

Sandwell Foster Carers Newsletter

12 JUNE 2020

Welcome to your weekly newsletter

A message from Balwant Bains, Executive Head of the Virtual School

On Tuesday 9 June 2020, the Secretary of State for Education clarified the position on the full opening of primary schools for a month before the end of term. It is now clear that schools cannot welcome back all students in the current COVID-19 situation. The expectation now is that where possible, more children will return to schools where there is capacity in the school to accommodate them with full social distancing measures in place.

To prepare for the possible transition of our children back to school in September I am delighted to be able to invite you to take advantage of some free training for carers and parents led by The Attachment Research Community (ARC). It will be hosted by Lisa Cherry, to register follow the link below. It is also listed on the ARC website events page.

Supporting Carers of Children & Young People

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporting-carers-of-children-young-people-tickets-107804989626>

ARC event listing:

<https://the-arc.org.uk/events/supporting-carers>

With the current situation as it is I would like to direct you to a very useful website: **Starline:** <https://www.starline.org.uk/> a national service for parents and carers that offers advice and guidance on how to educate children at home. It is available 5 days per week and you are able to call them (0330 313 9162) or send them a message for advice on:

- Home learning strategies
- Curriculum and Resources
- Behaviour and well-being and helpful advice to support children with Special Educational Needs

Mind of My Own

Last week we asked you to assist and encourage children and young people to use the Mind of My Own app. As you know, it's critical that we receive their feedback.

This week, Mind of My Own have launched a free photography competition. They are asking young people of all ages to take a photo of anything in their surrounding area that makes them smile. It can be any object, person or pet – large or small.

Once they've taken the photo on a phone or camera, they just post it to Instagram (with your help if necessary) and use #MyLockdownLens to win a cash prize. Follow this link for all the competition details: <https://mindofmyown.org.uk/competition-mylockdownlens/>

Sandwell Arts

Sandwell Arts are also asking people of Sandwell to get out into their gardens, armed with paint, pencils and brushes or their cameras/phones. They are asking for people to either draw or take photographs of their gardens, favourite plants, trees that can be added to their Sandwell Museum and Arts Service Flickr Album. If you would like to get involved, there is more information on the Sandwell Arts Facebook page. There are two categories, one for over 16's and one for under 16's. Your masterpieces need to be emailed to [Alex Howell](#). Have fun!

Virtual Fostering Forum

As I said last week, we are holding our first 'virtual fostering forum' via telephone conference call on Friday 19 June 2020 from 10:00 until 12:00. We've got one volunteer, but we need more of you! Please [email](#) us as soon as you can if you would like to be involved.

Time together booklet

We've uploaded an interesting booklet called 'Time together' to your webpage that has been designed by the National Literacy Trust for parents/carers with young children. We hope that you find it useful.

Sandwell Libraries Events Schedule

If you're a member of Facebook, look out for the various events that Sandwell Libraries are running for children and young people. This week they have had a 'Kitchen Disco Storytime', 'I want to be in a scary story' and much more! It's a bit of light entertainment through these difficult times.

Fostering Recruitment

It's nearly here! As you know, our exciting new marketing campaign starts next week on 18 June. There will be plenty of opportunities to see us across Sandwell. Please let us know what you think.

Don't forget that we still want to hear your good news stories too. Please [email](#) us and we will ensure that your story is featured.



I hope you have a good week and I look forward to updating you again next week. Take care and stay safe.

Shanti Eaves

Shanti Eaves

Head of Service, Children in Care, Care Leavers and Fostering

DON'T FORGET TO CONTACT US! IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER!

This is your newsletter, so do you know about any great fostering resources, or perhaps just an article or web link you want to share? Anything that could be useful to fellow foster carers – we'll help you let them know. Or if you have an idea, comment or request about fostering in general or what should be in your newsletter, contact your allocated Supervising Social Worker or email us at

Fostering_Info@sandwellchildrenstrust.org
