



Summer Term 2023

Bidston Village C.E Primary
School

SEND Newsletter

Issue 3



Welcome to your summer SEND newsletter. In this edition, we shine the spotlight on Autism and sporting activities. We hope you find it useful and informative.

If you have any SEND concerns, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. Should you need any further support following on from this, please make an appointment with a member of the SEND team: Miss Wall (KS1 / EIB1) or Mrs Fallon (EYFS / KS2 / EIB2). Our school SEN governor is Miss Gartland. As we all teach in school, please bear with us and we will contact you as soon as we can.



Learning Disability Week 2023

Learning Disability Week 2023 will take place this month. This year is all about busting myths about living life with a learning disability. For many people with a learning disability and their families, getting creative has been a way to stay connected and positive through the challenges of last year.

We know that people with a learning disability are up to twice as likely to experience mental health problems, due to many factors like discrimination and social isolation. For more information, visit the Mencap website ... <https://www.mencap.org.uk/>

Thanks to the incredible feedback we've received, The Positivitree are excited to announce more dates for parent-carers to join our group Colours programme. Colours is an innovative, peer-led stress management programme designed by our friends at the award-winning Open Door Charity. To register your interest, complete the short registration form. <https://forms.gle/DbrZxHCAPcj2ChYu6>

One of our most recent attendees told us: *"I came to colours after being signed off work with stress. I found everyone comfortable to be with and to share issues together really useful, particularly knowing there were others feeling similar things to me and in similar situations with family. It was good to focus on what I can do to manage things, especially finding time to look at positive things that are happening however small they might be".*



Autism and Sports

You don't hear too much about children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) participating in sports programs and this needs to change.

ASD is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioural challenges. The most recent figures evidence that the UK has the highest number of children with ASD in the world! For every one girl with ASD there are 4 boys and this trend continues to increase each year.

Children with autism regularly undergo therapy to help and strengthen communication, cognitive and motor skills. Sports are generally beneficial to children and it is good parental practice to expose children from a young age to a wide selection of sports. Team sports are often difficult for children with autism because of the required social interaction and communication (sometimes through body language) that team sports require. Sometimes autistic children are unable to process spoken language as quickly, or know how to interpret body language cues which can lead to confusion and frustration for the child, as well as their teammates. Motor coordination can sometimes be slower to develop in children with autism, so sports that require complex coordination combined with a fast pace can be very difficult.

If your child has ASD, they may be more sensitive to noise, crowds and enhanced energy levels so what sports might be best for children with ASD? Golf has been identified as a sport for an ASD child who finds comfort in routine and the outdoors, with as much or as little communicative interaction and competition as the child is comfortable with. Anthony is a 12-year-old successful junior golfer from USA who has Autism, Dyspraxia, Hypermobility, and other related issues. With the Wirral hosting the Open tournament this year, why not consider this as a sport to try. Bromborough Golf Club

Juniors are very welcome at Bromborough Golf Club.

A Junior Coaching session is held every Wednesday at 16:30 for 1 hour. This caters for Juniors at all ability levels, including novices and costs £7.50 per session. A comprehensive safeguarding policy is in place and is monitored rigorously.



Juniors have their own competition schedule during school holidays and play matches against other local clubs. Juniors who attain the required handicap level are then encouraged to play in adult competitions and become fully integrated within the club. They do offer a free membership for juniors aged 8-12 years old and have specific sessions with a coach on a Monday and Wednesday evenings planned. New junior members will need to have a basic knowledge of golf prior to joining or at least a family member/friend at the club to be able to show them the ropes and mentor them coming through.

Special Offer:

As an important investment for the future, it has been decided to reduce our junior membership fees to:

8-12 years no membership fee

13-18 years £109 annually

Juniors who progress to full membership do not pay a joining fee.

For further information please contact the Pro shop:

Tel: 0151 334 4499. An application form is available online also.



At the time of writing, 6 of our pupils with additional needs (including ASD) are taking part in the Wirral 'Open' Golf tournament. We know they will represent Bidston Village with sportsmanship and courtesy for others. Watch this space for their news...