'll find inspiring personal stories, expert insights, interviews with members of our community, practical advice, celebrations of your pets … all created to inform, encourage, and champion our dyspraxic community.

Dyslexic Advantage

Dyslexic Advantage Newsletter: August-September 2026



SEN Magazine

When reading becomes a battle

Rebekah Herbert on the hidden reality of dyslexia, diagnosis and advocacy.



For many parents, reading with their child is imagined as one of childhood's simplest joys. Bedtime stories, trips to the library, watching your child slowly become absorbed in books and imagination. Reading is often associated with comfort, escape, learning and connection.

But for some families, reading becomes something different. It becomes frustration, exhaustion, avoidance and sometimes heartbreak.

→ Read whole article at: When reading becomes a battle | SEN Magazine senmagazine.co.uk

→ Further articles at dyslexia | SEN Magazine senmagazine.co.uk

---

British Assistive Technology Association

Petition to maintain the Disabled Student's Allowance

As many of you are aware the flagship UK assistive technology support which has run for 50 years in the UK - the Disabled Students Allowance - is under threat from a DFE government consultation.

Disabled students should not have to fight for the support they need to access education and reach their potential. But right now, the DSA is under threat from a DFE government consultation.

Please share to help us make sure the Government hears our message loud and clear.

- → Petition · Don't take away support disabled students rely on at university - Change.org change.org
- → The British Assistive Technology Association's response bataonline.org

Succeed With Dyslexia

Dyslexia Awareness Month Is Nearly Here: Learn, Share and Get Involved

October is almost here, and with it comes a brilliant chance to talk, learn, and celebrate together, because it's Dyslexia Awareness Month.

Did you know that up to 1 in 5 people process written information differently? That's a huge number! Yet even though dyslexia is so common, there are still many myths out there, like the idea that it's just about mixing up letters or that it has something to do with intelligence.

The truth is that dyslexia is a unique way of processing information. It can make reading, writing, spelling, and memory trickier, but it also comes with a unique set of strengths.

During October, the aim is to highlight the challenges while also cheering on inclusion, raising each other up, and shining a light on all the amazing things people with dyslexia can do.

Here's why Dyslexia Awareness Month matters, and how you can get involved. Keep reading on LinkedIn for 'Understanding Dyslexia: Beyond the myth' and 'How you can get involved this October'.

- → Read on LinkedIn to join the conversation linkedin.com
- → What are the benefits of neurodiversity in the workplace? linkedin.com
- → The Perfect Partnership: Why AI Neurodivergent Minds Make Great Collaborators linkedin.com

Prof. Amanda Kirby

Neurodiversity 101..Everything month..but what are you really going to do?

"Every week, I translate the latest neurodiversity research into plain language and give practical tips."



I know it's not October yet... BUT .... it's coming soon... and October is full of important awareness events - there is Dyslexia Awareness Month, ADHD Awareness Month, Dyspraxia/DCD Awareness Week, and DLD Awareness Day.

This week I want to discuss if awareness is ever enough.. or could it be too much? Are weeks/months useful or do people become blase and tired of ... another month or week...

This year's City and Guild Neurodiversity Index 2026 challenged that have we done lots of awareness but it has not translated into lasting and embedded actions.

It is interesting in 2022 I wrote about 'are we all a bit ADHD' - neurodiversity-101 - and I was having a conversation with someone recently and they said they were going for a diagnosis of ADHD.

In this month of specific days and weeks we also need to remember... we are hardly likely to ever be 'one thing'!

Take ADHD +++

DSM-5 describes nine inattentive and nine hyperactive–impulsive characteristics. For children aged 16 and under, at least six characteristics from either group are required to meet the symptom threshold. This produces 116,220 possible combinations. For people aged 17 and over, the threshold is five characteristics, producing 196,608 possible combinations.

These figures do not represent different “types” of ADHD. They simply demonstrate how differently two people can meet the same diagnostic criteria.

Now add the possibility of dyslexia, autism or developmental coordination disorder (DCD) that commonly co-occur. Dyslexia can affect reading accuracy, fluency, spelling and written expression in different ways. Autism can involve different patterns of social communication, sensory processing, routines and interests. DCD can affect fine and gross motor coordination, self-care and everyday organisation differently.

If we treated each of these simply as present or absent, there would be eight possible diagnostic combinations for every ADHD symptom profile:

- ADHD alone
- ADHD and dyslexia
- ADHD and autism
- ADHD and DCD
- ADHD with any combination of two
- ADHD with all three

This would create more than 929,000 theoretical profiles in children and more than 1.5 million in adults. Even these extraordinary numbers underestimate the real variation. I have not added in any other physical or psychological conditions that also co-occur such as anxiety, depression, EDS…

The evidence suggests that awareness alone is not enough… when we look at the last year’s figures.

In fact, I think it can sometimes have the opposite effect leading to fatigue, backlash, or even trivialisation. We all know the "information deficit" idea: if people just knew more, they'd do more. Yet research consistently shows that simply increasing knowledge rarely changes behaviour.

Awareness is a start, and I know from running training and awareness-raising sessions that it can spark valuable conversations. It can help organisations demonstrate both internally and externally that they are paying attention.

To create lasting impact, we must go further and embed changes into everyday actions. True inclusion happens when it is built into everyday systems, not added as an afterthought.

> "Inclusion is not a matter of political correctness. It is the key to growth."
>
> **Jesse Jackson**

If captions are always on (rather than offered if you ask), everyone benefits. If the lift is working we can all get to the 2nd floor; if we have choices of camera on and off we can all participate...

I recently asked about having cameras on and seeing yourself and if it bothered you.. lots of people said it did... some did not mind.. we need to recognise our differences not by oversimplistic boxing.

Inclusion by default: learning from health literacy

We can learn from each other. Health communication has long recognised that information alone doesn't change behaviour. The following principles can equally apply to neurodiversity inclusion. The "5 Rs" model is a helpful reminder:

- Relevance: why does this matter to me?
- Risks: what happens if nothing changes?
- Rewards: what benefits will I gain?
- Roadblocks: what gets in the way?

- Repetition: reinforce the message consistently.

Moving the needle

In this 5th year of the City and Guilds Neurodiversity Index we must be bold enough to say: awareness is never enough. Campaigns that simply tell people to “care more” risk fading away or can even create a ‘them and us’ and have a risk of bleaching. Instead, we need actionable steps, strategic messaging, and inclusive design principles that build equity in from the start. It takes courage to keep questioning - to move from slogans to strategy, from weeks of awareness to years of impact.

As we celebrate there are Neurodiversity Awareness Weeks and the October campaigns, let’s keep asking:

How can we not only raise awareness but also change behaviours and actions that have a lasting impact beyond October?

What is your pledge for this year?

