Newington and Lower Halstow schools'

SEN & Wellbeing Newsletter

Term 3

Supporting Speech, Language and communication at Newington School

To enable children to better understand the things we ask them to do we may also use signing or visual support. Here is a great short video that illustrates just how useful signs and symbols are as a way of understanding or learning new or difficult language.

The Confusing World of Words on Vimeo

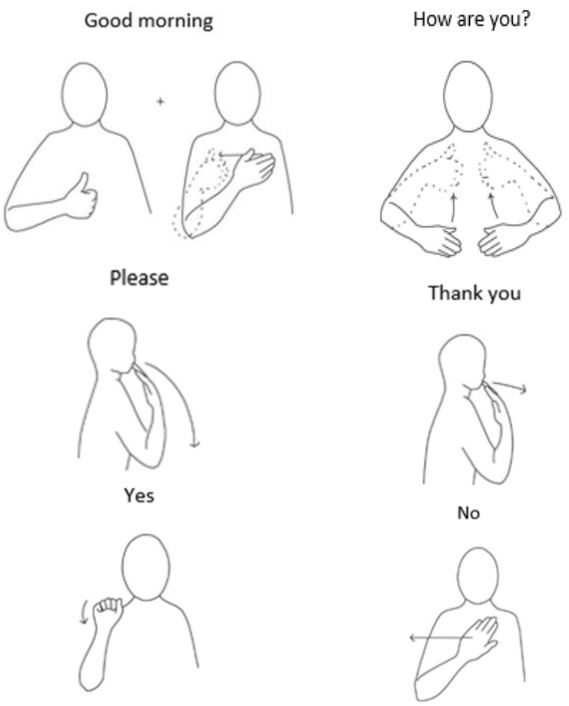
Where possible we try to use Makaton. Makaton is a language programme that uses signs, symbols, and speech to help people communicate. Makaton is designed to support spoken language, not replace it so this means that when we use Makaton, we speak and sign simultaneously. It is a fun yet powerful tool and benefits children in several ways:

- For children who have difficulty speaking or understanding spoken language, Makaton provides an accessible way to express themselves and understand others.
- Using signs and symbols alongside speech helps reinforce key concepts and ideas, making learning more engaging and memorable.
- Makaton empowers children to communicate effectively, boosting their confidence and self-esteem.
- Teaching all children Makaton creates an inclusive environment where everyone can communicate and connect, regardless of their abilities.

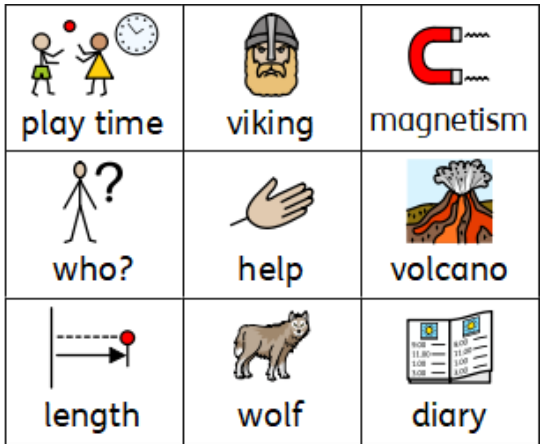
Meet the Makaton Ambassadors

Each class has their very own Makaton Ambassador. The Ambassadors meet weekly to learn the new 'Signs of the week'. They then have the task of teaching these to the rest of the class and encouraging use around school.

Help us to embrace Makaton by joining in with learning the signs at home. Look out for the Makaton Ambassadors' weekly PING. Here are some of the signs we have learned already.



If you are interested in learning Makaton there is a Parent course at Meadowfields school on 26th March 2025. This and other courses can be found at Parent Courses & Bookings - Meadowfield School

Spotlight on 'Communicate in Print'

Another tool that we frequently use to support children's understanding are the use of visuals alongside written language. Here are some examples you may see around school: