E-bulletin 25: Week ending - Friday 27.07.12

A round up of the week’s news and information from the Parent Partnership Service. Don’t forget to visit our website www.wolvesparentpartnership.org

The Parent Partnership Service is a statutory, confidential service for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and other disabilities or additional needs.

Contact a Family’s latest updated parent guides include

- Holidays, Play and Leisure
- A guide to dealing with bullying: for parents and disabled children
- Help with Council Tax Bills (online only)

To order your free copy call the helpline on 0808 808 3555 or view online at www.cafamily.org.uk

E-bulletins

Our e-bulletins are becoming increasingly popular and are being forwarded on to many other parents and professionals. This is really positive as it means that more and more people are being kept up to date, but unfortunately it also means that some of the information and event dates may have passed by the time it reaches you. If you would like to receive your own copy, please email pauline.williams@wolverhampton.gov.uk and I will add your name to the distribution list, please also let me know if you are registering as a parent or a professional.

Look out for the dates!

We are planning termly information days for parents and carers, dates are yet to be confirmed but the first one will be in early October and it will be your chance to find out all about Multi-Agency Support teams (MASTs). These days will run from 9.15-2.45 to fit in with the school day and a lunch will be provided. Look out for dates in the e-bulletins and on flyers at the Gem Centre and schools.

We are also going to host half termly ‘coffee and chat’ sessions (don’t worry tea and cold drinks will also be available!), an informal get together where you can meet with other parents who know what it is like to live with a child with additional needs. One or two members of the Parent Partnership Service will be there if you have any questions – and to make you a drink! Again, look out for dates in the e-bulletins and on flyers.

Another date to look out for is a Summer Picnic in August 2013, we will arrange the venue and hot drinks, all you will need to do is turn up with your child and a picnic. This will be an opportunity for the children (and the adults) to have a fun time at Brickkiln Community Centre in both the sensory room and the outdoor play area (weather permitting of course).
Along with the above, there are the autism support groups for parents at carers at Tettenhall Wood School.

Dates for all of the above will be published as soon as they are confirmed to give you as much notice as possible. Keep an eye on our ‘What’s On?’ page too.

**Guide to social care, housing and health**

Cerebra has produced a guide for parents of disabled children to give them information on how to get the help and support they need. It focuses on how to get help for the child’s social care, housing and health needs. It also give information on the responsibilities and professionals for providing health and social care as well as accommodation for disabled children and their families. Visit www.goo.gl/EaoT1 to download a copy.

**Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities (FPLD)**

The FPLD has produced two booklets for families of a child with complex health needs or who is dependent on medical technology:-

‘An Ordinary Life’ explores support such as circles of support, good health support, education, emergency planning, leisure opportunities and adaptation to the home. Visit www.fpld.org.uk/publications/an-ordinary-life-booklet to download a copy.

**Summer Holidays**

The summer holidays are now upon us and the sun is shining at last. If you are still looking for ideas to fill the days, there are lots of things going on in the Wolverhampton area. We did publish a list in e-bulletin 23, but for those of you who have only just started to receive our e-bulletins, and as a reminder to everyone, here are a few suggestions:-

**Brickkiln Sensory Room** available Monday-Friday 10am-4pm and 6pm-9pm, Saturday 10am-4pm. Don’t forget that until September there is no charge to use this fantastic facility. We have received lots of positive feedback from those who have already visited it, read the article on page 10 of the attached newsletter. Brickkiln Sensory Room, Cherry Street, Wolverhampton, WV3 0QW Tel: 01902 557936 - prior booking is required.

**Let Us Play** - provide sports, arts and play activities for children and young people with special needs and disabilities in Wolverhampton and the surrounding area. Visit http://www.letusplay.org.uk/index.html for further information. The Summer newsletter from Let Us Play is attached.

