



SEND Newsletter Spring 2024



Welcome to the next edition of our SEND newsletter.

A newsletter to address all things related to SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).

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Somerset
Council

- **In this issue find out about Somerset's Local Offer, activities that are available locally, top tips about hidden disability support, training opportunities for parents, acceptance and awareness videos, and important dates.**

Acceptance and Awareness

Let's explore these amazing differences. Here are the links to informative videos about the challenges and the strengths.

[Sensory Processing Difficulties](#)

[Working Memory explained](#)

[Let's explore Dyslexia](#)

[Let's explore ADHD](#)



World Awareness and Acceptance dates

3rd March - World Hearing Day

13th March – Young Carers Awareness Day

18th – 24th March - Neurodiversity Celebration Week

21st March - World Down Syndrome Day

2nd April - Autism Awareness Day

7th April - World Health Day

22nd - 28th April - MS Awareness Week



Training opportunities



Being a parent carer of a child or young person with additional needs can bring extra situations which are challenging to know how to handle. To help support you, as parents and carers to navigate these challenges Somerset have created a range of workshops based on the subjects must talked about.

The ides behind the project is to empower parents and carers through workshops for information, support and education. All the workshops are delivered or co-delivered by someone with lived experience.

Browse through the brochure to see what training courses are available.

[Wise Up Workshops](#)

Free Apps



This is an app called Sleep Town, it encourages the user to develop healthy sleep patterns. As the user leaves the device untouched a town builds. <https://sleeptown.seekrtech.com/>

Chill Panda is for children and adults who want to learn how to manage stress and worry and feel better. <http://chillpanda.co.uk/>

EasyReader is a FREE accessible reading app for readers with dyslexia, visual stress, low vision or blindness. [Reading support](#)

Stars appear as you draw your finger along the screen of this app, tap a star and it flies away, shake the tablet and all stars fly away to clear the skies. Musical sounds enhance the experience. Practise spellings, letter shapes, or relax with the sensory experience. [Sensory drawing app](#)

What's going on at St Mary's?

The Explorers kitchen is now open!



Explorers are a group of children from across the school who meet in the afternoons and work on a variety of different activities and projects.

Twice a week our enthusiastic group of chefs come together to design, create and evaluate a range of dishes for the staff to order, pay for and enjoy.

Bon Appetite everyone!



Need some support on specific topics?



We will always try to help you where we can.

To support you further, we have created a padlet which has a huge amount of useful information for you to access on a number of topics. This acts as a signpost for topics such as: parenting training opportunities, parenting tips, emotion coaching, SEND, challenging behaviour and anxiety. It is constantly being updated to provide the best possible support for you.

[St Mary's Primary School Padlet](#)

What's available in Somerset?

Somerset's Local Offer

Remember the Somerset Local offer can offer you advice, guidance and support for all the services relating to SEND.

[What is Somerset's Local Offer?](#)

Click the above link for information on the services available.

ESCAPE - Encouraging Special Children and Parents Everywhere

A Somerset based supportive activity group for children with disabilities and their families. Once you are a member of ESCAPE you are invited to join all of their activities available. This is also listed with more information on the:

[Support Groups Page](#)

For more information: www.escapesupportgroup.com or Tel: 01823 442160

Wilderwoods Forest School Activity Days

Wilderwoods are a small educational charity which aims to enable people to benefit, learn and develop through woodland experiences. They provide a variety of inclusive opportunities at Hallr Wood in Charlton Mackrell and Drayton Woods, near Langport as well as other venues.

Some of the activities include: Forest School, curriculum enrichment sessions, living history, therapeutic interventions and long term placements for those struggling in school, including Social Service referrals, Woodland Playschemes, After school clubs, home ed groups, Wilder Play family learning sessions, overnight camps for small groups, Rural crafts (green woodworking, basket making, weaving) and more.

For more information visit: www.wilderwoods.org



Somerset's Community Inclusion and Activity Team

[Community and Inclusion and Activity Team](#)

Community Inclusion and Activity Team – formerly the Short Breaks Team – supports children and young people from 0 to 17 who have a disability or additional need. They have a particular focus on helping them and their families try out new things, have fun and access their local community. They grant fund providers to deliver activities across Somerset, this includes holiday activities and regular clubs.

Community – We want to enable children and young people with a disability or additional need and their families to access their local community.

Inclusion – We want children and young people with a disability or additional need to feel included in their community and in clubs and activities.

Activity – We can signpost children and young people with a disability or additional need to many opportunities to access regular clubs and activities in the school holidays. We offer some of these activities ourselves and work with many other organisations who offer great activities too. This information is sent to you in our newsletters and calendars.

Team – We cover the whole of Somerset and our team work directly with referred families to offer support, information and guidance, as well as offering activities and clubs. We are part of the Children With Disabilities Team.

Top Tip!



What is the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower?

The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower enables people with non-visible disabilities to access the support they need. It acts as a prompt for someone to choose to let people around them know they have a non-visible disability and that they may need a helping hand, understanding, or simply more time.

Find out more here:

<https://hiddendisabilitiesstore.com/>

Building our community

We are always looking at ways in which we can build upon our community links and ensure we offer our families the support they need. What opportunities would you like to see available?

An after-school library service, a monthly coffee morning or perhaps some parent workshops might be on your mind. Be sure to let us know your suggestions and ideas.

Email suggestions to: office@stmarysbridgwater.co.uk

If you have concerns about your child and think that they may need to be considered as having Special Educational Needs or a Disability, please see our school website for more information or ask to discuss this with your child's class teacher.

