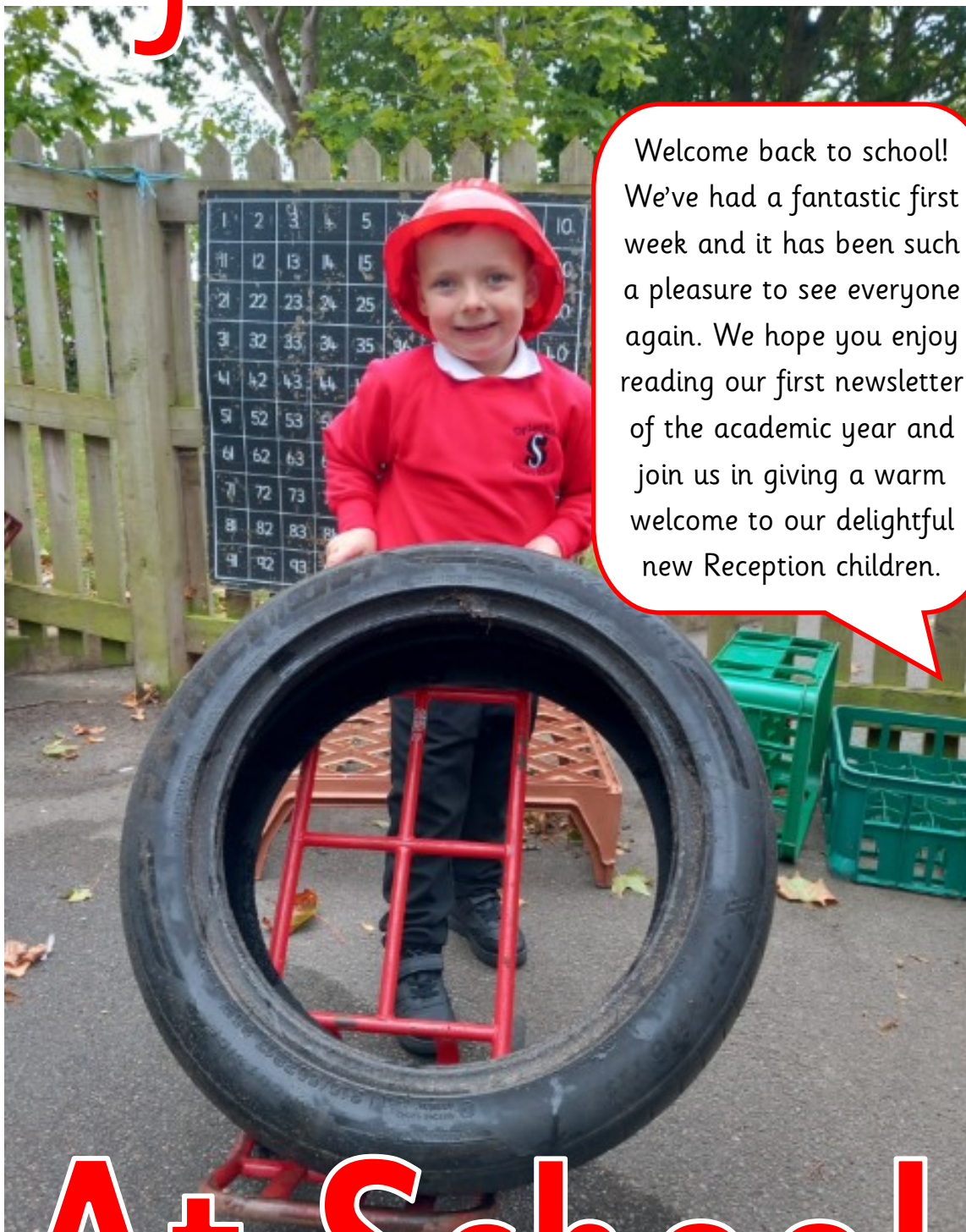


My First Week



Welcome back to school!
We've had a fantastic first week and it has been such a pleasure to see everyone again. We hope you enjoy reading our first newsletter of the academic year and join us in giving a warm welcome to our delightful new Reception children.



