It’s our last SEND Weekly Newsletter until September so worth pausing for thought.
In just over a year we’ve spanned 46 issues and covered a huge range of topics from what SEND means, to how we go about preparing children and young people for adulthood.
We’ve covered the Local Offer Roadshow, fantastic Short Breaks activities, used World Autism Day to promote a better understanding of how it feels to have autism and let you know about our exciting school build and expansion projects.
A big part of our year has been ensuring families are up-to-date with the latest service developments and providing important information for professionals so we can give the best support possible support.
And hopefully we’ve entertained and inspired you!
Highlights include Somerset’s former Young Person’s Champion - now a medical student researching the experiences of other students with mental health issues and disabilities, and our current Young Person’s Champion who turned her passion for pets into an online business.
Thank you to all our readers – whether you’re a parent or a member of our SEND team, and thank you to everyone who provided excellent content for our newsletter. Have a great summer everyone!

Annette Perrington – Assistant Director Inclusion

Book your Short Breaks Activities
The Summer Short Breaks Activity Calendar, Newsletter and Activity passes are available now!
If you’re a parent carer of a child or young person with SEND you should have had them in the post - you can also download them from here.
There are loads of great value days out and breaks away.
Full details are on the Calendar - you need to book with the provider. There are spaces on:
6 Aug – Family Day at 1610 Hestercombe, Nr Taunton
8 Aug – Bowling in Yeovil (5-7pm)
13 Aug – Aerospace Bristol Family Day
15 Aug – Children’s World cooking & dancing Glastonbury
20 Aug – Exmoor Family day
Call the Short Breaks team to be added to the mailing list - 01823358117.
As we head towards the summer holidays and fun activities outdoors don’t forget to make sure children and young people are protected from over-exposure to the sun.

Too much sun may increase the risk of skin cancer in later life. In the short term sunburn can cause considerable pain and discomfort.

- Always ensure you apply sun cream at regular intervals to exposed areas using factor (SPF) of 30 or higher and protects against UVA and UVB.
- Stay out of the sun between 11am and 3pm
- Try and get your child to wear a hat and make sure they where loose cotton clothing.
- Common areas that need protection are the shoulders and back of the neck.

For more info visit here.

Do you work in Early Years?
There is currently a trial underway for submitting Statutory Request for Assessment and Annual Review forms via the Professional Portal.
The plan is to introduce this as an optional way of submitting the forms from September with a view to it being mandatory from January 2020.
There will be pilot review meetings at the end of September.
You can access the Portal here.

Work continues on free school bid

Plans for a new Special School in the south of the county are progressing well following a public engagement event earlier this month.

In March, the Council’s free school bid, which was jointly developed with Devon County, was selected by the DfE to proceed to the next stage. The Council is continuing to generate interest among Multi-Academy Trusts, with a view to one of them being selected by the DfE to be the sponsor trust to run South Somerset. At the moment, Somerset’s only similar school is Sky College in Taunton, meaning children in South Somerset have to travel long distances to Taunton, or even further afield.

*There will be further engagement events coming up in September so watch this space!*

We have a vacancy for a SEND Participation Officer. Could you join the team to ensure the voice of children and young people is heard, listened to and they are supported to participate?

The Council’s Children’s Commissioning Service is looking for an enthusiastic individual to join the Partnerships and Participation team to provide specific support to children and young people with special educational needs and or disabilities.

To find out more click here.

Look out for events, activities and updates this summer by visiting the following: