

SEND

Weekly Newsletter

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Issue 32

Boost for special education with new school

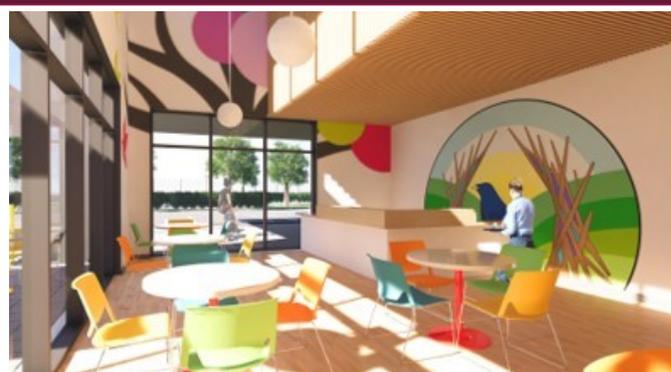
A new special school in Bridgwater has moved a step closer after Somerset County Council's cabinet agreed to appoint a contractor for the project in Bower Lane, Bridgwater.

Children, parents and teachers have been able to influence the design of the 160-space, purpose-built school at Bower Lane which will be kitted out with the very latest specialist equipment.

It will replace the existing school buildings at Elmwood and Penrose and cater for children with the most complex needs, including those with significant mobility difficulties.

The three-wing school will have a warm water pool for physiotherapy, a sports hall and fully accessible classrooms with latest teaching technology.

It will also have a café to help post-16 students to develop vocational skills and encourage engagement with parents and the wider community.



Resource centre has it all

If you need resources for school or home learning the Elmwood Learning Support Centre in Bridgwater has a wide range.

You'll find:

- Puppets
- Games and puzzles
- Big books
- Assessment tools
- Sensory activities
- Story sacks - and much more!

All items are available to borrow free of charge. The centres aim is to provide resources that will support and stimulate.

Visit [here for more details](#) or call 01278 411211

To read more about the latest special school developments [visit here](#)



Autism survey

The Government wants to hear from those with autism, their families and their carers about their experiences of care and support.

In April 2014 the Government published '[Think Autism](#)', a strategy for meeting the needs of autistic adults in England. The strategy supports the [Autism Act 2009](#). This year the Department of Health and Social Care, and the Department for Education, will review the strategy and extend it to cover children as well as adults.

To help them to do this they people's views.

The results will be used to find out where people think progress has been made and where more needs to be done in the future.

You can access the [survey here](#).

Thanks for you input

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in coproducing the new Short Breaks Statement.

Through workshops, coffee mornings, roadshows and the funday over 845 people had their views collected and this directly influenced the statement. We want to thank all of you for giving your time and experiences to help make things better.

There will now be a working group to take forward the areas which you highlighted as needing improvement. Please contact either Somerset Parent Carer Forum at help@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk or Laura White from the Short breaks team at Ljwhite@somerset.gov.uk if you would like to be involved.

The statement can be [found here](#).

Calling young musicians - time to make your mark

If you're a talented young musician the National Open Youth Orchestra (NOYO) needs you.

Launched in 2018 to provide a progression route for some of the UK's most talented young musicians with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, NOYO is a pioneering orchestra offering unique training opportunities including one-to-one tuition and group rehearsals in Bristol. Young people with musical potential and wanting to perform live as members of



a dynamic ensemble can apply until 31 March for a September start. This year, they're looking for musicians on strings, woodwind, guitar, brass instruments or live electronic instruments (including the Clarion).

They're particularly keen to hear from bass players. Joining NOYO is free, but there is a selective audition process.

For more information and to apply, go to www.noyo.org.uk

