

THINGS TO DO

A weekly newsletter from SEND Supported



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Understandably there is a mix of feelings and opinions since the announcement made by Education Secretary Gavin Williamson that “All children in England will go back to school full-time in September, under current plans”. In the meantime, schools continue to work hard to ensure that the children in priority groups are as settled and safe as possible whilst keeping abreast of the mass of information and changing guidance received.

With transition to secondary school in mind, the LA are in the process of producing an animation with useful tips for parents and carers as well as children of the year 6 group which they will be promoting, as with previous animations, through social media channels. We'll be sure to share the links to these resources via our newsletter.

Warmest wishes, Joanna and team



EMOTIONAL WELLBEING - Kate Griffiths

One of my favourite things to come out of all the lockdown home schooling resources has to be a collaboration between Basil Brush with Martin Roberts (from homes under the hammer).



They've teamed up to produce a video of Basil reading Martin's children's book 'Sadsville'. The book is aimed at children aged 6-10 and was originally written two years ago to support the work of the NSPCC and Childline. As if that wasn't amazing enough there are also resources and additional videos available to support work around the book. It can all be found on [Martin's website](#).

For fans of the Royal family this assembly delivered by The Duchess of Cambridge for [Oak National Academy](#). The assembly is based on a lesson plan which is available on the Mentally Healthy Schools Platform. It was developed in collaboration with children's mental health charity Place2be, mentioned in last week's newsletter, and encourages children to explore ways in which they can show kindness and recognise the benefits of kindness to others.

Another excellent resource that could be used with [Year 6 pupils](#) over the next few weeks is this set of lesson plans which have been written for teachers in primary schools who want to teach about the risks of participating in anti-social behaviour, gangs and keeping safe in their local areas. With a long summer holiday ahead it's a really good time to raise awareness of this with our pupils and hopefully give them skills to safely enjoy their holidays.

Lastly is an interesting resource from [Positive Young Minds](#). It looks at how to use de-escalation techniques with pupils while still taking social distancing into account. It's an excellent

reminder of the techniques we use when a young person is in crisis and gives alternatives for when we may have previously used physical contact and presence.



LEARNING - Clair Cole

Let's get talking!



['The Communication Trust](#) – Every Child Understood' has a wealth of resources to help teachers and parents understand how children develop their speech and language skills with the aim that every child is enabled to communicate to the best of their ability. The Things to Do Issue 15 Resources folder has 'Top tips for talk' and 'Summer talk' (games and activities to support children's communication skills if families manage to get out and about this summer or if they are spending time at home). For much more information about how to support children's speech and language go to

[ICAN](#) 'the children's communication charity' work to support children to have the communication skills they need to fulfil their potential. They provide information and advice for parents and professionals including ideas and for learning at home and links to other organisations who are helping to develop children's language skills.

If you enjoy drama, take a look at [The Drama Geezers](#) – 'two freelance drama practitioners on a mission to excite and engage young people through drama'. They have shared 13 drama game videos for families to play at home.



AUTISM - Jules McLean

The Autism Awareness Centre has a wealth of information, links and resources on their website and I want to draw your attention to the following;

Physical activity has soared to the top of the priority list since COVID-19 started to support health and well-being and is encouraged to be part of everyone's week throughout their lifespan. [Regular exercise](#) lessens anxiety, improves sleep, increases endurance, builds muscles, develops motor skills and offers opportunities for socializing.

Autism neurology and processing are different from that of neurotypicals. Visual processing is stronger than auditory processing, therefore instruction needs to be delivered more through demonstration or with visual supports than verbal explanations. There can be movement differences because of [dyspraxia](#) and [motor skills ability](#). [Working memory](#), the brain's temporary storage system, is also affected so instruction must be repetitive and explicit on the same element or skill for a longer period of time. Repeated practice over time fosters critical mass which means true mastery of a skill. [Critical mass](#) is the point where an individual has gained enough information to be successful in situations, activities, or skills for which instruction has not been provided. When there has been enough instruction and multiple experiences, a tipping point can occur, and the person can apply the skill in many new ways. For example, learning how to hit a puck on the ice may also help with hitting the ball in field hockey.

Children and young person will have more success with physical activity if they have some of the prerequisite skills. The [Active for Life](#) website has a number of 5-15 minute skills and a list of equipment and instructions are provided.



FAMILY & CHILDREN AT HOME - Clare Viney

Stratford upon Avon Foodbank have partnered with Stratfords' Churches Together and the MakeLunch Project to offer a free weekly food parcel delivery for any struggling family throughout the school summer holidays.



Families can refer themselves - or schools or support workers may also refer the family, by contacting the MakeLunch Project leader Ann Jones on 07580 557163 or emailing her at anncherryjones@yahoo.co.uk Deliveries are expected to start from Monday 20th July but referrals are requested asap.

This project is an ideal way to ensure your vulnerable families receive consistent food support throughout the summer holidays - by contacting Ann you can ensure that not only do they receive a weekly foodbank referral throughout the school holidays but that they will also get that parcel delivered to their door along with additional fresh food produce and an activity for the child.

For more information please follow the [MakeLunch](#) Facebook page. Also, download the information sheet which contains a Q & A on this service from the [THINGS TO DO Issue 15 - RESOURCES](#) folder - and please share this offer with others where you can. The only criteria is that a family has at least one child of primary school age.

They are unsure how many referrals they may get so reserve the right to 'close their book's if inundated - so please make your referral as soon as possible by contacting Ann.



Heart-warming good news stories

10-year-old Imogen Papworth-Heidel has challenged footballers across the country to join her in a keepy-uppy challenge in order to raise £7.1 million for charity!



Also, two NHS staff members alongside their friends have recorded their own version of a classic McFly song, which you can listen to [here](#) (scroll down to find *Singing friends perform song for key workers*). 😊

If you are not already on the mailing list and would like to connect with other families of children or young people with SEND, please email enquiries@sendsupported.com to join the next online Parent 'Drop-in' on Fri 10th July.



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