

# SEND newsletter

## Summer 2023



Welcome to the summer edition of our SEND newsletter! A newsletter to address all things related to SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). In this issue we explore transition and change, mental health and well-being and find out about services available in Somerset.

## The season of change

Transitions can be challenging for many children for a variety of reasons. Use the links below to find out how you can support your children transitioning through to the next chapter of their journey.

Click on the images that might support you and your family with the transitions ahead.



An animated story of a little girl moving from Foundation Stage to Year 1.



How does it feel transitioning into secondary school?



Parent Webinar A parent webinar to support with helping your child make a smooth transition to secondary school.



Transition tips for children with additional needs.

## What do the students say?

What do your children wish they had known. Click on the link below for a child friendly advice from students who have made the transition.

### [Transitioning to secondary school](#)



## 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? For example, a toy café, an after-school library service, a monthly coffee morning or even a SEND information workshop? Email your ideas to: [office@stmarysbridgwater.co.uk](mailto:office@stmarysbridgwater.co.uk)

## Acceptance and awareness focus – Chromosome duplications and deletions



Click on the picture to find out more.

## Mental health and well-being

Moving on can be a stressful time for children as they get use to new routines, new adults, new friends and new surroundings. This is the case for all children and for children with special educational needs the changes can be even more unsettling. As a parent or carer you can help. Starting conversations with your child and finding out how they feel is a great start. Asking them what they are looking forward to, what they will miss about their old school and class. Thinking about what they enjoy doing and what they find difficult.



Let's get talking about our mental health.



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 with your class teacher.

## Somerset Parent and Carer Forum

### Who are the Somerset Parent and Carer forum supporters?

Somerset Parent Carer Forum is a parent led organisation, with all the people leading our working having a child or young person between birth to 25 years with additional needs and/or disabilities.

Find out more at:

<https://somerseparentcarerforum.org.uk/>



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.



What's the **Somerset Graduated Response**?

Click on the picture above to find out more.

Find out more about the local offer as well as see our school SEND information report and SEND policy on our website:

<https://www.stmarysbridgwater.co.uk/special-educational-needs-disabilities-send/>

### diversity is beautiful



#### diversity in the animal world

there are millions of different kinds of animals - more than we can count!



#### diversity of people

people come in a great variety of shapes, sizes, genders, abilities, and appearances - we are all unique!



#### diversity of human brains

no two brains are alike, but we have names for different types - like ADHD, autistic, dyslexic, typical, & more!

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## Who can support us as a family?



### Somerset SENDIAS

Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support

Somerset SENDIAS provides information, advice and support about special educational needs and disability (SEND) for parent carers, children and young people (up to the age of 25). The service is free, confidential and impartial.

In Somerset, SENDIAS is a jointly commissioned service provided by the Local Authority and Health (ICB and NHS Foundation Trust) to meet the requirements of the SEND Code of Practice Chapter 2 para 2.1:

Local authorities must arrange for children with SEN or disabilities' for whom they are responsible, and their parents, and young people with SEN or disabilities for who they are responsible, to be provided with information and advice about matters relating to health and social care.

Somerset SENDIAS: <https://somersestsend.org.uk/>

## What's available in Somerset?

We have included more available clubs, activities, and services in Somerset. On the next page you can explore the sessions that might be suitable for your child.

If you do attend any of the sessions, then feel free to leave a review or provide us with feedback on their services.

At St Mary's Primary 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.

This four-part cycle ensures that effective provision can be put in place and support barriers to learning. We believe in inclusivity for all and strive to make this a reality for all our pupils.

# What's available in Somerset?

## Swimming Lessons

Small swimming classes are available at a quiet location at Middlemoor Water Park, Bridgwater. For more information contact 01278 805120.

[Swimtime Leaflet](#)

## SASP Sports Clubs: for 10 years +

They offer a variety of sports to suit individual needs to include cricket, swimming, football, athletics, boccia, bowls & wheelchair basketball.

[SASP Flyer](#) For more information contact: enquiries@sasp.co.uk Tel: 01823 653990

## 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: [JXEvans@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:JXEvans@somerset.gov.uk)

## 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](http://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](#)

## 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](http://www.wilderwoods.org)



## 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](http://www.escapesupportgroup.com) or Tel: 01823 442160