



Weekly Newsletter

FRIDAY 26th MAY 2023



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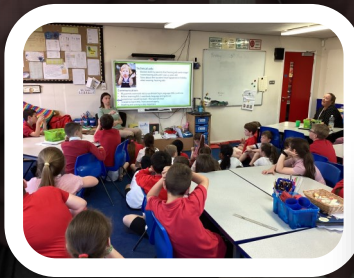


Latest News

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week in school, we've been celebrating our Deaf Awareness Week, with an inspiring range of Deaf visitors who have run events and workshops for children across the school. Many thanks to the following members of the Deaf community for inspiring our children, both d/Deaf and hearing.:

- England Deaf international cricketer, James Dixon;
- Artist, Lenka Novak;
- BSL storyteller, Wayne Sharples; - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3VO59SEdPM>;
- Senior Lecturer, Dr Kate Rogers.



We were also visited on Thursday by Sarah Linari from the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM). You'll probably remember that we were awarded IQM Centre of Excellence back in 2017, progressing to Flagship in 2021—the highest award for Inclusion. To maintain the award, the school is reviewed annually. I'll share the report with you as soon as we receive it.

Both Deaf Awareness Week and the IQM Review were lovely reminders of how lucky our school is to have the mix of children we do—so many different abilities, background, talents and needs—and we can all learn from each other! The children's natural ability to value, respect and celebrate each other is my very favourite thing about our school.

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Congratulations to Chloe from Y5! She received the most votes in our Dot Art competition entries. Her wonderful artwork goes forward to the city-wide competition and will be exhibited in the Walker Art Gallery at the end of June!

And here's another opportunity for Year 5: a Liverpool-based writing competition! We've got lots of fantastic Diddywriters at Knotty Ash, so why not have a go at writing an essay inspired by Kings and Queens.

<https://liverpoollearningpartnership.com/2023/05/kings-and-queens-competition>



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10 WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD LOOK AFTER THEIR MENTAL HEALTH



ROLE MODEL

Be a positive mental health role model. Demonstrate positive behaviours which your child can learn from you



TALKING

Support your child to talk about their problems and how they are feeling



COPING SKILLS

Work with your child to develop coping skills. Support your child to learn skills such as problem solving and thought challenging

SLEEP

Support your child to build positive sleep habits. Develop a good sleep environment with your child



WELLBEING

Promote healthy eating and physical activity. Exercise is a great tool to boost mood and reduce stress and anxiety

PLAY

Promote play and creativity among your child. Allow them to explore



SELF CARE

Make sure your child has time and space to look after themselves. Involve yourself in their hobbies



AUTONOMY

Allow your child to make their own decisions. This will help to build resilience

RELAXATION

Help your child to relax. Teach them relaxation skills such as deep breathing



RELATIONSHIPS

Support your child to build positive relationships with friends and family



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What have we been learning?

Nursery



This week in nursery we have been waiting for our butterflies to emerge from their cocoons. We had one butterfly on Tuesday, another one on Wednesday and then three on Thursday. We are waiting for their wings to dry out before we release them in nursery garden on Friday. We have loved watching the transformation from tiny caterpillar to butterfly.

In P.E we have been learning how to balance a bean bag on different parts of our bodies and how to throw a bean bag as far as we can.

We have been playing lots of rhyming games and reading the rhyming stories Oi Frog and Oi Cat.

In maths we have been doing more counting and have been practising our skills using the ladybird game on Top Marks.

We have had lots of fun in water play in the nice weather outside. Using squirty bottles to practise our fine motor skills.

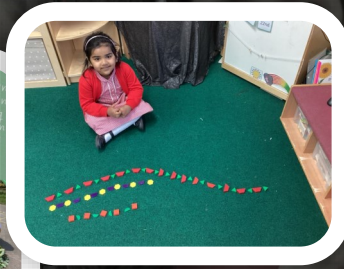
We have been celebrating Deaf Awareness Week by singing and signing lots of our favourite songs from Humpty Dumpty to the Rainbow Song and Save Your Kisses for me.

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What have we been learning?

Reception



This week Reception children have continued to enjoy learning all about animals in the safari. We played outside creating our own 'jungles' and role played being animals. We have looked at features of animals and tricky words like 'camouflage'. We watched videos of chameleons and how they change their colours and even made printed chameleons of our own using bubble wrap.

In Maths, the children have been learning about repeating patterns and I challenged them to find repeating patterns at home. We had some fabulous pictures sent in from what they found at home and the children have been so excited to show the adults in class the different repeating patterns they have made.

