

SEND newsletter

Autumn 2024



Welcome to the autumn edition of our SEND newsletter. A newsletter to address all things related to SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). In this issue find out what Somerset has to offer, some useful training courses, an acceptance and awareness section, practical ways to save money and some important dates.

Where can I find useful information relating to Somerset and SEND?

Click the above link for information on the services available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) aged between 0 to 25 and how to access them.

[Somerset SEND Local Offer](#)



Somerset SENDIAS (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support) can give children, young people and their parent carers information, advice and support about SEND. This can include information on Education, Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessments and Plans.

[Home \(somersetsend.org.uk\)](http://somersetsend.org.uk)

At St Mary's Primary School, our children are at the center of everything we do. We aim to identify the needs of all pupils as early as possible. This is part of our graduated approach, in which we Assess, Plan, Do, Review.



Please click here to find out for about the Graduated Response Tool in Somerset:
[The Graduated Response Tool](#)

Top Tip!

Is going to the cinema a challenge: Did you know that if you are in receipt of DLA for your child or PIP that you may be entitled to a CEA Cinema card which allows the accompanying carer a free ticket.

[Click here to find out more](#)



Important dates:

3rd December International Day of Persons with Disabilities

4th January World Braille day

24th January International Day of Education

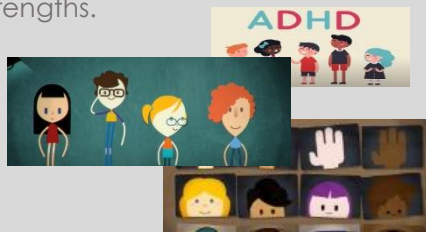
Acceptance and Awareness

Let's explore three amazing differences. Here is a link to an informative video about the challenges and the strengths.

[Let's explore autism](#)

[Let's explore ADHD](#)

[Let's explore dyslexia](#)



CAOT

Coffee mornings

If your child is on the assessment pathway for autism you would be welcome to attend the Children's Autism Outreach Team coffee mornings, soft plays and holiday activities.



Here are the contact details of the Sedgemoor team:
Barbara Mills **07584 175262**

Kate Standen-Scott **07920 211167**

Dawn Thake **07973 686350** Kate Letten **07977 412499**

Tess Beazley **07967 340529** Shelley Lush **07890 966531**

Jess Brown **07977 413825**

For dates and times please visit:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/send/childrens-autism->

Want to know more about Disability Living Allowance?

Please pop into the office and ask a member of the office team for an information booklet to explain more.



- Please stay on mute during the presentation
- Please use the chat facility for questions
- We cannot discuss specific cases
- Slides will be shared
- Turn on live captions

Concerns



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 ask to discuss this with your child's class teacher or see our school website for more information.

Our school Padlet is also available for you and is full of useful information, training, and support. Please use the following QR code below to access the resources:



Free webinars

The Somerset Mental Health Support Team are providing a series of free webinars to support families. Please click to find out more.



Support for separated parents

The Somerset Wellbeing Framework have put together some useful resources to support co-parenting for separated parents. Please see the table below for course details or click on the following link:

https://www.cypsomersethealth.org/support_for_separated_parents

OUR WEBINARS

- 1 SUPPORTING YOUR NEURODIVERGENT CHILD
- 2 SUPPORTING EXAM & TEST WELLBEING
- 3 HELPING YOUR CHILD TO THRIVE: BOOSTING SELF-ESTEEM & RESILIENCE
- 4 UNDERSTANDING & SUPPORTING ANXIETY & LOW MOOD
- 5 SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S BIG FEELINGS
- 6 WEBINARS COMING THIS SUMMER...
- 7 HELPFUL LINKS

Date & time	Topic	Link
Wednesday 15 January 9:30 AM- 10:30 AM	A separated parents' guide to successful coparenting communications	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073000546519?aff=oddtctcreator
Wednesday 15 January 2 PM-3 PM	Managing handovers and transitions for separated parents	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073028389799?aff=oddtctcreator
Tuesday 21 January 2 PM-3 PM	Helping your children navigate separation and divorce	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073078549829?aff=oddtctcreator
Thursday 23 January 9:30 AM- 10:30 AM	Managing handovers and transitions for separated parents	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073084758399?aff=oddtctcreator
Wednesday 29 January 7 PM-8 PM	A separated parents' guide to successful coparenting communication	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073016704849?aff=oddtctcreator
Tuesday 4 February 7 PM-8 PM	Helping your children navigate separation and divorce	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1073104998939?aff=oddtctcreator

What's available in Somerset?

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,

For more information visit: www.wilderwoods.org



Saturday Drop in Club

For all children and young people 0-18 years with disabilities. Come along, have fun, make new friends - cooking, arts & crafts, wii games, all ability bikes, outdoor play and much more!

At: Selworthy School, Taunton, TA2 8HD. 10am - 1pm. £2.50 per child (children must attend with a parent/carer, siblings welcome)

For more information call Joyce from CIAT 07584175247 Email: JXEvens@somerset.gov.uk

Swimming Lessons

Swimtime West Country have a range of swimming lessons for every age and every ability.

Contact Information

[01278 805120](tel:01278805120)

westcountry@swimtime.org

Tone Ability Football Sessions (for children aged 5 to 15)

This is a football club to support young people who have learning, sensory or physical disabilities, to play in a fun, safe and enjoyable environment. The club runs on Tuesdays in term time. It is run by FA qualified coaches who have a lot of experience in supporting young people with disabilities in football, are affiliated to Somerset FA and The FA. They are also supported by volunteers, parents and carers. The sessions are run at Taunton YMCA, TA1 2LB.



For more information, contact:
Ken Pearson Tel: 07789 055942

Email:

ken_pearson@btinternet.com
check out our Facebook page [Tone Ability F.C](#) or go to www.somersetfa.com



Somerset Time for Youth special needs club

This is a youth club for 0-18 year olds offering a great range of fun activities: arts & crafts, football, basketball, Wii games, films, music and themed activities. Plus a sensory room. Siblings are welcome and parent/carers need to stay. For more information check out their [Somerset Time for Youth Facebook Page](#)

Sensational Kids in Somerset

This is a social group offering leisure, educational, world awareness, life skills, technology and sensory experiences.



They meet fortnightly on Saturdays 11am - 1pm at Moorland Hall, Pearce Drive, Off Moorland Road, Highbridge, TA9 3FU.

For more information visit their [Facebook Page](#) or call Sarah Lynch 07711481206 or Lorna Storey 07901761918.

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