



# **SEND News Bulletin**

# Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

What a short but intense half term it has been! I hope you and your school communities are keeping well and that you have been making the most of the warm, sunny weather of late.

In this bulletin you will find information about the Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project - a new national initiative to support good outcomes for <u>all pupils</u> in mainstream primary schools, by embracing neurodiversity. Worcestershire has an exciting opportunity for 30 primary schools to join the national PINS programme and be part of this new way of thinking.

Also included is a range of information and updates from national and local service providers and support teams. We encourage you to read and share with relevant colleagues within your school. We hope that you find the information useful and, as always, would welcome any feedback you may have.

We thank you for your ongoing commitment and hard work in meeting the needs of the children and young people with SEND and their families. Despite the ongoing systemic challenges, there are many success stories to share in celebrating the achievements of children and young people with SEND in our schools and settings.

Wishing you all an enjoyable half term break!

Kind regards

Helen Harris Learning & Teaching Adviser, SEND/Inclusion

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# National News & Updates

#### Prem Aware Schools – Free Webinar

Welcoming the launch of the new Early Years training module, <u>Supporting prematurely born children</u> and their families in the preschool years', The Smallest Things is delighted to invite you to a free training webinar!

#### Monday 16th June | 10.30-12.15 | Online | Register Now!

Are you an Early Years practitioner, Health Visitor, AHP, a professional working in Neonatal Follow Up, or anyone else who supports families after neonatal intensive care? Then this webinar is for you! This free online training aims to increase awareness and understanding of the impact that premature birth can have on children and their families in the early years.

As well as hearing about the latest research into the lasting impact premature birth may have on premature children's learning and development, this event will provide practical strategies to equip you in supporting the needs of prematurely born children and their families. You will hear firsthand how settings are becoming <u>'Prem Aware'</u> to meet the needs of families and children born preterm and learn how to recognise children who may need additional support.

#### Further information:

The 'Supporting children and families in the preschool years' module was developed in partnership between the PRISM (Premature Infants' Skills in Mathematics) Study Team and The Smallest Things premature baby charity.

The new module explores the impact of premature birth both on the child and the wider family and provides practical tips not only for early years staff, but for parents too. It sits alongside a series of 5 other freely available training modules that outline the impact of premature birth on children's learning and development and offers practical recommendations of how to support prematurely born children in their classrooms and early years settings.

<u>Prem Aware Award — The Smallest Things</u> <u>Preterm Birth Information for Education Professionals</u>

#### Introducing special guest speakers:

- Professor Samantha Johnson, Professor of Child Development, University of Leicester.
- Catriona Ogilvy, Founder and Director of Policy, Campaigns and Research, The Smallest Things
- Melisa Selvaratnam, parent of Oscar, aged 3 years and 10 months, born at 27+5 weeks.

Full event programme to be available soon. More details.

### **KoothTalks Families**

Free webinars for parents and carers.

How to support your child to manage change when moving up to secondary school A 30-minute webinar for all parents and carers of children who are starting secondary school this year. <u>Share with parents</u>

#### Helping young people stay safe on smartphones and online

Find out how parents can support online safety for their children and how Kooth keeps young people safe. <u>Share with parents</u>

# Local News & Updates

#### SEND Improvement Updates

The local area partnership is working through the Priority Action Plan and SEND Improvement Plan following the outcome of the 2024 Ofsted and CQC inspection. The local area partnership includes Worcestershire County Council and NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

Please use the following link to the SEND Local Offer website where you will find our latest update about the SEND improvement programme: <u>www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDimprovements</u>

#### Education Planning Obligations - consultation on proposed policy changes

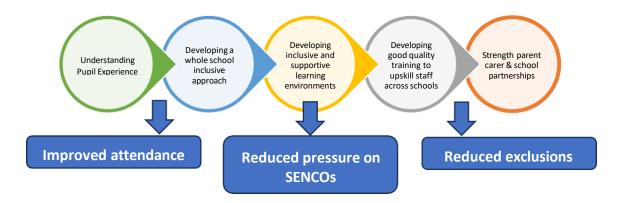
Worcestershire County Council is consulting on proposed updates to its Education Planning Obligations Policy, which guides how housing developers contribute to local education infrastructure. New housing developments often lead to increased demand for school and early years places. Where this demand can't be met through existing provision, developers may be required to make a financial contribution towards the cost of increasing local education places. The updated Policy reflects national and local changes, rising demand for specialist SEND provision, and the latest Department for Education guidance. If approved, it will apply to planning applications submitted from 1 September 2025.

