



Dear Parent/Carer,

My name is Laura McCandless (Mrs Mac) and I am the new Speech and Language Therapist at Briscoe Lane Academy. I work for a company called SpeechWise who provide Speech and Language Therapy Services into schools. I will be working in school on a Monday and Tuesday.



As a Speech and Language Therapists we can work on a range of communication skills to help children achieve their potential. These may include:

- **Understanding of language/what you say to them** e.g. following instructions
- **Expressive language/what they can say** e.g. vocabulary, grammar, putting sentences together etc
- **Speech:** being able to say sounds and words correctly. How well you can understand what they are saying.
- **Stammering / Stuttering:** struggling to get words out or repeating sounds/words before they speak e.g. "I w w w want a drink please"
- **Selective Mutism:** some children have a fear of talking in different places, they might speak ok at home but not say anything at school.
- **Social skills:** being able to use language appropriately in different settings e.g. not interrupting people when talking, being able to ask a friend to play etc. This also includes developing good friendships with other children.
- **Communication aids:** these are things to help when children aren't able to use speech to say everything they need e.g. PECS, Signing/Makaton

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like to tell or ask me anything. You can call school and leave me a message or e-mail me on Lauramc@speechwisetherapy.co.uk (please bear in mind that there may be a delay in getting back to you if I am busy working with the children or not in school on the day you contact me).

If your child is already having or had some Speech and Language input outside of school, please let me know as I am able to make use of that information and work together with any other therapists involved, provided you are happy for me to do so.

Kind Regards

Laura McCandless