



Special Matters
Staffordshire
Moorlands

Newsletter June 11
Support Group for Parents



New Sensory
Equipment

Summer Activities
and more...

Welcome to the latest newsletter!!!

Hope you all have had a great May half-term break. The time is running away from it self, and the summer won't be long and it will be here. We have been able to get some more funding from Aiming High, two lots one for Sensory equipment and some more activities for the summer. So please have a read of the newsletter and please book on the activities that you and your family are interested in.

Please contact me if you would like to add anything into the next newsletter which will be out in October. For my information please contact me on 07966 053040 or email faith.asplin@staffordshire.gov.uk. Remember to look at the website www.specialmatters.co.uk

faith

Context

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TWYCROSS ZOO

We have been fortunate to receive some more funded from Aiming High which will provide is with 3 Summer activities. We shall providing coach transport for the trips; the coaches have spaces for wheel-chairs. You don't have to come on the coach if you prefer driving yourselves there, and we can arrange to meet you at the place. We have three different activities this year and one of them is Twycross Zoo in Warwickshire. Why not come along and see their comprehensive collection of primates, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and fish! They have over 1,000 animals on show including Bornean Orangutans, Asian Elephants, Inland Bearded Dragons, Northern White-faced Owls, Boa Constrictors, Red-kneed Tarantulas and many more. In the day they have a number of talks about different animals and also feeding time. You can either take your own packed lunch or they have a number of cafes. Also at the Zoo there are some children's play areas and some small rides at a little extra cost. When you are booking in if you would like to go on more than one trip please state your order of preference.



28th July 2011

Please phone or email the office on 01298 687162 or jayne.harding@staffordshire.gov.uk or sue.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk

to book your place by the 8th July.

We will confirm places on the trips by letter before 21st July.



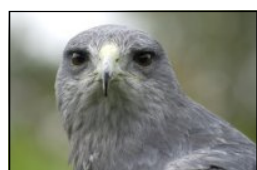
CAMELOT

We are also going to visit Camelot in Chorley. A land of great knights and amazing days. A theme park where you can see the magical sorcery of a wizard one minute and knights battling it out in spectacular jousting tournaments the next. A land of fun days out, twisting, turning thrill an minute rides, of breathtaking shows and exciting entertainment. They also have a selection on Birds of Prey. We are also providing a coach on this trip which is wheelchair accessible. You don't have to come on the coach if you prefer driving yourselves there, and we can arrange to meet you at the place. When you are phoning or emailing please can you advise the team should you need wheelchair space on the coach, if you are not wanting a place on the coach please let us know. When you are booking in please can you let them know if you would like to go more that one trip? Simply state your favourites in order of preference when you book in.



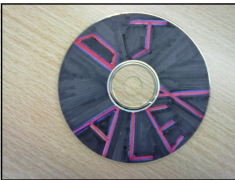
2nd August 2011

Please phone or email the office on 01298 687162 or jayne.harding@staffordshire.gov.uk or sue.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk to book your place by the 8th July. We will confirm your place by letter before 21st July.



DJ WORKSHOP

Our third activity is the DJ Workshop, we had this at our Spring Party back in February and many people said they really enjoyed it and would like to have it again. We are arranging an afternoon workshop which is **creative, fun**, educationally music based. The workshop is developed to involve and introduce people of all educational needs to all styles of music via the art of DJing, Producing and Mixing. We also will be having some soft play, sensory equipment and more.



This day will be at the Leek High School. When you are booking in please state your order of preference if you would like to go on more than one trip.



24th September 2011

2.00pm - 5.00pm

Please phone or email the office on 01298 687162 or

jayne.harding@staffordshire.gov.uk or

sue.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk

to book your place by the 8th July.

We will confirm places on the trips by letter before 21st July.



SUPPORT GROUPS IN LEEK & CHEADLE

The next daytime support is on the 15th June at the Meadow School starting at 10.00am. Please come along to have a cuppa and chat with other parents. We have some books which are available to borrow, also we have our new sensory equipment catalogue which you can look through. We always have information about activities and workshops at the Drop In and the atmosphere is very friendly. Three new parents came along to the last Drop In and really enjoyed it. If you are a parent who would like to bring a friend along who also has a child with special needs please do – all are very welcome.