→ City and Guilds Neurodiversity Index 2026
cityandguildsfoundation.org

→ Neurodiversity Index Report 2026 (figures) 77f20764.flowpaper.com

→ Neurodiversity 101: autism, ADHD – why the combo linkedin.com

→ WHO: Health literacy who.int

Dyscalculia Network

Our biggest dyscalculia project so far!



We are delighted to be working alongside UCL University on a NEW questionnaire/study for education staff (from all around the world) about supporting children with dyscalculia.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Together we can collect the data to help us drive change.

→ Dyscalculia Network - Teacher Awareness and Teaching Survey
l.facebook.com

04

More Events & Recordings

Dyscalculia Network

By popular demand our first Facebook LIVE!

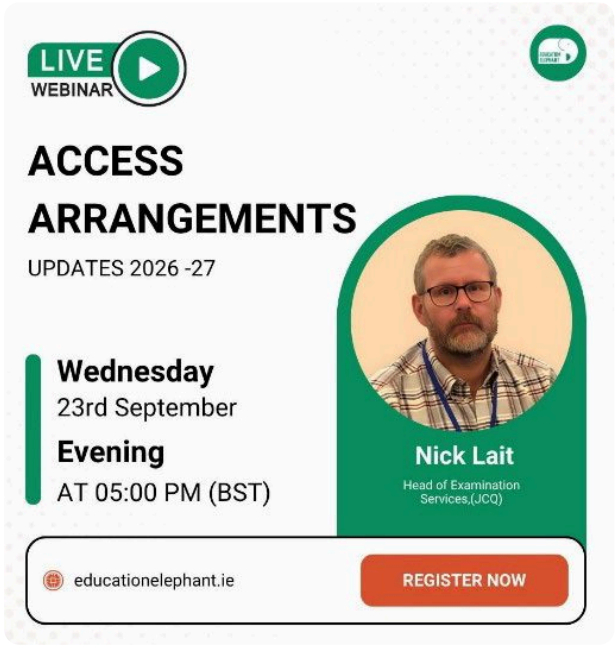
Tuesday 22nd September, 7.15pm



Join Cat Eadle and Jet Lewin to chat all things dyscalculia and maths difficulties!

Education Elephant

Free Webinar – JCQ Updates 2026–27: What do schools need to know?



The new academic year brings updated guidance around Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments.

Join Nick Lait, Head of Examination Service at JCQ, for a practical session covering what the 2026–27 regulations mean for schools, colleges and professionals involved in

Access Arrangements.

We'll explore:

- Key updates to the 2026–27 Access Arrangements scheme
- What the latest guidance means for identification and assessment
- Practical implications for schools and colleges
- Your opportunity to ask questions directly to Nick Lait
- From group screening to individual assessment, including how SWIFT and Woodcock-Johnson V can support the assessment pathway

Who should attend?

SENCOs | SEND Leads | Specialist Teachers | Assessors | Learning Support & Inclusion Teams | Exams Officers | School & College Leaders

If you're involved in Access Arrangements, this is a session worth putting in your diary.

→ Register now: JCQ Webinar Registration - Education Elephant
educationelephant.ie

Nessy

Nessy Character Draw-Along



As one of the earliest members of the Nessy team, Tom helped design many of the iconic characters children know and love. Now, young artists have the rare chance to grab their pencils and learn to draw directly from one of the creators of the Land of Ness!

→ Full details and link to register events.teams.microsoft.com

---

Tips to Support Dyscalculics within Educational Settings

Monday 28 September, 7 – 8pm



Helping educators understand and support dyscalculia through practical strategies, inclusive teaching and reasonable adjustments.

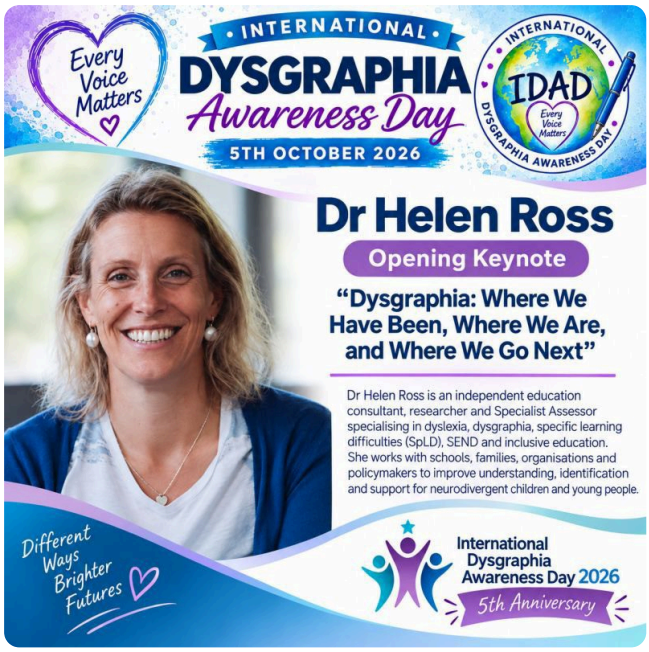
This session will explore practical strategies for supporting learners with dyscalculia within educational settings. Attendees will gain a greater understanding of the common difficulties experienced by students with dyscalculia and how these can affect participation, confidence and attainment in mathematics. Drawing on current research, assessment practice and real-world experience, the session will consider approaches that reduce barriers to learning and promote meaningful mathematical understanding.

The presentation will focus on evidence-informed classroom strategies, reasonable adjustments, multi-sensory approaches, the use of visual supports and concrete resources, and ways to strengthen number sense and mathematical confidence. Attendees will leave with practical ideas that can be implemented immediately to support learners with dyscalculia across primary, secondary and further education settings.

→ Tickets and registration – Eventbrite eventbrite.com

International Dysgraphia Awareness Day (IDAD)

Monday 5 October, 10am – 5.30pm



Join experts from around the world on Monday 5th October for our FREE International Dysgraphia Awareness Day Conference.

Because every child deserves to be understood.

Dysgraphia is a neurological difference that affects handwriting and written expression – not intelligence. Dysgraphia is NOT laziness, poor teaching, poor parenting or a lack of effort.

We are delighted to welcome Dr Helen Ross as our Opening Keynote for this year's International Dysgraphia Awareness Day. Helen will take us on a journey through dysgraphia - where we have been, where we are, and where we go next.

Speakers will also include:

- Diane Devenyi, LLB, MEd – Chief Genius Whisperer: "Unlocking Hidden Genius in Writing: Stories of Hope and Breakthroughs in Dysgraphia"
- Olive Hickmott - Forensic Health and Learning Coach: "Empowering Visual Thinkers Succeeding in Early Years"
- Mary Mountstephen: "Understanding the Role of Primitive Reflexes in Early Observation, Screening and Intervention: An Inclusive Whole Class Approach"

- Julia Clouter will explore practical ways to support children with dysgraphia through mark-making opportunities, handwriting development, assistive technology and inclusive learning approaches.

