

Family Update

17th February 2023 - **Happy Half Term Break**



Updates

Hi everyone, Your children's **Mid-year Reports** have been sent 'live' to Evidence for Learning EfL this week. Please contact the school office or put a note in your child's Home/School book if for some reason you are unable to access these reports online.

Our bouncy, lovable school dog **Arlo** has been running his **Well-being Lunchtime Clubs**. Children chat with him and train him whilst developing their own communication skills and emotional self-regulation. This is a therapeutic session which can lead to Entry Level accreditation in Animal Care when children are in the Towards Independence department.



I would like to thank all the parents who joined us for the **Face to Face meetings with the Local Authority** last week and yesterday. You represented the views of our families brilliantly well and I know that as a result, there is a deeper understanding of all the issues faced by our children with disabilities and their families. After writing to all the local councillors, MPs and local media I have received some very positive support for our residential provision from some quarters which is reassuring to a degree. If you are interested to see these responses, support with similar appeals, or receive links to the publicly available LA financial information, please request that here: SOS@saxon.set.org

I hope you have a wonderful **half term break** and we look forward to seeing your wonderful children **returning on Monday 27th February**, from your Leadership Team

Parents Recommend

We have an amazing parent's recommend section on page 4 this week with so many brilliant suggestions from a parent who has kindly put this together for us.

If you have any recommendations for activities, places or groups that you think other parents and /or pupils would enjoy, please email it to:

emily.thompson@saxon.set.org



Key Dates



Fri 17th Feb - break up for half-term

Mon 20th — Fri 24th Feb - Half Term Holiday

Thursday 2nd March - World Book Day - dress as your favourite book character or in your PJs

Mon 6th March - Fri 10th March - Explorers Learning Conference

Fri 17th March - Red Nose Day

Tues 28th March - Explorers Easter Egg-Stravaganza

Fri 31st March - break up for Easter holidays

Mon 3rd — Tues 18th April Easter Holiday

Mon 17th April - Inset Day

Tues 18th April—Pupils return to school

Contact us



www.saxonhillacademy.org.uk

[www.twitter.com/saxonacademy](https://twitter.com/saxonacademy)

www.facebook.com/saxonhillacademy

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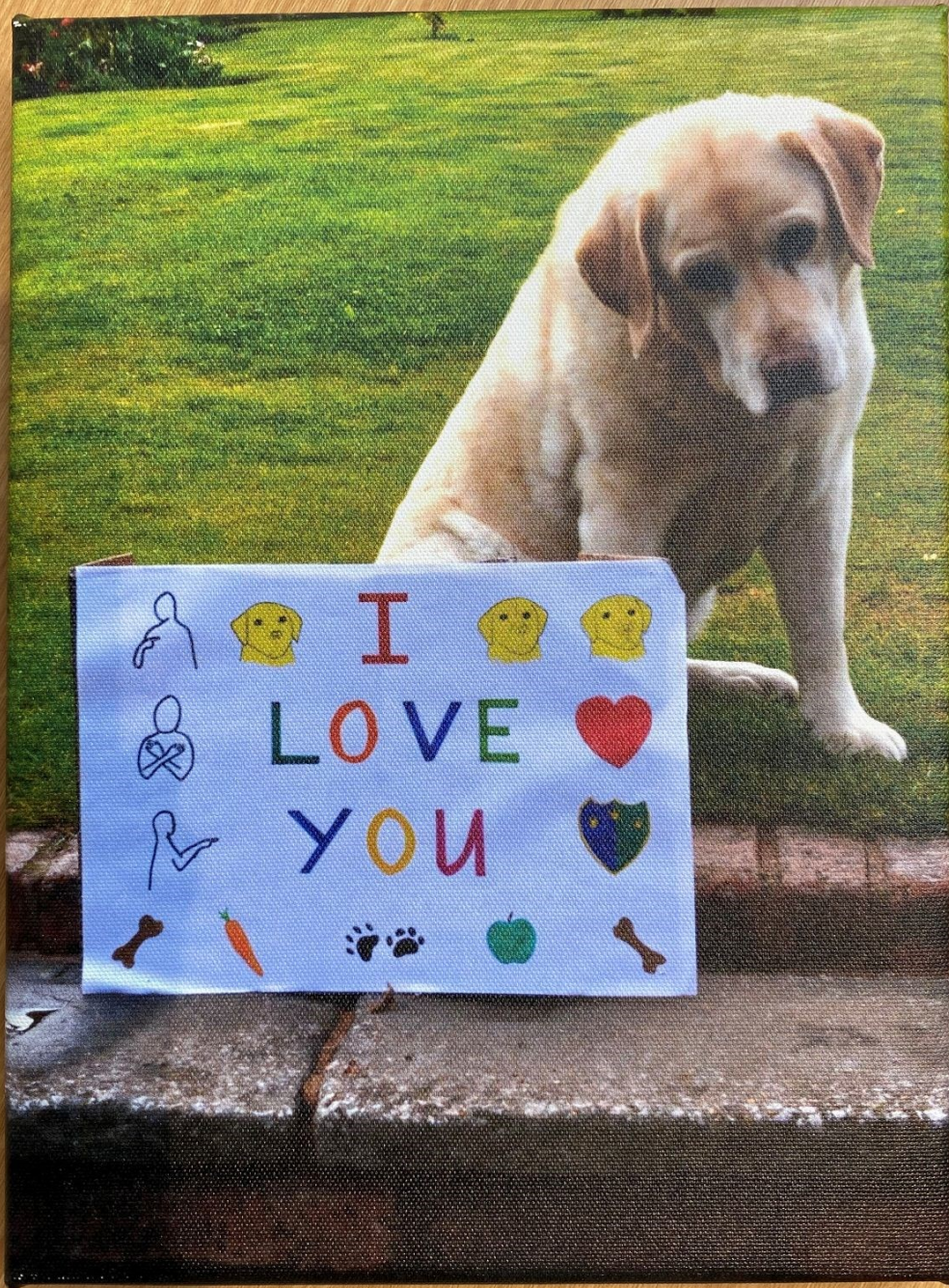


