

Orchard Manor School Newsletter

May 2019



Dear Parents and Carers

The last half term of our first year as Orchard Manor School has arrived, far more quickly than I could have imagined. Year 11 exams are well under way now and as we get ready to say farewell to one set of young people as they prepare to go onto the next stage of their lives, we will shortly be welcoming in our new cohort ready for September.

Once again our school calendar is full to bursting. We are looking forward to lots of activities and one event in particular will be important for our school as it will showcase one of our very special areas. We will be hosting the first Sentient Trust Forest School event which will welcome students from other special needs schools in Devon. Hopefully the fabulous summer weather will continue and all our visitors will have a fantastic day with us.

As well as our usual activities and outings over the next 7 weeks, we are all looking forward to Enrichment week, which will take place at the end of our summer

term. It promises to be full of exciting and interesting activities for our students and staff alike. It's a whole school event and we all enjoy being involved.

The recent rain followed by the beautiful sunshine has made the horticultural zone bloom and our young people have been enjoying planting up pots and borders, and the arrival of the four chickens. The lighter evenings have given us the opportunity for lots of outdoor activities including making use of our very own homemade pizza oven.

Of course one of the major outdoor activities for this term for many young people, not just from our school, has been Ten Tors and the Jubilee Challenge. I would like to say that I am extremely proud of all our students who took part in the event. It was wonderful to be at the finish line and see the enthusiasm and support from parents and children alike. Well done to all of you and a huge thank you to our staff who made it possible.

Mark Rose—Executive Principal



Voice-Mail and letting us know of your child's absence

We have a new voicemail system which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, which we hope will be helpful to you. Accessing the voicemail system is easy, simply dial the school's usual number:

Dial 01626 862363

choose Option 6 to leave a message

This extension is available for you to leave messages at any time

If your child is unable to come into school for any reason, please would you contact us at the earliest opportunity, preferably before the school day starts, to let us know.

Many thanks.

Sarah Purnell—Pupil Data Manager



Active Learning Week (Enrichment Week) Tuesday 16th - Friday 19th July 2019

This year there will be further emphasis on learning outside of the classroom: Jobs and Careers, Mental Health and Wellbeing and Positive Relationships. We have carefully picked a collection of activities to support life skills, as well as cross-curricular links in core and specialist subjects to ensure that this week has a really positive impact on our young people.

Our students will be making their choices from the options available this week and we will be sending out permission forms to be returned at the earliest opportunity, so please keep a look out for those in your inbox or your child's bag.

Careers Experiences and Vocational Learning

We will be providing learners with meaningful experiences and interactions with people from a range of industries. We hope that this will provide them with an opportunity to develop their understanding of paid and voluntary employment, including work based

experiences for when they leave school.

If there are any parents out there who would be willing to speak to our students about their jobs or businesses, please contact me at the address below or call the school directly. Additionally, if any parents own businesses or are able to authorise a vocational visit to show our students around a safe work environment, please get in touch. My direct email is

pgphillips@orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk

I look forward to hearing from you! Many thanks.

Paul Giles Philips Assistant Principal



Cinema Trip to see "Instant Family"



Pupils from 10JWh enjoyed a trip to the cinema as part of the KS4 reward trips. We used social skills to buy treats from the supermarket before heading to the Vue cinema in Exeter, where we watched 'Instant Family' starring Mark Wahlberg, Rose Byrne and Isabela Moner. The film is about a couple who find themselves "in over their heads" when they foster three children, and is based on a true story of the foster care and adoption system in America.

The film was funny and moving. All of the children were good role models and represented school well, it was a pleasure to be with them.

Alex Caven—Teacher

Talking Japanese, oh yes we're talking Japanese!

In Year 7 Japanese Class we have been learning about shapes (katachi かたち) and colours (iro いろ) to be able to create a piece of kirigami (きりがみ) art. Pupils made their own kirigami shapes and described how they would fit in with each season all in Japanese!

Kirigami is similar to origami in that it is a form of paper art. The major difference is that in origami, you fold paper whereas in kirigami, you fold and cut paper. Here is a sample of their work.