→ Book your FREE place: IDAD Tickets eventbrite.co.uk

→ More speaker information: Maria Chivers | LinkedIn linkedin.com

---

Adult Dyslexia Centre

FREE expert panel conversation: "Dyslexia and Neurodiversity for Adults and their Families"

Thursday 8th October 2026, 7 – 8.30pm, live on Teams

Adult Dyslexia Centre

Advising • Developing • Connecting

The Adult Dyslexia Centre (ADC) are proud to invite you to come join us for an inspiring conversation about the importance of community (now more than ever), radical optimism and compassion in a safe neuroinclusive space.

The evening will be hosted by Donna Stevenson, Arran Smith and Steve Parke.

Our hosts will be joined by expert guests, Sue Flohr MBE, Nick Jaye, Eric Cheung, Dr Martin Bloomfield, Rob Senior and more to be announced! Come take listen and ask questions, share thoughts with our esteemed and well-respected members of the neurodivergent community.

We hope the conversation and wisdom-shares will inspire and inform. Our conversation is a supportive, safe-space, you can join and just take a listen – no pressure to participate.

Please be advised we will record the session for those who can't make our broadcast live, so by joining us on the evening you are agreeing to the recording. (Please do keep your camera switched off and remain on mute, unless you wish to ask a question or share thoughts.)

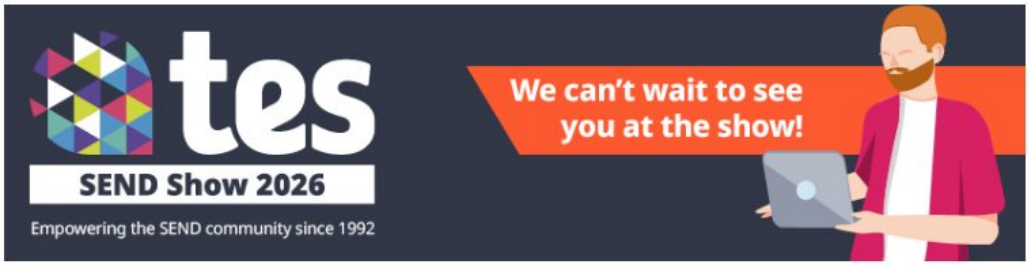
→ Join the Conversation on Teams teams.microsoft.com

→ Adult Dyslexia Centre website adc.org.uk

Tes

Tes SEND Show 2026

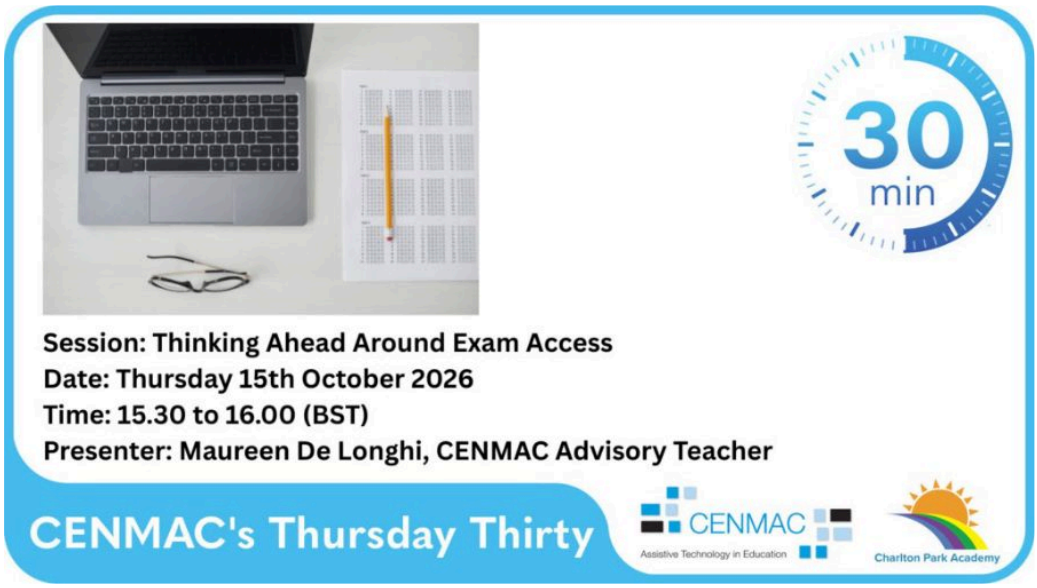
Friday 9 October (9am – 5pm) and Saturday 10 October (9.30am – 4pm)



Venue - Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, The Angel, London. N1 0QH

CENMAC

Thinking Ahead Around Exam Access



CENMAC Advisory Teacher Maureen De Longhi provides useful information about organising access arrangements for the 2027 SATs, Key Stage 2 tests and the GCSE exams.

During exams, organising access arrangements can be difficult. Throw Assistive Technology into the mix and there is the potential for some students to miss out on arrangements that may better support their needs, because their teachers are either unaware of what assistive technologies are available or unsure of whether they would contravene the rules.

Schools may wish to consider the use of technology to a much greater extent than they do currently. Assistive Technology not only allows candidates to work more independently and is a far better preparation for further and higher education and the world of employment but is also a far more cost-effective way of supporting their SEND students through the exam period.

Thursday Thirty

We hope you will join us for our Thursday Thirty online sessions that take place throughout the term on Thursday afternoons from 15.30 to 16.00. We've got some great sessions coming up including:

Thursday 1st October 2026, 15.30 – 16.00

Inspiration 12 for Exam Arrangements – Donald Macfie, Customer Relationship Associate, TechEdology. Discover how students who use Inspiration 12 for their normal way of working, planning and writing, can seamlessly transition this familiar workflow into JCQ-regulated exams.

Find out more and register →

→ Reserve your place eventbrite.co.uk

St Mary's University

Neurodiversity Conference at St Mary's University, Twickenham

Friday 23 October, 9am – 4pm

Add code 'PDOffer' at checkout for 25% discount! We can invoice schools and individuals directly, which avoids Eventbrite fees.

Join us for a day of amazing speakers discussing dyslexia, dyscalculia and ADHD. It's a fantastic opportunity to connect, learn, and celebrate the unique ways our brains work. Whether you're curious, passionate, or just want to meet like-minded colleagues, this conference is for you.

Expect engaging talks, interactive sessions, and a welcoming vibe. Don't miss out on this chance to be part of an inspiring community!

