



SEND and Inclusion support July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Worcestershire Local Authority have developed a further support package to be used alongside the resources available from the academy to help you support your child during these difficult times. The resources are designed for children with special educational needs but may be useful for those children who have increased anxiety due to the current circumstances.



Letter to parent/carers of children with SEND

Gabrielle Stacey, Assistant Director for SEND and Vulnerable Learners within Worcestershire Children First, has written an open letter to parent/carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities this has been added to the SEND Local Offer webpages. The letter describes the ongoing work in Worcestershire to make educational provision for those children with Education Health and Care Plans and those receiving SEND support. **We would appreciate it if all mainstream schools could include a link to the letter in their communication with parents and a copy of the letter could be sent to all families of children and young people in special schools.**

[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/12649/letter to parents and carers from gabrielle stacey assistant director for send and vulnerable learners.pdf](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/12649/letter%20to%20parents%20and%20carers%20from%20gabrielle%20stacey%20assistant%20director%20for%20send%20and%20vulnerable%20learners.pdf)



PAEDIATRIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The Paediatric Occupational Therapy (POT) Service will be introducing an Advice Line from Wednesday 3rd June 2020.

This is aimed to offer support for:

- Health Professionals and those that refer to the POT Service
- Schools/Teachers/SENCO's
- Parents and Carers

We will offer information on:

- Strategies and advice around Occupational Performance and Functional concerns. Practical advice relating to difficulties in areas of self-help, play and leisure.
- If a referral to POT is appropriate.



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By providing this Advice Line we hope to:

- Offer immediate support to families before a referral needs to be made.
- Reduce unnecessary referrals.
- Reduce waiting times.

To speak to a Paediatric Occupational Therapist please call: Any Wednesday 10am-3pm

Tel: **07562 436633** Find us on facebook: @cypfotphysio

BESTIE – Local Mental Health Services App

BESTIE is an interactive app developed by Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust and designed by local young people, CAMHS clinicians and IT experts – has recently been launched by Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust CAMHS.

BESTIE is freely available and can be found by searching for 'Worcestershire BESTIE' on Apple and Android phones or tablets. A web-based version is available at www.camhsbestie.co.uk

On joining BESTIE, young people, parents and professionals are able to easily access information about local mental health services (including virtual reality tours of Worcestershire CAMHS bases), signposting to local and national services and charities, as well as useful self-help information.

This information is age-rated (so that young people only see information which is appropriate for their age) and favourite self-help information can be saved in a 'personal space' on the app, so that it is immediately to hand.

For young people who are seen in CAMHS, additional features will soon be unlocked, including the ability to track their goals, mood and emotion. BESTIE was awarded 'MidTech Best NHS developed innovation' at the Meridian Celebration of Innovation Awards.

For more information about BESTIE, please see www.camhsbestie.co.uk

Support for parents

Parents who also have children under 5 years old and need advice can contact our Telephone Advisory Service on: **0300 123 9551**

The Starting Well partnership has been offering one-to-one telephone support to parents during the government Covid restrictions, giving help and advice about issues such as behaviour management, wellbeing, activities, practical support. Parenting groups are now being delivered virtually. These groups support parents with strategies to develop positive relationships with their children and use evidence-based tools to manage behaviour. Parents can self-refer, or professionals can refer with consent, by going to <https://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/support-during-covid19>

I CAN - Support for parents

I CAN have produced some resources to support parents and carers with children and young people with speech, language and communication needs.

A range of information, strategies and factsheets can be found here:

<https://ican.org.uk/i-cans-talking-point/parents/resources/>

Calling all children aged 4-11 years – sign up to the 'Silly Squad Summer Reading Challenge 2020!



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The annual Summer Reading Challenge for children aged 4-11 years is being delivered online this year and offers a perfect solution for a summer term project that supports reading and literacy and helps promote reading for pleasure.

This year's challenge launched nationally on Friday 5th June. The theme is Silly Squad with a focus on the

enjoyment of reading for pleasure; children are encouraged to read anything that makes them happy and can register for the challenge here <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> They can read books available at home, provided by school or those free to download and borrow from Worcestershire Libraries. Remember, library membership is free and Worcestershire **residents of all ages** can join instantly online with a digital membership – a wide range of junior fiction is available from the digital library including a dedicated 'Silly Squad' collection of books in eBook and eAudio format using the 'Borrowbox' app. 10

Due to the impact of Covid-19, Worcestershire Libraries are unable to host the SRC in their library buildings or run any face to face events and activities. However, many library services, events and activities are now available online - visit the Digital Library Hub to explore or access the SRC events and activities via Worcestershire Libraries Facebook page.