

FRIENDS & FAMILY OF FOREST WAY

ISSUE NO 1 | MAY 2022 |



A huge thank you to those parents that attended our last Friends & Family of Forest Way meeting last term. It was great to see so many of you attend. The meeting aimed to give parents the opportunity to socialise with other parents/carers and gave us the chance to gather your ideas for future social occasions and workshop ideas.

These meetings will be regular. If you could not make the last one, we would love to have you join us in the future. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, 13th June at 1:30-3:00**. The meeting focus is: Transition. This will cover discussions around your child moving classes and key stages at all levels through the school from EYFS to Post-16.

Each term, we will be sending out our Friends & Family of Forest Way newsletter. This will run alongside our current school newsletter. The focus of these will be to share with you how we can support parental engagement at Forest Way and get your voices heard.

These newsletters will be published termly on Kinteract and on our school website. We are very happy to see that most families are now active on Kinteract. Please remember to contact the school office or email parentsupport@forestway.leics.sch.uk if you are having any difficulties using Kinteract and we will try and get this resolved for you.

Many thanks,

Nicola Brown

Parental Engagement Lead

THE NEWS...

What happened at the last F&F meeting.

Top Tips

Upcoming events

WHAT WAS DISCUSSED...

1. Parents shared their top tips for support strategies, days out with the family and what carers of SEN children are entitled to.
2. Workshop ideas were shared. After the summer, we will be offering the following workshops: Behaviour support, Communication, Sensory, Early Mathematics, Phonics - Phase 1, Phonics - Phase 2, Relationship and Sex Education. We will also be having local agencies support with housing, first aid and fire safety. Dates for these will be coming soon.
3. Parents shared that a website forum for families to share advice would be beneficial. Nicola will be working closely with the school's leadership team to see if this is something we can put into place for the next academic year. Watch this space!
4. Many parents would love the opportunity to have the school swimming pool open for 'out of hours' swimming lessons. We are in talks with outside swimming agencies to see if this is something we can offer at Forest Way. We are also in talks with local sports centres to see if they can offer something for Forest Way children and children with SEND.
5. Parents were keen to find out about holiday activities that are running in the local area. Last term, a holiday activities list was devised and posted on Kinteract. A summer holiday activities update will be posted over the coming weeks.



We would like to recommend Shepshed toy library to you. This library aims to support child development through play by offering a range of quality toys to all children including those with disabilities for recreation, therapy and education to advance their intellectual, motor, personal and social development. They have around 2000 indoor and outdoor toys. These include toys such as story sacks (with over 30 different themes), games, jigsaws, DVDs, dressing up, sensory, ride-ons and construction toys.

Shepshed Toy Library

Iveshead Campus, Forest Street, Shepshed, Leicestershire LE129DB

01509 601146

shepshedtoylib@yahoo.co.uk

Opening Times

Mon 09:30 – 12:00 ^

Tue Closed

Wed 09:30 – 12:00

Thu 09:30 – 12:00

Fri 09:30 – 12:00

Sat Closed

Sun Closed



Parents' Voice

"We have found at home that when he gets overwhelmed or upset, we find a warm shower really calms him down. I think it's something to do with the weight of the water on his shoulders and also being encapsulated in a 'safe' space allows him to stabilise his emotions and calm down in his own time in a relaxing and comfortable environment. It's something we have really found beneficial and I'm sure it's something that other parents may not have thought of necessarily as a coping mechanism for melt downs at home, but it definitely works for us."

"Rebound in Ashby – the staff are well versed in working with SEN children and as a result it's a safe space for the kids to interact with other children and also have a lot of fun (and burn off energy) in an inclusive and kind environment."



"360 Play and Jump Giants have quieter evening sessions available to those children that need it."

"Red Kangaroo Play have SEN days every Sunday."

"Merlin Attractions offer 2 carers to come free."

"Twycross Zoo allows 2 carers free of charge."

Do you have any useful tips that you believe would benefit other families at Forest Way?

If the answer is yes, then please pass them onto the school office and we will post them in our next newsletter.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, 13th June at 1:30pm**

Our topic of discussion will be transition. This will cover discussions around your child moving classes and key stages at all levels through the school from EYFS to Post-16.

Please could you come to the meeting with a top tip for other parents about how your child has coped with transition.

If you have any questions about the next Friends and Families meeting then contact Nicola at parentsupport@forestway.leics.sch.uk



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