Agenda

08.30 – 08.55		Registration
08.55 – 09.10		Welcome from Katrina Cochrane. Opening of conference by Dr Gavin Reid
09.10 – 10.00	**Colin Foley (Neurodiversity Training UK)**	Supporting learners with ADHD in the classroom and beyond
10.00 – 11.00	**Professor Amanda Kirby (Founder and CEO Do-It Solutions)**	Why the future is delivering personalised approaches - what stops that happening?
11.00 – 11.15		Break and exhibitors
11.15 – 12.00	**Elisabeth Herbert and Helen Williams (UCL) – 1-hour SASC accredited**	Exploring variations in the cognitive profiles of children and young people with dyscalculia and learning from their voices.
12.00 – 12.45	**Dr Helen Ross**	Supporting our Girls from School and Beyond: Evidence-based, practical strategies to support neurodivergent young women thrive - drawing on Dr Ross's Churchill Fellowship research.
12.45 – 13.45		LUNCH in the Junior Common Room and demos.
13.15 – 13.35	**Davey Jones**	Ayoa mind mapping demo in the Ballroom.
13.45 – 14.45	**Lia Castiglione (EAA update) – 1-hour SASC accredited**	Extra Time in Exams: Getting the Evidence Right (Available as a recording)
14.45 – 15.00		Break and exhibitors
15.00 – 16.00	**Rebecca Thompson**	The use of informal activities in SpLD/Dyscalculia assessment

Exhibitors will include Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity and the Adult Dyslexia Centre. Demos taking place in the Billiard Room (apart from Ayoa). Free to attend but must be booked in advance.

Everyway / SEN Books / Jelly James / Ayoa / Everybody Reads / Study Cog

→ Book tickets – Eventbrite eventbrite.co.uk

We Love SENCos

We Love SENCos Birmingham 2026: Building Better SEND Support

Tuesday 17 November, 8.30am – 5pm



Podcast

The long summer holidays for families of neurodivergent and SEND children





In this episode, Liz Horobin and Sarah Reay are joined by Holly Bolt, Gemma Chapple and Catherine Tinkler to explore the joys and challenges of the long summer holidays for families of neurodivergent and SEND children.

The discussion covers the need for rest and recovery, the impact of disrupted routines, sensory pressures, screen time, working-parent dilemmas, financial pressures, and the importance of realistic expectations. The guests share practical, low-pressure ideas for keeping children regulated and engaged, from loose daily structure and “could-do” lists to free activities, Blue Peter badges, short learning bursts and building-in downtime.

Above all, the episode reassures parents that there is no perfect summer - connection, flexibility, and being “good enough” are what matter most.

CPD Training & Events Brochure

Thank you to everyone who viewed and shared our previous monthly CPD Training & Events Brochure. We’re delighted to bring you the next instalment featuring new courses, expert-led sessions, and key updates to help you plan your CPD with confidence.

→ Find us on the website

→ Listen on Spotify

→ View and download the CPD brochure

Louise Selby
Dyslexia Specialist

Lost for Words? Supporting neurodivergent learners in writing

Brand New Course!

I am beyond excited that the course I have been working on for months, if not years, is finally ready for booking! I’m absolutely delighted to say that I have two guest trainers as well: Ali Neale of School Sensory Solutions and Stephen Parsons, creator of Word Aware and Concept Cat.

This course is for anyone wishing to support writing for those who struggle. We’ll take a fresh, holistic and evidence-informed view of what is really involved in writing, what the barriers are for our neurodivergent writers, and crucially, how to help. Each session explores a different theme and we go way beyond capital letters and full stops!

We'll cover:

- Beneath the empty page: understanding and identifying the real barriers to writing
- Developing language for writing (Stephen Parsons)
- The role of planning, self-regulation and metacognition
- When handwriting doesn't feel right: sensory, motor and handwriting (Ali Neale)
- Supporting spelling
- The secret life of sentences

Sessions will be live via Zoom but recorded with lifetime access. Cost is £150 for all six, or £35 per session. Book the whole course or select the sessions you want to attend. I hope you can join us!

---

nasen

nasen events and training

nasen Launches FREE Early Years SEND training
Find out more and register →

Call for Papers: Professional Learning in Inclusive Education Conference
Find out more and register →

24 September, 4 – 5pm
Why Is Learning So Hard? What Brain Science Tells Us, and How We Can Help Every Child Learn. By examining how skills are built over time, the session will offer a framework for thinking differently about difficulty, progress, and what may be possible for a given learner. Suitable for parents/carers, school staff, SENCOs, students, young people and others.
Find out more and register →

6 October 2026
Everway Unlocked. Whether you're a classroom teacher, SENDCo, senior leader or support professional, Everway Unlocked is for anyone looking to use technology more purposefully to improve learner outcomes.
Find out more and register →

9 – 10 October 2026

Tes SEND Show: Business Design Centre, London. Tes SEND Show London is on a mission to empower the education workforce by providing affordable, practical and effective SEND CPD. Join colleagues and friends for two days of inclusive brilliance and networking to revive your very best inclusive practice. nasen will be attending and we hope to see you there!

Find out more and register →

19 October, 1.45 – 2.45pm

SEND System Leaders Webinar, Session 1 of 3: Leadership and Culture. This is the first of three sessions. You must book on all three sessions to participate. The opening session explores what it takes to build and sustain an inclusive culture across a group of schools, rather than in a single setting. Suitable for: Senior Leader, Inclusion Manager/Leader, Governor.

Find out more and register →

05

Resources & Offers

Get your Inclusion Strategy

Statement over the line



Every mainstream school in England has to publish an Inclusion Strategy Statement by 31 December 2026, showing how your Inclusive Mainstream Fund allocation was spent against the DfE's 7 principles.

We're offering your school a free 121 consultation to help with this.

→ Book your consultation here

AT Superstore

Supporting your child through dyslexia: a new blog series



If you're a parent, chances are dyslexia has touched your life somehow - your own child, a niece, a friend's son who "just won't sit still and read." If it's your child, you'll know how hard it can be to get the right support and how isolating it can feel.

We've teamed up with Jo Rees (Dyslexic life with Jo), specialist dyslexia assessor and teacher, and mum to three dyslexic children herself, to bring you a brand-new blog series on supporting your child through dyslexia:

- → How To Advocate For Your Dyslexic Child At School Without Damaging The Relationship atsuperstore.com
- → How To Talk To Your Child's School About Dyslexia: A Step-by-Step Guide For Parents atsuperstore.com
- → How To Support A Dyslexic Child At Home: What Actually Works (From A Mum Who Knows) atsuperstore.com
- → See also: 8 Signs Of Dyslexia Parents Notice Before School - A Dyslexia Assessor's Guide atsuperstore.com

---

Positive Dyslexia

I've had a facelift! Well, my brand has!

Katrina Cochrane – Director and Founder

Positive Dyslexia
Engage · Inspire · Achieve

Different look, same trusted service supporting those with dyslexia through training and assessment.

Check out my new website at www.positivedyslexia.co.uk - thank you to all at Unbranded Digital.

- → www.positivedyslexia.co.uk positivedyslexia.co.uk

Scanning Pens

We're making history!

Exam Reader 2 is now the world's FIRST offline reading pen with Welsh text-to-speech functionality!

Designed to support independent reading and exam access, C-Pen's latest innovation gives schools and educators another powerful tool to support bilingual learners across Wales.

