

Orchard Manor School Newsletter

February 2019



Sunshine, Rain and Snow Days

Dear Parents and Carers

Let me welcome you to our third newsletter from Orchard Manor School. I can't believe we are at the end of another half term. The time has flown by as we have continued to settle into our new school.

May I first of all thank you all for your cooperation and understanding following the decision to close the school due to snow. It was not a decision taken lightly and we appreciated the inconvenience to you all, so again thank you.



We have some significant building and maintenance works taking place currently, and over the next few months; fire safety work that involves door replacements and other remedial work, roof maintenance, repurposing of some rooms and the intended expansion to the Lower School collection and drop off point. All of this will enhance our facilities and environment.

We have just had an Ofsted Social Care Inspection of our residential provision. Following three days of rigorous scrutiny we have been given positive feedback on our residences and the quality of care we provide. Areas for further development are already being actioned. We will share the details of the report with you via the school website www.orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk as soon as it is available.

This half term a number of new children began their journey through education with us and we have welcomed some new staff members into our team. It has been a brilliant start to the New Year and we look forward to continuing to develop our new school.

School returns on Tuesday 26 February at 10:40 am. We look forward to welcoming you back refreshed and ready to embrace the new half term.

Mark Rose—Executive Principle

Exciting Developments for ICT at Orchard Manor School

We have exciting news for everyone here at Orchard Manor!

New computing hardware is coming soon!

This year we have connected both sites using fibre optic connections and upgraded the server to meet increased data demands of our expanding school. There is improved hardware in place for Post 16, including the purchase of laptops and desk top computers.

We are now looking to significantly increase pupils access to devices, Surface Go's for Key Stage 2 and beyond. Our EYFS and Key Stage 1 pupils will benefit from more iPads. We are also going to improve our Interactive Whiteboards by having TV screens where pupils and teachers can interact and share their work. These developments will enhance learning opportunities and support pupils to communicate more effectively.

We hope to send you some photos of pupils using these new devices in our next newsletter!

Rowena Schofield—Assistant Principal Progress



Pupil Absence



If you wish to report your child absent from school, please dial reception on **01626 862363** and press **Option 6** This will take you directly to the Absence Mailbox.

Please leave the name of your child and the reason for their absence, followed by your name and a contact number. **Please do this for every day of absence.** Thank you.

Please note, that holidays should not be taken during term time unless they have been expressly approved by the school .

ParentMail

In an endeavour to help save the planet and increase the ease of communications between the school and our parents and carers, we are pleased to announce that Orchard Manor School will be using Parent Mail in the future as our main form of communications—including sending out this newsletter!

From 25 February 2019 we will be using ParentMail, a service used by over 6,000 schools, nurseries and children's clubs. ParentMail will be beneficial to you because you can:

- Use a free mobile app on Android and iOS to pick up school messages instantly.
- Have an account simply for school messages away from your busy email inbox!
- Once you have registered (which is very easy) we will be able to send out emails and texts directly to you

Please see the letter included with this newsletter for more information. Thank you!

School Transport

School transport is organised and operated by either Devon or Torbay transport teams. We work closely with both transport teams to ensure that pupils transport runs as smoothly as possible.



If you have any concerns regarding your child's transport please call 0345 155 1019 for Devon and 01803 207688 for Torbay in the first instance.

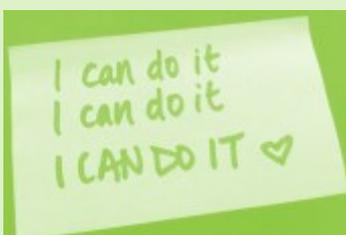
The transport coordinators will contact the school for advice and support where necessary.

Mandy McVitty—Pastoral Liaison Officer

Exam News!

Well done to the students who took their Functional Skills English Level 1 & 2 exams on the 13th February. The exam went really well for all the candidates. Good Luck with the results!

The summer season Exam Contingency Day is the 26th June 2019 – exams can be re-scheduled up to and including this day. The summer season Provisional Exam timetable is now available on the school website www.orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk —look under the Families Section under Exam Information.



