

Parents' Network

eBulletin for parents in Solihull

December 2015

This eBulletin contains important information for parents. There is a separate section with items for parents who have a child with additional needs or a disability.

Family Christmas Craft Workshop

A Christmas craft workshop will be taking place at Balsall Common Library on Monday 21st December 2015.

The workshop will take place from 10.30-11.30 and children must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is £4 for the first child and £2.50 for further siblings.

Places are limited so booking a place with the library is advisable. For more information please call 01676 532590.

[Click here for more information](#)

Christmas Activity and Saturday Story Time for over 5s

Chelmsley Wood Library will be holding **Free Activities** for children over the age of 5 and you are invited to come along to join in the fun and games!

The **Christmas Activity** is taking place on Tuesday 22nd December at either 10am or 12pm. The fun activity sessions are for children over the age of 5 and will include making snowmen decorations and playing a range of games.

[Click here for more information](#)

The **Saturday Story Time** for children aged 5-8 years will include a range of games and other fun activities. The sessions will be taking place on 12/12/15, 09/01/16, 20/02/16 and 19/03/16 from 2.30pm until 3.15pm.

[Click here for more information](#)

Places are limited so please visit the library to book a place. For more information please call 0121 788 4380.

For free, friendly and impartial information contact the Family Information Service.

Call: 0800 389 8667 Email: familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk

Visit: www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo

'Code Club' Volunteer

Do you have an hour a week to spare and the enthusiasm to work with children?

Solihull libraries are hoping to start a Code Club at Chelmsley Wood Library and are looking for a volunteer to help make this happen. Code club is a fun workshop for 9-11 year olds to learn the basics of programming by creating animations and games.

Volunteers do not need experience in programming!

[Click here for more information](#)

Birthability

Birthability is offering women and their partners the opportunity to attend a **Free pregnancy class** in Solihull. The sessions are run from Solihull Hospital's Netherbrook birthing unit, and look at pregnancy, birth and the early postnatal period.

Birthability also teach Full Antenatal courses, Pregnancy yoga classes, & Baby massage courses in the Solihull area. Please see their website for more details, and for the dates/venues of all future classes.

[Click here for more information](#)

Solihull Central Library Christmas Activities

Solihull Central Library will have a number of Christmas Activities taking place over the coming month. For more information please call 0121 704 6965

- Stick Man Story and Crafts
Tuesday 15th December 10am-11am. For children under the age of 5
Costs £1 for Library members or £3 for none-members
- Stick Man Story and Silly Verse
Thursday 17th December 4.30pm-5.30pm. For children aged 6+
Costs £1 for Library members or £3 for none-members
- Booktivity
Wednesday 30th December 4.30pm-5.30pm. For children and young people age 10+

Free Session

[Click here for more information](#)

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Free 'Safe and Well Visits' from West Midlands Fire Service

As part of their commitment to making the West Midlands safer West Midlands Fire Service are offering Free Safe and Well visits.

Local Fighters can make a short visit to your home to give fire safety advice along with general information to keep you safe. They may also be able to fit free smoke alarms if required.

To find out if you qualify for a free Safe and Well visit or information pack please call 0800 389 5525.

[Click here for more information](#)

UK Youth Parliament

UKYP is a national charity run by young people for young people aged 11-18. UKYP provides young people with the opportunity to participate in a democratic process; vote or stand in a young people's election, campaign, speak to key decision makers and make change on issues that matter to young people; locally and nationally.

Solihull's 2016 election is looking for committed young people who will work hard in order to make great representatives for young people in Solihull. Young people who would like to stand for election should complete an application form and stand in Solihull's UK Youth Parliaments Election.

Should you know of a young person who is interested please encourage them to complete the attached application form and **return it by Friday 11th December 2015**.

They will be required to attend a **candidate information evening on 16th December 2015 at The Civic Suite from 6pm – 9pm**.

[Click here for more information](#)

[Click here for application form](#)

Fordbridge Christmas Fayre

Community Action in Fordbridge (CAFE) are holding a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 5th December.

The Fayre will take place at Crabtree Hall in Fordbridge from 12-3pm. On the day there will be a chocolate tombola, entertainment, stalls, raffle refreshments and **Santa**.

Entry is Free – There will be small charges for activities and festive treats.

[Click here for more information](#)

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Homework club

Solihull Central library are running a Homework club for children and young people aged 8 and above. The club offer help with homework, free computer access and free photocopying and printing.

The club runs during term time on Tuesdays from 3.45pm-5.30pm.

[Click here for more information](#)

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. Visit our website at www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo

Opt in/out of Parents' Network

If you know someone who would like to join the Parents' Network, ask them to email their details to parentsnetwork@solihull.gov.uk or visit 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 please email it to: parentsnetwork@solihull.gov.uk

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

Mencap Independent Support

Mencap are offering support for parents and young people through the transfer from a Statement of Special Educational Need to an Education, Health and Care plan and with applications for a new plan.

[Click here for more information](#)

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Could you become a Volunteer Face2Face Befriender?

Do you remember the feelings you had when you first discovered your child had a disability or additional needs? Did you need someone to talk to? Was someone there to listen? Might talking to another parent have helped?

Face2Face offers emotional support to parents of children who have been recognised as having a disability or additional needs. They are currently seeking volunteers to join their existing team in supporting other local parents.

[Click here for more information](#)

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