- Offline for secure exam use
- Portable and easy to use
- Trusted in schools worldwide

Also . . .

In recent weeks we've added two new things to our website to improve customer support and #Accessibility.

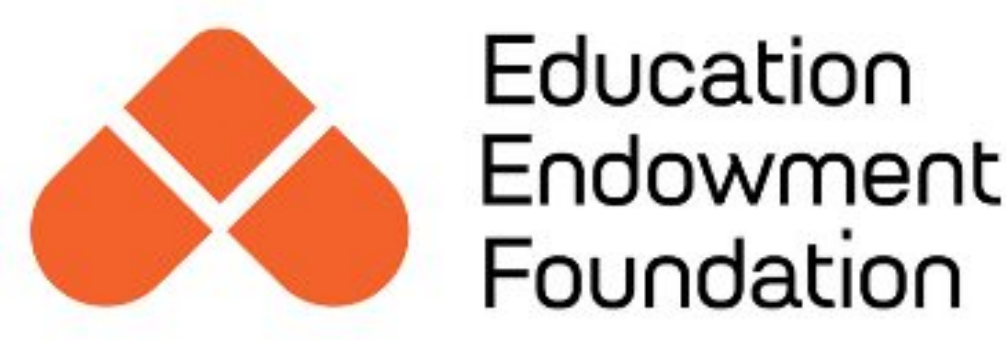
Firstly Sienna (the person shaped symbol in a circle bottom left) - a lightweight free accessibility widget that helps make websites more usable for everyone - including users with visual impairments, dyslexia, and other accessibility needs.

Thanks to Benny Luk and the Sienna team for this and Mary Long at CENMAC for her recommendation.

Secondly, we have launched a new support assistant called Penny - incorporating a mix of AI and human support (Penny is the Robot graphic on the bottom right).

Education Endowment Foundation

The Education Endowment Foundation guide into inclusive teaching



The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has released new guidance on inclusive teaching. The framework details the core principles of an inclusive classroom, covering universal approaches, adaptations, additional support and positive relationships.

It includes scenario-based training resources and a section that busts common myths about inclusive teaching.

→ More information

IPSEA

Back to school hub

The start of a new school year should be a time of excitement. Yet for many families of children and young people with SEND, it can also be a stressful period as many continue to face challenges in accessing the education their child is legally entitled to.

That's why we've brought together information, advice and practical resources to help parents and carers of children and young people with SEND at this key point in the year.

Louise Selby Dyslexia

Darcie's story - a video about Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) #2in30



There are 2 children in every class with DLD (Developmental Language Disorder). But it's hidden, misunderstood and vastly under-recognised. This film shows why. Please watch and share.

FREE resource available for download

Literacy is so much more than phonics and spelling. It's really important to understand underlying barriers in order to meet them. PDF is available via the following link. Feel free to share!

→ Barriers to literacy for neurodivergent learners - Louise Selby Dyslexia Specialist louiseselbydyslexia.com

---

Michael Rosen

Rhyme Time poetry videos

Professor at Goldsmiths, University of London

There are now 11 poetry 'Rhyme Time' videos up on our YouTube Channel. They are meant for under-fives so that you can learn them together. Learning short poems is a great way for young children to make the bridge between oral and written.

→ Watch the Rhyme Time videos

Witherslack Group

Day To Day Support Pack

Our daily routine calendar can help families prepare their child for the day ahead.

→ My_Daily_Routine_Day_To_Day_2025.pdf

Calibre Audio

Calibre Audio - free books

Calibre Audio is a national charity providing free audiobooks for people with print disabilities. Through Calibre Learning, schools can access thousands of curriculum-linked and reading for pleasure titles, helping students with conditions like dyslexia and ADHD to enjoy reading and learning.

Free school accounts make it easy to support inclusive literacy for all. Please contact learning@calibre.org.uk for further information.

→ learning@calibre.org.uk

→ Find out more about Calibre Audio calibreaudio.org.uk

Routledge

The SEN Practitioner: Status, Skills and Support

Edited by Tristan Middleton

The SEN Practitioner is a landmark exploration of the roles, skills and lived experiences that shape inclusive education today. Bringing together voices from across the SEN workforce, it offers a rare, practitioner-centred perspective on what effective, sustainable inclusion really looks like.

This book is essential reading for:

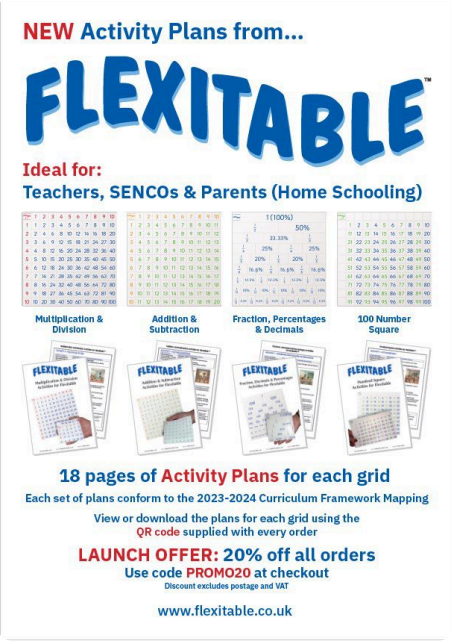
- SENCos seeking clarity and strategic insight
- Trainee teachers building confidence in SEND practice
- School and MAT leaders designing whole-school inclusion
- Neurodivergent educators whose lived experience is often overlooked

→ More book details and links to podcasts askthesenco.com

Flexitable

Flexitables

LAUNCH OFFER: 20% off all orders with code PROMO20



Flexitables are a multisensory set of number charts printed on soft flexible PVC which can be folded to aid learning.

Click on Numeracy Charts and Math Manipulatives for Teaching and Special Needs Tutoring and then on the images for the various Activity Plans for more information and to download a FREE PDF of Activity 1 for the relevant grid.

Each set of plans conform to the 2023-2024 Curriculum Framework Mapping. Download the plans for each grid using the QR code supplied with every order.

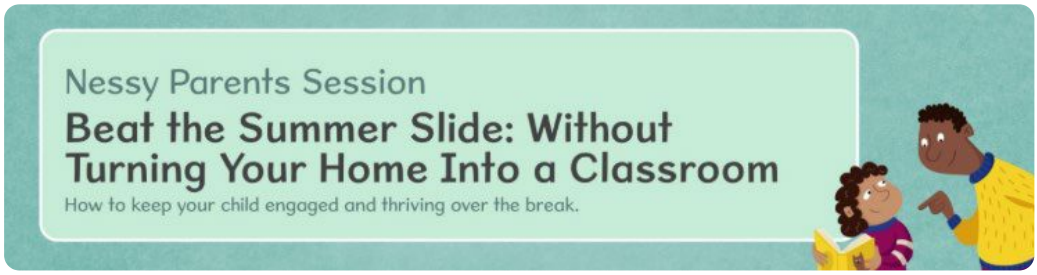
LAUNCH OFFER: 20% off all orders. Use code PROMO20 at checkout (Discount excludes postage and VAT).

