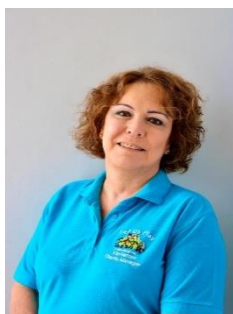




**Issue
101**

For children with special needs and disabilities and their siblings



Welcome to issue number 101. We are just doing a short newsletter to cover September. I want to see if we can do some activities back in schools but until they go back in September it's impossible to know if they will let us hire premises. October will follow shortly. I am starting to collect Tombola items again in the hope that we will be able to do some fundraising this Christmas season. So any new items that you can donate are greatly appreciated.

CYCLING UPDATE

Everytime we have tried to restart our Monday night cycling sessions we have been stopped by the city council repurposing Aldersley for none sports purposes. We are going for a restart on Monday 27th September. 6:00pm - 7:00pm Can I ask that if you intend to start coming that you tell Claire just so that we have an idea of numbers. So just to remind you all. Cycling takes place in Hall D at WV Active Aldersley Leisure Village, Aldersley Road, WV6 9NW. Go straight to Hall D, which is the hall furthest from reception. We ask that if you can afford to that you make a donation of £2 per week to cover some of the additional costs of cycling. Nobody will ask you for this money, please just hand it to a member of staff. The insurance of the bikes in particular is quite hefty because of how they are stored. All children must wear a helmet, but you can bring your own if you prefer. Cycling is on 3 wheeled trikes and karts and is not suitable for those who want to whizz around on 2 wheels. Most of the children have moderate to high levels of disability. It is a condition of attending that all cyclists are members of Let us Play.



Let Us Play (Wolverhampton) Registered charity number 1104506 Company LTD by Guarantee number 5042881, 7 Shaw Park Business Village, Shaw Road, Wolverhampton WV10 9LE www.lupwolverhampton.org.uk 01902 546258

BOOKINGS PROCESS

If you are a regular member please skip past this bit. We had a number of new members throughout the summer and there was much confusion about the bookings process. We do not work on a first come first served basis, but we do have a bookings day by which all requests must be in by. On bookings day all the places are allocated. This editions date is shown below. We will always be over requested, however that doesn't mean that every session will be over requested, and you can always ask to be put on a reserves list. We find that families only request certain activities in the hope that if they only request one then they will get it. Its more complicated than that. For instance; cookery sessions are very popular so Claire looks back on previous sessions to see who got what & when. She then allocates as fairly as she can. If you would like every session, then ask for every session. You are allowed to make a first choice preference. So if you daughter really wants to go paintballing before anything else then say so. All requests for places must be made via email to bookings@lupwolverhampton.org.uk. Also please note a request is not an allocation. After you have requested then Claire will allocate. You should receive a allocation email within a couple of days of the bookings date. We have loads of problems with emails going into people's junk box. I suspect it's that word play. If you haven't received your email, please check with us. We won't have forgotten you, something has gone wrong. Also if you lose your newsletter then can we remind you that there is always a copy on the website. Finally, if you are allocated a session but your plans change please tell us asap. We hate wasted places, and most sessions carry a reserves list. Please try to avoid emails or phoning the office if it's a last minute cancellation. Kims mobile is 07979751893

Bookings Allocation date is Monday 6th September 2021.

All bookings to be in by midnight on 5th September.

COVID UPDATE

Throughout September we will continue to lateral flow test our staff. We ask that you don't send children to sessions with any symptoms that could be infectious. Coughs (unless its asthma) colds, feeling unwell. You have our assurance that premises and equipment will be cleaned as well as is possible. We will never have more than 15 children indoors at the office. If you are asked to isolate, please don't send them unless they have had a negative PCR test result in the last 24 hours. Can we just have some common sense surrounding this and some consideration for those children who have pre-existing health conditions which make them more vulnerable. If you or your child become positive within 48 hours of being at a session you must tell us.

Covid will no doubt remain with us for a long while to come, at LUP we have to protect those who are vulnerable as best we can and all work together.



THE PARENTS GROUP

All families who are members of LUP are welcome to attend the parents group.

You must book places with Claire

Wednesday 8th September, 12:00 noon
Afternoon Tea at The Mount Hotel Mount Road
Tettenhall
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV6 8HL



This is paid for in advance and costs are none returnable so please only book if you are fairly sure you can come. The menu is on their website for those interested.



Wednesday 22nd September, 11:00am
Go Karting & Laser Tag
Cannon Raceway, units 4 / 5 Cannon Business Park, Gough Road,
Coseley, WV14 8XR Next door to Coseley train station. Parking
can be difficult so we will have to block each other in.
You can't be late for this..... if you miss the briefing they won't let you take part.



Diary Date there is a girls night out planned for Thursday 7th October, get those baby sitters on stand by.