Headteacher: Melanie Newbury

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Kim Thomas

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Melanie Newbury & Helen Bowers

Thank you Tarka, from the bottom of our hearts



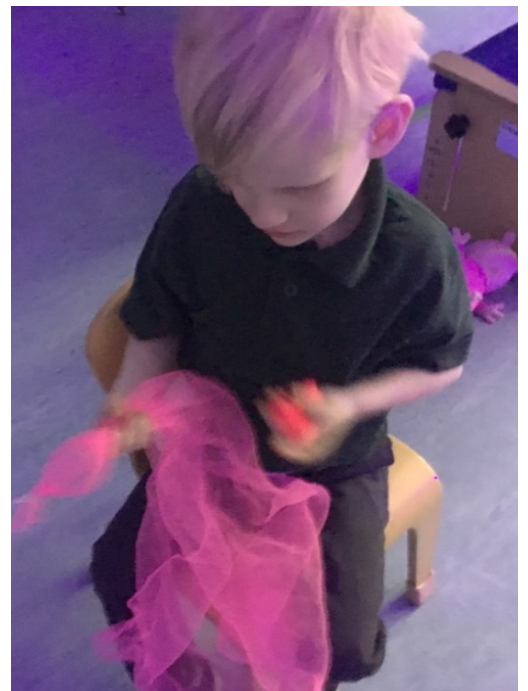
We will miss you so much

Today we received some very sad news. Tarka our Therapy dog that has cheered up and supported so many Saxon Hill children for so very many years, passed away peacefully on Thursday morning after a very long and happy life.

She was especially fond of coming to school each week and seeing the children whom she loved. She was such an exceptionally gentle dog and over the years managed to gain the confidence of numerous children and provide comfort in times of sadness and difficulty. She had been visiting for 14 years since she was 2 years old and came into school for the last time on 1st February.

We are enormously grateful to Rowan who has so thoughtfully and reliably brought Tarka into school to support our children over all these years. Please remember you are always welcome at Saxon Hill and maybe now, we can be of comfort to you in these sad times.

What we have been up to this week ...



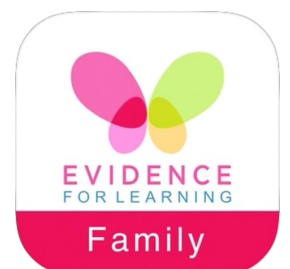
Reports are Live

Your child's midterm learning journey is now live on Evidence for Learning. If you haven't any done so, we recommend you download the EFL Family App.

Your username and password remain the same. The Domain is SaxonHill.

Further instructions can be found in our website. Call or email the office for support.

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/evidence-for-learning-family/>



Sleepover Club Highlights



Pupils have been developing their IT skills this week. Some designed and made Valentines cards for their loved ones, while others designed and printed posters to decorate their bedroom walls.



The boys have made excellent progress with their daily living skills, now being able to cut up their own meals and pour their drinks independently.



We have also been celebrating the birthdays of two of our pupils, and the forthcoming marriage over half term of Andrea, one of our Residential Support Workers.