→ Read more details flexitable.co.uk

→ Numeracy Charts and Math Manipulatives flexitable.co.uk

Nessy

Beat the Summer Slide: workshop slides



Nessy Slides shared following the free virtual workshop when families were able to explore simple ways to encourage reading, writing, language, and independence without turning summer into school.

Helen Arkell

‘Go All In’ with our Reading Tips!



This year is the National Year of Reading. To help encourage a love of reading, Helen Arkell is pleased to share our top reading tips.

For children with dyslexia, building confidence is just as important as building skills.

Whether you’re practising phonics, reading together, exploring graphic novels, listening to audiobooks, or using assistive technology, you’re helping your child develop a positive relationship with reading.

Not every child learns to read in the same way – and that’s okay. If reading feels hard, try a different approach. Audiobooks, graphic novels, or reading together all count as reading and can help build confidence.

Remember...

Children who struggle with reading often work much harder than we realise. Reading can be:

- More effortful
- More tiring
- More frustrating

A little patience goes a long way.

Encourage, Don't Pressure

The goal isn't just to create good readers… It's to create children who enjoy stories. A love of books often comes before confident reading.

→ National Year of Reading literacytrust.org.uk

IDL

IDL Phonics



We're excited to introduce IDL Phonics, our brand-new phonics programme.

Designed for pupils aged 4+, IDL Phonics is a powerful independent learning tool that helps children become confident, fluent readers through engaging, structured and multi-sensory learning.

There are over 200 objectives and 14,000 interactive activities, covering all 44 phonemes in English, including alternative spellings, common exception words and high-frequency words. Teachers can also use individual activities to support front-of-class teaching.

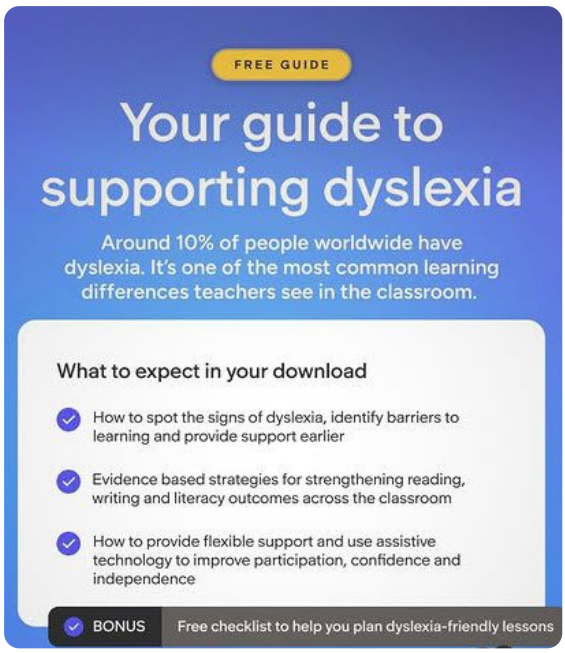
To help you track progress, IDL Phonics includes our new ACE Results system which provides clear insights into how pupils are progressing, from knowledge of individual sounds and words, through to wider phonics skills like blending and segmenting.

Be among the first to experience IDL Phonics in your classroom!

→ Start the year strong with IDL Phonics! idlsgroup.com

Everway

Supporting dyslexia: An educator's guide to literacy support for students with dyslexia



This guide is for educators who want to do even more to support students with dyslexia in education. It features case studies, resources, and organisations who'll support and inspire you on your journey.

→ A Guide To Dyslexia In Education | Everway UK everway.com

AT Superstore

5 Assistive Technology Solutions to Consider



1. Support Reading with Text-to-Speech

For students with dyslexia, visual impairments or reading difficulties, text-to-speech technology can transform access to learning materials. Whether reading worksheets, digital

documents or web pages, these tools reduce reading fatigue and improve comprehension.

2. Make Writing Easier with Speech-to-Text

Some students have brilliant ideas but struggle to get them onto paper. Speech recognition software allows students to dictate their work, helping those with dyslexia, dyspraxia, physical disabilities or literacy challenges express themselves more independently.

3. Encourage Focus with Sensory & Regulation Tools

Remaining focused throughout the school day can be challenging for many learners. Sensory products can help students self-regulate, manage anxiety and maintain concentration in the classroom without disrupting learning.

4. Improve Communication with AAC Solutions

Every student deserves a voice. Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices and communication software help non-speaking or minimally speaking students communicate more effectively with teachers, peers and family members.

5. Create an Accessible Learning Environment

Small adjustments often have the biggest impact. From alternative keyboards and adaptive mice to switches, mounting systems and accessibility accessories, creating an inclusive workspace helps remove barriers before they become obstacles.

→ Shop all categories – Assistive Technology Superstore
atsuperstore.com

→ See also: Avoid The Guesswork: How To Pick The Right Assistive Tech atsuperstore.com

---

Patoss

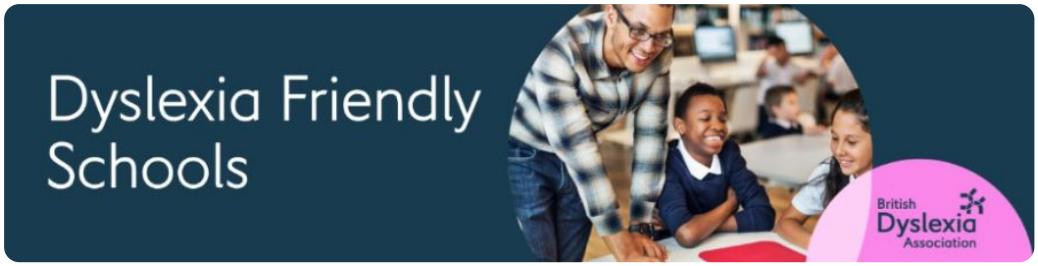
Free resources and activities for the holidays

Patoss provided a list of some of the best websites for free resources, activities and inspiration to help keep the whole family busy, happy and having fun over the holidays!

→ Click here to view their activities list!

British Dyslexia Association

Start Your Dyslexia-Friendly Journey with the BDA and support dyslexic learners to thrive



On average, three children in every classroom are dyslexic. Are you confident you can identify them and give them what they need to reach their full potential?

Whatever stage your setting is at, the British Dyslexia Association is here to help you build knowledge, strengthen inclusive practice, and transform outcomes for dyslexic learners.

Best of all, you don't need to overhaul everything overnight. Our services are designed so you can start small and grow at your own pace, from free downloadable guides right through to a whole-school accreditation that puts inclusion at the heart of everything you do.