At School



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of Education

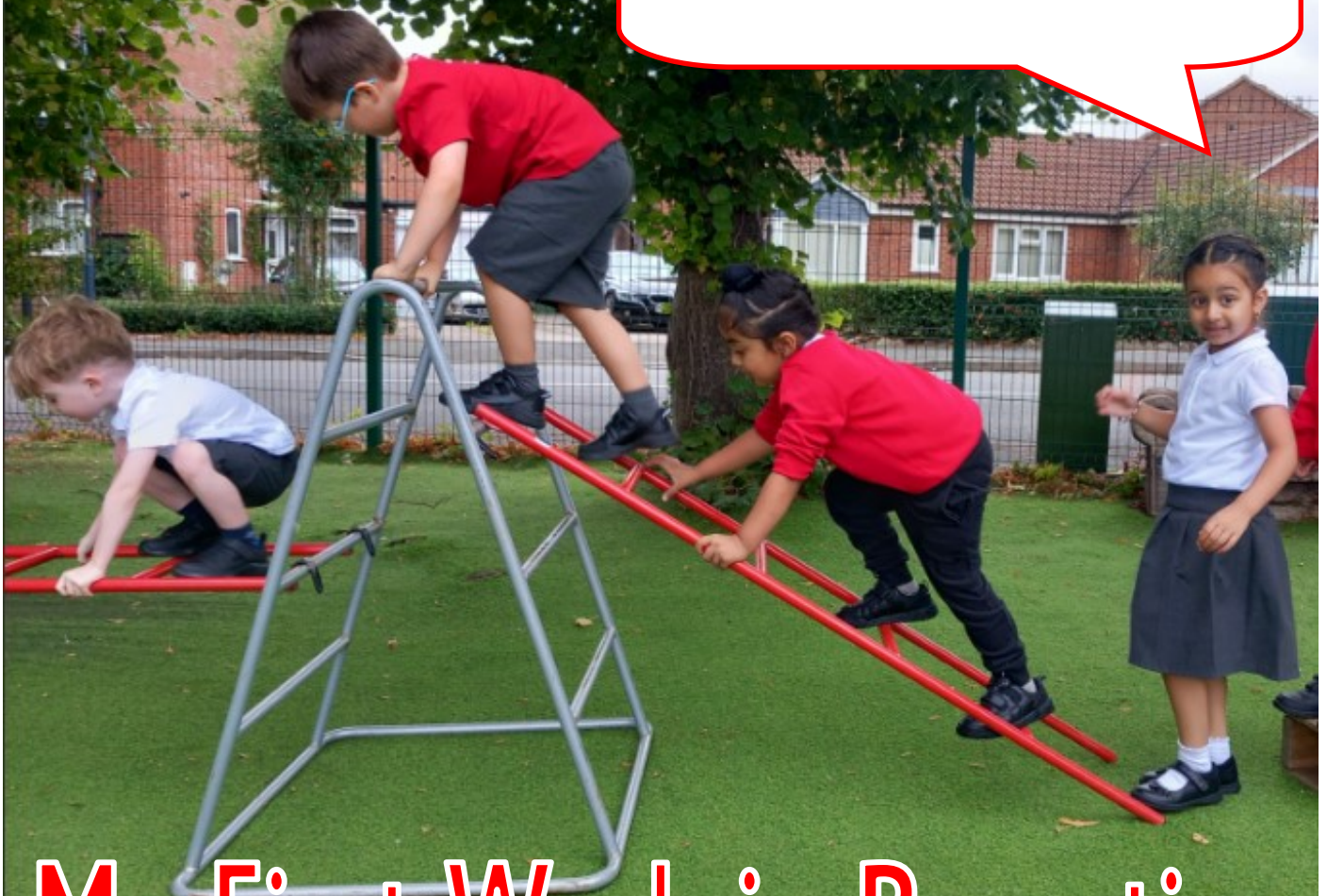
My First Week in Reception



Our newest recruits in Reception have made a confident start to their education. Pupils are quickly learning classroom rules and routines and are showing curiosity and a real love of learning.



Staff are already seeing children becoming confident and more independent learners, able to face challenges and solve problems.



My First Week in Reception



Pupils are making new friends and having fun exploring the different areas of the Reception classroom.

My First Week in Reception





Snack time and lunch time have been fun and pupils have liked trying different foods.



My First Week in Reception





My First Week in Reception



Well done to all of our lovely Reception children and keep up the good work!



Our Year 1 and 2 children have made a fantastic start in Woodwork Club! This week, they learned important safety rules and had a go at using real tools – including a hammer, saw, and hand drill. The children showed great focus and care while practising these new skills, and they are now all set to begin their very own projects next week. We can't wait to see what they create.



KS1 Woodwork Club



In Puffins class, Miss Ellershaw made a big mess in her cupboard and all her pasta got muddled up! Pupils had to use their sorting skills to organise the different types of pasta back into groups. Some children even challenged themselves by counting how many were in each group.

Y1 Maths





Y6 African Art



Y6 pupils have been studying the work of contemporary African artists including Yinka Shonibare and Njideka Akaunyili Crosby. The children explored the themes, palette, line and form of the artists who work in 2 and 3D forms.



Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 29: Goals of Education



This lesson not only helped the children recap prior learning but also encouraged them to take ownership of what they already know and feel confident about moving forward. It also supported our MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) National Curriculum aim of laying the foundations for further language learning and developing interest in other cultures .

Y4 Spanish Learning



Art in the Park



Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 31: Leisure, Play and Culture

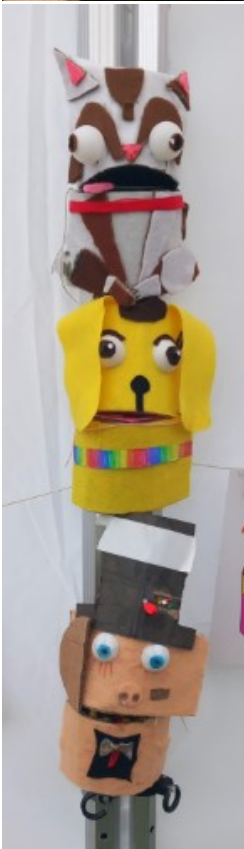
SPLAT! ARTS FESTIVAL

SPLAT! is a collaboration between pupils and staff from two local primary schools: St Patrick's and Sydenham, enabling the children to work with professional artists in school to create some exciting pieces of work.

The schools are committed to improving access to high quality arts for children and secured funding from local charities to make this wonderful collaboration with professional artists possible.

Please show your support, pop inside and take a look at our fabulous SPLAT! pop-up art gallery.

Come in and have a go at screen printing yourself with local artist Jim Duncan. It's FREE!

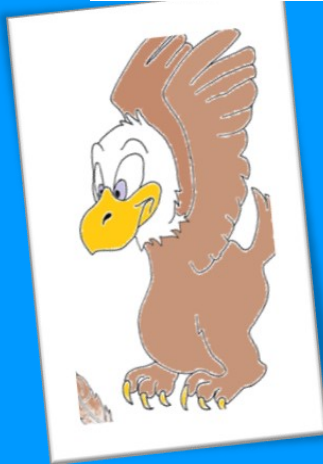


Miss Glenny really enjoyed seeing so many of our families at Art in the Park over the Summer holiday. Lots of you came along to our pop-up gallery to view art work created in school with visiting artists, to join in with free arty workshops and to spend time with staff from the charity, Young People First.

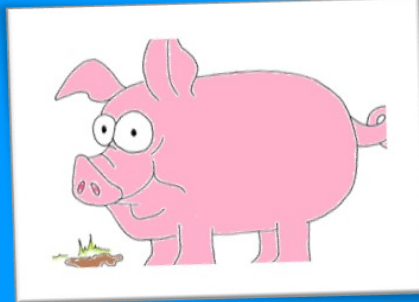
Learning Characters

These are the characters we use at school to help us develop a positive attitude to our learning and **GROW** our brains!

Concentrate.



Have a go.

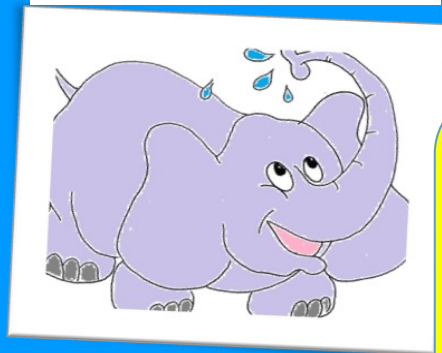


Cooperate.

Be curious.



Never give up.



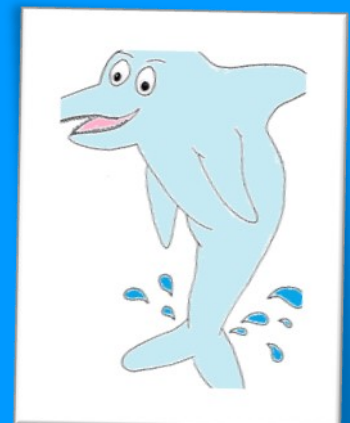
In class this week we have been thinking about having a positive attitude to learning so that we can keep on trying even if things are hard.

When we think like our characters, we become learning superheroes!

Keep on improving.



Enjoy learning.



Use your imagination.