Ceara Gilpin—Teaching Assistant



Trip to Paignton Zoo

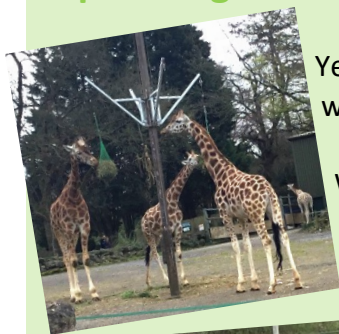
Yellow and Beech Class went to Paignton Zoo for their reward trip which was linked in with this term's class topic 'Dear Zoo'.

We had a lovely day and the weather was kind. We got to see lots of the animals including some of the baby giraffes and a favourite with Yellow Class - the elephant.

We also enjoyed a hands on workshop run by the Education Centre. The children got to handle and touch some animal skins and skulls which some of them enjoyed more than others!!

Some of the pupils and staff went over the rickety bridge in the Lemur Wood which some of them found very funny. The children were amazing and we all had a lovely day out.

Julie Macfie Jones—Teacher



Parents Evening

Parents Evening will be held on
9 July from 4:30—6:30
Please keep the date free and you will be contacted via Parent Mail with how you can make your appointments. There will be tea, coffee and refreshments on the night. We look forward to seeing you.

Don't forget
Parents'
Evening!

Exam News!

We are halfway through the summer exam season and they are going really well. The pupils are working really hard and making use of all the available revision time that they have. The Summer Exam Timetable is available on the school website. Keep up the hard work!

Key Dates for your Diary

26 June 2019 Exam Contingency Day

Summer season exams can be re-scheduled up to and including this date.

22 August 2019 Results Day 10-11 am

More details about examinations can be found on the school website, in the families section.

GOOD LUCK IN YOUR EXAMS!
YOU CAN DO IT. YOU'LL BE ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT.
GO YOU! ROOTING FOR YOU.
JUST DO YOUR BEST.
YOU'VE TOTALLY GOT THIS.
YOU'RE GONNA BE A COMPLETE STAR!

Jo Potts – Exams Co-ordinator

Ten Tors 2019

Orchard Manor fielded three teams at this year's Ten Tors. We had a full 35 mile team and two teams covering routes on the Jubilee Challenge. Sporting red fleeces, 24 brave young people tested themselves against the hills of Dartmoor.

The weather this year was kind to us and after a very cold Friday night pupils woke to a beautiful sunny morning on the Saturday.



Jubilee Challenge...the start

Two teams completed the Jubilee Challenge routes JC1 and JC4. Setting off at half past seven in the morning the teams crossed the finish line at half past one and then at shortly after three o'clock.

Walking with the JC1 pupils I had the pleasure of seeing all the pupils round the course. This, for some, was a huge achievement combining distance, an early start and some big hills to make it a very real challenge.

All the young people did amazingly well and represented Orchard Manor magnificently. The army commented how smart they all looked in the bright red fleeces and hats carrying the school's name.

The preparation for the event involved practice walks and overnight camps. For some these took place in school and then at Nun's Cross Farm...the 35 mile team camped wild on Dartmoor to help

their preparation of setting up tents, cooking for themselves and getting up early the next day to do it all over again!



35 Mile Team in training....

I walked with the 35 Mile Team, in training, and they were definitely the strongest walkers we have had so far. Their training took them to some of the remotest spots on Dartmoor.....carrying everything they needed for a night on the moor. The team had some real characters and the team spirit was fantastic.

However, no amount of training can prepare for injuries, and despite an amazing effort the team was unable to finish day two of the event. Pride in their achievements is huge though, as they still managed to cover at least 25 miles and look after themselves, independently, during a night on a very remote and cold part of Dartmoor. They are all looking forward to having another go next year and confidence, no doubt, will have been given a huge boost by their experiences this year! A massive well done to Max, Emily, Josh, Conner, Aidan and Jack!

As these young people pushed themselves on, we had a few fantastic moments on the Jubilee Challenge, one of which was being visited by a Merlin helicopter on our walk!

The support for all the young people was amazing, with people cheering



Jubilee Challenge...Charlie and the chopper.....

and helping each other on all the routes.



Jubilee Challenge...JC1 the finish!



Jubilee Challenge...JC4!

Preparations have already taken place for next year's event. It is an amazing experience for all those involved and a real celebration of the young people, families and staff who support them. A massive thank you and well done from all of the Orchard Manor Ten Tors team!

Richard Ensor — Teacher

TEN TORS
2019

10th-12th May

Box - Cam—Live!



A pupil from Post 16 helped to design and build a bird box with an internal camera. This was designed to watch the birds' behaviour and to discover what goes on inside the box. We mounted the box on a fence and put up some feeders to attract birds into the grounds. A pair of

Blue Tits started showing some interest in early March and we were really pleased they decided to make it their home.



They began to build a nest in our box and the birds were flying continuously, gathering fibre and moss for their nest. During the second week of the Easter break, to our delight, there was a clutch of nine eggs in the box. The female spent the majority of the time incubating the eggs whilst the male brought her worms and caterpillars.

On the 2nd May all nine eggs hatched which was wonderful. Now the Mum and Dad must work frantically to feed all nine of their chicks.



BIRD FACTS
An adult female Blue Tit weighs 10 g and can lay between 8 and 13 eggs!



The pupils have been really interested in watching the whole process of the nesting season. Now to wait for them to fledge their nest!

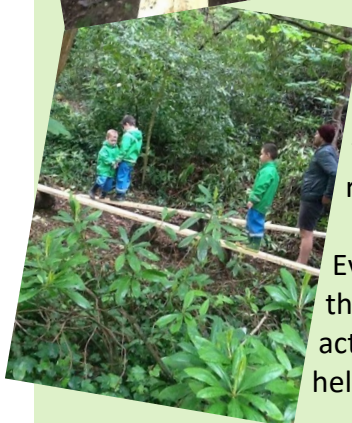
James Houghton— Forest School

Forest School Balancing Act



The older pupils in the school have been working hard to clear an area of the forest to add to our outdoor learning area.

They have learnt to use a variety of tools including loppers, bow saws, secateurs and pruning saws. The area they cleared was to make way for a new balancing zone where we have put up a long balance beam, a see-saw and a slack line.



The balancing zone helps our young people to improve their balance and build their confidence in activities which take them off level ground. The activities are also great fun to have a go on. As the children become more confident, helping hands are not needed so often and we can really see progress being made.

Everyone who was involved in making this area has really enjoyed the challenge of seeing the project through from start to finish. The best bit of course was having a go on the new activities! It has been really good fun all round— well done and thank you to everyone who helped.



James Houghton— Forest School

Skirmish Paintballing



We arranged a group outing to celebrate good attendance and great behaviour at our KS4 Friday Study sessions on the upper site over this academic year.

The pupils had a great time, worked well in teams, had loads of exercise and behaved excellently.

Justin Luscombe—Teacher



Giant African Millipedes and a Python

Bill, pictured here, and his friend Ben had a tour of the school and met some of our students as part of Autism Awareness and the school topic of wild animals.



The two giant African millipedes or



“shongololos” belong to Mr Muir in Upper School. They can grow up to 36 cm long and can live for up to 10 years.

The millipedes are omnivorous which means they eat a wide range of fruits, vegetables and animal protein. During his visit Bill had a feast of cucumber to tempt him.

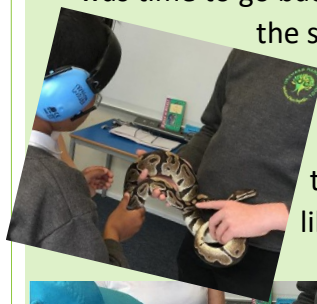
The other roommate in the Science Lab is Leonard the 4ft python.



Accompanied by Ashton, he also came out to play in Lower School.



Lots of our students fearlessly stroked and petted Leonard, who seemed to enjoy the attention. When it was time to go back to Upper Site, he slid back into the soft pillow case without a fuss.



We are very lucky to have these exotic animals here, not only to teach our young people what it is like to touch an animal that they wouldn't normally be able to hold, but also to learn how to look after other living creatures. These animals add to our ever growing menagerie at Orchard Manor Farm School!



Lyndsey Jackson—SaLT Assistant

En Garde!



We have started our fencing lessons on the Upper School Site. A company called Premier Education take lessons for us. We will be having 4 lessons on the Upper School site and then there will be 4 lessons on the Lower School site after half term. The pupils have really enjoyed the sessions so far.

First our students were shown the equipment including the all important face mask, the body target bib and finally the foils which have a special blunt end to stop injuries.

Once they were all suited up, our group were taught the 'en garde' position, then how to place their feet to move forwards and backwards. Once they had mastered that, they were



shown the attacking strategies which included the 'lunge' and the 'thrust' movements.

The instructors were really impressed with how our pupils progressed and their attitude to the importance of safety.

Fran Fox— PE Teacher



Fencing Fact:
Fencing traces its roots to the development of swordsmanship for duels and self-defence. It is believed to have originated in Spain.

Strike!



Class 7ACa chose bowling and McDonalds as their reward trip for the end of this 1/2 term. We went to 'Tenpin' in Plymouth so we could start bowling earlier.

We rented 1 lane for everyone to play on, so between the five boys, they had to work together taking turns and supporting each other—

through the good scores, the not so good scores and really cheering and clapping for the strikes!

We had 2 games of bowling before heading off to McDonalds for a well earned snack. The boys ordered their favourites and we all sat down to enjoy our food and drinks.

I have to say, that the boys were beautifully behaved throughout the whole day. They represented themselves and school well, with excellent manners and behaviour. As their home base tutor, I couldn't be more proud! Well done boys!

Alex Caven —Teacher



Into the Wilderness...!



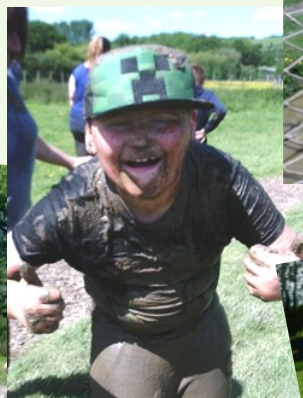
It's been a really WILD half term in Red and Purple Classes.

We have thoroughly enjoyed learning the story 'Where The Wild Things Are' off by heart and using the story to develop our own narrative writing.



The children have also really enjoyed learning about maps and bird's-eye view in Geography. At Stover Country Park, Red Class made bird's-eye view maps of the Forest School area using natural materials that they found.

We finished our topic off with a fantastic reward trip to The Bear Trail near Cullompton, where going wild was definitely the theme! We had a great time getting absolutely COVERED in mud!!!



Alex Dweck—Teacher

Sailing Boats for Beech Class

On the 14th May Beech Class had a fantastic day out sailing with South West Adventures at Haven Banks OEC.

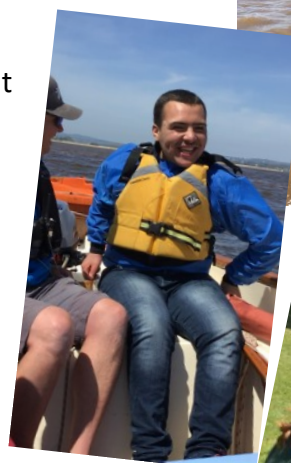
It was a beautiful sunny day with a slight breeze—ideal for being in a boat. The children and staff had a lovely time, enjoying the calming effect of the water. While we were out at sea, another boat came by really fast and splashed us so we got a little wet! After our boat ride we moored up and found a lovely spot at Turf Lock to enjoy our picnic lunch. When we had finished, we all got back on the boat for our return trip before going back to school. It was a really nice day out.