Key Dates for your Diary

- 13th March 2019 – Maths Functional Skills Level 1 & 2
- 26th June 2019 – Exam Contingency Day
- 22nd August 2019 (10-11 am) – Results Day

Jo Potts – Exams Co-ordinator

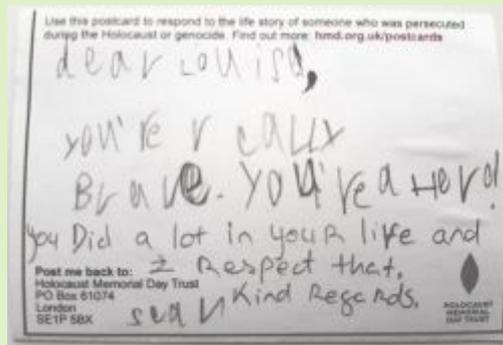
Holocaust Memorial Day – Torn from Home



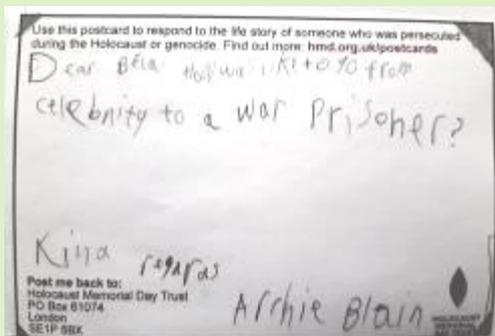
The Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) of 27 January each year is a day to remember the millions of people who suffered and perished during the Holocaust and Nazi persecution, as well as subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

This year, the HMD theme was 'Torn from Home' and 7SG explored what it means to lose your home, family and friends; how it feels to survive and have nowhere and no one to go to. We remembered the Holocaust and focused our discussion on more recent genocides, in particular Bosnia (the most recent genocide in Europe) and Darfur (a genocide happening in the present day). We concluded our activity by writing symbolic postcards to some genocide survivors. Each student chose one person with whom they felt connected, in one way or another.

Lucas was impressed by the courage and resilience of Sabit Jakupovic, a Bosniak who was imprisoned and tortured so badly that when the British Forces saved him, he was close to dying.

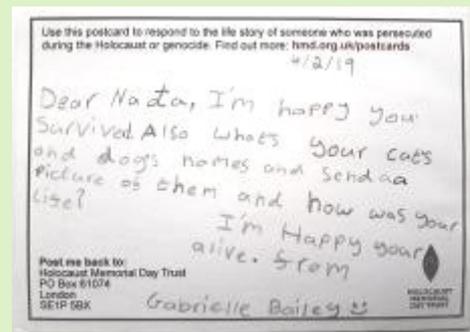
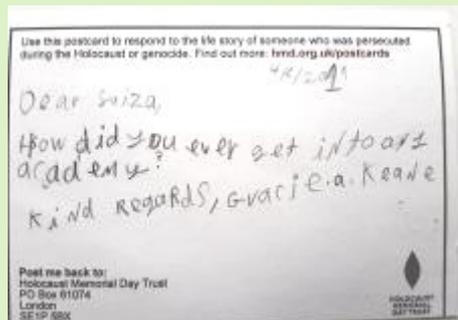
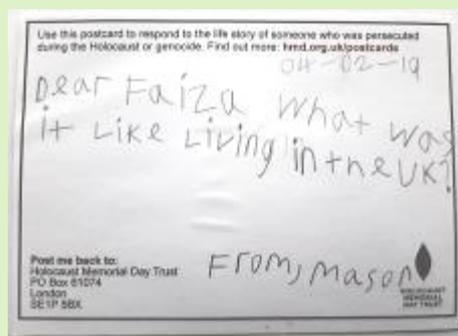


Sean chose to thank Louisa Gould for her bravery in protecting a Russian soldier during the Nazi occupation of the Island of Jersey.



Archie, an avid football player, chose Bela Guttmann, who was once a football celebrity in his home country, lost everything, and rebuilt his life in Portugal, where he became a new celebrity as a football coach.

Mason and Gracie chose to write to Fazia, a lady who fought against the regime in Darfur and consequently lost family members and had to flee her home with her children, leaving her husband behind.



And finally, Gabrielle chose to write to Nada, a survivor of the Bosnian genocide, who is friends with her class teacher. Nada fled to Turkey and spent two years away from her family. Today, she has a happy life in England.