**Leek Support Group at the
Meadow School**
15th June
12th July
Starting at 10.00am - noon



**Cheadle Support Group at the
Cheadle Children Centre**
13th June
11th July
Starting at 7.30pm - 9.30pm

SUPPORT GROUP IN BIDDULPH

In Biddulph there is a support group for parents with Special Needs and additional needs which Staffordshire Moorlands Children Centre run. The group is call SMILE. This group is supported by North Staffs Cares Association - a very supportive group for families who have children with disabilities. If you would like more information NSCA please have a look at their website which is: www.carersfirst.com. A Parent Volunteer, Regan Willott has now become involved in facilitating this group and we wish her all the best in this new role.

SMILE meets every first Thursday of every month, the next dates are as below. Please phone Staffordshire Moorlands Children Centre for anymore detail on: 01782 297970



SMILE
2nd June & 7th July
Staffordshire Moorlands
Children Centre
10.00am - 11.30am



North Staffs Carers Association
Family Fun Day
At Northwood Stadium
18th June
10.30am - 2.30pm
Everyone is welcome
some staff from SMCC will be there



FAMILY WALK

Leek & Rural Children Centre, is planning having two Family Walks during the summer holidays and Special Matters families are very welcome to join in. We have a number of Special Matters families who have enjoyed these walks in the past so please consider joining us. Come along and join in the fresh air and a good time walking with other families, and watching your children having a fun time. The walk is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Please remember to wear suitable footwear and bring a packed Lunch and drinks for you and the children. For any more information and to book in please contact the office on 01298 687162.



**10th August &
24th August
10.00am - 2.00pm**

AIMING HIGH

We are applying for funding from Aiming High to enable us to offer funding for places on the Crossroads Play Scheme (held in the Stoke area with trips out) and a possible dedicated trip out with full care for Special Matters Children from the Moorlands area picking up in Leek. Places would be limited and funding is not confirmed but if you would like to record your interest please call the office on 01298 687162.



NEW SENSORY EQUIPMENT



Special Matters has been able to get some more funding from Aiming High for Sensory Equipment. The sensory equipment is available from Leek & Rural Children Centre, Cheadle Toy Library (at Cheadle Children Centre) and the Leek

Moorlands Toy Library. If you would like to look at the catalogue please come along to one of our support group where you can look through the catalogue and request toys and equipment. Some of the items are featured on our website to have a look which is www.specialmatters.co.uk it only costs £2 to join the Leek and Rural toy Library then the toy/sensory equipment costs between 30p and £4 per month. You can collect and drop off at any of the toy libraries mentioned above or to one of the childcare team at an activity by arrangement. If you would like anymore details please contact Leek & Rural Children Centre.



Toy Library Session is on the Wednesdays at the Haregate Community Centre starting at 1.30pm - 3.30pm. It's a drop in session or you can stay and play.



COMMON TOILET PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Contact a Family and PromoCon are working together, and inviting parents and carers of disabled children and young people to a free workshop looking at common toileting problems and some possible solutions. This will include guidance around school issues

Tuesday 28th June 2011
10am – 2pm
Lunch included

Rising Brook Baptist Church Centre
Burton Square
Stafford
Staffordshire
ST17 9LT

Call Jan or Liz on 0121 415 4624 for details and booking. Places are limited



LOTTERY FUNDED



contact a family
for families with disabled children

Dates for your Diary

Support Groups

We are having the support groups in Leek and Cheadle. Cheadle in the Cheadle Children Centre, meeting at 7.30pm, Leek is a daytime one at the Meadows Special School starting 10.00am. Please come and join us, it would be great to see you there to have a cuppa and a chat.

Cheadle - Children Centre

13th June
11th July
1st August

Leek - Meadows

15th June
12th July

Activity Days/Meeting

18th June - North Staffs Cares Family Fun Day
28th June - Workshop on Toilet Problems and Solutions
28th July - Twycross Zoo
2nd August - Camelot
10th August - Family Walk
24th August - Family Walk
24th September - DJ Workshop

