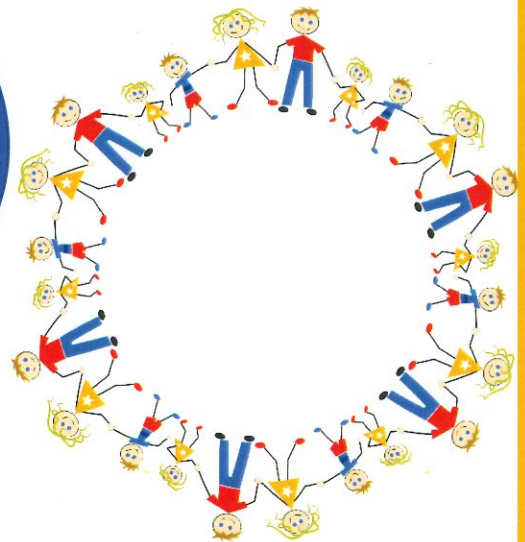


AUTISM

Our class is made up of different kinds of people, we are all unique, and we all have things that we like and dislike.

Sometimes there are things that some people find really easy, which other students may find really hard.



WHAT IS AUTISM & WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

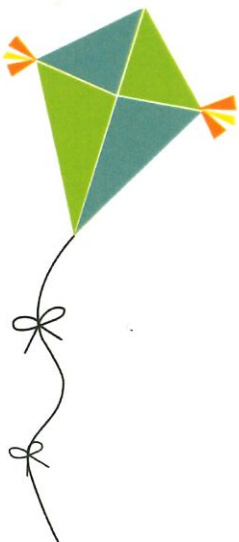
Autism affects how our brain works, and means that people who have Autism often find it difficult to communicate, make friends, or make sense of the world around them.

It can be hard for children with Autism to understand what we say, or what our facial and body expressions mean. Somebody with Autism may not be able to tell when we are angry or sad.

Some people with Autism don't see, hear, or feel things in the same way that we do. For example, the sound of the school bell might be very scary to them, the lights in the classroom might be too bright & might make their eyes hurt, or a tag on their clothing might feel like an itchy scratchy jumper!

Children with Autism like to keep their surroundings and routine the same, and can become very upset when things change. New or different things can be scary for them.

Children with Autism may have unusual behaviours, they may cry, shout, rock, hold their hands over their ears, or run away. This can happen if they get angry or frustrated, because they have difficulty understanding and dealing with the world around them, they can become overwhelmed.



HOW CAN WE HELP A STUDENT WHO HAS AUTISM?



- **Accept your classmate's differences**, we are all unique in our own way and that is OK.
- **Be a friend**, get to know them and try to find out about their likes & dislikes, learn about the things that bother them so that you can help to make them more comfortable.
- **Communication can be hard**, so use clear, short sentences. Sometimes using pictures, or gestures such as pointing, can make it easier for them to understand.
- Try to **include them** in the activities that you and your friends are doing, but be patient and take the time to explain how they work. Remember, students who have Autism don't mean to bother you, they just learn in a different way.
- Likewise, **use toys and games that you know they like**, and talk to them about things that they are interested in and want to talk about.
- **We can all learn from each other!**