If you wish to know more about the HMD and read about the lives and ordeals of genocide survivors, please visit: www.hmd.org.uk

Sports Updates

This half Term we have all been trying to burn off the calories and work on our personal fitness.

All class groups on the Upper School site have been circuit training with the emphasis being placed on the importance of staying fit—not only for physical fitness, but also for mental health and wellbeing. Some students have enjoyed the competitive edge in these exercises by going for the top press ups or sit ups scored in a minute and a half.

Mrs. Carter's group was one of the classes who was awarded certificates for best team effort, along with 7SG, 11WS and 7AC.

Members of staff have also been taking their health and wellbeing seriously by joining yoga sessions on a Monday evening. I can personally endorse how successful these sessions have been.

On a Friday afternoon the Upper School site has been running a highly competitive but enjoyable basketball club.

Players learn new skills each week and play games against each other. At the end of the season we will be awarding medals in three categories:

1. Top Baskets Scored
2. Most Improved Player
3. Good Sporting Behaviour.

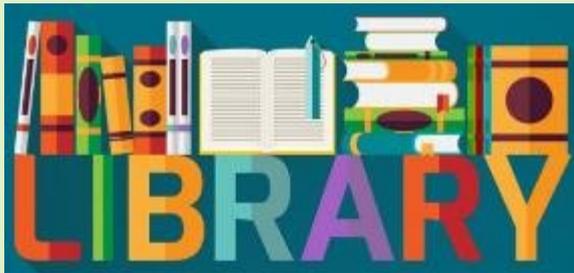
The Lower School site has been working on gymnastics, music and movement skills, circuit training and some classes have been trying out New Age Curling and archery, both of which have been very successful. Beech Class have had their own yoga sessions and they have experimented with our new ball play pool.



Next half term we look forward to our annual Boccia Competition, Exeter City Rugby training and Bikeability training.

Fran Fox—PE Instructor

Upper School Library Refurbishment



For book lovers everywhere!

Exciting times! The Upper Site Library is undergoing a complete renovation! We are modernising the whole area and bringing it into 2019 with a furniture facelift and also an extension of ICT that can be used to support reading and research.

With new bookcases, a comfortable sofa and seating for individuals or whole class groups, the library will be a place of relaxation as well as quiet, reflective study.

Kindles, iPads and a desk top computer will all help to make the library a rich and diverse area for students of all ages and abilities.

We hope to appoint Student Librarians who will be responsible for keeping the library in good order and role model how valuable this resource is to the whole school.

For all of us, the library will be at the centre of a fantastic teaching and learning experience at Orchard Manor School.

Niki Phillips—Teacher

Forest School News

Our pupils have been busy this term focusing on the food chain within our forest. The main focus of our sessions have been birds. We have been studying what they eat, the habitats they live in and how they survive during the cold winter months. We have been working really hard preparing suet balls with oats, rice, seeds and cheese for the birds to enjoy.

Pupils from our Transition Class have been making wooden mallets over the past four weeks. The pupils have been using a variety of bush craft techniques to sculpt these mallets.

The pictures below show the pupils using knives to carefully shape the handles of their mallets.



*James Houghton—
Forest School*



**What do you think of our new look Newsletter?
What sort of news would you like to see about
Orchard Manor School?**

**If you have any suggestions or comments please send them to Maranda Scarff at mscarff@orchardmanorschool.devon.sch.uk or call her on 01626 868154.
We look forward to hearing from you!**

RSPB Big School Birdwatch 2019



Some pupils took part in the RSPB Big School Birdwatch 2019. The pupils sat and watched the bird feeders with species identification cards for 15 minutes at a time. They noted down what they could see and did extremely well identifying the fast moving birds. It turns out, thanks to the Birdwatch, we have found out that our Forest School contains a large number of species. We found Coal, Marsh, Blue, Long-Tailed and Great Tits, a Tree Creeper, Sparrows and a Nuthatch to name a few. Well done to all the pupils involved!



These are some of the birds we saw:



Residential News

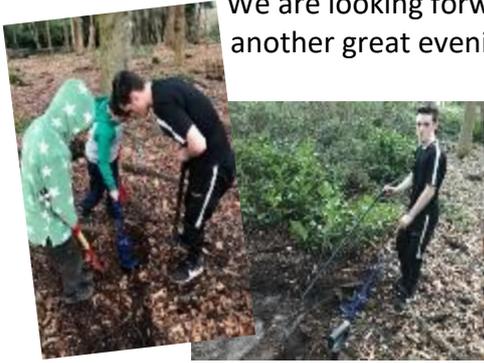
Wow! What a half term! We have had non-stop fun here in the residential houses. As usual we have been out on fantastic walks in places like Powderham Castle, Torquay, Teignmouth Seafront and the Quay at Exeter, but we have also been doing lots of things together in the houses.



Spartan House has taken delivery of a waffle maker and a home made ice-cream maker and they have been making their very own waffle creations which rivals a well known waffle house in Exeter! Spartan has offered their kit to the other houses too – so watch out for fantastic pictures of their puddings in the next newsletter.

We have been out to celebrate a couple of birthdays this half term, both times to Pizza Hut. For the next celebration we are heading out to Buffet City in Exeter.

We are looking forward to having another great evening!



Dom and Brendan have been using metal detectors to investigate and reveal historical artefacts in the woods and Scarlett has made an

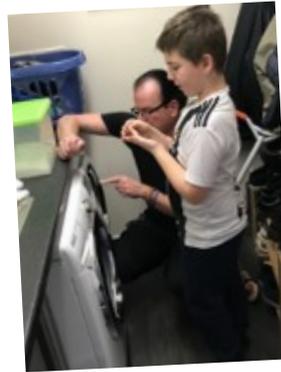
amazing furry mask which is very impressive.



Trips to the Red Rock Youth Club are proving that we may have a budding musician in our midst — as you can see from the photos of Sam laying down some tracks in the sound booth!



In the houses we have had pamper nights with nail bars and foot spas, social nights, even more Dungeons and Dragons, craft evenings, cooking nights, swimming trips, nights out at the cinema, fish and chip nights, a few visits to KFC and McDonalds plus all sorts of other activities.



Its not all fun and games though! Our residents are learning Life Skills too — Tim is showing Nic how to use the washing machine here and all of our residents help with the chores around the house, — this includes everyone having their own night to help prepare the evening meal. Some of our young people are becoming excellent chefs!

James Watson— Head of Care

Orchard Manor and Café Culture

Work experience and Life Skills are a vital part of our young people's learning, and with this in mind, Chestnut Class will be opening its doors twice a week to have a pupil café, run and managed by the pupils.

"Chestnuts" will be open twice a week at morning break offering drinks and healthy snacks so that pupils can come and "buy" something and sit in the class/Thrive room where there will be a film, or music playing. There will also be magazines to read plus internet access.....real life café culture!

The students in Chestnut will have experience of being Front of House, serving the "public" and they will be able to have a look behind the scenes of a business, for example, the accounts and logistics.

Café visitors will have an opportunity to learn about handling money, contributing to the community, using ICT and learning different personal skills.

Each class will be given a small budget to allow pupils, if they want, to buy a drink. This money will then be handed back to the class so money changes hands but isn't "spent"!

To make it as professional as possible, our "staff" will wear a uniform of logoed t-shirts and the café will have china cups and café signage, to make it as close to real life as we can.

We are looking forward to welcoming our customers!

Richard Ensor—Teacher

PUPIL PREMIUM

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium is what used to be known as 'Free School Meals'.

Whether our pupils are in receipt of Pupil Premium or not, all of our young people at Orchard Manor School are given a free school meal. This is because we believe that it is extremely important for all our young people to receive a healthy and nutritional meal during the day.

In addition, our young people use their lunch times as a period of learning, eating together, having time to chat with their friends and the staff, and an opportunity to try different foods made by our dedicated team in our kitchens.

It is a time to be social and relax and it is really enjoyed by everyone.

The Pupil Premium funding helps both the school and your child. It is not only for providing school lunches!

The additional Pupil Premium funding we get from the government is used to enable your child to access additional targeted support and opportunities which can be personalised to them or be as part of a supportive programme.

We use the funding we receive in many different ways, including 1:1 intervention in core subjects, therapeutic support, specialist resources and payments towards trips.