Reading Diaries

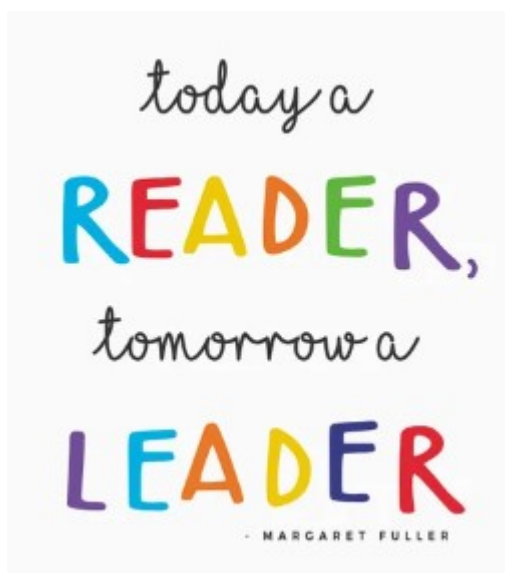
At Sydenham we value and love reading.

Your child should have received a reading diary which they must bring home every day before returning it to school the next. Each page has a week-to-view, with a space for you to sign for every day that you hear your child read over the course of the week. Teaching staff will not complete this section of the reading diary as we keep reading records in school; but there is space at the bottom of each page for teaching staff to make any particular notes.

One diary should last all year, so please encourage your child to take care of it as they are a valuable record of your child's progress with this key skill.

We really do love reading at our school, and hope that your child will enjoy taking part in all of the different reading activities throughout the year.

Regular reading is rewarded, so please do help us to know that your child is reading at home by signing their diary!



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 29: Goals of Education



Homelearning: get involved with your child's education!

Research shows that pupils are more likely to fulfil their academic potential when parents value education and actively become involved in their child's learning.

Taking an interest in homework is one way to support your child's progress and help them to achieve well at school.

Every Thursday, your child will be given their homelearning book containing the tasks they must complete by the following Tuesday. Teachers try hard to make these tasks fun, interesting and accessible for all pupils. Here are some top tips to help you become involved with homework:

- Try to provide a quiet space for your child to use when completing their homelearning. This will help them to concentrate and produce their best work. Encourage them to sit at a desk or dining room table so that their handwriting is neat and tidy.
- Establish a routine. This will encourage your child to be organised and is good preparation for secondary school.
- Sit with your child and talk to them about their homework. Try to explain the task if they don't understand. If you are confused, talk to your child's teacher – they will be more than happy to clarify the task.
- Try not to do the homework **for** your child! Encourage them to have a go by themselves.
- Remember that your child is eligible for a library card which entitles them to borrow up to ten free books from Leamington library. This can be helpful if your child needs to research a topic.
- Practise spellings and times tables with your child as often as possible. Mastering these basic building blocks can make a massive difference to your child's learning.
- Read with your child every day and don't forget that bed time story!
- **Remember – even though homework can sometimes be stressful as a parent, becoming involved and taking an interest in your child's education DOES make a positive difference! You are your child's most important teacher!**



School Information

Welcome Power Point Presentations

You will soon be receiving an email from your child's teacher with a Powerpoint Presentation attached. The presentation contains important information about the coming year and covers topics such as staffing, the curriculum, assessments, homelearning and trips. You should have received the email by Friday 12th September. If there are any problems, please speak to your child's teacher.

Equipment

Please label all equipment—uniform, water bottles and lunch bags. Please remember to send equipment with your child rather than bring it in late to the office. Thank you.

School Photographs

Brush up your smiles! The photographer will be taking individual portraits of children on **Thursday 18th September**. These will be available to buy.

Nut Allergies

We kindly ask that pupils do not bring any foods containing nuts or nut traces into school. This is because some children in our community have severe nut allergies and carry auto-injectors to keep them safe. Even small amounts of nut products can cause a serious reaction and be fatal, so your support in keeping our school environment nut-free is greatly appreciated.

Please avoid products such as Nutella and other nut butters.

Snacks

School provides free fruit as a morning snack for all children in Reception, Year One and Year Two so they **do not need to bring a snack from home**. In Key Stage Two, pupils can bring a piece of fruit or a cereal bar to school but crisps, sweets and chocolate bars are **not** allowed. Please help us to follow the government's Food Standards in School by adhering to this rule. Thank you.

Water Bottles and Milk

Your child will need a labelled water bottle. Please fill the bottle with water and refrain from using squash or fizzy drinks. For younger children, milk is available daily—please speak to the office to place an order.

School Information

Mufti Days

This year we will be having regular MUFTI (non-uniform) days. If your child chooses to participate by coming to school in their own choice of clothes, we kindly ask that you donate £1.00 (or a little more if you can afford it) via ParentPay. All the money raised this term will go to School Fund.

MUFTI days will be advertised in the diary dates section of the newsletter.

