

Worcestershire Virtual School News

Issue 2 (Autumn Term)

Academic Year 2022-23

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Art Competition in collaboration with Worcester Theatres for CLA and Previously Looked After Children

Following the success of the art competition last year we are pleased to announce that we are running the same competition this year with the chance to win a family panto ticket worth £50 for the performance of Cinderella at The Swan Theatre, Worcester.

Use ***Cinderella*** as the inspiration inspired by the key message: **GOOD CONQUERS EVIL.**

Let children be as creative and colourful as you like and simply send the picture, painting, poem, short story or different art masterpiece to: virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

The deadline for all contributions is **Tuesday 8th November 2022.**

Up to 10 pieces of artwork will be shortlisted and displayed within the Swan Theatre with the lucky winner being notified before **Wednesday 23rd November 2022.**

Designated Teacher Training

Designated Teacher Training sessions on the 22nd November at 1.30pm and 3.30pm is as follows

- Welcome from Matt Stiles, Virtual School Headteacher
- CLA-CSW Quality Assurance Audit – Becky James and Steve Judd
- Quality Assurance of PEPs including RAG rating – Steve Judd and Becky James
- Children With a Social Worker role- Jo in first slot only
- AOB- including recovery funding reminder

If you would like to attend please email virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk with the delegates name, email address and time of preferred session by Friday 11th November.

Designated Mental Health Leads Network Meeting

These **FREE** network events are for Designated Mental Health Leads across all settings and phases of schools and are delivered virtually by our Educational Psychology team.

At these events there will be opportunities to hear about the latest information that supports your role in school from a range of agencies and partners. It also provides space to discuss issues that you raise to support you in your role and meeting the mental health and wellbeing needs of all those in your setting. For further details, use this link

<https://s6.newzapp.co.uk/t/view/1567256103/120746782>

Whole school Implementation: Trauma and Mental Health-Informed Schools & Communities

Following the success of our Trauma Informed Schools training across Worcestershire, we have decided to offer a one-day session for new and established TIS practitioners as well as those with an interest in becoming trauma-informed:

Please note: this session compliments the 11-day TIS diploma; it does not replace it.

The course will run virtually via Zoom.

Date: **16th November 2022**

This training opportunity is **fully funded** by Worcestershire Virtual School. To secure your place on this wonderful training opportunity and join our network of excellent practitioners, please email: virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk with name of delegate, setting, job role and email address. For further information see attached leaflet.

The deadline to request a place was **Wednesday 2nd November 2022** but if you really want to attend place e-mail virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk as soon as possible.

Worcestershire's very first Inclusive Life Beyond School Event – 15th November 2022

This event is aimed at YR9 + students that hold an EHCP or face other learning barriers. Schools will be welcomed throughout the day with a drop-in session for all early evening.

For further details see the 'Life Beyond School 2022 pdf'

Location: Sixways Stadium **Time:** 3:30pm-6:30pm (drop in for all)

Teaching Resources

The "ShREC" approach to improving interactions with young children

"High quality interactions often look effortless, but they are not easy to do well. So, to support early years professionals, we have distilled the evidence into the ShREC approach," writes Fliss James in this EEF blog.

[EEF blog: The ShREC approach – 4 evidence-informed strategies... | EEF \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](#)

EIF Early Years Library

The Early Intervention Foundation have launched a new resource, the Early Years Library, a compilation of evidence-informed skills and practices to support children's cognitive and social emotional development. The Early Years Library is designed to help early childhood education practitioners support young children's development and essential skills for life. It describes the key skills relating to their cognitive and social-emotional development, and provides a comprehensive set of low-burden strategies and activities which can be integrated into everyday practice. [Early Years Library | Early Intervention Foundation \(eif.org.uk\)](#)

Green Fingers – Forest School

Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process and unique educational experience using the outdoor environment as a classroom. It offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions and develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting. It supports play, exploration and supported risk taking.

See the attached leaflet for further information on the Greenfingers Forest School sessions offered to children looked after and previously looked after children. Contact details are 01905 845818, greenfingers@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Reach Out by Split Second

A local band from Worcestershire have launched a music video, following the release of a new song about their own experiences with mental health.

Split Second are made up of 15 and 16-year-olds from across the county who have teamed up with the NHS Trust who are the main provider of mental health services across both counties.

The song, "Reach Out", encourages young people to talk if they are struggling with their mental health, or know someone who is, and to access to help and support available.

['Reach Out' Music Video | School Mental Health \(hacw.nhs.uk\)](#)

Levi Husbands, who wrote Reach Out and is a Guitarist in Split Second said: "Lockdown had a big impact on my own mental health which led me to the NHS and the writing of this song. We hope anyone who hears the track is encouraged to 'reach out'. You are not on your own and there are people and organisations out there who can help."

Foster Carer of the Year Award

At this year's FosterTalk Awards Worcestershire Children First Fostering was short-listed in three award categories: Foster Carer of the Year, the Lifetime Achievement Award and Outstanding commitment to fostering children with disabilities.

Finalist, Janice Finnie of Worcestershire Children First Fostering was awarded Foster Carer of the Year 2022. Janice has been a Foster Carer for over 32 years and have dedicated so much time and love to many children in care. Despite the diverse range of ages, backgrounds and challenges, Janice dedicated her life to ensure that every foster child has received the same loving and nurturing environment as her own children.

Janice Finnie said: "I have been overwhelmed and emotional at winning the Foster Talk - Foster Carer of the Year award 2022. This award, given the very high standard of other candidates, was a total shock. I have always viewed being a foster carer a privilege and an honour. The children we have supported have included a variety of ages, cultures and backgrounds, including children with medical conditions and learning difficulties.

We are here to support you and our children looked after/previously looked after. Please call or email, using the details below or visit our website.

Virtual School Helpline 01905 844913 virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/virtualschool>