If your child, for example, wants to take part in the 10 Tors or the Jubilee Challenge, the school can help fund the cost of their specialist kit - the hiking gear, coats, their walking boots or other warm clothing. In this situation, the teacher will contact parents and the teacher will order and pay for the kit - with the young person being able to choose the size and colour! Of course, this is all done extremely discreetly.

We also have a small amount of money that can be used to purchase school uniform.

If you would like support to access Pupil Premium Funding please contact Adele Thomas at athomas@orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk

So, who is entitled to Pupil Premium?

From Year 3 onwards, children whose parents are getting any of the following are entitled to pupil premium:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

So, how do I apply for Pupil Premium?

When your child starts with us, and you think you may be eligible, or if your circumstances change please make an application for Pupil Premium.

You can apply online through the Citizen Portal:

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals>

This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the **Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019** Or google "**Free School Meals Devon**" and click on the link.

If you feel that your child is entitled to this funding and additional support but you are unable to access this application please contact Adele Thomas, Besty Biyon or Mandy McVitty and we will be able to support you with the process.

Please be assured that this additional support and any interventions offered to pupils with Pupil Premium funding, is completely confidential and discreetly managed within the school.

Adele Thomas— Assistant Principal Empowerment

Rural Skills Update — Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud!



This term we've had snow, ice, fog, lots of rain, some sunshine and lots of mud. The children have been working outdoors throughout most of the bad weather, and wellies have been this season's must have accessory!

We have managed to plant some herbs and vegetables in the poly-tunnel, so hopefully we will have a good head start when spring finally arrives.

The cabbages and kales are all growing well, but our leeks seem to be taking longer to start to grow properly. Lots of new plants taken from cuttings last year are thriving, and will be ready to plant out or sell in the coming season.



We have exciting news for the coming weeks! We are planning a huge makeover for the allotment—we will be changing it into a classic English country garden with seating areas, a pond, lawns and beautiful flower beds.

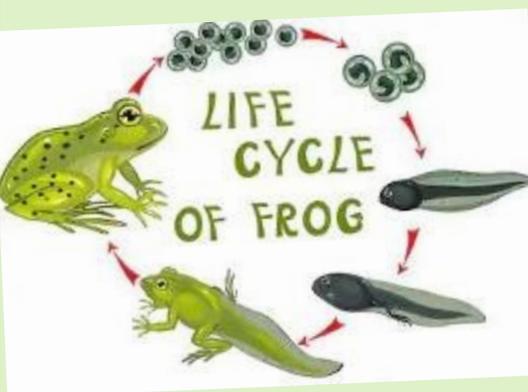
So far, all the soft fruits, including strawberries, raspberries and rhubarb have been dug out and potted up ready for replanting. The children were fascinated to see how three established rhubarb plants were

divided into nine new plants. When counting the number of plants all potted up, we estimated they would cost in the region of £200 to buy!

In the classroom children have been creating designs for the allotment makeover. Some of their ideas have included making the pond bigger, making a skate park, digging a swimming pool, focusing on wildlife and including

sensory areas. Some of these ideas are likely to be used, others, not so likely.

We have also been looking at life cycles of different creatures we have seen in our grounds, frogs and toads are especially interesting as the children can see them at first hand in their various stages of frog spawn, tadpoles and frogs. We have also looked at the lifecycles of worms, butterflies, ladybirds, slugs and snails.



Please send your children into school with wellies and a coat for Rural Skills lessons as we do like to get outside in all weathers!



Cathy Johnston—Rural Skills

Endangered Animals – Raising Awareness

Since 1970, humanity has wiped out 60% of animal populations. Several animals of popular culture are now at risk of extinction or considered extinct. Such is the case of the lion, giraffe, the African Elephant and tigers, to name a few. The decline in population numbers is so severe that David Attenborough has warned about a possible 6th mass extinction, this time exclusively due to humans.

7SG have been learning about some of the endangered species and ways to raise awareness about the causes of their endangerment and ways of helping their conservation.

Each student chose an endangered animal to research. This research gave us enough information to create and produce leaflets which we distributed amongst our friends, family and the school community.

Sarah Gill—Teacher

Red Pandas live in the mountains of Nepal and China.

There are only 20,000 Red Pandas left!

Please, adopt a Red Panda today!
Visit: www.redpandanetwork.org



Red Panda on the red line!

