

## Introductory Pitch

Hello, my name is XXXXX and may I have a couple of minutes of your time to discuss how I and tennis may complement your school development plan and priorities.

### Q: Is handwriting an issue for any of your children?

As you know handwriting is a physical skill, needing good hand eye coordination, spatial awareness, strength in the fingers, hands, elbows & shoulders and confidence in crossing the mid-line. All of these physical elements can be developed through a fundamental movement approach and in particular the demands of holding a racket and building muscle strength on the arms and shoulders during a cross mid-line action is something I could work on for you – especially in Key Stage 1. The many skills involved in tennis are perfect when broken down into their basic elements to address and help your children become stronger and more confident, which in turn, over time should help them become more able with their handwriting. If handwriting is a priority for your school, I could run some small interventions for you, target identified children, help build their physical skills to complement the work of your teachers.

### Q Who are your underachieving target groups?

If you have children underachieving in different year groups then a physical intervention may help them become stronger, help them establish a better postural base to allow them to sit at a desk more efficiently which in turn will help with their academic work.

One of the other areas Tennis based skills can support is the focus, concentration and tracking needed for reading – following the ball in tennis requires the child to use their eyes and coordinate their arm and racket to connect with the ball – this is very similar to tracking the letters and words on a page. They are developed in the same part of the brain.

So in summary, having children with strong racket skills could help some of your underachieving children improve and therefore support your school development plan.

I would work with your class teacher to help them build their knowledge and ways of developing the physical aspect of the children at the same time as building the children's confidence, through tennis related fundamental movements and using STEP framework as a tool for differentiation, ensuring all children are progressing. I would be happy to adopt a team teaching approach, work with your class teachers to up-skill them and support them with assessment, based on how you do it in your school.

I could run an afterschool club for you and extend the skills of the children with a tennis interest and support them in the School Games events or work with less confident and less active children to build their confidence and hopefully help them become more active. I am able to adapt to your needs.

### Q I noticed you have been awarded Bronze/Silver/Gold Games Mark, well done. What are you aiming for next year?

As I am from your local tennis club I would be able to offer you some taster sessions and work with you to build a strong school/club link which will help you with your next application – *this will depend upon which award the school has.....check the criteria for the next level and be prepared to do what is needed to help the children move from the school to the club setting.*