Mr Mills also gave us another visit on Thursday and showed the children his drone. They got to see how it works and they got a birds-eye view of our school grounds. This was very exciting for them and lots of the children were so inspired they made their own drones in class adding features such as the controls and cameras. We were very impressed.

Thank you for another lovely week Reception 😊

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What have we been learning?

Year 1



We have been super busy in Year 1 this week. The children really enjoyed the sports coaches that were in school on Tuesday. They enjoyed playing the different games and demonstrated fantastic resilience, honesty and maturity. In PE we continued developing our Tennis skills including holding the racket correctly and focused on hitting the ball to each other with control. It was Deaf Awareness week and the children enjoyed the different activities that were organized. They loved listening to The Highway Rat through signed stories and enjoyed producing some environmental Art with Lenka. Our topic in Science is Materials and the children carried out an experiment to explore which materials were strong and waterproof. The children had to work as a team and build houses using different materials. They then tested each house based on its strength and ability to absorb water. In Spanish the children have been learning how to say different fruits and vegetables and showcased their knowledge through role-play. In Maths, the children have been learning about arrays through multiplication. They made arrays and used them to learn the two times tables.

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What have we been learning?

Year 2



It's been a very busy week in Year 2! We began the week with a visit from LSSP sports coach! He came in and taught us all some new sports skills! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this session!

This week in English, we have been remodelling and writing our letters to David Attenborough that we started in Geography last week. We have been looking at exclamatory sentences and exploring how we can use them in our work. In Geography this week, we have been looking at recycling and the different bins needed to sort our rubbish. We found out what happens to our plastic bottles and tin cans once we've put them in the recycling bin and how some items can be remade into new products within two months! The children worked in groups to distribute the litter into their correct bins.

In Spanish, we finished off our sea themed topic and the children used the iPads to create short interactive videos showing off the vocabulary learned over the last six weeks. The children have made great progress in their Spanish speaking skills and it has been great to see them enjoying modelling BSL alongside the new words and phrases we have learnt!

The children had great fun reading through the well-known favourite 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt' this week in Music, using the repeated sounds as an opportunity for call and response. The children learned how to use Maracas, Scrapers, Cymbals, Claves, Drums and Triangles to represent each of the sounds featured in the book!

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What have we been learning? Year 2 continued...

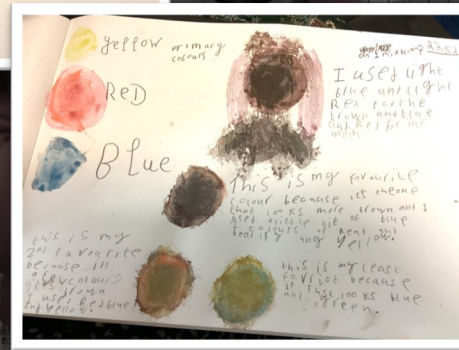
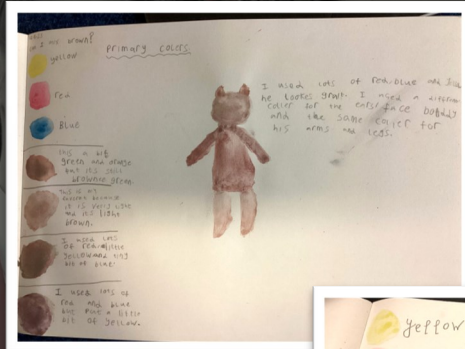


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What have we been learning?

Year 3



Y3 have had a fantastic week celebrating deaf awareness week, welcoming lots of visitors into our class in order for them to tell us about their lives as deaf role-models and to teach us new skills. We also enjoyed a very exciting swimming lesson on Thursday, perfecting our water safety skills and getting into the swimming pool in our pyjamas! All of the children thoroughly enjoyed this session and had a lot of fun. In science we have been continuing to learn about the zones of the ocean and the animals that live in each zone. We discovered we have some budding David Attenborough wanna-be's in class and they were able to tell us lots of wonderful facts about the ocean animals!

In English we have enjoyed a little bit of poetry and in maths we have looked at angles and turning. We've packed lots in again and are ready for our half-term break!

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Year 3 Super-Swimmers!

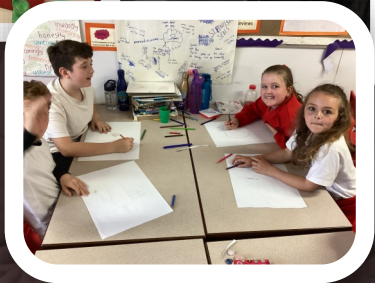


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What have we been learning?

Year 4



The past few weeks have been incredibly busy in Year 4 and throughout the whole of Knotty Ash! We have been really enjoying our new topic which is based on habitats and how humans have affected those areas of the planet. We have loved exploring the book *Garbage Guts* that explores pollution in our oceans and how this can affect animals. It involved an albatross, a monk seal, a humpback whale and a sea turtle! The class loved investigating each animal and over the past two weeks, during this time, we have written a factual paragraph with description, a rhyming poem and also a non-chronological report. In Maths, we have been looking at fractions. The class have been exploring equivalent fractions and therefore discovering what fractions are equal to each other. We have also enjoyed Deaf Awareness Week and have had so many inspiring guests in! The children have continued to practise their chess skills and are very excited for after mid-term when we get to play a full game of chess with all of the pieces. In Art, Ms Cummings has been working on a recycled and reclaimed art project and everyone is building towards creating a collage with recycled newspapers and magazines. Year 4 have really enjoyed the weather this week in PE and have practised skills in both capture the flag and rounders. It was the first time we have played both these sports and I have to say, everyone did ever so well! Good job and have a relaxing break everybody!

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What have we been learning?

Year 5



This week, Year 5 have done a variety of activities to celebrate Deaf Awareness Week. This includes meeting Mrs Riggs sister, Dr Rogers, who told us all about what it is like to grow up as a deaf person. We also watched the story of The Highway Rat by Wayne Sharples and created some natural art with Lenka. The children have worked really hard in English this week. They've spent a lot of time writing their narrative with an issue or dilemma. The results have been amazing, the children should be so proud of the work they have completed during English this week. In Maths, the children have been learning about area and perimeter and have now completed this unit. We've also learnt about the key geographical features of the UK and located them on a map. We all hope Year 5 and their families have a lovely restful half term.

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What have we been learning?

Year 6

Sorry... photos next week



This week, we have been developing our ability to paint an imaginative picture for the reader, by combining the use of well-chosen adjectives to fully describe our scene, as well as unusual and surprising adverbs to bring the action scenes to life. This has been a challenging journey - most of us prefer sticking to what we know, so I've been asking for a lot of rewrites and amendments, to really push the children to push themselves. The results have been great; the children have created some fabulous stories and wonderful turns of phrase. They've worked so hard. To inspire their creativity, we watched 'Tron: Legacy' - we all really enjoyed it and highly recommend it! For Deaf Awareness Week, Mrs Rigg's sister, Dr Katie Rogers, came in to talk to the children about her life, as an academic and as a deaf woman - sharing her amazing experiences and achievements. It's always so inspiring to hear first-hand from people who have overcome challenges in their lives. We're all ready for a well-deserved break now, enjoy the holiday everyone!

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What have we been learning?

DRB 1 & 2



It was a special week for KS1 DRB as it was 'Deaf Awareness Week'

To celebrate we invited visitors from the Deaf Community into our school, making our learning active and fun.

On Monday we had a Deaf Sports Day and James Dixon arranged a fantastic tournament for DRB children from Knotty Ash and deaf pupils from St. Helens and Knowsley. Everyone had a great time and we all made some new friends.

The wonderful Deaf artist Lenka took all the children outdoors to do some nature artwork. Under her expert guidance we made shooting stars, horses, flowers and other amazing creations using natural materials such as leaves, sticks and grass.

We've enjoyed Deaf Storyteller Wayne Sharples retelling 'The Highway Rat' in British Sign Language. To keep the creative juices flowing we had fun weaving using different recyclable materials such as plastic bags, wood and paper. I think we have some budding artist on our hands for sure!

We have finished the week with some role play from our story 'Let's Recycle' – we all had a turn being the Director and telling each character where they should be and what they should be doing!

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Attendance



Class	Attendance
Reception	93.9%
Year 1	95.1%
Year 2	95.0%
Year 3	87.3%
Year 4	87.5%
Year 5	85.3%
Year 6	96.6%

Whole school attendance this week 91.5%

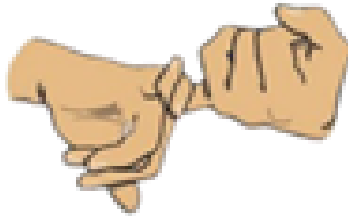
Class attendance winners Year 6 96.6%

Well done to all the children who were in school every day. Attendance has dipped due to a number of families taking children out of school for holidays. Please don't book term-time holidays as children miss valuable learning and may struggle to catch up.

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Group Family Sign



Come & learn sign language with us!