Get started, for free

No commitment, no cost, no reason to wait. Our free resources give you practical, evidence-based guidance tailored to your setting: primary, secondary, further or higher education. It's the perfect first step towards recognising dyslexia and responding with confidence.

Build your team's confidence with bespoke training

Our specialist trainers bring engaging, practical sessions straight to your staff, online or in person. It's tailored support that turns awareness into every day, effective practice.

Learn at your own pace with e-learning

Flexible, self-directed CPD that fits around your school day: Understanding hidden difficulties: creating accessible learning (Primary | Secondary), and Creating accessible classroom spaces and assistive technology (Primary | Secondary).

Take a whole-school approach

When you're ready to make dyslexia inclusion part of your school's identity, our Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark offers a structured, whole-school framework, with our team supporting you at every stage. It's a powerful way to strengthen staff understanding, improve provision, and show families, inspectors, and your wider community that inclusion isn't just a value here, it's a practice.

- → Explore resources
- → Find out more about training
- → View all educator courses
- → Discover the Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark

06

Dyslexia Stories

British Dyslexia Association

Grace's story



"You can achieve anything you put your mind to; it just might take a bit more time and effort to do so."

Grace's story shows that dyslexia is about much more than reading and writing. Diagnosed at university, she experienced challenges with memory, processing and spatial awareness. With the right support, her confidence and wellbeing improved. Today, she's raising awareness of the practical side of dyslexia.

→ Read more stories at: Your Stories - British Dyslexia Association bdadyslexia.org.uk

→ Share your dyslexia story here bdadyslexia.org.uk

Nic Hopper

So proud of you, Rosie

Co-founder of Bookbag | Business Owner at Bay Health and Beauty



Yesterday Rosie stood in front of her entire school to receive an award for the way she has raised awareness of dyslexia and helped her classmates understand it.

Not long ago, dyslexia was something Rosie quietly worried might hold her back. Today it's something she talks about with confidence and uses to help other children understand that thinking differently is something to celebrate.

In return I think it's important to applaud those who've helped Rosie grow. To Rosie's infant school, Queen's Park Infant Academy, thank you for spotting her dyslexia early; it meant

Rosie was understood, not overlooked. And to Queen's Park Academy, her school today, thank you for the support, patience and belief that have helped her flourish.

Her teacher recognised her as a determined, enthusiastic learner with outstanding resilience - someone who never gives up - and called her a role model for others. And her grades have gone from strength to strength.

I also don't think this happens without the relentless advocacy of Made By Dyslexia and Kate Griggs, and the simple, powerful message that dyslexic thinking is a strength. Having briefly met and chatted Kate at the Made By Dyslexia film premiere at the IMAX, I saw first-hand the impression that message leaves on a child.

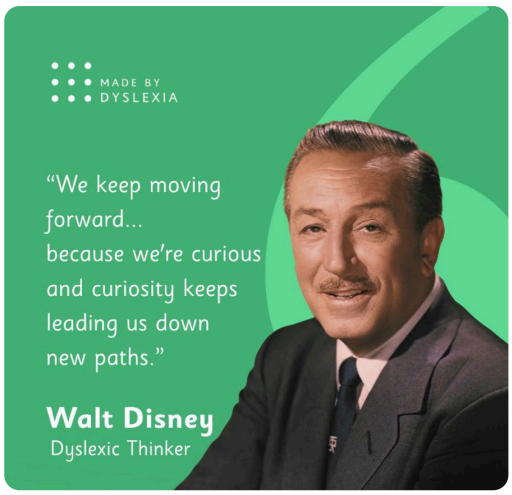
Early identification, a school that supports, and a movement that reframes dyslexia as a strength - that's the combination that let Rosie go from worried to leading. To every parent on this journey: those pieces matter, and they add up.

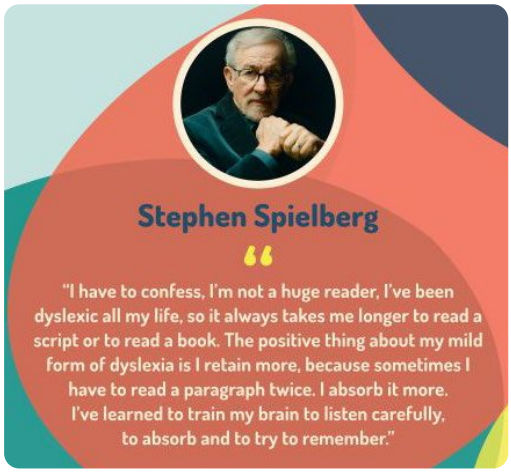
So proud of you, Rosie.

→ Read more

Self-belief is central to winning









When it comes to unlocking peak performance, sports psychologist, Steve Peters, says:

> "As many as 90% of elite sports people will say that mental attitude and ability to deal with emotions and thoughts are critical to a successful performance."
>
> **Steve Peters**

Self-belief is central to winning - whether it's on the pitch, in the classroom or at work.

→ Tom Holland: Spider-Man star praised for honesty about dyslexia - BBC News bbc.co.uk

Great Dyslexic Brands

From brands that revolutionised how we stay connected (Apple), to how we live our lives (IKEA) or travel the world (Virgin) - many of the world's favourite brands have come from the mind of a brilliant dyslexic thinker who…

- break the mould
- challenge convention
- connect ideas in unexpected ways
- imagine possibilities others don't

