



## Family Outreach Newsletter

Pens Meadow and Halesbury Schools Working  
Together to Support Families



In School News

### **Welcome!**

Family Outreach would like to welcome our new families to Halesbury and welcome back all of our returning ones!

We hope you all had an enjoyable summer and the children are beginning to settle back in to the school routine.

As ever we have a busy year ahead planned in school and as the Family Outreach Team. We will be continuing to offer support to families, running our weekly Family & Adult Learning sessions as well as much more along the way.

Overleaf you will find our Family Outreach information sheet explaining our role in school.

Both new and returning families can contact Family Outreach directly or through your child's class teacher at any time if you would like support, information or guidance or further information about what we do.

### **Summer Scheme 2015**

This year Family Outreach coordinated our second annual Summer Scheme. We had twenty two children attend throughout the scheme which ran for five days during the holidays.

The scheme aims to offer a fun, safe environment for the children to play and engage in various activities whilst also offering parents and carers a short break.

During the scheme we provided a range of fun activities such as sensory play, swimming, pizza making, t-shirt decorating and water play.

The scheme was a great success and Family Outreach would like to thank families for their continued support and the staff who worked for the week and made it possible for the scheme to run for another year.



### September Diary Dates

Tuesday 15th September 9.30-11.30– Triple P

Tuesday 22nd September 9.30-11.30– Triple P

Tuesday 29th September 9.30-11.30– Triple P

Tuesday 6th October 9.30-11.30– Laughing Yoga

We would like to welcome all parents to join us for our Family/Adult Learning sessions on a Tuesday morning, to book your place please contact Jo or Michelle.

## Newlifeable

### Action to help disabled children in the UK.

Struggling to get equipment for a child?

Newlifeable have quality refurbished specialist disability equipment ready and waiting to be delivered to UK children with disabilities or terminal illness.

Newlifeable launched in January 2014, offering a large selection of quality, clinically refurbished and certified equipment, all available through a grant for 'priority delivery' at no cost. The demand for this equipment has been so high that we have sought more, to help even more disabled children.

Equipment includes:

- Specialist seating
- Manual wheelchairs
- Buggies
- Walking frames
- Assisted living aids

To view the current range of equipment and FAQ's regarding this service, please visit [www.newlifeable.co.uk](http://www.newlifeable.co.uk). If you cannot access the internet to view the range and know the name or type of equipment you are seeking, please call the Care Services Team on 01543 431465 Monday to Friday from 9.30am – 5.00pm.

If you need support to acquire equipment or aids for your child Family Outreach are here to help, please contact us for further information.

### Free anti-bullying workshop for parent carers of disabled children and those with special educational needs (SEN)

The Anti-Bullying Alliance and Contact a Family are working with Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council from April 2015 - March 2016 to become Anti-Bullying SEN and Disability Champions.

This programme is funded by the Department for Education. We are offering this **free** workshop for parents/carers of disabled children and those with special educational needs (SEN) who are concerned about bullying at school.

The workshop is for parent carers who want to learn more about bullying, the school's responsibilities and what parents can do to support their child.

If you have any questions about the event please contact Debbie Gordon at [Debbie.gordon@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:Debbie.gordon@cafamily.org.uk) / 020 7608 8774.

| Date                      | Venue   | Timing     | Booking (please follow the link to book online)   |
|---------------------------|---|------------|---|
| Tuesday 15th<br>September | Saltwells Education Development Centre, Bowling Green Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 9LY | 10am – 2pm | <a href="https://eventbrite.com/event/17513575576/">https://eventbrite.com/event/17513575576/</a> |
| Tuesday 27th<br>October   | Ward House, Himley Park Himley, Himley, Dudley, West Midlands DY3 4DF                     | 10am – 2pm | <a href="https://eventbrite.com/event/17513884500/">https://eventbrite.com/event/17513884500/</a> |

## Friends of Halesbury

This year Halesbury and Family Outreach are hoping to re-establish the 'Friends of Halesbury' partnership group.

### Aims

- The aim of the partnership group is to support celebrate the successes of Halesbury School and its pupils and to promote the school within the local and wider community.
- The partnership will support the school to raise funds for projects that are of direct benefit to its pupils and their families.
- The partnership will provide the opportunity to share skills and experiences with-in school supporting us to achieve the best outcomes for Halesbury pupils and their families.

### Key Responsibilities

- To work in partnership across school to identify needs and how those needs will be met.
- Work with other relevant community groups/business/local initiatives to explore opportunities in order to improve outcomes Halesbury Pupils and their families.
- To identify potential funding sources that will support school projects.
- Ensure that the voice of children, young people and their families is listened to and taken into account in the development of school projects.

**Examples of work 'Friends of Halesbury' will support with:** organisation of events, decisions about how money raised may be spent, for example, trips or projects, sharing individuals skills with the school, share views of families and children with school.

### Members

- Family Outreach Coordinator
- Parent/Carers/Grandparents/Siblings of pupils at Halesbury School
- Local Community members
- Local Businesses

The group will meet twice monthly and a chair and vice chair will be elected who will take responsibility for reporting to the Halesbury Board of governors on a regular



## Family Outreach

### Pens Meadow and Halesbury Schools Working Together to Support Families



#### Who we are

Family Outreach is a role jointly funded by Pens Meadow and Halesbury Special Schools, we are a small team of two, Michelle Cox-Coley (Family Outreach Coordinator) and Jo Hall (Family Support Worker). Our time is shared between the two schools and we aim to provide support for families in their role as a parent/carer.

#### Our Role

There is many different aspects to our role and support we can offer to families such as:

- Completion of benefits forms and the appeals process
- Attendance and/or chairing of meeting such as CAF, Team around the Child/Family
- Support with the transition to Education, Health and Care Plans
- Advocacy Support—Advocating on behalf of families to other agencies/professions
- Sign Posting to extended services, for example, clubs and activities
- Referrals to support services, such as, Children's Disability Team, Sleep Programmes, Parenting Programmes
- Support to attend meetings
- Home visits to provide advice, guidance and a link between home and school and initial home visits offered to all new families
- Coordination of fundraising events
- Producing a monthly newsletter and regularly updating Family Outreach social media pages and websites to share information with families.
- Co-ordination of a Summer Scheme at both schools
- Coordination of weekly Family and Adult Learning sessions
- Transition planning—accessing an out of school activity or transition to post 19 provision
- Direct Payment Support (PA adverts/processes/referral for assessment)
- Coordination of workshops to assist parents in supporting their child's learning, for example, phonics, writing

This list is not definitive please have a look at our website and newsletter to find out more about what we do.

#### How to Contact us

All families are welcome to contact us to request support or information, you do not need to be referred to our service.

Telephone: 01384 81 8630/8945

Email: [cox-coleym@halesbury.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:cox-coleym@halesbury.dudley.sch.uk)

[JHall16@pens-meadow.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:JHall16@pens-meadow.dudley.sch.uk)

Website: [www.halesbury.dudley.sch.uk/familyoutreach](http://www.halesbury.dudley.sch.uk/familyoutreach)

[www.pens-meadow.dudley.sch.uk/familyoutreach.asp](http://www.pens-meadow.dudley.sch.uk/familyoutreach.asp)

Facebook: Halesbury-Pensmeadow Family-Outreach

Twitter: @PensHalesFOR