Every Monday for 4 weeks

**At Knotty Ash Primary School,
Thomas Lane, Knotty Ash, L14 5NX**

**Starting Monday
12th June 2023, 1.30–3pm**

For more information & to book your place please contact:

E: ICAN@deafnessresourcecentre.org

T: 01744 23887

Deafness Resource Centre, 32-40 Dentons Green Lane, St Helens, WA10 2QB



**COMMUNITY
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A letter from Liverpool City Council...



Liverpool
City Council

Dear Parent or Guardian

The May "Eat to Meet 2" Half Term programme starts on the 29th May and there are lots of great activities happening over the school holidays. Children and young people, from reception to age 16, who are eligible for benefits related free school meals, will be able to access hundreds of activities throughout the half term holidays including specific provision available for children with SEND or additional needs, at no cost. There's a great range of activities across the city including boxing, football, music, dance, cycling, cooking, discos, films, bowling, arts and crafts, drama, a make up course, trips out and much more! Every day there will be a range of fabulous meals available with many schemes holding family events as well.

To find out where your nearest scheme is click on this link <https://merseyplay.com/may-half-term-eat-to-meet/> or go to <https://www.merseyplay.com> and click on the May half term activities link.

When you have chosen the activity/scheme you will need to contact that organisation to book a place. Each organisation will have either a telephone number, email address or online booking system. If your child has any additional needs or dietary requirements then please discuss this with the organisation when you book. There is no central booking system so please read the details of the programmes on the website and contact the providers directly.

- If you want to know how to register or how to check if your child is eligible for free school meals then please click on the link <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>
- You will need your national insurance number or an asylum seekers support number.
- If you are struggling with the cost of living then please click: <https://www.liverpool.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>
- If you're more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food and milk. Click on the link to find out how to register <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>

Liverpool City Council is working with Mersey Play Action Council, Sutton Croft and the local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to deliver the Half Term Activity programme.

The Family Information and SEND Directory also provides a wealth of useful information and support for families - [FISD](#).

Regards

Sally Dobbing

Sally Dobbing - HAF Project Manager



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At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Helping children and young people with MANAGING DEVICE STRESS AND ANXIETY

The internet and advances in the capability of digital devices have afforded us arguably the fastest period of technological and social evolution in living memory: creating opportunities for us to interact with people anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day. It's also, however, blurred safety boundaries and added new stresses for young people, who are often less aware of the hidden hazards. With almost half of 10-15-year-olds experiencing bullying online and algorithms pushing content in front of our children every day, it's important to know how to address some of these challenges.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LIVING ONLINE

The internet is awash with sophisticated algorithms that learn from our online behaviour and try to predict our wants and needs. That's very helpful in some respects, but it can make the online world difficult for children and young people to negotiate. Content can be brought to them at any time – it may not always be appropriate, and children may not have the ability or the support to deal with it.

PUSHY NOTIFICATIONS

Content is also directed at us through notifications from our apps: letting us know we have a new message or social post to read, for example. While that's useful in some circumstances, it conditions us to keep going back online (and is designed to do so) and can be a near-constant demand on your child's attention. As such alerts become more common, are we experiencing an 'attack of the pings'?

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

There are now so many ways we can communicate online in real time (like instant messaging apps) or with a delay (such as on social media) that it's possible to be constantly in conversation. Young people often prefer quickfire exchanges of text – but using fewer words can cause distressing miscommunications through the lack of non-verbal cues like facial expressions or tone of voice.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

As devices allow access to immediate external help in challenging situations, it's a concern that children may not be developing the inner confidence to work things out for themselves. Likewise, group membership is hugely important to young people – both in digital and 'real' life – and being excluded from online conversations can cause damaging feelings of loneliness and isolation.

DISGUISED DISTRESS

Children often haven't yet developed the emotional resources to deal with many of the setbacks of everyday life, so identifying when it's specifically something online that's worried them can be tricky. A certain level of stress is a normal response to a problem: it spurs us into action to keep ourselves safe. If the stress is excessive, though, it can feel overwhelming and potentially lead to anxiety or depression.

ANTI-SOCIAL SOCIALS

Social media can bring people together in hugely positive ways. Sadly, it does also have a darker side, including 'flame war' arguments which can escalate quickly and have hurtful consequences. With so many people looking on, 'group shaming' situations are also common – while there are continual opportunities for young people to compare themselves negatively with other social media users.

Advice for Parents & Carers

LEARN THE BASICS

It's impossible to keep up with every online change or every new app. The best option is to make yourself aware of the fundamentals of how the internet operates, so you can help your child to grasp how – and why – content reaches them. Devices and the digital world can be confusing, so learning to understand them better will give you the confidence to talk to your child about them.