Gracie:



Mason:

Lions live on the line



More than 600 lions are poached ever year. Please stop it!

There are only 39000 lions left



Support Born Free Foundation:
www.bornfree.org.uk/



Archie: Endangered African Elephant!!!



They live in the rainforest.

The website is www.bornfreefoundation.org to help the elephants!!



We are illegally killing elephants and there are only 413,000 left.

They are separating the baby elephants, so they can kill the adults.

Lucas:

Siberian Tigers are Dying!



There are 400 to 500 Siberian Tigers left.

Please help the Siberian Tigers by going to this website!
www.siberiantiger.org

The endangered Ethiopian wolf

An Ethiopian wolf is an endangered wolf. There are only 425 left in the whole world. They eat mole rats and drink water, and rabbits are the most dangerous thing around Ethiopian wolf.



Gabrielle:



Adam:

Life works

HOLIDAY PROJECT

February 2019
Half Term

For learning disabled young people age 12 and over

A WINTER/SPRING ADVENTURE:
Exploring 5 ways to wellbeing for the winter involving physical fun, creative challenge; scrummy food making and just a few 'new' experiences for a brand new year.

All helping us:
Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give

Contact: Tracey Hubbard (between 10-2 weekdays)
T: 01803 861 069 • email: traceyhubbard@lifeworks-uk.org

Life works

HOLIDAY PROJECT

February Half Term
2019

MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY
▶ **Be active and Keep Learning:**
Ice-skating at the Eden Project, Cornwall.

TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY
▶ **Take notice and Keep Learning:**
Animation Workshop with Forkbeard Fantasy. Explore human physical animation and learn 2d and 3d Stop Frame.

WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY
▶ **Connect, Be Active and Give:**
AM: Zumba workshop at the Totnes Pavilions
▶ PM: Helping on the Dartington Hall Estate to prepare Quest Activities for an outdoor woodland performance.

THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY
▶ **Connect, Take notice and Keep Learning:**
AM: Cooking Workshop at The Kitchen Table, Totnes
▶ PM: "According to Arthur" with Puddleboat Theatre Company. An Outdoor performance in the Deer Park, Dartington.

EXTRAORDINARY YOUNG PEOPLE (2018-2021):
Recruiting young volunteers 14+ from Lifeworks Services to come and help us develop our flagship Adventure Sport offer for the Summer and an Arts Festival for the Autumn.

To find out more contact
Matt Jefferies mattjefferies@lifeworks-uk.org M: 07976948518

According to Arthur
"A wonderful, heart-warming show, that gently brings out the imaginative adventurer in all of us"
Primary Times



Healthy PARENT CARERS

Do you care for a child or young person aged up to 25 with special educational needs or disability?

Do you want to do something to improve your health and wellbeing?



Parent carer health and wellbeing is often overlooked. The *Healthy Parent Carers* programme provides information about simple steps that parent carers can take every day to improve their health and wellbeing. It has been designed with parent carers.

Parent carers are invited to take part in NHS-funded research to compare different ways of accessing the programme. If you sign up to participate, you will be allocated to either online information or weekly group sessions.

Previous participants said:

"There were times in my life when this course would have been a life-saver"

"Give yourself time sometimes... do something for you"

"Taking a moment to notice something else, something beautiful, helps you switch off from the things you worry about"

Parent carers are very busy, but can you give yourself some time for you?

This research is led by the PenCRU childhood disability research group with parent carers in our Family Faculty and the Council for Disabled Children.

For more information please see our Taking Part webpage:

<http://sites.exeter.ac.uk/healthyparentcarers/taking-part/>

Email us: healthyparentcarers@exeter.ac.uk or ring us on 01392 722 968.



Do you have a child on the Autistic Spectrum with Sensory Processing difficulties?

South West Autism and MYOT are holding a parent training session in Paignton on Saturday March 23rd 2019 from 10-3.

Tickets are £38 pp.

It is our aim to explain the 7 areas of sensory processing difficulties and give advice on how to support a child.

The closing date for tickets is Feb 26th and the number are limited to just 35 people.

To book your place please email us on southwestautism@gmail.com

Please Note:

Although we pass on community information in this newsletter, we are not endorsing, we are just sharing.