

# Ravenbank Primary School

'Working together to achieve success'

## Special Educational Needs' Summer Newsletter

Contact :  
Mrs Greenwood  
Special Educational Needs  
Coordinator (SENCO)

01925 753926

### AUTISM—some useful videos

**10 things you think you know about autism....** A video that might help dispel some common myths about Autism

<https://www.ne-as.org.uk/news/10-things-you-think-you-know-about-autism-but-actually-dont>

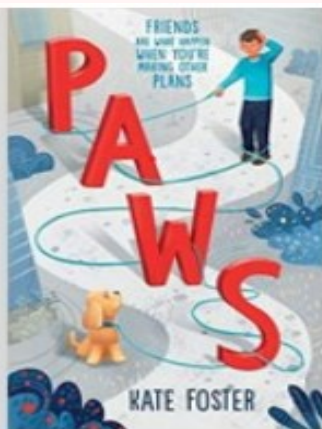
**My Autism and Me:** A video all about Autism from the point of view of Rosie. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejpWWP1HNGQ>

**Amazing Things Happen - by Alexander Amelines - YouTube**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbwRrVw-CRo>

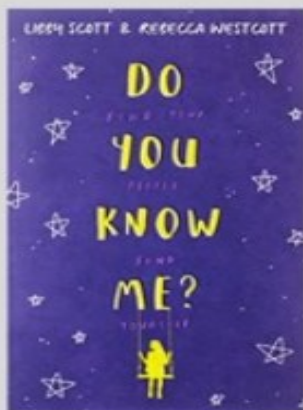
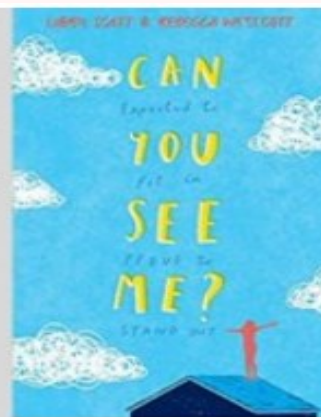
**Summer 2023  
Autism—information  
for parents**

**Reading Material**

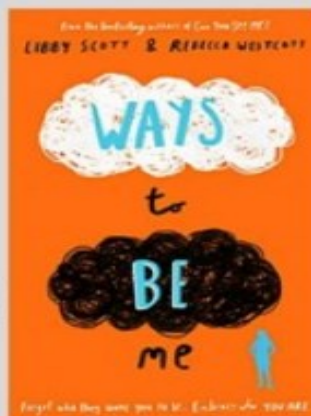
At home, Alex's best friend is Kevin the cockapoo, although what he wants most of all is a friend at school. But that is harder than he ever expected. Everything is changing for 11-year-old Alex and, as an autistic person, change can be terrifying. With the first day of school only a couple of months away, Alex is sure that having a friend by his side will help. So, he's devised a plan - impress the kids at school by winning a trophy at the PAWS Dog Show with his trusty sidekick, Kevin....



Tally isn't ashamed of being autistic -- even if it complicates life sometimes, it's part of who she is. But this is her first year at Kingswood Academy, and her best friend, Layla, is the only one who knows. Tally now feels like she has to act "normal." But as Tally hides her true self, she starts to wonder what "normal" means after all and whether fitting in is really what matters most. an honest and moving middle-school story of friends, family, and finding one's place.



In this sequel to *Can You See Me?*, Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott return with another heartwarming and eye-opening story of friendship and middle school, inspired by Libby's own experiences of autism. Ever since her classmates found out she is autistic, Tally has felt more comfortable being herself. But the end-of-year trip will be an entire week -- her longest overnight trip ever. How will she sleep? What about all the bugs? What will her dog, Rupert, do without her at home?



Facing the pressures of maintaining her academic grades whilst aiming to be the lead of the school play, Tally struggles to navigate Year Six. Tally's subsequent inability to comprehend her emotions leads to a confession from her parents Jennifer and Kevin: she has been given a diagnosis of ASD. *Ways to be Me* is the third book within this trilogy, yet it is the prequel to the first modern fiction novel: *Can you See Me?*. Co-author Scott's daily experiences with ASD were applied to build Tally's character.

A sensitive exploration - from a Neurodivergent author - of what it means to be labelled as different and treated as an outsider. 11-year-old Addie lives in a village community close to Edinburgh; it's a new school year and she's suddenly confronted with a relentlessly mocking teacher and targeted by bullies intent on making life miserable, all as she campaigns for a memorial in memory of the witch trials that took place in her hometown. Interesting sibling dynamics with Addie's two sisters, one neurodivergent, one neurotypical.



In *The Many Mysteries of the Finkel Family*, Sarah Kapit delivers another sweet story of neurodiversity. We see a family where multiple members are neurodiverse--not unusual in real life, but rarely seen in books. Sisters Lara and Caroline are both autistic, with Caroline speaking using a tablet, and their Dad having a diagnosis of ADHD. The family is also Jewish, with immigrant members.



**Parents guide to Autism.** <https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/2018-08/Parents%20Guide%20to%20Autism.pdf>.

Please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance if you have any concerns about your child.

# Spot Light on ... Sensory Support

## Spotlight on sensory support

A sensory support or sensory strategy is any equipment or technique that increases or decreases sensory input to help a student to focus and learn.

Lots of children benefit from a movement break and we make them a part of our day across school using resources such as videos on Go Noodle and Cosmic Yoga. See the links provided below.

Go Noodle — <https://www.gonoodle.com/>

Cosmic Yoga—<https://www.youtube.com/user/cosmickidsyoga>



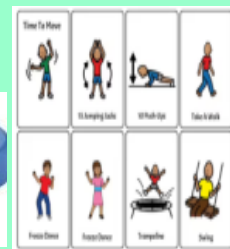
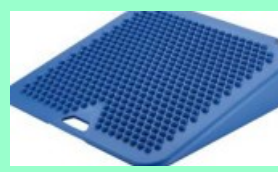
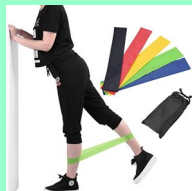
You can also visit the Warrington and Halton Occupational Therapy website for further materials, resources and advice:

<https://whh.nhs.uk/services/occupational-therapy>



If your child needs a little more support in the classroom, these are some of the strategies that we might use;

Fiddle toys, move 'n' sit cushions, chew toys, resistance bands on chair legs, movement break cards, ear defenders, calm spaces and time outside.



We can also run a daily sensory circuit for children who may need help to increase or decrease their alertness ready to start the day. We will contact you if we feel that your child would benefit from this activity.

We can make referrals to the Warrington and Halton Occupational Therapy team via School Health if required.



Some useful videos can be found on the Warrington Children's Occupational Therapy site [Warrington Children's Occupational Therapy - Video resources - Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust](#)

<https://youtu.be/qL8alkX7ENU>