PE Kit

Please remember that PE kit should consist of black shorts, joggers or leggings, a white or red T shirt, black hoodie and trainers. **Items of clothing with a logo and skimpy garments such as crop tops are not allowed.**

Suitable PE kit can be purchased from most supermarkets—much cheaper than buying designer kit from a sport's shop!

Coats

As we move into Autumn, please remember to provide your child with a coat on colder days. Coats should be clearly labelled with your child's name, as should scarves and hats. Please teach your child to store gloves in their coat pocket to keep them safe—they are easily lost!

Parking

If possible, please walk, cycle or scoot to school—it's healthy and fun! If you must drive, please park safely and legally, avoiding the zig-zag markings and making sure that you do not block pavements or driveways. If there are no parking spaces, park a little further away and then walk to avoid congestion.

Attendance and Lateness

Our school attendance target is 97%. It's vital that children attend school every day and arrive on time so that they meet their potential. Holidays in term time are **not** allowed unless the circumstances are exceptional and even then we are unable to authorise extended periods of absence. If you do need to request a leave of absence, please collect the necessary paperwork from the office.

Harvest appeal

We are supporting Warwick District Foodbank by collecting the items listed below. If you would like to donate something, please leave it with a member of our office staff, week beginning Monday 22nd September.

Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest, the food bank will provide over 150 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money



Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

Shopping list

Tinned fruit

Tinned peas/carrots

Tinned sweetcorn

Rice pudding

Crisps

Shaving gel & razors

Shower gel

Toothpaste

Washing up liquid

Laundry capsules

info@warwickdistrict.foodbank.org.uk
warwickdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1180705)





Mental Health in Schools Team Tips For Wellness



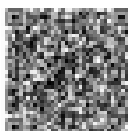
Being Brave

We can show bravery in lots of different ways, such as recognising that we feel a certain way (e.g., sad, anxious), asking someone for help when we need it and trying new things, even if we feel scared!

Feeling scared is often a sign that we are doing something challenging and it is completely normal to feel this way. Even though it can feel uncomfortable, being brave and facing these difficulties can also help us to learn and grow (both physically and emotionally). This can mean we need to step outside our comfort zone at times to be able to overcome challenges, but it is important to remember that being brave does not mean we have to cope alone.

Our Tips for Being Brave:

1. **Set yourself a goal to try something new.** Create a plan to break your goal down into smaller, more achievable steps! This can help your goal to feel less overwhelming.
2. **Take chances and make mistakes!** Sometimes it is helpful to fail, so you can practise being brave. Try something you have been wanting to try and take that chance to move out of your comfort zone. You might even find that it wasn't as bad as you thought it would be.
3. Practise **positive self-talk** to help develop your bravery. Repeat these sentences to yourself or out loud - 'I can do hard things'; 'I try my best'; 'I can enjoy challenge'. You might want to write positive statements on post-it notes and stick them around your mirror so you can remind yourself of them every day!
4. **Ask for help** when you need it from someone you trust. Taking the step to talk to someone is one of the bravest things you can do!
5. **Strike a power pose!** Standing up tall with your feet apart, your head held high and with your hands on your hips can help make you feel more confident and ready to take on a challenge. What pose makes you feel more confident?



Follow the QR code for activities to support the theme 'being brave'!

In Coventry and Warwickshire, for any urgent mental health concerns, contact the RISE Crisis Helpline available 24/7, by calling NHS 111. Alternatively, call 999 or visit A&E in an emergency, for example if medical attention is required.

MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays.

Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for information and advice.



**TICKETS
AVAILABLE
NOW!**

**AMAZING
LEGO DISPLAYS**

**NEW & RETIRED
LEGO SETS**

**BUILD
CHALLENGES**

**ACTIVITIES
FOR ALL AGES**

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**MILLIONS OF
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VIOLIN CLASSES **FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS**

Ages 5 - 10

Spark a lifelong love of music!



Bookings now open for September 2025!



Join our fun and friendly Saturday morning violin classes for children aged 5-10, held in our purpose-built music studio in Leamington Spa. Led by expert tutor Barbara O'Reilly, these sessions are the perfect way to nurture budding young musicians in a relaxed and encouraging environment.

Saturday morning classes - starting 13th September 2025

Violin and Musicianship - Stage 1 - *NEW class open for booking*

09:00am - 09:45am Suitable for children aged 5-7 who are new to the violin.

Violin and Musicianship - Stage 2 - *Limited spaces remaining*

09:45am - 10:30am Suitable for children aged 6-8 who have been learning the violin for a year.