Saturday 18th September
Cookies & Crafts
2 sessions either
9:30 – 12:30 noon
Or
1:30pm – 4:30pm

Let Us Play Offices, 7 Shaw Park Business
Village Shaw Road,
Wolverhampton WV10 9LE

5 – 19 years

A shortbread biscuit making session doing
glazed shortbread. Accompanied by a bit of
autumn craft.

1 x 1:1 place available
on each session.



Saturday 2nd October
Rainforest Dioramas
2 sessions either
9:30 – 12:30 noon
Or
1:30pm – 4:30pm

Let Us Play Offices, 7 Shaw Park Business
Village Shaw Road,
Wolverhampton WV10 9LE

5 – 19 years

Creating several crafts to insert into your
diorama.



COMPASS



Just a reminder that Compass is for those who have already signed up for the project. There is no intensive support on Compass activities, no 1:1 places. You must be this year's year 7 (sept 21) up to 18 years and you must have a WV postcode. There are at least 2 activities every month on Compass.

FRIDAY 10th September
BAT WALK & Mc Donald's

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Meeting at Wildside Activity Centre
Hordern Rd, Wolverhampton
WV6 OHA



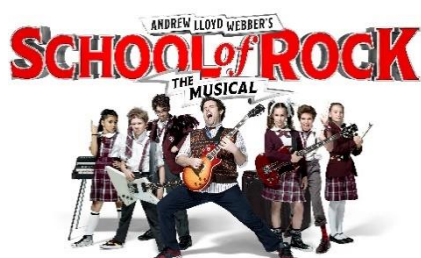
You need to pre book your food with Claire so that it can be ready for you when you arrive. I have never done a bat walk so not a lot of help explaining it. I know they have bat detectors, and the session facilitator can tell you lots of amazing things about bats!! The bat sightings can be a bit weather dependent.

Obviously outdoors so dress for the weather

Saturday 25th September

Andrew Lloyd Webbers
The School of Rock Musical
Grand Theatre Wolverhampton

Meeting in the Foyer at 14:15 (don't be late)
Collect from the foyer at 5:00pm



Smoke and strobe effect lighting
is present during this
performance as is occasional
strong language.

Please don't send spending
money.

The children are allowed to bring
a modest drink and a few sweets
in a discreet bag.



Once again Variety have agreed to provide places for an outing at West Midlands Safari Park. I believe the Safari Park also financially contribute considerably to the event. In a move from normal they have decided to spread the tickets over 2 weekends and do both days, Saturday and Sunday. Dates are: 9th 10th 16th & 17th October 2021. They have promised that we will know by the second week in September how many tickets we have been allocated and which day or days. As usual they are asking for £2 towards the cost of wrist bands payable on the day. In addition we are told that tickets will be sent out electronically, I am guessing we will have to email them to you. We have no control over the number of tickets they give us or which day we are allocated. We are asking you to lodge interest with Claire and then she can email out when we have all the details and find out who wants what. If we have more requests than tickets available we will draw them out of a hat. Siblings are welcome, but you are not to pass tickets on to others who aren't LUP members.





We had to stop using volunteers during Covid. This was because we needed to have the minimum number of adults around the children. Also with all fundraising stopping there was much less for them to do. We are slowly starting to reintroduce volunteers and we do have a small number of opportunities available. Claire coordinates volunteers.

The New Autism Strategy for England

We don't like to be political at LUP in fact we have certain agreements in place which prevent us from commenting. However with space to spare on this newsletter I thought I might share the news that the government has published its New Autism Strategy. We know that disabled people face huge inequalities in every part of society, right through from early years and into adulthood and old age. The plan intends to increase as a first step public understanding and tackling the disability employment gap. It doesn't make it very clear how it intends to do this.

So what's in the strategy?

The Government has made a number of commitments, including:

- Consult on introducing workforce reporting for businesses with more than 250 staff on the number of disabled people they employ.
- Launch a new online advice hub for both disabled people and employers to provide information and advice on disability discrimination in the workplace, flexible working and rights and obligations around reasonable adjustments.
- Increase the accessibility requirements for new homes and adapt existing homes.
- Develop a UK-wide campaign to increase public awareness and understanding of disability.

- Consider how to support disabled people standing for public office and those who hold public office.

Beyond the first year, the Government says it will work to:

- Ensure fairness and equality.
- Consider disability from the start.
- Support independent living.
- Increase participation.
- Deliver joined up responses.

The strategy makes some important commitments, though the plans for disabled children and young people and their access to health and care services in particular don't go far enough. There are bold long-term goals indeed but little information about how the Government will achieve these and, crucially, the investment that will be needed.

Further reading and info

Find out more about the Government's Disability

Strategy: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-disability-strategy>

And finally

Kim & Claire have their investiture ceremony on September 15th. Photos in the next newsletter. We are both excited and new frocks have been purchased. There is also a rumor that it might have included bags, shoes and hats if you see our other half's then it is just a rumor.

