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Early Years Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

In our bulletin this week we have reminders for our EY Leaders and Managers forum and our EY DSL forum, both taking place in a few weeks' time. Both events have already seen a high number of you sign up to attend so please ensure you reserve your space.

I would also like to highlight the family learning courses advertised by our colleagues in the Starting Well Partnership, based on the renowned Solihull approach.

Finally, as you will know, it is our Early Years conference this week. It will be great to see you there, I hope you find it enjoyable and inspirational.

Enjoy your week.

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Annual Safeguarding Self-Assessment for Early Years Settings and Childminders

Over the term we have consulted with the sector and worked with some DSL's from across the County and have now developed a self-assessment audit tool (Annual Safeguarding Self-Assessment for Early Years Settings and Childminders). Schools for some years have been completing a similar assessment known as the section 175 which legally has to be completed by all schools.

In Early Years the toolkit is **not** mandatory, however WCF believe this will support you in your setting to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding over the past 12 months. This survey will be available yearly and can be completed [online](#).

This will need to be completed by **31st October 2021**, the results will be shared with Denise Hannibal, Early Years and Education Safeguarding Lead and will support developing training needs for Worcestershire Early Years DSL's and all Practitioners, as well as supporting you in your setting to identify any priorities to ensure safeguarding is effective.

Inclusion Courses – Buy one get one half price

A special offer is available for early years inclusion courses. Quote the following code on CPD online to get 50% off the second course you book onto:

Code: SENCOAutumn

For a full list of inclusion courses available please visit the [WCF Early Years Training webpage](#) and book via [CPD Online](#).

Paediatric First Aid Course

This Early Years Paediatric First Aid training course is aimed at all Early Years practitioners who are looking to obtain a current paediatric first aid qualification.

The course is 12 hours and delivered over 3 sessions: 2 x 3hr live sessions via Zoom and a 6 hour session face-to-face.

Session Times: 18th October & 20th October 6-9pm (Zoom). 23rd October 9am-3pm (Face to face).
Location: Little Squirrels at Shrawley, School House, Shrawley, Worcestershire WR6 6TT
Cost: £77 per person.

For more information and details how to book, please visit: [Early Years Paediatric First Aid Training Zoom & Face to Face \(3 Sessions\) - MBK Group](#)

Early Years Leaders and Managers Forum

The Early Years team will be providing an update on all the latest issues in Early Years, both locally and nationally. James Norman from Ofsted will also be talking about what to expect from an inspection visit.

- 2 November 2021, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, course code: EY/21/511
- 10 November 2021, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, course code: EY/21/512

Please book your place via [CPD Online](#) and joining instructions will be issued as part of your booking confirmation.

Early Years Safeguarding Leads Forum (EY DSL Forum)

The Early Years DSL forum is open to all PVI childminders, nurseries, pre-schools, out of school / holiday clubs and school ran / governor led nurseries and is FREE to attend.

Delivered by our Early Years and Education Safeguarding Team (Denise Hannibal our Education Safeguarding Lead and Hayley Doyle) they will provide updates on policy, legislation, guidance and local procedures, as well as giving you the opportunity for peer discussion.

- 16 November 2021, 6.45pm to 8pm, course code: EY/21/509
- 18 November 2021, 6.45pm to 8pm, course code: EY/21/510

Please book your place via [CPD Online](#) and joining instructions will be issued as part of your booking confirmation.

Where Nature Meets Story

Tania Maloney has boundless mission, creativity and energy for developing deep experiences for both children and adults in the outdoors - founding and creating Nature in Nurture Australia, Treehouse Educators, The Nature Bus and quite a bit more!

[Read Tania Moloney's post](#)

She has now created an amalgam of her online podcasts with the nature-rich, in-person annual retreats for nature educators that she calls a 'campference'. Tania wants to be able to give as many people as possible the chance to participate in the Where Nature Meets Story Campference by offering a free pass. But there is such a lot on offer that you might well prefer to purchase extended access for a much deeper and more relaxed pace experience (of course this also really helps in covering some of the costs of creating and delivering an event of this scale). Whether you go for the free pass or extended access, registering to come and play at Campference via the Affiliate Link below will benefit the Early Childhood Outdoors website development fund:

[Sign up for the Campference](#)

Primary and First School Applications for children starting school in September 2022

Closing Date for Applications 15th January 2022

We are asking all Early Years Partners and schools, to assist us in emphasising to parents the importance of making an application on time. The facility to make an online application is now open at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions. Could you please ensure that you include in your communication messages to parents, a reminder that the closing date for Primary and First School applications is the 15th January 2022.