Violin and Musicianship - Stage 3 - *Limited spaces remaining*

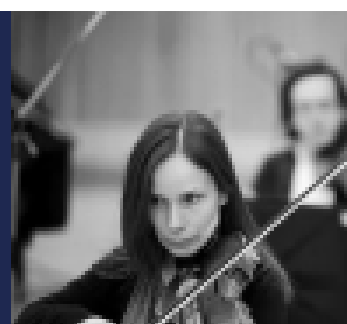
10:30am - 11:15am Suitable for children aged 7-9 who have been learning the violin for two years.

Violin and Musicianship - Stage 4 - *Limited spaces remaining*

11:15am - 12:00 noon Suitable for children aged 8-10 who have been learning the violin for three years.

Barbara O'Reilly, BMus, MMus, PGDip

Barbara has worked for the last 20+ years in the Midlands performing with groups and orchestras, whilst teaching at schools across Warwickshire. For the past 8 years she has been Head of Strings at the Kingsley School in Leamington Spa.



Book your space today:
www.prestomusic.com/violinclasses



SEND Help!

@ The Gap Community Centre, 10:00-12:00

**Once a month on the following dates in 2025:
9th April, 14th May, 11th June, 9th July, 13th Aug, 10th
September, 8th October, 12th November and 10th
December.**

An adult led SEND support group for parent's/carers, whose child(ren) may or may not have a diagnosis.

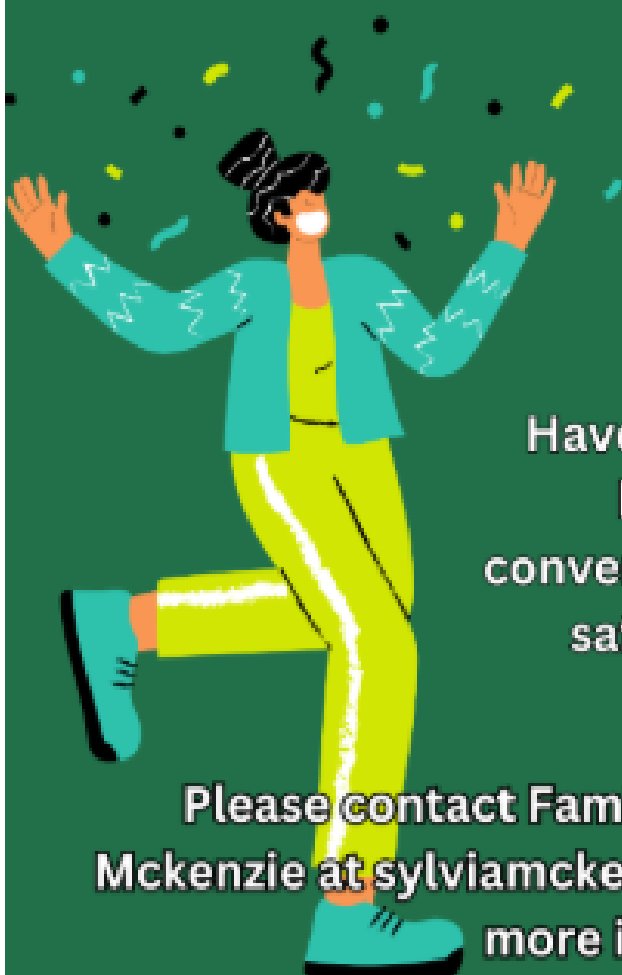
Facilitated by
Family Support
Workers.

A chance to meet
people who may be
going through the
same things as you.

Signposting to
helpful services &
professionals.

Have open and
honest
conversations, in a
safe space.

Please contact Family Support Worker, Sylvia
Mckenzie at sylviamckenzie@warwickshire.gov.uk for
more info/to book.



FREE

Money Saving Cookery Classes



BIG TASTE SMALL BUDGET

Come along to our FREE, fun cookery workshops and learn how to cook tasty meals whilst saving money on your weekly grocery bill.

Our SYDNI Community Chef, Adam will demonstrate a range of tasty, low cost dishes.

You will be given all the ingredients to make at home or you'll get the opportunity to make the dish at the session to take home with you.

Sessions run at the SYDNI Centre from 11am - 12 noon on the following dates:

**9th Sept, 23rd Sept, 14th Oct, 28th Oct,
11th Nov, 25th Nov, 9th Dec 2025**

Please book each session that you wish to attend by calling the centre on 01926 422071 or by e-mail to wellbeing@sydni.org.