We wish her well and send lots of love from us all.



Parent's Recommend Special

1. **"Quiet at the Aquarium"** -The Sea Life centre in Birmingham has special quiet mornings for SEN. The next one is on 5th March.

https://www.visitsealife.com/birmingham/explore/events/quiet-at-the-aquarium/?gclid=CjwKCAiAlp2fBhBPEiwA2Q10DyDj7XH4KUKYvQ-RwPU3L5eW_zqR_fLswioDxhLNA7Q73UijQPr2cBoCn6MQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

2. **SENSory Playroom in Walsall Wood**

It has lots of activities on during term time AND school holidays. Find on Facebook or: <https://www.sensoryplaywalsall.com/>

3. **SCAMPS Playgroup**

For any parents who live Tamworth/Sutton way, this lovely little playgroup is in Nether Whitacre and is run by a special needs teacher who also works at Woodlands Special School. It runs on Thursday mornings even during school holidays. It's never too busy and I've made some great SEND mum friends there.

Find on Facebook, or:

<https://scampsplaygroup.com/>

4. **Fuzzy Ed's soft play** at the Hare and Hounds in Minworth just up the A38.

They have regular SEN sessions including Friday 24th during half term (9.30-11!)

They regularly post the SEN sessions on Facebook, but you can also find them here:

<https://www.fuzzyeds.co.uk/location/hare-hounds#>

5. **Lichfield District children's centre** (staffs County Council) have a parent and toddler stay and play for children with disabilities and developmental delays, aged 0-5. 1-3pm at Charnwood Children's centre. Information can be found on Facebook.

6. **NICE centre for Movement disorders**

This Charity based in Birmingham has helped us so much, from providing conductive education to loaning equipment. We still go to sessions now, outside of school.

Found on Facebook and:

<https://conductive-education.org.uk/>

7. **Simons Heroes**

This Tamworth based Charity helps children with disabilities by providing them with equipment, doing bedroom makeovers, and much more. Think family fund, but on a smaller, more local scale.

They have provided us with feeding therapy, a sensory assessment and soft play for the home. They are truly brilliant!

Found on Facebook and:

<https://simonsheroes.org.uk/>

8. **Newlife**

This charity can help to fund equipment such as wheelchairs etc, but also provides loans of play therapy pods.

<https://newlifecharity.co.uk/play-therapy-pods/?cn-reloaded=1>

9. **Caudwell children**

This charity provides charity funded private Autism assessments and also partially funded sensory packs (very cheap sensory toys!)

<https://www.caudwellchildren.com/autism-sensory-packs/>

10. **The Sandcastle trust**

They provide short breaks and days out. They are means tested, a bit like family fund, but less rigid on the requirements. They also do other little things, like send out activity packs for certain events e.g. we received a baking set and decorations for the queen's jubilee.

<https://sandcastletrust.org/>

11. **Marlins magic wand**

They provide free days out to their attractions for special children.

https://www.altontowers.com/about-alton-towers/community-charity/merlins-magic-wand/?gclid=CjwKCAiAlp2fBhBPEiwA2Q10D5I8er9UKyINpFnIChE9oBcN5-vdfyEqXiEHV-L79Gv3d3dC4-U4JR0CpVMQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds



Come and join us for a virtual SUN session.

SPRING DATES 2023

Please note, you will need to be able to access Microsoft teams in order to join the meeting.

SUN sessions are informal networking and information sharing sessions between parents, carers, young people, schools, and services, for anyone living with or working with a child or young person with SEND in Staffordshire.

It is an opportunity to find out/share information about what is happening locally, and what support and services might be available

The sessions are double district and ideally you would sign up for the meeting in the district you live, however, if you are unable to take part in your district group, it may be possible to join one of the others, but please bear in mind not all services cover all areas.

Dates and Times of SUN Sessions

Newcastle/Moorlands	1pm – 2pm	Tuesday 14 th March 2023
Cannock/Lichfield	1pm – 2pm	Monday 13 th March 2023
Tamworth/East Staffs	10am – 11am	Tuesday 21 st March 2023
Stafford/South Staffs	1pm – 2pm	Monday 20 th March 2023

Numbers will be limited therefore booking is essential.

If you are a **parent, carer, young person or a service provider** and would like to attend please email; sun@staffordshire.gov.uk

on receipt of your completed booking form, you will be emailed with a link to access the meeting once your place is confirmed.

Little Saxons

Stay and Play

A specialist provision for children 0-4 years with additional needs.

