

# Brookside Academy – The Willows

## Newsletter – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024



The Value we are focusing on this term is **Engagement**

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Staffing Update

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Mr Gilborson at the end of the summer term. We would like to thank Mr Gilborson for everything he has done and wish him all the best for the future.

We are delighted to inform you that we have appointed two new class teachers, Mrs Ellie Marriott and Mrs Lizzie Chambers. Mrs Chambers will be joining us after half term and will be initially based in Toucans class. Mrs Marriott will join us in September. Both teachers have a wealth of experience in working with children who have special educational needs.

Due to the high number of demands for specialist school places, the Willows will be expanding from 50 to 55. This will take effect from September 2024. The local authority is supporting this change by allocating some additional funding that will enable us to make adjustments to our provision. This includes additional furniture and restructuring of classroom spaces to make them bigger. We will continue to ensure that our class sizes are no bigger than 10.

### Coffee Session



#### Coffee Session

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 5:30 - 7:00pm

Please join us at school for a coffee and a chat.

This session is for parents of young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

We will be joined by Somerset Parent Carer Forum, who will provide an update about the new Autism in School project happening in Somerset.



As part of the Autism IN Schools Project, the Parent Carer forum are offering another coffee session on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The poster has been attached to an email that was sent out today but is also attached here.

### Longleat Trip – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June

It is not long until our Longleat Trip. We will send out a reminder the week before the trip with regards to what your child will need to bring with them as this will be dependent on the weather forecast.



## Animal Club – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

We have arranged the Animal Club to visit The Willows on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The cost of the visit per child is £7.74. Unfortunately, we have only received a small number of contributions towards this. If you are able to contribute, please can you do this through the usual school payment system. If we have not received enough funds by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May, we will sadly have to cancel this event.

## Year 6 Activity Week

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to our Year 6s at the end of the summer term. We have arranged a number of exciting activities during the week beginning of the 24<sup>th</sup> June. We have also booked Greenbank swimming pool on Monday July 22<sup>nd</sup>, for all of our Year 6 children across the Academy. We will send you further details about these events after half term.

## SEND Navigators

SEND Navigators are part of the offer from Somerset Parent Carer Forum CIC. We are very grateful to the National Lottery players and the National Lottery Community Fund for funding the 4 SEND Navigators on a term time only basis. They will be working across Somerset to support families. The Navigators will work in different areas of the county with the aim of supporting parent carers to build an information and support network in their locality, based either in the school or community.

## What the SEND Navigators can help with

The navigator's role is to help families of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities in Somerset to:

- access good quality information
- signpost to people who can help
- support parents to prepare for meeting and appointments
- help parent carers understand help they can get
- help parent carer access help by supporting with completion of forms such as DLA, PIP and applications for funding from grants
- help parent carers build confidence in understanding and supporting their child's need
- support parent carers to find a positive way to moving forward



<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/news/send-navigators/>