We could encourage schools and settings to take part in the consultation. Find out more and respond here by 17<sup>th</sup> June: Education Planning Obligations - consultation on proposed policy changes | Worcestershire County Council

# Creating Inclusive Practice through 'PINS' so ALL Children Thrive (Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools)

We all have different thought patterns and processes; it is part of the natural variation of neurodiversity. The Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project is a new national initiative to support good outcomes for <u>all pupils</u> in mainstream primary schools, by embracing neurodiversity. Worcestershire has an exciting opportunity for 30 primary schools to join the national PINS programme and be part of this new way of thinking.

By recognising we all have different cognitive processes, PINS benefits all pupils because the changes in practice will provide the conditions for **all** pupils to thrive. PINS aims to work in partnership with primary schools, parent carer forums and local services to develop inclusive provision. The project will focus on strengthening knowledge, skills and improving learning environments to better meet the needs of ALL pupils and improve outcomes for children with neurodiverse needs. It achieves this by:



What does each school receive?

- Support to Develop Co-production with Parent Carers
- 37 hours of funded external expert support
- Resources & New Ways of Working
- Networking Across Schools & Services

To identify support needs schools will complete a self-assessment tool. A multi-agency project group (made of up Local Authority, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire and Worcestershire Parent Carer Forum) will work with schools to understand what is working well and where support is needed. A package of support will be discussed with the school and commissioned by the project group. Support will be purchased by LA/NHS from a combination of local system providers (health, education etc), external programmes and private providers.

#### Eligibility, Selection & Timescale

We intend to allocate PINS to 5 primary schools in each of the 6 Worcestershire Districts. All schools will be eligible to submit an expression of interest. The programme will run from April 2025-March 2026.

We held an information session via Teams on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – <u>you can view a recording of the session</u> <u>here.</u>

Schools that wish to participate in this programme are asked to submit a short <u>'Expression of Interest'</u> form. The deadline for submissions is **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**.

From this information schools will be selected based on analysis of education and health data to inform and understanding of need. A full list will be published on the SEND Local Offer.

# ADHD Foundation Trust Workshops New Dates & Flyers

NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire and the ADHD Foundation have a series of free webinars to help parents and carers support a child with ADHD.

There are two webinar series available which are available to book via the links below. Please note there is a password to book which is **WORKSHOP**. You will then see a list of dates and times available.

- 1. <u>Supporting My Child on the ADHD Pathway</u> For parents whose child is waiting for an assessment for ADHD (two sessions). Sessions include:
  - Developing brain
  - Supporting executive function
  - Impact of attention on planning & organisation
  - Sensory differences & emotional responses
  - Recognising & managing emotions
  - Supportive strategies
  - o <u>Download the pre-diagnosis workshop flyer here</u>
- 2. <u>Understanding and Supporting My Child's ADHD</u> For parents whose child has a diagnosis of ADHD (three sessions). Sessions include:
  - Neuroscience of ADHD
    - Characteristics
    - Co-occurring conditions
    - Sensory integration
  - o Lifestyle & environments
  - Mealtimes, sleep & movement
  - Emotional regulation
  - Supportive strategies
  - o Download the post-diagnosis workshop flyer here

# Children and Young People's 0-25 years Neurodivergence Support Service

Families and young people have told us how important it is to get help early for neurodivergent support needs. In response, Herefordshire and Worcestershire NHS are commissioning a new service to provide support for young people aged 0-25 years and their families. People will self-refer to access ageappropriate advice and support on a range of issues delivered through workshops and one-to-one support. This is likely to include support on sensory & communication needs, emotional regulation, healthy diet, sleep routine strategies, masking and self-management strategies to support daily living. The service will also work closely with other services in both counties to link families into more specialist support where needed and provide advice to wider professionals. Commissioning will take place over the rest of this year and the service is expected to be in place in Spring 2026. Lived experience experts will be part of the panel awarding the contract.

