

Solihull Family Information Service

Parents' Network eBulletin October 2012

This eBulletin contains important information for parents in between newsletters. Items specifically for parents who have a child with a disability can be found towards the end. Click on the links to see more information on each item.

Family events in November

To find out what's going on in your local area this month, take a look at our events listing.

[Click to view more information](#)

Relaunch of North Solihull Work Clubs

Solihull Council's Employment and Skills Team is re-launching Work Clubs to provide a new and improved service to support people into work. Coleshill Heath Work Club will run every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at the new time of 10am – 12noon. Smiths Wood Work Club will run every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at the new time of 1pm - 3pm.

Please note that from Wednesday 24th October there will no longer be a Work Club at Chelmsley Wood Library.

[Click to view more information](#)

Half term course for aspiring sports leaders – 29th October to 2nd November

Solihull Active is running a course for young people (aged 16 and over) to gain a qualification in Community Sports Leadership.

To find out more call Sadie Walker on 0121 704 8079 or visit www.solihullactive.co.uk

[Click to see course leaflet](#)

Free Christmas crafts course, starting Thursday 8th November

Design and make decorations and gifts for Christmas. This 5-week course takes place from 8th November to 6th December, 12.30pm - 2.30pm at The Excellence in the Community Centre, Smith's Wood Community Primary School, Burton's Way, Smith's Wood B36 0UE

For more details or to book your place call 0121 788 0319.

[Click to see course leaflet](#)

Events at Grace Academy

Family face painting workshop - Wednesday 31st October 10am to 1pm

Want to learn how to face paint for an upcoming event or party and have fun together as a family? Then this is the workshop for you! Children 10 + welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Must come in pairs or be prepared to have your face painted by others. Course fee: £10 per pair

Understanding your teenager – 6 week course starting Thursday 8th November

This free course helps parents handle common challenges through the teenage years.

For a full list of courses and events at Grace Academy this autumn, click below or visit www.graceacademy.org.uk

[Click to see Autumn leaflet](#)

Light Hall School – Community Learning Programme

Learn in a relaxed environment near to where you live. Courses started in September but we welcome people at any time of the year.

For more details contact Sue Watson, Community Development Manager at Light Hall School on 0121 744 3835, email: office@lighthall.solihull.sch.uk or visit www.lighthall.co.uk

[Click to see programme leaflet](#)

Family Information Service web pages

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. Next time you need to find something out, visit our website at www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo

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

Newlands Bishop Farm – Open Day, Friday 19th October, 1pm

Come along and find out what we do at Newlands Bishop Farm. Our open day includes: bush craft activities, horse grooming, horticulture, wood work and gardening.

Refreshments available to buy in Berry's Café as well as produce and woodwork items made on site by the project workers.

[Click for more information](#)

Royal National College for the Blind – 'Have a go' experience, 20th - 21st October

This 2 day event is for young people who are thinking about college this year or next but aren't sure what they want to study. Come along for a weekend of fun to help you decide which course might be right for you.

For more information and a booking form please call RNC's Enquiry Line on 01432 376621 or email info@rncb.ac.uk

[Click for more information](#)

Signpost Inclusion – Family Fun Day, Saturday 20th October, 2pm - 5pm

Come along for lots of family fun and fundraising games plus your chance to win a BMW Mini for a weekend! The event takes place at Hatchford Brook Community Centre, Old Lode Lane, Solihull B92 8LW (next to Hatchford Brook School).

[Click for more information](#)

Autism West Midlands – Dads' group – Thursday 25th October

Our Dads group meets once a month on Thursday evenings in Birmingham. This is an opportunity to learn more about autism & meet other dads who have children with autism. We discuss ideas and strategies to help manage behaviour.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 25th October from 7pm - 9pm at Autism West Midlands, Regent Court, George Road, Birmingham B15 1NU.

[Click to view more information](#)

Signpost Inclusion – Half Term Play and Stay, Tuesday 30th October

Signpost Inclusion and The Renewal Family Centre are holding a Play and Stay event especially for families who have children with additional needs.

There are no age restrictions, all members of the family are welcome and there's no need to book. The event takes place from 10am to 12 noon at the Renewal Family Centre, Vulcan Road, Solihull B91 2JY.

For further information please contact Signpost Inclusion on 0121 448 8894 or email: info@signpostinclusion.org.uk

SASSI (Solihull Autistic Spectrum Support and Information)

SASSI is a local group for parents and carers of children with ASD but anyone with an interest in autism is welcome at their monthly meetings. Click on the link below to see dates of autumn meetings.

For more information visit www.solihullsassi.co.uk or call Jan Bradshaw on 0121 770 6267.

[Click for details of Autumn meetings](#)

Signpost Inclusion & Barnardos coffee afternoons, Monkspath Children's Centre

Wednesday 14th November & Wednesday 12th December, 1.30pm - 3pm

We are holding coffee afternoons especially for parents who have children with additional needs. Please come along if you would like to meet other parents in your area and share experiences.

Contact Signpost Inclusion on 0121 448 8894 or email: info@signpostinclusion.org.uk

Disability friendly cinema screenings at Cineworld, Touchwood, Solihull

The screening booked for Sunday 21st October has been postponed so the next screening is on Sunday 4th November. Cineworld is open from 10am and the film starts promptly at 10.15am.

Please contact Cineworld for cost details. You can get your tickets on the day from the Cineworld counter.

The film showing is Madagascar 3, please contact Cineworld on 0871 200 2000 or contact Solihull CAN via info@solihullcan.org or 07952 006869 for more information.

[Click to view more information](#)

Free sessions for all parents and carers of children with special educational needs

Solihull Parent Partnership are running free sessions for all parents and carers of children with special educational needs, to help them gain an overall better understanding of the SEN System and be more involved in the decisions about their child's education.

Pre-booking is essential as places are limited. If you are interested in attending any of these sessions, please contact us on 0121 733 7290 or email solihullparentpartnership@prospects.co.uk as soon as possible.

[Click to view more information](#)

Opt in/out of the Parents Network

If you know someone who would like to join the Parents Network, ask them to email their name and contact details to parentsnetwork@solihull.gov.uk or fill in a registration form at www.solihull.gov.uk/parentsnetwork

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

If you have any information that you would like to share with parents on the Network email parentsnetwork@solihull.gov.uk