Nicola Donald—HLTA



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Residential News

Gladstone House

As usual we have been super busy this half term with all sorts of activities. We welcomed a new resident to the house who has settled in very quickly and we have also celebrated a 14th birthday with a lovely party.

We have been out for meals to KFC and Frankie & Benny's which were delicious, and a few of our boys went to the cinema to see the new Marvel film—Avengers End Game. We have also managed to fit in 10 pin bowling in Exeter, going out for milkshakes and ice-cream in a local café and lots of walks in the woodlands and by the beach. On the nights when we decided to stay in, we had a few DVD film nights with popcorn and snacks. Some of our young people took a turn in the kitchen and came out with delicious flapjacks which everyone enjoyed with the homemade fruit milkshakes and smoothies. Strawberry is the favourite at the moment.

Our latest project has been to do some gardening around Gladstone. We all went out to choose a whole load of bedding plants and when we got back everyone helped to plant them in the gardens and the new hanging baskets. They look great! Now we just have to remember to water them regularly.

And last but certainly not least — 4 of our young people completed the Jubilee Challenge which we are very proud about. Well done to everyone! We are all looking forward to another busy half term when you get back.

Pam Matson—Senior Child Care Officer



The Spartan boys and staff cycling in Haldon Forest

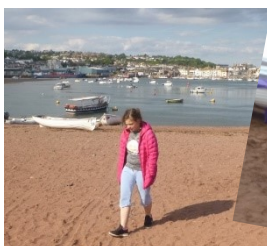
Gala House

Gala has been going through a face lift and everyone has been helping with the refurb, choosing paint colours and helping with the painting. New furniture has been ordered and the brand-new dining table has just arrived. We are waiting for our new sofas and the house will be complete.

One of our boys took part in Ten Tors with a team making the 35 mile walk. Unfortunately, they retired after a valiant effort at the 8th Tor due to injury - only to promise that they will be back bigger and better next year. It was a superb effort! Well done!

Jubilee House

This term we have had lots of fun with sensory art (glitter and glue) and art projects. We have been bowling and EH won (yay) not that we are competitive. We have been to watch the new Marvel film at the cinema and went to KFC for dinner afterwards. We have been focussing on lots of independence skills like making dinner and yummy cakes. We loved going for a sensory swim and now the weather is getting better we are enjoying lots of woodland walks



and making our garden look nice. We also enjoyed a ferry boat trip and picnic. We have focused on positive mental health and building resilience to help support our young people who have exams and we wish them lots of luck! Looking forward to seeing you next term after a well earned rest.

Helen Stone—Senior Child Care Officer



We are also very proud of another young person who has just enrolled in Army

Cadets. He is looking forward to experiencing new activities and meeting people. He looks great in his army uniform!

All of the boys have been enjoying the lighter evenings, making good use of the forest around us and the beach in

Teignmouth. They have spent quite a few evenings playing beach games and going fishing, all topped off with a bbq or two on the Back Beach. Roll on Summer!

Chris Heard—Senior Child Care Officer



Queen Geraldine and her Entourage at the OMS Hive

We have a busy time ahead of us after a quiet winter.

Clare Densley, from Buckfastleigh came over and helped us have a good look at our hive. We changed over some frames and whilst we were sorting everything out, she confirmed that our hive is very healthy and we have no diseases, which is fantastic news.

Our bee population does indeed seem to be very happy and is steadily increasing in numbers.

Despite the hive being completely taken apart and put back together again, the bees were very well-behaved throughout the inspection!



We added a Queen Excluder (QE) and a Super to the hive. A Super is the honey making box and the QE keeps the queen in the bottom of the hive. This stops her getting into the honey to lay new eggs, so we will have honey for harvesting later in the year.

The bees have been out foraging well already even though we are currently in a cold snap. If it gets colder it will put things on hold for a while. Bees don't like to go out in

the cold! This is not a bad thing, as its at this time of year that **swarming** occurs.