## **Neurodiversity Themed Teachmeets**

We are looking to share some of the amazing practice that happens across Worcestershire, with teachers sharing classroom ideas directly with teachers! We are looking at putting on a number of Teachmeets in Worcestershire to allow the supportive sharing of ideas.

A Teachmeet is an organised (but informal) meeting where participants are offered a variety of nano (three-minute) or macro (six-minute) presentations on a particular theme. Participants can be actively involved as presenters, or can simply relax and listen to all that will be on offer. It usually takes place in a hall or similar (depending on numbers) and there is a running order of who is presenting what (time scales are kept to tightly!). The idea is that attendees will listen to a load of ideas (usually around 20 to 25 strats) that are practical and useable in the classroom around a particular need.

We are looking to run 3 teachmeets a year for High Schools (one a term) in the North for and three in the South.

We are also looking to run 3 teachmeets a year for Primary Schools (one a term) in the North for and three in the South.

WCC will handle the bookings and planning of these sessions (who is presenting, time keeping etc) BUT we need venues! We would need high schools and primary schools in the North and South who would be willing to be a venue for the evening (Teachmeets are likely to run 6pm to 7:30pm (to be confirmed!). Coffees and tea would also be most welcome!

A key aspect of the Teachmeet is that they are FREE and an encouraging space for any teacher to attend (in fact, it is likely that other school staff would benefit from it too).

We are looking at having the 3 Teachmeets around supporting neurodiversity/neurodivergence and so it is likely that themes for a Teachmeet might include: sensory, transitions, planning, executive function etc

If your school is interested in hosting one, please email Stephen Fessey <u>sfessey@worcestershire.gov.uk</u> and we can look at dates and times. Emailing me does not commit you at this point.

## Hereford and Worcester Dyslexia Association Update

HWDA are delighted to include in it details of the Family Fun Day and AGM at Hereford Workshop's site in Belmont Community Centre on Saturday 14th June at 2pm. All are welcome - hope you can make it! <u>Please</u> see the HWDA website for their May newsletter and a leaflet with details of the Family Fun Day.

# Changes to the Worcestershire Paediatric Occupational Therapy Advice Line telephone number

From 1st May 2025, the telephone number for the Paediatric Occupational Therapy Advice Line will change to **0300 247 0017**. <u>Download the Paediatric OT Advice Line flyer here.</u>

The advice line offers practical advice relating to a child's difficulties in areas of self-care, school skills, play and leisure. It is available to any parents, carers, or professionals for advice, or to discuss possible referrals to the team.

The service is available Wednesdays between 9:00am – 12:00pm and Thursdays between 1:00pm – 4:00pm.

Further information and resources are available on the <u>Worcestershire Paediatric Therapies Hub</u> <u>website</u>.

## Early Years Updates

A reminder for Childminders - we are hosting evening Area SENCo surgeries exclusively for childminders. The next one is 25th June, you can book a slot using the following link. The discussion can be anything related to SEND or Inclusion for 0-5 year olds.

Inclusion Surgery List 24.01.24 - Google Docs

Please note: If the service offer is not used it will be withdrawn.

Click on the following links for your training needs; <u>Training and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) | Worcestershire County Council</u> <u>Early Years TD edition 27</u>

A reminder of our Inclusion website – this has recently been updated. You can find support for inclusion and Graduated Response funding amongst other things. Early Years Inclusion | Worcestershire County Council

The link below explains how to notify to the EY Inclusion team and has free Webcasts listed on the righthand side. Worth a look. Early Years Inclusion Process | Worcestershire County Council

For those of you with children moving on to a new provider please see transitions links and support below.

Early Years transition toolkit | Worcestershire County Council

#### **EY SENCO Cluster** – Have you booked on? Session code 91300.

A reminder of our final SENCO Cluster of this academic year. This will take place on **10<sup>th</sup> June 7-8.30pm**. We have a host of speakers including SENDIASS, information about the Local Offer, two Worcestershire providers talking about how they adapt and support SEN and a member of the Complex Communication Needs Team talking about.... Come and along and find out!