Funded by WCC Household Support Fund





**Warwickshire Family
and Relationship
Support**

SLEEP TIGHT 5 WEEK PROGRAMME



**11TH SEPTEMBER
2025**



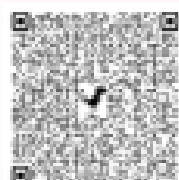
10:00- 12:00



VIRTUAL DELIVERY

For further information email:
ehparenttrainers@warwickshire.gov.uk

Book your free
place



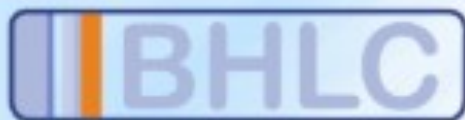
Sleep issues are common for children and young people and can have a huge impact on the quality of family life. We are offering a 5- week sleep programme for parents/carers living in Warwickshire

The programme will cover:

- The importance of sleep
- Sleep cycles
- Causes of sleep issues
- Strategies to overcome sleep problems
- Appropriate bedtime routines
- Bedroom environment and positive parenting



For Warwickshire parents only.



SEND DROP IN sessions

Where and When?

Every other Wednesday

13:00-14:30

Lillington Children's
Centre

The third Thursday of
each month

11:00-13:00

Brunswick Hub

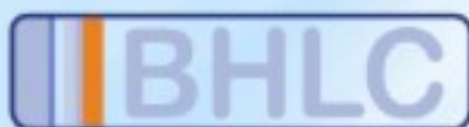
How does it work?

Attend at any time
between the times set,
let us know what you
need help with and we
will either manage it on
the day if possible, or we
will book you a 1-1
appointment for
another day

Examples of what we can support with (but not
limited to):

- + DLA/PIP Forms
- + EHCP Applications
- + School Refusal and anxiety
- + Signposting and referrals
- + Parent/carer wellbeing support

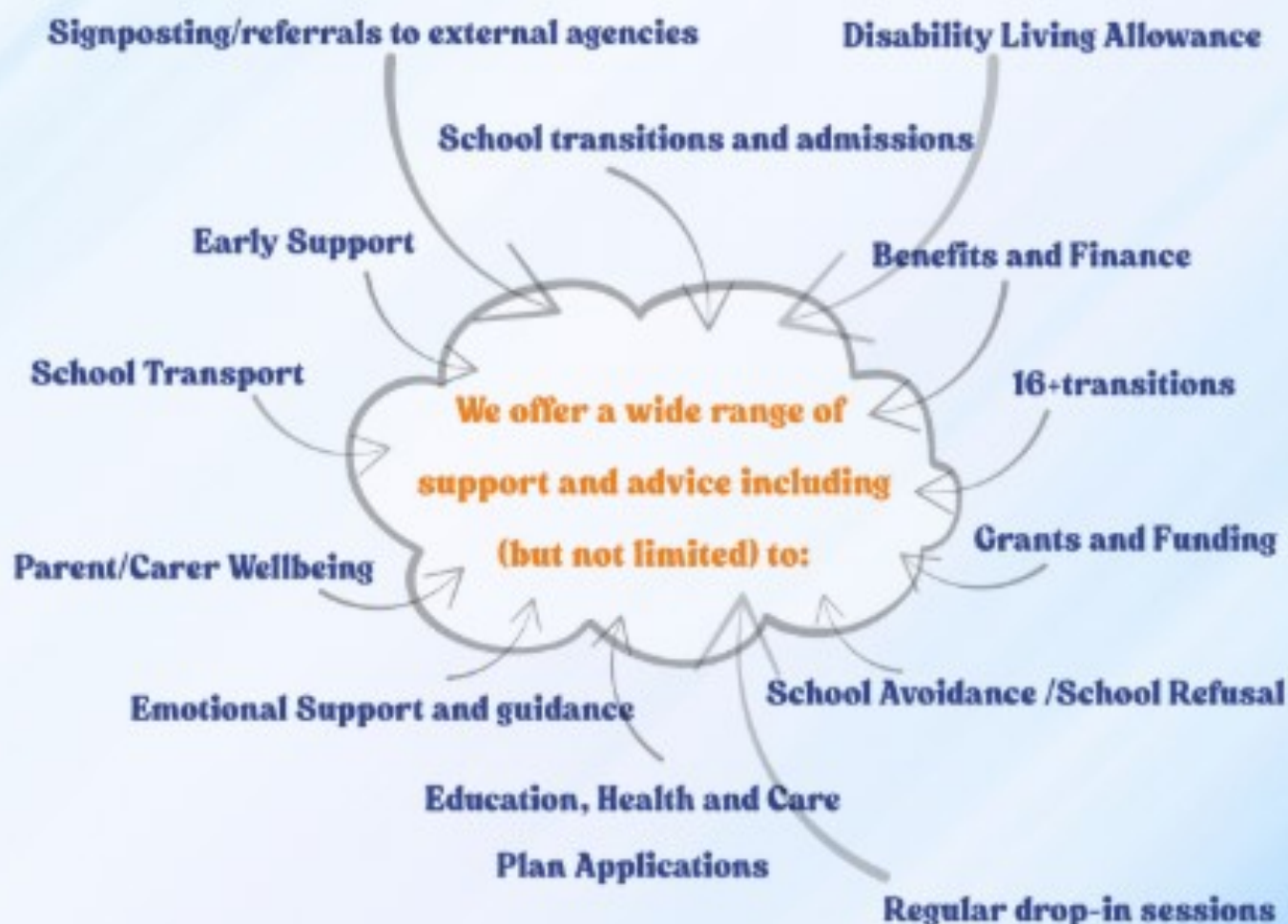
For more information please call 01926 422123



SEND SUPPORT

at the Brunswick Hub

Does your child have SEND needs?
Do you need some support & advice?



For more information or to book an appointment, contact:

Georgina.mansell@brunswickhlc.org.uk or Laura.Moy@brunswickhlc.org.uk

01926 422123



Diary Dates

Thursday 11th September	Y6 WWII trip to Winchcombe Station.
Tuesday 16th September	Y5 Tudors trip to Sulgrave Manor.
Thursday 18th September	School photographer—individual portraits.
Wednesday 24th/Thursday 25th September	Y5/6 Level 2 Bikeability.
Thursday 25th September at 9.05am	Y1 Harvest Festival —parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Friday 26th September	MUFTI (non-uniform) Day—make a donation of £1.00 to School Fund via ParentPay if your child wears their own choice of clothes.
Tuesday 30th September at 9.00am.	Y6 Swans class assembly—parents and carers of children in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Tuesday 7th October at 9.00am.	Y6 Moorhens class assembly—parents and carers of children in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Thursday 9th October	MUFTI (non uniform) Day—wear blue for World Mental Health Day.
Thursday 9th October	YR and Y6 height and weight checks.
Thursday 9th October	Y6 Health Needs Assessment.
Friday 10th October	School closed for In-Service Training (INSET)
Tuesday 14th October at 10.15am	Y1 Puffins class assembly—parents and carers of children in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Tuesday 21st October at 10.15am.	Y1 Kingfishers class assembly—parents and carers of children in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Friday 24th October	MUFTI (non-uniform) Day—make a donation of £1.00 to School Fund via ParentPay if your child wears their own choice of clothes.
Wednesday 22nd (3.30—7.00pm) and Thursday 23rd October (3.30—5.30pm)	Parent's Evening
Friday 24th October	MUFTI (non-uniform) Day—make a donation of £1.00 to School Fund via ParentPay if your child wears their own choice of clothes.

Monday 27th —Friday 31st October, school closed for the half-term holiday.

Pupils return to school on Monday 3rd November.

Tuesday 4th November at 9.00am	Y5 Woodpeckers class assembly—parents and carers of children in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Tuesday 18th November at 9.00am	Y5 Kittiwakes class assembly—parents and carers of children in this class are warmly invited to attend.
Wednesday 26th November	Y3/4 trip to The Belgrade Theatre to watch “Sleeping Beauty.”
Friday 28th November	MUFTI (non-uniform) Day—make a donation of £1.00 to School Fund via ParentPay if your child wears their own choice of clothes.
Monday 1st December	School closed for In-Service Training (INSET.)
Wednesday 3rd December	Reception, Year One and Year Two trip to Warwick Arts Centre to watch “The Tiger Who Came to Tea.”
Tuesday 9th December at 2.15pm	Y4 Carol Concert. Parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Thursday 4th December at 9.30am.	Y1 Carol Concert —parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Friday 5th December at 9.30am	YR Nativity —parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Monday 8th December at 9.30am	Y2 Carol Concert —parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Tuesday 9th December at 9.30am	Y3 Carol Concert —parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Wednesday 10th December at 9.30am	Y5 Carol Concert — parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Thursday 11th December at 2.15pm	Y6 Carol Concert —parents and carers of children in this year group are warmly invited to attend.
Tuesday 16th December	Christmas lunch.
Wednesday 17th December	MUFTI—wear a Christmas jumper or festive outfit and donate £1.00 to School Fund via ParentPay.

Monday 22nd December—Friday 2nd January, school closed for Christmas holiday.



Sydenham Superstars



YR and Key Stage One

Have a super weekend.

Best wishes from Miss
Glenny



Key Stage Two