**This is a Honeybee swarm.
Please don't hurt it!**



- Honeybee populations are declining rapidly
- Swarms usually occur April-August
- Swarms are generally peaceful if undisturbed

Swarming is how a new honey bee colony is formed. It happens when the queen bee leaves the colony with a large group of worker bees.

We will be watching out for Queen Cells being made in the hive, so that we are prepared.

If this does happen, we have various options: A smaller hive can be made with the potential queen cells transferred over, along with a frame for workers, eggs and food. This will be the start of the second hive, but they will need good weather for this as they won't generate enough heat in the community to survive if there is another cold spell. The other option we have, after making sure that the that old Queen is still in the hive, is to destroy the new Queen cells the workers are making.

There are no hard and fast rules in beekeeping, but I am very glad that I can ask Clare at Buckfastleigh for advice.

Cathy Johnston has done a wonderful job of clearing the area where the hives are kept, and the metal fence has been re-sited so that children are kept away from the bee's flight path. Cathy has now started her "Beekeeping for Beginners" course and is on a steep and enjoyable learning curve.

Most Sundays, I go to the Bee Barn where a group of beekeepers meet to discuss current issues and we help with the community apiary work. It is a very good chance to swap ideas, discuss problems and learn new tips and techniques. I am also booked to go on a few courses there too, including "Swarming" and "What the books don't tell you". I cant wait!

Now that the area has been altered pupils will be in the same space that bees will be flying in. Please remember, if bees get squashed—they will sting! So its best to leave them alone!

Teresa Dudman— OMS Bee Keeper



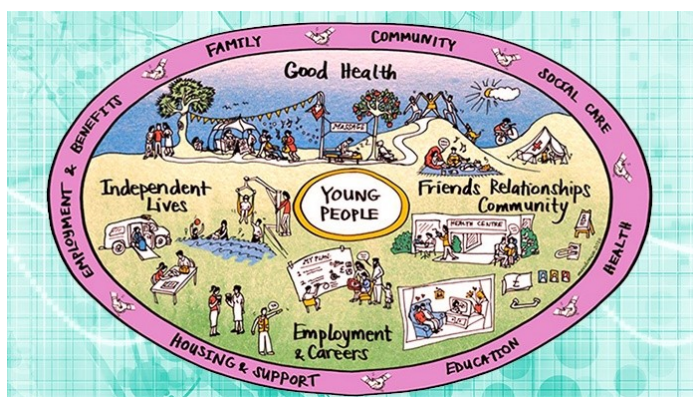
*If you find a swarm,
leave it alone and call
a local bee keeper!
They will take it away
so that it can make a
new home.
You can find
information online.*

Preparing for Adulthood



Planning for the future, experiencing life changes and getting skills and knowledge for independence is an important time in any young person's life. If you also have additional support needs and receive support from social care, education and health services, it becomes a time of planning, exploration and agreeing a future direction. This can start from the age of 14.

Young people with SEND should have equal life chances as they move into adulthood. This should include paid employment and higher education, housing options and independent living, good health, friends, community inclusion and choice and control over their lives and support. Ultimately, young people want to have full lives with choices about their future.



The Preparing for Adulthood Team engages with young people, families, carers and supporting agencies, to empower young people to capitalise on the opportunities of adulthood, becoming as independent, self-reliant and confident as possible.

The aim of the Preparing for Adulthood team is to implement Devon's Preparing for Adulthood Strategy, supporting young people who are likely to have needs for care and support into adulthood.

How do you get support from the Preparing for Adulthood Team?

If you are a young person between the age of 12 and 18, or a parent or carer seeking support from the Preparing for Adulthood Team, you will need to complete the new web referral form. If you have already given consent and are known to the service, there is no need to fill out a form. If you aren't sure, please complete the form.

Due to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) changes, the school is no longer able to send direct referrals to the Preparing for Adulthood team.

Preparing for Adulthood – Annual Reviews

If a referral is made to the Preparing for Adulthood service, and further information is required, a representative can attend your son or daughter's Annual Review in Year 10 or 11 and begin a process of assessment to work out what support could be needed in the future.