**Free Workshops** - Include Me TOO are providing regular FREE fun workshops for disabled children, young people (5-18 years old) which are tailored to meet all needs, providing fun, opportunities to gain new experiences/skills and make new friends. Disabled children and young people can join us to take part in Bollywood and Bhangra Dancing sessions or African Drumming sessions. Siblings are welcome to join while parents and carers can have a short break. Please see the attached flyer for further details along with the booking form.
**Newhampton Arts Centre** - The Newhampton Arts Centre will be busy with creative activities. There is something for all ages and all pockets. Booking is recommended for all workshops to ensure a place. Please see the attached for more information or visit [http://www.newhamptonarts.co.uk/category/childrenfamily/page/2/](http://www.newhamptonarts.co.uk/category/childrenfamily/page/2/).

**Wolverhampton Play Service** provides free, open access play opportunities for children aged 5-12 years across the city. The service is delivered through six Adventure Play Grounds, Holiday Play Schemes and 'Play for All' Inclusion Project. Old Fallings Adventure Playground and Peach Tree Secret Garden, Old Fallings Crescent, Low Hill, Wolverhampton, WV10 9PU  Telephone: 01902 552170 Email: playservice@wolverhampton.gov.uk

**The Sport Development Team** organise a number of activities for young people during school terms and school holidays. More information can be found on [http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/leisure_culture/sports/development](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/leisure_culture/sports/development).

**Odeon Cinemas** hold an Autism friendly screening every month. The next screening will be the Animated The Lorax (U, 2D) Sunday 12th August at 11.30am. There are participating cinemas in Telford, Tamworth and Coventry. Autism friendly screenings are mainstream films shown in a sensory friendly environment. Lights are on low, sound is turned down, trailers are omitted and people can bring their own food, make noise and move around the cinema as they feel comfortable. The screenings are for anyone who would benefit from the subtle differences made to the cinema environment and it is hoped it will enable people who may struggle to enjoy mainstream cinema to experience this newly released film with friends and family. Visit [www.dimensions-uk.org/autismfriendly](http://www.dimensions-uk.org/autismfriendly) to find out more.

**Free Family Fun Day** - Contact a Family are holding a family fun day for families of children with disabilities on Saturday 8th September 2012 10.30am – 3.00pm. Reynolds Cross School, Kineton Green Road, Olton, B92 7ER. Book your place by ringing Jan or Angie on 0121 415 4624. See the attached flyer for further information.

**Plings** is a website that will help you find things to do in the local area, visit [http://www.plings.net/la/00CW?searchText&postcode&date=01%2F08%2F2012&enddate=31%2F08%2F2012&submit=Go](http://www.plings.net/la/00CW?searchText&postcode&date=01%2F08%2F2012&enddate=31%2F08%2F2012&submit=Go)

Sport Club Rhinos (Wolverhampton Rhinos)

Like sport? Want some fun? Take the 'two-wheel' challenge and learn how wheelchair sport is done! Wheelchair users and able bodied, everyone is welcome! Go and learn about Paralympic Sports, Exercise and Meet New Friends! Multi-Sport Sessions (Wheelchair based) Including an introduction to: Wheelchair basketball, wheelchair tag rugby, wheelchair tennis, Boccia and kurling. Suitable for everyone aged 8-19 years. Dates and times: 10am-12 noon - Mon-Wed 6th-8th August, Mon-Wed 13th-15th August and Mon-Wed 20th-22nd August at NEW Academy, Foxley Campus, Marsh Lane, Wolverhampton, WV10 6SE, £3 per session or £6 for 3 days - places are limited, don't miss out, book now! In partnership with Wolverhampton short breaks, sessions delivered by AC Coaching. Telephone 01902 653233 or 07879 861011 or email info@wolverhamptonrhinos.com. Visit www.wolverhamptonrhinos.com

Youngsters set for summer of sport

Youngsters will get the chance to try out a range of sports during the summer holidays. Wolverhampton City Council is hosting another of the popular Multi-Sport programmes aimed at youngsters aged eight to 15.

Those taking part will be able to have a go at tag rugby, athletics, team combat and rebounders under the guidance of qualified coaches from local sports clubs. They will also be able to enjoy a work out in a special youth gym.

