

Brookside Academy – The Willows

Newsletter – Monday 22nd January 2024



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a wonderful break.

The children have settled back into school life well and are enjoying our theme for this half term, which is Magic. The children are enjoying learning opportunities and activities linked to this theme.

Evidence for Learning updates

Just before Christmas we held our first Evidence for Learning workshop. Thank you to those who attended. You should all have access to your child's learning journal, so please do check the app on a weekly basis as your child's class teacher will be uploading photos/video or other bits of evidence which shows what your child has been doing each week. If you are having any issues with logging on/accessing the app, then please do let Mrs Durston or myself know and we will try to assist.



We would like to introduce you to the next phase of evidence for learning, which will allow you to share evidence which may link to your child's personal learning goals. We will, therefore, hold one face-to-face workshop and an online workshop. The dates for these are below:

Online workshop: Thursday 29th February 9.30-10.30am

Face-to-face workshop: Thursday 7th March 9.30-10.30am

Coffee and Chat



A number of parents have asked whether it would be possible to hold a coffee morning. We would, therefore, like to invite you a coffee morning on Tuesday 12th March at 9.30am. This will be an opportunity for you to chat to some of our other parents/carers of children who also attend The Willows, Specialist Provision. You will also have an opportunity to meet other members of staff from our pastoral team, including our speech and language therapist, PFSA and new ELSA. We will send more details about this closer to the date.

Reminders

Please can you ensure that children have PE kit in school as they will be doing PE every week.

Our Forest School Day has now changed from a Tuesday to a Thursday. Please can you ensure your child brings in suitable footwear to change into, e.g. wellies or an old pair of trainers and waterproof coat and trousers (if you have them). The children will go outside in all weathers.

I am including the below again as I have been hearing lots of positive feedback about these workshops from many families across Somerset. Please do take a few minutes to browse through the online booklet as there are lots of workshops which focus on a range of topics – some of you may find these useful. The workshops take place in different areas across Somerset and are co-ordinated in different ways to enable as many parent/carers to access them as possible.

WISE Up Workshops

New Wise-Up Workshops

Being a parent carer of a child or young person with additional needs can mean situations arise which are challenging. [Somerset Parent Carer Forum](#) have created a range of workshops based on topics parents have expressed would be helpful – [workshops for Information, Support and Education \(WISE\)](#).

All the workshops will be delivered or co-delivered by someone with lived experience of being a parent carer. Alongside this there will be a range of information workshops both face to face and online. Thank you to NHS Somerset for funding the program and to the organisations who are supporting the delivery.

If you feel nervous about attending any of the Workshops, please give Somerset Parent Carer Forum a phone call on **07543 680 395** and they will arrange for their parent carer representative, who will be at the session, to talk to you beforehand so you will know someone. Everyone attending will be parent carers who are experiencing similar challenges.

Bookings for the workshops are being managed by Somerset Parent Carer Forum. You don't need to be a member of the forum to attend but will need to be added to their database to enable your booking details to be secure.

To find out more information and book your space please see the link below

<https://somersteparentcarerforum.org.uk/home/wise-up-workshops/>



In addition to the information about the wise-up workshops, I am also attaching a flyer for a support group which runs monthly in Street for parents who have children with additional needs. This is also run by the Parent Carer Forum.

Chill and Chat
Parent carer support group

Street & Glastonbury Group Dates

Friday	19th	January	10:00 to 12:00
Friday	15th	March	10:00 to 12:00
Friday	19th	April	10:00 to 12:00
Friday	17th	May	10:00 to 12:00
Friday	21st	June	10:00 to 12:00
Friday	19th	July	10:00 to 12:00

If you have a child with additional needs and/or disabilities 0-25 come along for a cuppa and chat with other parent carers. The groups are a place to make new friends and share experiences and ask any questions you may have.

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