

# SEND

## Weekly Newsletter

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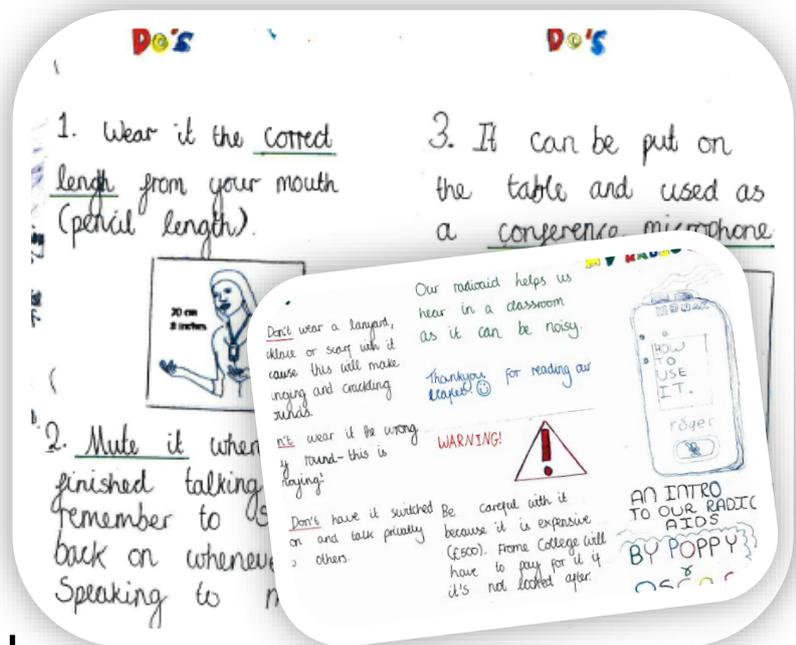
## Pupils draw up manual for radio aid system

Welcome back! We hope you had a good summer and made some wonderful memories along the way.

As the new term gets underway, two deaf pupils at Oakfield Academy in Frome have created leaflets for their new teachers, advising them on the benefits of their new Phonak Roger Touchscreen radio aid systems and how to use them.

The pair are moving to Frome College in September. Their Teacher of the Deaf, Ruth, suggested typing the leaflet and inserting pictures from the internet, but both wanted to create their leaflet by hand to make it more eye-catching. They have folded the leaflet to make it look 'professional' and have photocopied enough for each teacher. Good luck to both pupils with their transition in September.

Between February 2018 and June 2019, 40 deaf children in Somerset were issued the new Phonak Roger Touchscreen radio aid systems provided by the Somerset Local Authority Funding via the Schools Access Initiative totalling nearly £70,000. This latest technology is invaluable for deaf children to access the curriculum in the mainstream classroom.



## Avalon in the awards hunt again

Avalon School in Street is up for a major award. The school has been shortlisted for the National Special Educational Needs and Disability Awards 2019. The ceremony, hosted by The Root of It will take place on 27 September in Southampton Solent University. You can [find out more here](#). Earlier this year Avalon School was shortlisted for Alternative Provision of the Year in the TES Schools Awards. You can visit the [school website here](#).



## The SPOT team wants to hear from you!

Following a series of public engagement events the Physical Impairment and Medical Support (PIMS) team, the Hearing Support and Vision Support team and The Occupational Therapy (OT) team have been drawn together to form the Sensory Physical and Occupational Therapy (SPOT) Services. By doing this families will receive a more joined up service that supports the process of telling your story once.

The team want your views on how to further develop the



teams offer for local families as part of the areas larger local offer.

Along with Somerset Parent Carer Forum they will be holding a series of events to talk to local families.

In July they met with families in Frome and this week they met in Bridgwater, at Victoria Park

Community Centre.

The focus of session was to understand what works well or needs to be improved, with future sessions being allocated specific areas. If you were unable to attend but want to be involved you can email:

[help@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk](mailto:help@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk).

Future events are being planned in other locations around the county.

All the dates will be published on the [local offer \(Somerset Choices 0-25\) in the events section under get involved](#).

## Foetal Alcohol Syndrome - factfile

If a woman drinks alcohol during pregnancy, she risks damaging her baby. This can result in mental and physical problems in the baby, called foetal alcohol syndrome. This can occur because alcohol in the mother's blood passes to her baby through the placenta.

The baby can't process alcohol as well as the mother can, which means it cause the loss of the pregnancy or damage them and disrupt the baby's development.

Babies that survive may be left with the lifelong problems including, poor growth; movement and co-ordination problems, known as [cerebral palsy](#); learning difficulties – such as problems with thinking, speech, social skills, or memory mood, attention or behavioural problems – such as [autism](#)-like behaviour or [attention deficit hyperactivity disorder \(ADHD\)](#).

[For more information visit NHS Choices.](#)

## Nominations please

There's a chance to recognise good practice by those making a real difference to the lives of autistic people in Somerset.

The Autism Professionals Awards have been created to recognise and reward professionals and services who are leading the way. The Awards seek to acknowledge the outstanding contributions and achievements of individuals, teams and organisations.

[Visit here to nominate.](#)