The programme runs from Wednesday August 29 to Friday August 31, 2012, at Blakenhall Community Healthy Living Centre, Bromley Street, Blakenhall, from 9am-3.30pm each day. The programme costs £15 per person for the three days and, for more information or an application form, please log on to www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sportdevelopment or call 01902 556220.

Councillor Elias Mattu, Wolverhampton City Council’s Cabinet Member for Leisure and Communities, said: "These are a great way for youngsters to have a go at a wide variety of sports, all under the expert guidance of coaches from our local clubs."

Saddle up for summer cycling sessions

Youngsters will be given the opportunity to brush up on their biking skills this summer. Wolverhampton City Council is holding Bikeability sessions for children aged between eight and 16 at Aldersley High School. Bikeability is the modern-day version of the Cycling Proficiency Test and is designed to give young people the skills and confidence they need to ride their bikes on the open road. Sessions covering Bikeability Levels 1 and 2 - introducing the fundamental points of riding a bike correctly and safely - will take place on August 6, 8, 14, 16, 20 and 22. Meanwhile, a programme of leisure rides around the local are also being organised for competent riders. These take place on August 7, 9, 15, 17, 21 and 23.

Both programmes cost £5 per person. Bikes and helmets can be provided subject to availability, and those taking part will get a certificate and free gift. Candidates should bring a packed lunch, snacks and drinks.
The events have been organised by Wolverhampton City Council’s Community Development and Road Safety teams, and Councillor Elias Mattu, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Communities, said: "We’re keen to get as many youngsters out and about on their bikes because of the tremendous health benefits that cycling brings, and Bikeability will teach young riders the skills they need to stay safe on modern roads."

The courses will run from 9am-3pm each day. Places, which cost £5 per child, must be reserved in advance by completing an application form available at www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sportdevelopment or by calling 01902 556220.

**Race is on to try out new bike track**

Youngsters are riding high after a new BMX track was unveiled in Bradley. The £84,000 facility, at Greenway Playing Fields, features a variety of jumps and three banked turns and is suitable for both BMX and mountain bikes. It is a pump track - a training track which will be a good introduction to BMX riding - and was officially opened this week. The track is the third such facility in Wolverhampton, with other BMX tracks proving popular at Aldersley High School and Ashmore Park.

Councillor Elias Mattu, Wolverhampton City Council's Cabinet Member for Leisure and Communities, said: "This is a fantastic facility and one which is certain to be very popular with the people of Bradley, Bilston and the surrounding area. We’re trying to encourage people to take part in as many outdoor activities as possible in our parks, and across Wolverhampton we now have a network of outdoor gyms and fitness trails, traditional and natural play areas, multi-use games areas and bike tracks such as this one."

Track guidelines are displayed at the site, including detail about the basic cycling skills riders should learn before using the facility for the first time, and what safety equipment is needed. The Greenway Playing Fields track is free to use.

**Historical nature reserve set to opens its doors**

Visitors will be able to get a glimpse of Pendeford Mill, a site of environmental and historical significance, this weekend. It is holding a special open day on Sunday (July 29, 2012) from 10am - 4pm when people will be able to discover for themselves the 59 acres of naturally-managed countryside dating back to the 13th century.

Normally, because of the sensitive environmental nature of the site, people are only able to visit it by prior arrangement, so the open day is a rare opportunity to view this idyllic spot. Wolverhampton City Council’s Cabinet Member for Leisure and Communities Councillor Elias Mattu said: “Pendeford Mill is normally only open to visitors by prior arrangement but we are delighted to be able to invite people along to this special open day when they will be able to find out more about what is one of Wolverhampton’s best-kept secrets. “The site manager will be on hand to answer questions about Pendeford Mill and its history and the sort of plants and animals which can be found there.”

Pendeford Mill Nature Reserve is on Pendeford Hall Lane. For more information about the event, please call 01902 397640. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a responsible adult and sturdy shoes or boots are recommended. No dogs are allowed on the reserve.

More information about Pendeford Mill can be found online at www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/pendefordmill, at www.twitter.com/pendefordmill and by searching for “Pendeford Mill” on Facebook.