

Term 6 Newsletter



Karl's Corner

As we reach the end of Term 6, we'd like to thank you for your support during what has been a particularly warm and challenging few weeks. Despite the disruption of the Red Weather Warning and school closure, pupils have enjoyed lots of water-based activities and made great use of cooler spaces around the schools. These experiences have also provided valuable opportunities to build confidence with change and develop friendships across different classes.

We've had a fantastic end to the year, with a hugely successful Enrichment Week thanks to the Thornbury Rotary Club. Highlights included bouncy castles, steel pans, face painting and a much loved visits from Animals Interactive and Diddy Dance . Sports Days were another great success, with many families joining us to cheer pupils on at the Primary site.

We have also celebrated our leavers, saying goodbye to pupils moving up to our Secondary site and to our Post-16 students as they begin exciting new chapters in adulthood. It has been a privilege to celebrate their achievements and journeys.

Wishing everyone a safe, happy and restful summer break.

We look forward to welcoming you back in September!

- Karl



Around the school



P16 -3

Post 16 3 enjoyed enrichment week. Our favourite moment was a visit from Animals Interactive. We held a range of reptiles and small mammals. Our highlight was tickling the meerkat and getting to pet a white skunk!



Red Class

One of our favourite moments was our Enrichment Day, where the children cuddled and stroked rabbits, snakes, and even a meerkat during a visit from Animals Interactive, followed by time on the bouncy castle, dancing, and a treat from the ice cream van. We also enjoyed a fantastic Sports Day, where we welcomed parents into the hall for a fun game of football, alongside a whole-school session running and dancing on the school field track. As part of our termly topic "The Park" we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring our local Thornbury parks which has been a lovely send-off for the children who are moving up to Yellow Class. We will miss them and wish them all the best!

How to join FONSS

We are looking for some enthusiastic new members of our FONSS team! Come and join us in raising vital funds for our school – and have fun doing it! Jobs include:

- Choosing and planning themes at Christmas and summer fayres
 - Finding stall holders
 - Setting up/clearing up before and after events
 - Liaising with school staff about funding requests
- Attending 2-3 school events across the year to serve refreshments
 - Running the 'Someone you Love' shops in school



We also meet 2-3 times per year for our AGM and to organise our big events. It really is a fun, friendly bunch who not only organise brilliant events, but support each other too.

Thornbury in Bloom

This year, two of our pupils in Blue class won first and second prize in the 'Creative Masterpiece' category at the Thornbury in Bloom schools' painting competition. They met the mayor of Thornbury at a prize giving presentation in Thornbury precinct earlier in July.

We were very proud to see them collecting their prizes! Well done Noah and Mia!



Community news



Cardiff 10km

Not content with walking on fire earlier this year, Alice, Sarah and a team of “willing” volunteers will be running the Cardiff 10k in September to raise money for Children’s Hospice South West. CHSW funds the vital work that Charlton Farm does to support many families for respite and care. They also supported Kaylan and his family in his final weeks of life and continue to support many of our families.

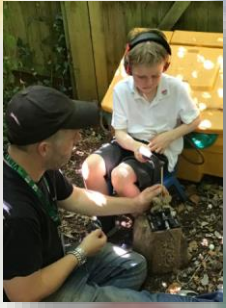
Our target is £500.

If you would like to sponsor us, please follow the link/QR code below and share it far and wide!

[Click here for fundraising](#)



Around the school



Indigo Class

Indigo really loved having Alex from Hilltops Forest School in for a special session this term. We used drills and hammers to make wooden flowers!



Gold Class

Gold class have had a fun filled end to the year. We all enjoyed Enrichment Week at the beginning of term where we experienced different activities including Animals Interactive, Bubbly Balloons, Face Painting, a Bouncy Castle and a visit from the ice cream van for a lovely treat to end the week.

We participated in Sports Day practising our gross and fine motor skills with an egg and spoon race, fancy dress relay and throwing the bean bags into a hoop.

Last Friday we celebrated International Day of Play and enjoyed water play with our friends from Ruby Class which kept us cool in the hot weather.



Summer Music Makers SEND Sessions @ New Siblands

Creative music sessions for young people with additional needs and their families.