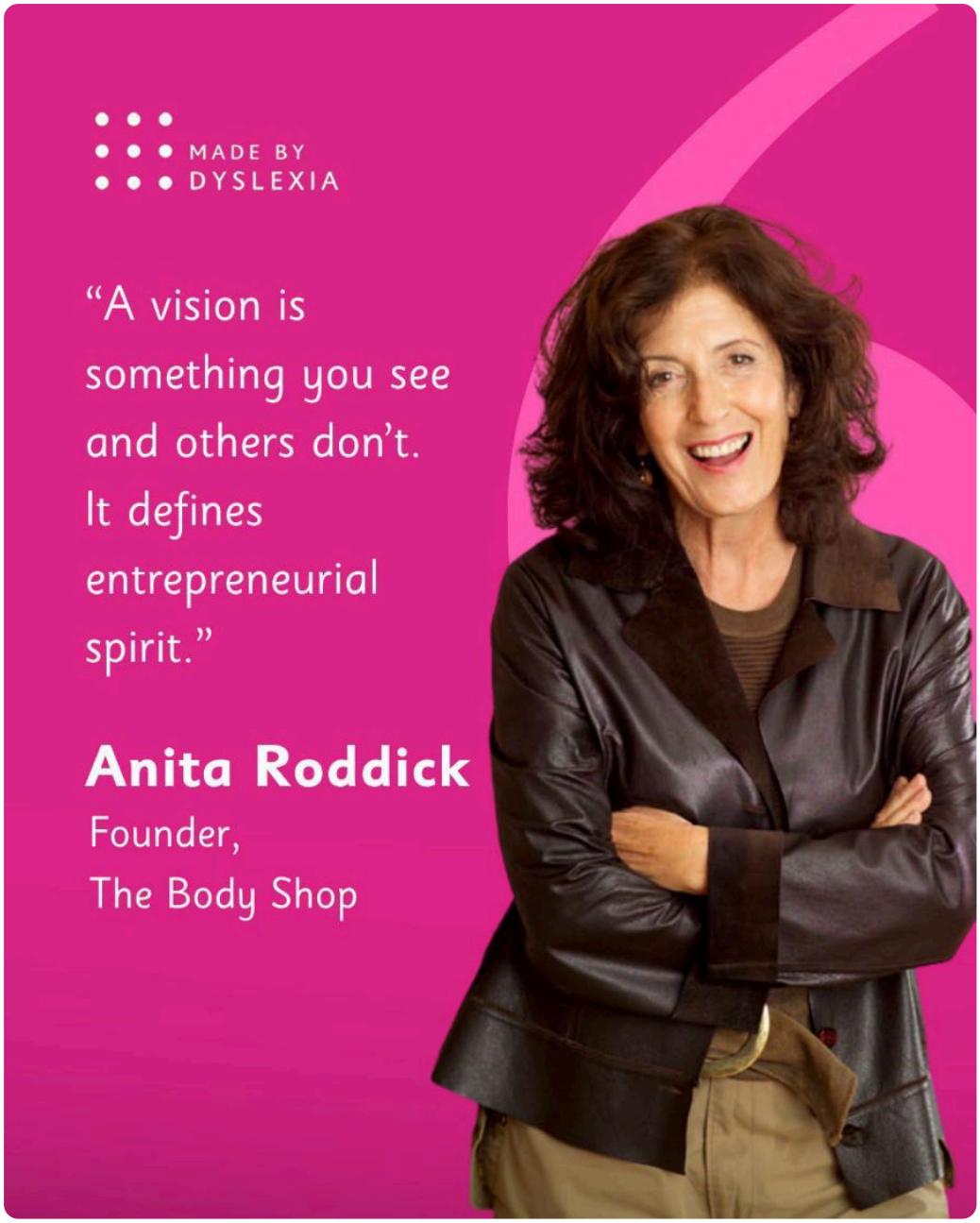
Ingvar Kamprad (Founder of IKEA)

- Ingvar Kamprad, used his Dyslexic Thinking to turn traditional retail upside down.
- Instead of shipping fully assembled, expensive furniture, IKEA invented flat-pack packaging and used warehouses as shops, where customers served themselves and built the furniture at home.
- Assembly instructions were all pictures, no words - for a dyslexic who saw the world visually, that made perfect sense!
- It also became a unique part of IKEA's appeal.
- His mission was to make well-designed, functional furniture affordable for everyone.
- The result? IKEA became the world's largest furniture retailer. Today, it operates over 470 stores across more than 60 countries, generating over €47 billion per year.

> "Dyslexic secret to success: There is nothing that cannot be reimagined by a dyslexic mind."

Made By Dyslexia

1 in 3 entrepreneurs are dyslexic



We love this quote from Anita Roddick, Founder of the Body Shop and brilliant dyslexic thinker.

The skills that make great entrepreneurs – visionary thinking, imagining what doesn't yet exist, seeing opportunities where others see obstacles, questioning the status quo, solving problems differently and bringing people with you – are also Dyslexic Thinking skills. So it's no surprise that 1 in 3 entrepreneurs are dyslexic.

But it may surprise many to know that they contribute at least £4.6 billion to the UK economy and support over 60,000 jobs.

To find out more about the link between entrepreneurs and Dyslexic Thinking, check out our Dyslexic Entrepreneurs Spotlight report.

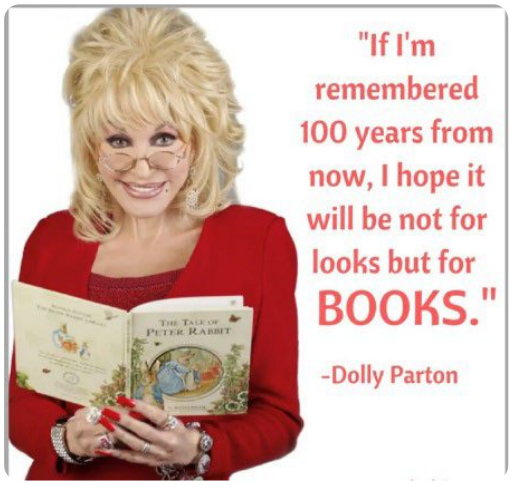
→ Dyslexic Entrepreneurs Spotlight report madebydyslexia.org

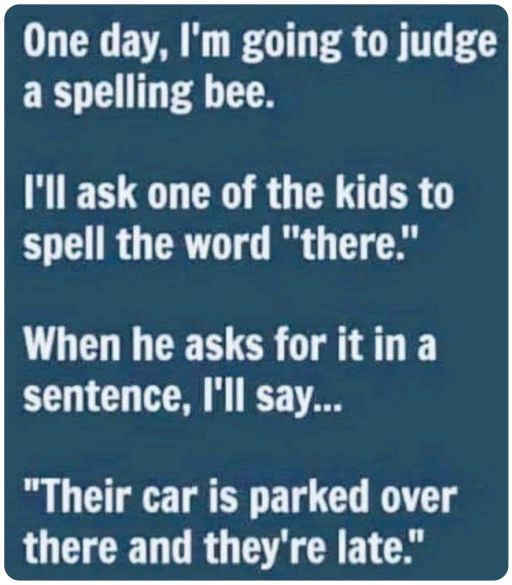
07

. . . and finally

Jack Churchill OBE

If anyone says one person can't have an impact.....





Once I was fortunate to see this brilliant musician perform her catchy country hits at the Glastonbury Festival. What I came to learn is that as a result of her father's illiteracy she championed the importance of reading for self-education and personal freedom.

She gave away an INCREDIBLE 300,000,000 books through her Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Rest in peace Dolly, your legacy is remarkable!

→ BDA Resources - British Dyslexia Association bdadyslexia.org.uk

JOIN US

Become a Member

Join us as the voice of dyslexic people by becoming a member Yorkshire Rose Dyslexia. Your support enables us to provide free information, training and advice.

Family
£16 / year

Senior
£10 / year

All memberships are for the family, not an individual.

Members get access to

- Our Members Support Group on Facebook
- Our Parents Support Group on WhatsApp
- Exclusive Member Events, Discounts & Offers

All membership fees paid online are paid by Direct Debit and can be cancelled at any time.

Join at yorkshirerosedyslexia.org.uk/become-a-member

Get in touch

Helpline

0113 856 2240

helpline@yrd.org.uk

Online

yorkshirerosedyslexia.org.uk

facebook.com/yrdyslexia

Our helpliners are volunteers, some with full-time jobs, so please be considerate when calling.