If eligible, they will initiate the transition to Adult Services and you should receive contact from an allocated team around your son or daughter's seventeenth birthday; they will attend Annual Reviews during Post-16 education or training and beyond, working with you and school to access services and targeted support from social care that works for your family.

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/special-educational-needs-and-disability-send-local-offer/preparing-for-adulthood>



Information on the Torbay Preparing for Adulthood pathway can be found here:



<http://fis.torbay.gov.uk/kb5/torbay/fsd/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=3>



HIVE Youth Centre

Block Club
Tuesdays
7pm-9pm

For young people ages 11-19
with additional needs.
Numbers limited - please phone
for referral form.

cooking; crafts; music; chat;
weird games; fun stuff...



FRIENDS

The Hive, Imperial Road, Exmouth. Contact: 01395 224259.
www.spacepsm.org

CEDA is a charitable organisation that supports parents and professionals who provide care for young people with behaviour support needs, Autism or ADHD. They may also be undiagnosed but display challenging behaviours.

For the last 5 years we have been running parent and professional training workshops in the Exeter area. The positive feedback and requests received mean we have been able to take these workshops to other parts of Devon.

As a result, we are running a series of courses in Ivybridge in June and there are also courses in Exeter in July.

As a charity, we try to keep costs low but need to be sustainable, and so there are charges for the courses - £40 for a 2 day courses, £20 for a one day.

Here is a link to our website where more detailed information on courses can be found.

[https://
www.cedaonline.org.uk/
bis-net/training-and-
workshops](https://www.cedaonline.org.uk/bis-net/training-and-workshops)



ceda
community, equality, disability action

Life works
BREAKING the BARRIER

2019 SURFING, CYCLING & PADDLEBOARD
FREE outdoor pursuits for learning disabled children and young people age 8 and over plus
NEW BREAKING THE BARRIER EVENTS

2019 SUMMER EVENTS

BREAKING THE BARRIER



FREE! BOOK NOW
[www.lifeworksuk.org/
breaking-the-barrier-apply](http://www.lifeworksuk.org/breaking-the-barrier-apply)

- **Surfing** at Saunton: Sunday 12 May
One to one and family sessions
- **Family Cycle** at the Torbay Velopark: Saturday 01 June
Trikes, Bikes and Tandems and the launch of a brand new offer...
- **Family Paddleboard** at Broadsands, Torbay: Sunday 09 June By popular demand a new Breaking the Barrier water sport event
- **Surfing** at Bigbury: Sunday 30 June:
One to one and family surf sessions, BBQ and entertainment on the beach

Our partners 2019:



Life works
BREAKING the BARRIER

THE BREAKING THE BARRIER LEGACY PROJECT

This year Lifeworks Young Volunteers are learning skills to help them lead regular Breaking the Barrier events now and in the future



With their support and in partnership with Lex Leisure, Freetrike Disability Cycling the Torbay Velopark Veterans Lifeworks is launching:

A MONTHLY INCLUSIVE FAMILY CYCLE SESSION at the Torbay Velopark on the first Saturday in every month July - November 2019 and February - May 2020 1pm-4pm.

New accessible cycles, a Freetrike instructor and Breaking the Barrier Young Volunteers will be there to make your participation as a family easier.

To book a session please contact: traceyhubbard@lifeworks-uk.org

OUT OF SEASON SURF SESSIONS with Discovery Surf School, Bigbury September/October 2019 & February/March 2020

Supported by Lifeworks Young Volunteers and making use of Lifeworks accessible boards Discovery Surf School will be running 4 'out of season' family surf sessions for learning disabled people and their families - wetsuits and a strong constitution essential!!

For more information or to book a session please contact: traceyhubbard@lifeworks-uk.org

Whilst Lifeworks Young Volunteers are helping your family enjoy no-cost or low cost outdoor pursuits together, they are learning new skills and achieving accreditation to help them realise their vocational ambition - a win-win!

To find out more about Lifeworks Young Volunteers Programme contact: markthomeywork@lifeworks-uk.org

Our supporters 2019:

