

# HomeLink Worker

A HomeLink Worker (HLW) is there to build strong, supportive connections between families and the school. Their role is to make sure parents and carers feel listened to, informed, and confident in supporting their child's learning and wellbeing. They work alongside teachers, SENCOs (Special Educational Needs Coordinators), therapists, and other professionals to provide a bridge between school and home. At Hollywater School our HomeLink Worker is Molly Burchell. Molly is able to support families in the following way :

## **Communication & Advocacy**

- Acting as a point of contact between school and home.
- Explaining school systems, reports, or specialist language in a clear, parent-friendly way.
- Attending meetings with you (e.g. annual reviews, multi-agency meetings) to ensure your voice is heard.

## **Practical Support**

- Helping you access forms, applications, or referrals (e.g. transport, DLA, EHCP support).
- Signposting to local services such as parenting courses, mental health support, respite care, or financial advice.
- Supporting transitions (e.g. when a child moves into school, between key stages, or to post-16 provision).

## **Emotional & Wellbeing Support**

- Offering a listening ear if you have concerns or worries.
- Providing advice on routines, behaviour, or strategies to support learning at home.
- Running or connecting you to parent support groups so you can meet others in similar situations.

## **Support for the Child**

- Supporting children with their social and emotional development.
- Checking in with pupils if home life changes (e.g. illness, bereavement, family separation).
- Encouraging positive attendance and engagement in learning.

## **Why It Matters**

For families of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities ( SEND ), things can sometimes feel overwhelming. The HomeLink Worker's role is to:

- Reduce stress by providing guidance and practical help.
- Make sure school and home are working together.
- Ensure parents don't feel alone in navigating systems or challenges.
- Empower families to get the best outcomes for their child.