# Lumi Nova - First, Primary and Middle schools

FAO: All teaching staff, Pastoral Leads, SENCos, DSLs. Action: Please share widely with parents.

Over 70% of families heard about <u>Lumi Nova</u> through schools. So, a massive thank you to all those schools that have been promoting Lumi Nova to parents of children with mild to moderate anxieties. The most common goal set by children have been to:

- address anxieties around making a mistake on schoolwork or in a test and
- worries about feeling comfortable going to school.

Many schools have accessed either a <u>Lumi Nova Discovery webinar</u> to learn more or shared Lumi Nova with parents broadly or through one to one parent/teacher conversations. The next professionals' webinar is on **Friday 6**<sup>th</sup> **June, 1pm**.

Parents can find out more including signing up for a parents' webinar via this link: <u>For parents - How it</u> <u>works — Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage</u> or sign up to access the App for free, using this link: <u>Free for</u> <u>families in Herefordshire & Worcestershire — Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage</u>

To bring Lumi Nova to life we ask that all primary, first and middle schools share the one-minute animation (link below) with parents through newsletters, websites, messaging services and social media.

Introducing Lumi Nova With captions HandW.mp4 - Google Drive

Schools can also access a resource pack here: Parent Resources — Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage

Thank you for your support. To date approximately 730 families across the county have signed up to Lumi Nova for their children.

# Worcestershire Family Hubs

Family Hubs provide a welcoming place for families and expectant parents to access information, signposting, and services in the community. There are nine family hubs across the county and a number of outreach locations, providing a range of support to families with babies and children. To find out more, refer a family, or get in touch with your local hub visit: <u>www.worcestershire.gov.uk/familyhubs</u>

Services and support offered from Family Hubs could include:

- Midwifery
- Health visiting
- Speech and Language
- Infant feeding
- Baby and toddler groups
- Healthy start vitamins
- Workshops, courses and groups for parents/ carers
- Health and wellbeing, housing, finance and debt support

Family Hubs are also running <u>free webinars</u> for organisations to attend to find out everything they may need to know about Family Hubs. For more information, please down the Family Hub leaflet, assets and webinar flyer from <u>Google Drive</u>.

#### FREE SENDIASS Training at your setting

SENDIASS provide FREE SEND Training Workshops and Webinars for parents/carers and professionals. SENDIASS training workshops can help build knowledge and skills for families with a child or young person with SEND and any professionals that support them.

They are now able to offer their workshops for free in your settings. This could be as part of a SEND coffee morning or drop in for your families or part of staff training.

Further information about the workshops that they provide can be found on their webpage: <u>SENDIASS</u> <u>Training delivered at your venue</u>

If you would like them to deliver one of their workshops at your setting for free, please complete their <u>Training Request Form</u>

SENDIASS also provide regular Training Workshops from their Training Room in Worcester and online webinars. These are available for parents/carers or professionals to book, and spaces are still available for the Summer term. Further information about their available workshops can be found here: <u>SENDIASS workshops for parent and carers</u> <u>SENDIASS workshops for professionals</u>

#### **SENDIASS Resources - Preparing for Adulthood**

SENDIASS have created a Preparing for Adulthood Checklist. This checklist is designed to support parents and carers to help their young person with SEND to prepare for adult life, by breaking the process down into manageable steps.

The checklist can be downloaded from the <u>SENDIASS preparing for adulthood webpage</u>

#### **Contact SENDIASS**

Call: 01905 768153 Monday-Friday 8.30am-4pm (24hr answerphone service) Email <u>sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk</u>

For regular Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) updates, sign up to the SENDIASS mailing list by clicking the sign-up link on their <u>SENDIASS Contact page</u> or follow them on social media: <u>Facebook-HWSENDIASS</u>

HW SENDIASS also have lots of useful information on their website www.hwsendiass.co.uk

# Co-production officers for children and young people

Two new Co-production Officers have just come into post to improve engagement with children and young people with SEND. Amy Knight and Chanika Benain are now looking to connect with young people through schools and colleges, through the voluntary sector and by attending events across the county. They want to know what young people want from the both the county council and local health services and how we, as a local area partnership, can provide them a voice to be heard. Amy and Chanika can then start to link young people with the services they wish to be a part of.

