

Speech and Language

We are delighted to welcome Danielle McFarland, a Speech and Language Specialist, to St Mary's. She will be in school every Tuesday for the next year to help the school improve and maintain good practice around all the areas of speech and language skills and social communication.

The Speech and Language Therapy Service (SALT) and Support for Learning (SfL) will be working with staff on whole school initiatives to take forward to the new school site, working alongside teachers in the classroom to pilot new and exciting programmes to help us all communicate effectively.

Danielle will also be working alongside Ms Clarke to assess and work with pupils who may need a little extra support. Individual pupils might be helped with getting ready to learn, being able to stay calm when something unexpected happens, and learn strategies to deal with thoughts and feelings.

This term, certain pupils will have a chance to be part of a small *Social Detectives* group in P6, *Talking Time* in the Nursery and *Listening Skills* in P1/2 and 2/3. There is also a *Lego Club* for small groups who find being in the playground challenging. This will help them learn how to co-operate when playing. All classes will undertake the listening skills programme from August this year, and other initiatives will be introduced to other class groups in school.

St Mary's is excited about having the opportunity to work in close partnership with Danielle from the Speech and Language Therapy Service for the year ahead. We hope that you will support us in this new and innovative way of supporting your child's learning.