The importance of making an application on time cannot be stressed enough. This year more than any other, has highlighted to us the huge impact that making a late application can have on the most vulnerable of children. A late application can only be considered after all those received on time, this places those children at a disadvantage. In areas where place availability is more limited some of the most vulnerable families, applying late, cannot be accommodated in their local schools, and in some cases, have not been able to attend the same school as their siblings. You already provide an amazing amount of support to those that are most vulnerable in your communities. It is vital that you continue to support those families in making on time applications.

As part of that support, we would ask you to ensure that you emphasise the importance to parents of applying on time and if necessary, support them in doing so. Please draw parents' attention to the closing date, in both conversations and communication messages to parents/carers. You will no doubt be aware of those children in your settings whose parents may need additional support with the application and by regularly reinforcing the message to parents about the importance of applying on time, you can assist them in ensuring their child receives the best possible opportunity for consideration for school places. You should all have received a poster for you to display in a prominent position in your setting, please ensure that you continue to display this poster and draw parents' attention to it wherever possible.

If you have parents/carers that you feel would benefit from some support in applying, guidance and support in relation to the application process can be provided by, the Worcestershire Hub on 01905 822700, The School Admissions Team on 01905 844111 and SENDIASS via: <http://www.hwsendiass.co.uk/>.

If you have Children in Need or those subject to Child Protection, please highlight the need to apply on time in Core Group meetings, so that social care colleagues can also support the families in applying, it can be included as an item in the safety plan too. We would appreciate your support in this.

Consultation on changes to school system in Pershore launched

A public consultation on proposals to change age ranges, amalgamate schools and expand pupil numbers at a number of schools in the Pershore area has been launched.

Schools in Pershore have asked for age ranges of the schools to be reviewed and changes to be coordinated for there to be a clear and consistent education pathway for children in this education planning area .

The consultation runs from 11 October to 26 November 2021 and marks the first opportunity to have a say about what is important about age ranges of schools and transitions.

The results of the consultation will be discussed at February's Cabinet before a final decision is made for the Local Authority Maintained schools. The Regional Schools Commissioner and some Governing Bodies will also need to make final decisions in February in relation to other schools.

Councillor Marcus Hart, Cabinet Member for Education, said: "We really want to hear the views of parents, carers, pupils, school staff and residents on the proposed changes. The County Council and Worcestershire Children First have been liaising with Pershore schools and Academy Trusts for some time now about the current school system in Pershore and their desire for a coordinated approach to change of age ranges that is clear and consistent for children and families. The responses we receive will allow proposers and decision makers at the very earliest stage to ensure the needs of current residents as well as communities for generations to come will be met."

Following a direct approach from schools in the Pershore area in Autumn 2020, there has been a technical analysis to evaluate the risks and issues relating to the current organisation of the schools in the planning area.

The education provision in Pershore has tended to follow a three-tier journey, where pupils attend first schools from age 4-9, transfer to middle schools at age 9-12 and then transfer to high school at age 12 to complete their education.

Changes to schools in the Pershore education planning area over several years has led to uncertainty and sustainability concerns across the education planning area as there now exists a mixture of two-tier and three-tier with some schools in this area already converted to primary and secondary schools.

The creation of additional places in years 5, 6 and 7 as a result of the approved changes has resulted in an unsustainable level of surplus/excess places in these year groups.

Those schools that have already completed the transition will make no further changes.

For more information and to have your say on the proposals please visit:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/pershorereview>

Understanding Your Child - Solihull Approach

Worcester Starting Well would like you to encourage your families to take advantage of these great online resources for every parent.

In your area, they are completely **free** thanks to Worcester Starting Well Partnership who have PRE-PAID for every parent and carer in Worcester.

Each course is based on research about children's emotional needs and behaviour.

They are written by CAMHS experts; Clinical Psychologists and Psychotherapists; Health Visitors & Educators.

They are evidence-based and trusted by professionals.

Courses include:

- 'Understanding your **pregnancy, birth, labour and your baby**'
- 'Understanding your **baby**'
- 'Understanding your **child**' (0-19+ yrs, main course)
- 'Understanding your **child with additional needs**' (0-19+ yrs, main course)
- 'Understanding your **child's feelings**' (taster course)
- 'Understanding your **teenager's brain**' (short course)
- 'Understanding your **brain (for teenagers only!)**'
- 'Understanding your **child's mental health and wellbeing**' (accompanies UYC and UYCAD)

Please see attached leaflets.

Best regards,



Ian Morris
Early Years and Childcare Strategy Manager