They are now looking for help in meeting children and young people. They are working with any age up to and including 25 years old and the only requirement is that they have an additional need. This does not mean that they need to be formally diagnosed, or need to have an EHCP, but just a need that requires more than what is ordinarily offered. They can meet them face to face, or chat online. They can do this at school or in their local youth club; they just need them to hear that we want to work with them and be interested!

Contact Amy and Chanika at <u>SENDco-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk</u>

Find out more about co-production for children and young people with SEND on our website: <u>www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDcoproduction</u>

# Training And Professional Development Opportunities

## RISE Training: New Sensory Processing e-Learning

This new e-learning introduces sensory processing: what it is and why it matters and is intended to be used by a wide variety of practitioners, especially those working directly with disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs. This course was originally developed as training by the Early Years SEND Partnership and has now been re-purposed to create this e-learning that is now delivered through the RISE (Research and Improvement for SEND Excellence) Programme, a contract funded by the DfE.

The course covers the following topics:

- Sensory systems and sensory processing differences
- Practical application of the theory and where to go for support
- Sensory environments

To view and complete the e-learning, please follow the instructions <u>on this link</u>. This course should take around 90 minutes to complete, including making notes in the accompanying learning log document that you can access through the course.

## ELSA: Emotional Literacy Support Assistants

The Educational Psychology Service are excited to be able to continue to offer ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) training and supervision for practitioners working in Primary / First / Middle Secondary schools across Worcestershire.

The ELSA programme has been widely adopted as an evidence-based early intervention for children and young people in over 100 local authorities in the UK. ELSAs attend training days and group supervision sessions led by Educational Psychologists. They will be trained to plan and deliver individualised programmes of support for children to develop their emotional literacy, within a range of different areas. The initial training is a mix of psychological theory and application of theory to support children and young people. The training involves discussion, activities and sharing of helpful resources. Resources to support work as an ELSA are shared and all delegates will be provided with a copy of the book "Emotional Wellbeing: An Introductory Handbook" within the price of the course.

The initial training covers the following areas of emotional literacy:

- Day 1 An Introduction to ELSA and emotional literacy: please note: The line-manager or headteacher will be required to join their ELSA(s) for the morning of Day 1.
- Day 2 Security and affiliation (sense of belonging)
- Day 3 Self-esteem, motivation and developing feelings of competency and self-efficacy
- Day 4 Loss and bereavement
- Day 5 Managing emotions and social/friendship skills
- Day 6 Active listening, therapeutic stories and measuring outcomes

Cost: £630+ VAT per person and includes two supervision sessions in Spring 2026.

- Date: 23 September, 07 October, 21 October, 11 November, 25 November and 08 December 2025.
- Time: 09: 30 to 15:30
- Location: Worcester lunch is provided please ensure any dietary needs are included at the point of booking
- Course code: 10351

### Webcast: Taking a person-centred approach to preparing for adulthood

A free 25-minute webcast looking at Taking a person-centred approach to preparing for adulthood. By the end of this webcast, you will understand:

- SEND Code of Practice expectations in relation to Preparation for Adulthood
- Person-centred approaches to use with children and young people

Audience: All educational settings, especially secondary schools, high schools and Post 16 section

- Cost: Free
- Duration: 25 minutes
- CPD Course code: Search 10540

#### WCC Autism Training Courses 2025

#### Primary Schools: Creating an autism-friendly classroom

A 90-minute opportunity which covers:

- What is autism?
- How does autism present typically in schools?
- Top tips for teaching and supporting autistic pupils

Cost: Free

2 June 2025, 4pm to 5.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10116 / 90170

#### Understanding and Supporting Sensory Processing Differences in the Classroom

Understanding and Supporting Sensory Processing Differences in the Classroom is a 2-hour course delivered over two parts and will cover:

- Key sensory processing differences in autistic children and young people and how this may present in a school setting.
- The importance of sensory differences in the DSM V Criteria.
- Strategies and tools to gather information and make reasonable adjustments.