- **11th & 18th August**

New Siblands Primary School, Gillingstool, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2EG

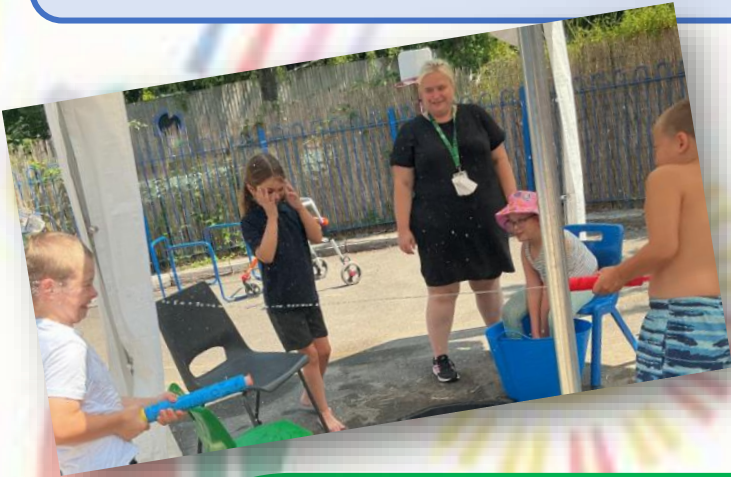
- **10.30am to 12.00 Family Session**

- Join in with the whole family for a fun and relaxed musical activity session. Expect songs, musical games and a chance to explore musical instruments and make your own music together! Our music leaders will guide us through musical activities which allow everyone to participate in the way that's best for them. We encourage creativity, there is no right or wrong, and no previous experience is needed!

- **1.00pm to 2.30pm Complex needs session**

- A session for young people with complex needs and their family members or supporting adults. These sessions will be held at a slow and calm pace and allow plenty of time for the music leaders to find ways that each young person can participate. We have a range of accessible musical instruments and technology that allow different ways of playing even if movement is limited.
- We will have a high ratio of staff to ensure that your child can participate to their full potential, however we are unable to offer physical or medical support. If your child needs 1-1 support or personal care, we ask that they attend with an adult who can provide this. Changing facilities are available at the school. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact jenni.parkinson@wema.org.uk
- Please note – wheelchair users can attend either session, please choose the session that best fits your child's learning or communication needs.
- The sessions are aimed at children aged 5 to 12, but all welcome if you feel the session would be a good fit!
 - Session are FREE but booking is essential. Too book, please contact jenni.parkinson@wema.org.uk

International Day of Play!



Play is a fundamental part of learning, and as a result forms the basis of much of our curriculum in school. So, when we saw the date for the International Day of Play, we couldn't resist joining in!

As the date coincided with the warm weather, lots of our classes chose to have water play or water fights together with other students they may not always play with.

Other classes joined in with painting and craft activities.

We had lots of fun playing, learning and getting to know each other!



Around the School



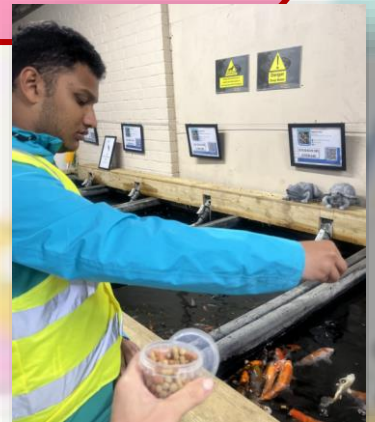
Ruby Class

Ruby Class have loved our topic this term, Let's Grow Plants. We have had lots of fun growing our own runner beans, doing some planting in the memorial garden as well as visiting Dobbies and looking at all the plants and planting equipment... although, the fish were the stars of the show!



Silver Class

We've had so much fun this term with enrichment week, sports day and other fun activities. We loved the wobbly bouncy castle and the bubbles outside!



Around the School



Violet Class

We were delighted to return to the Haven Memory Café in June with our friends from Blue Class to sing and play. This time the favourite songs were 'Sweet Caroline' and 'Is this the way to Amarillo'! We are very proud of how all the pupils were such amazing representatives of our school.

Haven Café is a place for people with memory loss and their carers to come together. Judging by the expression on the face of this gentleman from the café (shared with permission), we think the music was very much enjoyed!



Green Class

Green class have thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck into our topic 'At the park' this term. We went on a trip to Bournstream park and had an amazing time playing together and having a picnic.



