

Parents' Network

eBulletin for parents in Solihull

September 2017

This eBulletin contains important information for parents. There is a separate section with items for parents who have a child with additional needs or a disability.

GCSEs

Is your child studying for GCSEs?

If so, or if they will in the future, you might be interested to know that GCSEs in England are changing. The courses and exams have been changed to ensure that young people have the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the 21st Century. The new GCSEs will ensure that students leave school better prepared for work or further study. They cover more challenging content and are designed to match standards in the strongest performing education systems elsewhere in the world.

The Department For Education had produced a guide for parents giving more information and a timeline for the changes.

[Click here for more information](#)

KEC Family Plus Parent and Toddler Group

A new Parent and Toddler Group at Kingshurst Evangelical Church meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings offering parents the chance to meet other families and to enjoy time together.

They are offering a Family Plus sessions on Thursday 28th September and Thursday 23rd November. These sessions will offer support on topics including Speech and Language, Sleep Routine, Access to Health Services, Toilet Training, Baby Brain Development, Weaning, Funded Childcare for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

[Click here for more information](#)

For free, friendly and impartial information contact the Family Information Service.

Call: 0800 389 8667 Email: familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk

Visit: www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo

Womens / Girls Rugby Taster Session

Sils Sirens are offering a Rugby Taster session for women/girls.

The Inner Warrior session will take place on Friday the 1st of September from 7pm at Silhillians RUFC. There are groups for Under 13s, Under 15s, under 18s and Women.

No experience is necessary.

[Click here for more information](#)

30 hours of Early Education per week for eligible 3 and 4 year olds - Deadline for Autumn Term approaching!

Parents of children who will be 3 years and above on 31st August 2017 can now apply for the new extended early education funded entitlement. This means that families who meet the set eligibility criteria can access up to 30 hours per week rather than up to 15 hours per week from the September term of this year.

If you think your child will be eligible for the 30 hours extended entitlement and want to secure the funding for the Autumn (September) term please apply straight away. The earlier you apply the quicker you can secure a place at your chosen childcare provider.

Please note that you **must** apply before the term starts to get the additional funded hours. If you wait until the term starts you will not be able to access funding until the start of the following term.

You can apply online and if your family do meet the eligibility criteria you will be given a code to pass to your chosen childcare provider to book a funded place. You will be asked to re-check the details every 3 months so please ensure you follow any prompts from HMRC to avoid losing the funding.

[Click here for more information](#)

[Click here to apply](#)

There is a helpline available if you need any help with your application which is 0300 123 4097.

If you are struggling to find a suitable childcare provider then please search the [Family Information Service Directory online](#). You can also contact the Family Information Service on 0800 389 8667 or familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk.

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Free Online Parenting Courses for Solihull Residents

Solihull residents can now access FREE online Solihull Approach Parenting Courses to gain knowledge, confidence and skills in sensitive and attuned parenting. To access the free courses you can use the codes below which are valid until the end of March 2018.

To access the courses for free you will need to:

- a) Go to www.inourplace.co.uk
- b) Create an account using an email address and password
- c) Scroll down choose a course
- d) Click on 'Already got a discount coupon?'
- e) Insert the relevant code (See below), and click 'Apply coupon'
 - Understanding your pregnancy – SOSOLIHULLAPPROACHANT
 - Understanding your baby – SOSOLIHULLAPPROACHPOSTN
 - Understanding your child - SOLUYCMAR18
- f) Enjoy the course! On returning to the website and signing in, your account will 'remember' that you have access to the course and where you had got up to.

The courses work on laptops, PCs, smart phones and tablets. The modules take 15-20 minutes each and there are between 9-11 modules within each course. There are certificates to download at the end.

Please note: a modern browser is required (e.g. Google Chrome, Firefox, Explorer 10).

Any technical issues please feel free to contact the Solihull Approach on 0121 296 4448 or Solihull.approach@heartofengland.nhs.uk

Applying for Free School Meals or Registering for 'Universal Infant Meals'

You can apply for free school meals/register for universal infant meals by using the online Parent Portal which is part of the existing school admissions online system.

Register for an account and after logging on, click on the free school meal button where you are required to provide three pieces of additional information.

Please ensure applications are submitted early where possible as this will enable the Solihull MBC Free School Meals Team to process applications prior to your child starting school.

[Click here for more information about Free School Meals or Universal Infant Meals](#)

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Our web pages have lots of useful information for parents and carers all in one place. There's a wide range of helpful topics including childcare, child safety and bullying, children with additional needs, children's centres, education, employment and volunteering, family relationships, money and housing, parenting support and things to do.

You can also find out about local and national services and get information specific to the age of your child. Visit our website at www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo or for information around services for children and young people with additional needs and/or disabilities please visit our local offer website <http://socialsolihull.org.uk/localoffer/>

Opt in/out of Parents' Network

If you know someone who would like to join the Parents' Network, ask them to email their details to parentsnetwork@solihull.gov.uk or visit www.solihull.gov.uk/parentsnetwork

To opt out of the Parents' Network email: parentsnetwork@solihull.gov.uk

**This section of the eBulletin is for parents
who have a child with additional needs or a disability.**

Contact a Family Workshop - Making SENSE of the new legal system

In this free workshop, Gurvinder Kaur, a specialist solicitor with Access Legal, will help parents to understand:

- The importance of getting the content of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans rights.
- The transfer process from statement to EHC plan.
- Gurvinder will also be able to answer any questions parents might have.

The session will take place on Monday 25 September at Shoosmiths Birmingham, 6th floor, 2 Colmore Square, 38 Colmore Circus, Birmingham, B4 6BJ.

Booking is essential. To book, email westmids.office@cafamily.org.uk or call 0121 415 4624

Autism West Midlands Advice Sessions

Autism West Midlands are offering Free 30 minute one to one advice and guidance sessions for parents and carers of individuals on the Autism spectrum.

Appointments should be booked in advance by phone on 0303 03 00 111 or email info@autismwestmidlands.org.uk. It is recommended that parents/carers attend the session without their child as they may be more comfortable to speak about sensitive topics.

The advice sessions will be held on Friday 8th September and Tuesday 19th September between 10am and 3pm at Coleshill Heath School, Lime Grove, Chelmsley Wood, B37 7PY.

The advice sessions are funded by Solar & The Act Foundation.

Autism West Midlands Workshop - Understanding Autism for Parents and Carers

Autism West Midlands are offering a Free workshop to help you to understand more about autism and provide strategies which may help to manage challenging behaviour.

The workshop takes place on Thursday 21st September from 10am-1pm at Coleshill Heath Primary School, Lime Grove, Chelmsley Wood, B37 7PY.

Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis and booking is essential. For more information and to book a place please contact Donna (info@autismwestmidlands.org.uk or 0303 03 00 111)

Autism West Midlands Coffee Morning

Autism West Midlands are offering a Free Coffee morning for parents and carers of children with Autism. The coffee morning is an opportunity to meet other parents who have a child with autism, to share tips and stories, and access resources in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

The workshop takes place on Friday 22nd September at 1030am-1200pm at Hobs Moat Library, Ulleries Road, Solihull.

There is no need to book a place so please feel free to drop in. For more information please contact Poonam (poonamd@autismwestmidlands.org.uk or 07881 109 502)

The coffee morning is funded by Solar & the Act Foundation

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