Cost: FREE to Worcestershire Local Authority / Academy and Free – Schools max: 2 places per school Cost: Independent Schools and other settings: £35 + VAT per delegate

11 and 25 June 2025, 4pm to 5pm, virtually delivery, course code: SCH 10426 / 90176

Book your place on the above training via <u>CPD</u> using your school CPD leader login details. Confirmations are issued at the point of booking and go to the delegate email provided. If your school requires support when booking, please contact the training team on **01905 844 420** or email workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk

# Haybridge Teaching School Hub

As the DfE designated Teaching School Hub for Sandwell and Dudley, Haybridge Teaching School Hub aims to be the focal point of an outstanding educational community and the single point of contact for support, for all schools in the area and surrounding regions.

They have a number of programmes on offer this term, please find further details below. For more information you can visit their website at: <u>www.haybridgeteachingschoolhub.co.uk</u>

#### CPD Programmes 2025

The Haybridge Teaching School Hub works with a number of specialist provisions to bring a wide range of CPD sessions to our colleagues. All of the sessions below are fully-funded, simply click the link below for more information and to sign up.

#### SEND online events – 4-5pm

Wed 11<sup>th</sup> June – Exploring Challenging Behaviour Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> June – Supporting Speech, Language & Communication Needs Wed 25<sup>th</sup> June – An Introduction to Emotional Based School Avoidance

#### **SEND Experience Day**

Tues 17<sup>th</sup> June – Exploring an Alternative Provision – Pens Meadow School Please follow this link to view the collection of our SEND events: <u>Eventbrite Link - HTSH Summer SEND CPD Programme</u>

#### Resources

#### SEND Podcast

The SENDcast is a weekly podcast focusing on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). It is an effective way to keep up to date with policy changes, best practice and to improve your knowledge around SEN. The weekly podcast features a different guest or guests talking about a specific topic related to Special Educational Needs. <u>Listen to SENDcast</u>

# Shine A Light - Sharing Effective Practice

#### Innovative Worcestershire SEN provision wins prestigious national innovation award

Heart of Worcestershire College and disability charity National Star have won a prestigious education award for their work with young people with special educational needs and disabilities. They were named winner in the innovative specialist/mainstream partnership working category at the Natspec Innovation Awards. The two organisations were praised for their innovative collaboration to launch a specialist provision based at The Heart of Worcestershire College campus in Worcester.

The category judge said: "This is a genuinely innovative three-way partnership between a local authority, a specialist FE college, and a general FE college. It brings students both the benefits of highly specialised provision and the benefits of manageable commutes and learning skills for adulthood in the area round their homes. The involvement of a local authority to help facilitate partnership between, a general and a specialist college is hugely innovative and goes beyond one year's place planning to multi-year planning for future need. This partnership is beneficial to its own students, and it also represents a proof of concept that should be learned from nationally."

Launched in September 2024, National Star delivers specialist education and therapy to five students with complex needs in the College's St Wulstan's Building, Deansway, Worcester.

The new teaching and therapeutic space were made possible thanks to grant from Worcestershire County Council. The space includes three classrooms, an accessible kitchen to learn life skills, a dedicated therapy space, an outdoor courtyard and access to two realistic independent flats for learners to prepare for life after college. Its central location will enable students to access and learn in the college community and the community of Worcestershire. There has been much interest in the provision, and it is expected to increase its numbers in September 2025.

If you would like to share effective inclusive practice and 'shine a light' on what is working well, please email Helen Harris at: <u>hharris@worcestershire.gov.uk</u>. We know that SENCos find this peer support extremely valuable so please get in touch to share your positive experiences, case studies or effective strategies or resources that have proven successful in improving the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

# SENCo Contact Details

Please ensure that we have the current email address (school/work based) for your school's SENCo/Inclusion Leader or SEND Team to enable them to receive ongoing communications including updates, information, Bulletins, and training opportunities.

If your SENCo/Inclusion Leader has a change of email address, please email <a href="mailto:sread2@worcestershire.gov.uk">sread2@worcestershire.gov.uk</a> to ensure your school's details are updated. Thank you.