Around the School



Emerald Class

Emerald Class have loved their topic of 'Let it grow.' We have planted sunflower seeds, explored what a plant needs to grow in our sensory story and made marks art masterpieces with various things from nature. Lots of time to explore the sunshine during choosing time, favourites being bubbles, water and sand play! Great team work shown during Sports Day and we especially loved Animal Interactive during Enrichment week.



Yellow Class

Yellow Class have had a wonderful final term! We loved exploring our topic, "At the Park", and one of our highlights was making our own sandwiches for a special picnic. We also had lots of fun during Enrichment Week, especially meeting a variety of animals. Our favourite was the giggly meerkat! Sports Day was another highlight, and we enjoyed the sunshine, exploring the big field and taking part in the races. What a lovely way to end a fantastic year in Yellow Class!

Around the School



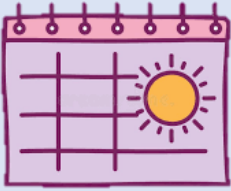
P16 -1

P16-1 have loved learning about the unusual festivals and celebrations held across a range of European countries. Some of the Year 12s, who will be joining our class in September, joined us for making our own Tiramisu desserts as part of our study of Italy and a lively horse event celebrated in July!

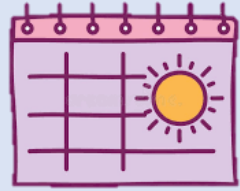
Blue Class

One of the many highlights of this term has been having Alex from Hilltops Forest Schools in to do some woodwork with us! We explored how to safely use a hammer and a drill, and made some brilliant flower ornaments for the garden.





Term 1
Dates



Term dates for pupils

Term 1:

Term starts: Thursday 3rd September

Term ends: Friday 23rd October

INSET DAYS:

Tuesday 1st September

Wednesday 2nd September

Friday 9th October

**You can find all term dates and
inset days for the year on our
website:**

<https://newsiblands.greenhousecms.co.uk/Dates-and-Calendar-Dates/>



School Nursing Service parent drop-in

If you are a parent or carer and would like to speak to a member of the School Nursing Team to get information and advice for your child, then please come along to one of our parent drop-ins.

This will also be an opportunity for you to meet with other parents and ask the School Nursing Team any questions you may have.

When: Every Friday including school holidays. 10:30am -12pm

Where: Martins House, opposite Kings Oak Academy.

You can contact: School Nursing team 0300 125 5151.

Use the QR code to view our web page and find out more about our service.



Service provided by

Sirona
care & health



Uniform Swap Shop

Our uniform swap shop is up and running!



Pre-loved uniform is available upon request to be used by families. We are also accepting donations of uniform that no longer fits but is in good condition.

If you would like to make use of our uniform swap shop, please let your child's class teacher or email uniform@newsiblands.org.uk

CPD corner

As part of our Continuing Professional Development (CPD) offer, we subscribe to EQUALS, which provides a wide range of live virtual training sessions throughout the year. This term, several members of staff attended a session on Multi-Sensory Storytelling. Following the training, one of our teachers cascaded the key learning to the wider staff team during dedicated professional development time.

In term 6, we held our final INSET day of the academic year. We were fortunate to welcome a parent from our school community, who is also a qualified Makaton tutor, to deliver Makaton training for our teaching assistants. During the day, teachers also worked collaboratively to review our Learning Bands assessment framework, engaging in professional discussions around pupil progress and target setting.

Finally, our English Lead, Tracy Rogers, delivered training on a new phonics assessment framework. Phonics is an approach to teaching reading and writing that helps children understand the relationship between letters and sounds, enabling them to decode and spell words. For some of our pupils, phonics teaching focuses more on developing listening, speaking and phonological awareness skills than on learning individual letters and sounds. As a school, we use Monster Phonics, and Tracy provided training for teaching staff on how to assess pupil progress using the new framework, ensuring a consistent and informed approach to phonics assessment across the school.



If you're on a qualifying benefit,

applying for free school meals makes sense for your child, your finances and your school!



You could be one of thousands of families across South Gloucestershire missing out on saving over £400 each year, per child.

Your child will get a hot, healthy, freshly prepared meal at lunchtime. Their school will have full menu details including dietary requirements.

All children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 get universal infant free school meals so you do not need to apply for them.