Song
Time

Rebound
Therapy

Messy
Play

Hydrotherapy

Refreshments

Sensory

Story
Time



Little Saxons

Monday & Thursday Afternoons 12.45-
2.15pm

(Term time only)

£2.00 including a tea/coffee/cold drink

For more information or to book your place please contact -
Tel: 01543 414892 Email: little.saxons@saxon.set.org
Saxon Hill Academy, Kings Hill Road, Lichfield, Staffordshire,
WS14 9DE

Have fun out and about!

FREE ACCESSIBLE CYCLE SESSIONS

FAMILIES ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN

**WELCOME TO AGES 14- 30 YEARS OLD
BE MATCHED TO A BIKE TO MEET YOUR NEEDS
EMAIL OR CALL TO BOOK A PLACE
PARKRIDE@MIDLANDMENCAP.ORG.UK
0121 442 2944**

FREE ACCESSIBLE CYCLING
TASTER SESSIONS
21ST FEBRUARY 2023
10- 11AM, 11- 12PM, 12.30-
1.30PM

PERRY HALL PARK,
PERRY AVENUE
PERRY BARR,
B42 1RS



**Transitions & Preparation
For Adulthood Service**

*building resilience and independence through
direction, guidance and empowerment*



Family Support & Outreach Service (FSOS) – Newsletter

January 2023

Edition 1



Welcome to our Factsheet for FSOS!

The newly Commissioned Family Support & Outreach Service (FSOS) contract started on April 1st 2022, with **2 Organisations** now offering practical support for children and their families, adopting the 'whole family working' ethos.

So, what is The Family Support & Outreach Service (FSOS)?

Family Support Workers provide support for children and young people from 0-19 years and up to 25 years for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. They can also help parents and carers with vulnerabilities they may be having, which are affecting family life.

Examples of support may include:

- parenting skills and strategies
- building healthy relationships
- emotional wellbeing
- staying safe in the community
- building confidence and self esteem
- child's development inc. early years
- building positive relationships between home and school
- housing and financial issues
- returning to employment or education
- developing positive community relationships
- access to local services and facilities

MYTH-BUSTING
'Family Action'
and 'Action for
Children' are not
the same

We work with the **whole family**, delivering the service in the family home and other community settings like schools or Family Hubs. We want to offer a **place-based** service ensuring Families receive the **right support at the right time, in the right place**



How do you refer for Family Support?

Anyone can refer to FSOS – self-referrals; GP's, Nurseries, Childminders, Schools, Paediatricians, Midwives and Health Visitors – in fact anyone can refer. Please find a link to the referral form here:

[Family Support and Outreach Service - Tier 2 | Staffordshire Connects](#)

Make sure you include as much detailed information as possible on the referral form

What will happen next? – FSOS will look at the information; contact the referrer and Family to gather more information and to ensure the correct consent has been gained. From this, the organisations decide if FSOS is the right service for the Family. They will then be contacted to arrange a first visit or alternative support recommended.

If on a waiting list, the Family will receive a dedicated 'checking-in' contact at regular intervals and be signposted to advice and additional support where needed, until they are allocated a named Family Support Worker.

There are 2 elements that a family can access:

Referral Based Family Support – An Early Help Assessment (EHA) is completed together, where the family help identify specific support needs. The Family work collaboratively to resolve those needs by accessing specific support, building skills, be empowered and increase resilience. The Outcomes Star tool is completed with the Family to show the positive journey of change the Family have achieved.

Family Access Support – To offer practical 'hands-on' support and encouragement to help enable Families who would not usually access group offers, to engage with appropriate local offers on a regular basis. We recognise some Families may struggle with knowing what to expect, have concerns about how to behave within an unfamiliar setting and with managing their emotional wellbeing and worries when trying something new. This support is design to coach them through this.

So, who do I contact for more information/make a referral?

[*Staffordshire Family Support and Outreach Service | Staffordshire Connects](#) which will provide you with more information and the link to the referral form – Staffordshire Connects also contains local offers, organisations offering support, Council information etc – it's a really useful website!



Staffordshire@family-action.org.uk

Moorlands & Newcastle: 01782 228 963

Cannock & South Staffs: 01543 735 699

Stafford: 01785 558 172



Staffordshire@malachi.org.uk

Lichfield: 0121 441 4556

East Staffordshire: 0121 441 4556

Tamworth: 0121 441 4556

If you have any comments, suggestions or feedback on the Family Support and Outreach Service please do not hesitate to contact the Organisations above or myself, Alix Gidman – Commissioning Officer (alixandra.gidman@staffordshire.gov.uk)