PUSH DISTRACTIONS AWAY

Notifications to our phones and tablets can be helpful, but they sometimes make one wonder who's really in charge: the person or the device? Checking our phone as soon as it goes off is an easy habit to fall into – especially for young people. Try switching off non-essential alerts on your devices and encourage your child to do the same; you should both feel less triggered and more in control.

KEEP CHECKING IN

Healthy emotional regulation balances three systems: threat, drive and grounding. Down the various rabbit holes of the internet, however, that balance can easily slip away – so it's important to help your child manage their emotions when they're online. Check in with them regularly when they're on their device, and remember that 'distraction' and 'relaxation' aren't always the same thing.

TALK IT OUT

If a child mentions a comment that's been directed at them in a text chat or on social media, it may sound minor but can actually have a much bigger effect than we realise. In our evolved brains, any perceived threat can get internalised while our body reacts as if we were in physical danger – raising stress levels. It's always worth encouraging your child to get any concerns out in the open.

LOOK FOR THE SIGNS

This is tricky – and may depend on the child's age – but any sudden change in behaviour is worth looking out for. If your child seems to be checking their phone or tablet more, doesn't want to be parted from them, or appears unusually secretive, anxious or withdrawn, it could be a sign that something is amiss in relation to their device – and, possibly, that they're in need of extra support.

BE KIND: UNWIND

Be kind to yourselves as parents and carers. Remember that we're all in the same boat, trying to safely guide our children through this complex, fast-moving digital environment. Getting into the habit of having natural, relaxed conversations with your child about their online life (and yours) can level the playing field and make it far easier for them to open up to you about any concerns.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications: she consults with and offers bespoke training to businesses and organisations, supporting positive and effective online communications – often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the various mediums.



Source: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/the-big-ask-big-answers/>
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/childrensonlinebehaviourandawareness/year-ending-march-2020>



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[@national_online_safety](https://www.tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)

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Term Dates and Events

29th May—2nd June HALF TERM

Mon 5th June INSET Day—school closed for staff training

5th—16th June Y4 Multiplication Tables check (keep practising!)

Tues 6th June Y1 and Y2 trip to New Brighton

Tues 6th June Juniors Sports activities

Wed 7th June Y5 and Y6 tennis workshops (for next 6 weeks)

12th—16th June Y1 Phonics Screening Check

Fri 16th June Revd Tom and friends Assembly

3rd—7th July Houses Theme Week

Wed 5th July Y6 Secondary transition day

Fri 7th July Knottyashtonbury Festival!

Wed 12th July Reception Intake evening

Fri 14th July Y6 Leavers' Evening : play and awards

Wed 19th July End of Term

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Family Activities & Support

The latest edition of the Liverpool Parenting Newsletter is here.

<https://sway.office.com/yaQ6W3itHm4L9gTU?ref=Link>

you will find new information about local support available for families and children in Liverpool, along with information regarding events and activities on offer running from March to May 2023.

We have also been sent information about Family Learning and Engagement Courses run by LCC Adult Learning Service. This can be found on our school website, link here:

<https://knotty-ash-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/family-information-and-support/>

For families in receipt of benefits related free school meals, there are a variety of activities over the Easter break, all of which are free and include a meal:

<https://merseyplay.com/easter-haf-holiday-activities-food/>

Locally, St John's Church offer a range of community groups and activities for families:

<https://www.stjohnsknottyash.org/our-community>

There's also a range of groups and activities available at Yew Tree Children's Centre for parents whose children are 0-5 years.

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/children-and-families/early-years-and-childcare/childrens-centres/yew-tree-childrens-centre/>

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Help and Advice

For a range of local services - info@localsolutions.org.uk

Parenting

Solihull Free Online Parenting Courses are now available on a mobile app. Go to the website: <https://inourplace.co.uk/> and enter the access code PURPLEBIN to register for any of the FREE parenting programmes Or download the Free app and do a course on your mobile device at your own pace.

Early Communications—a language enrichment group (Wednesday mornings) for 2-3 year-olds at Stoneycroft Children's Centre. www.stoneycroftchildrenscentre.co.uk/

The Drive is a local community centre offering a range of activities for family members, old and young. They also run weekly food clubs and provide breakfast/lunch to families during school holidays. <https://www.the-drive.org/home>

Domestic Abuse

For support around domestic abuse - <https://worstkeptsecret.org.uk/>

If you are worried about anything affecting your own or your children's safety or wellbeing, please get in touch in confidence and we'll be able to signpost you to support.

For more advice and support, follow us on Twitter @Knotty_Families

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