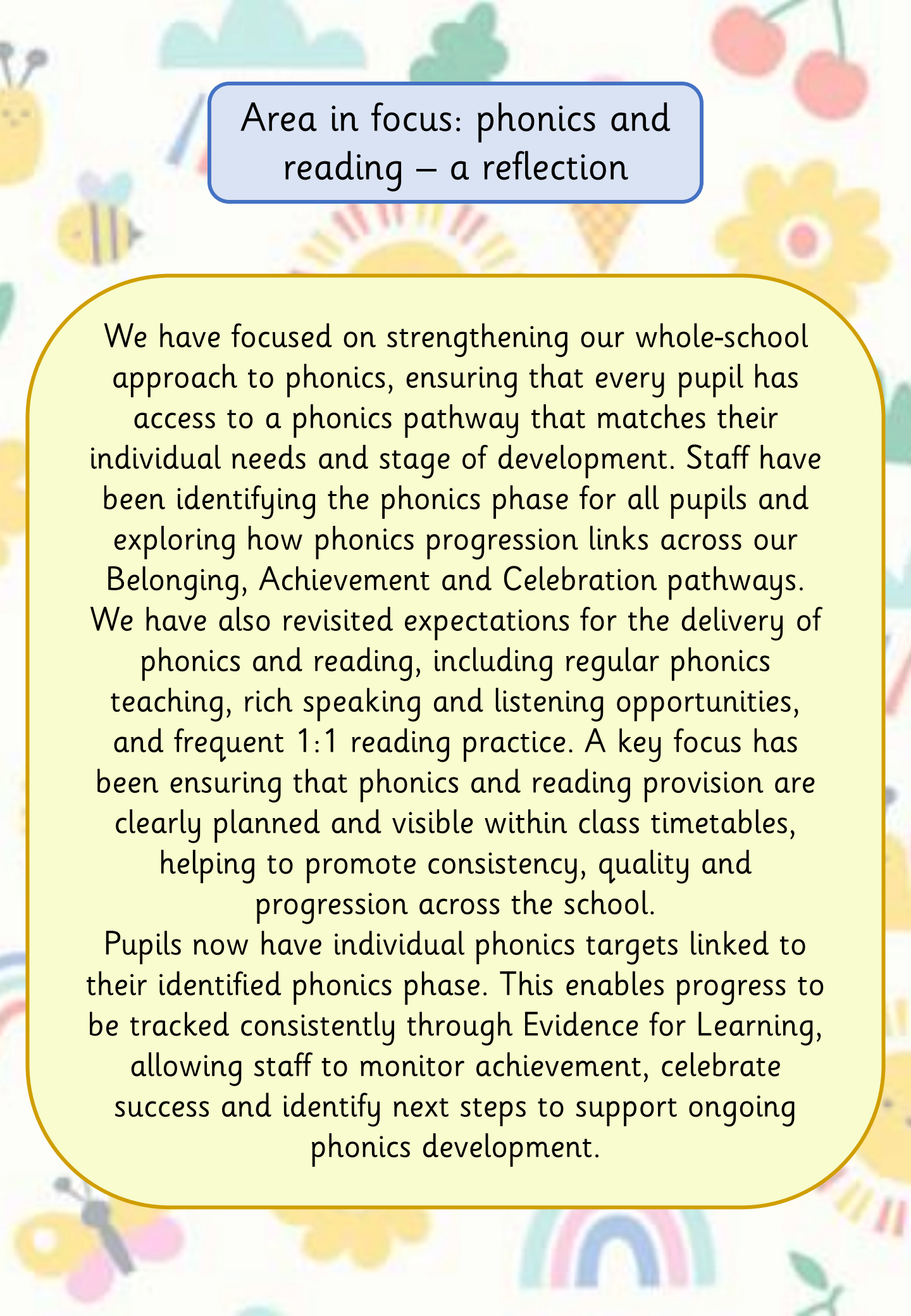
However, you need to apply to receive benefits-related free school meals and the extra help they offer, including funded holiday club places in the main school holidays and help towards school uniform and school trips.

Plus, you'll be helping your child's school - they will receive extra funding to improve educational outcomes.

The quickest way to apply is to fill in a free school meal application online.



www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



Area in focus: phonics and reading – a reflection

We have focused on strengthening our whole-school approach to phonics, ensuring that every pupil has access to a phonics pathway that matches their individual needs and stage of development. Staff have been identifying the phonics phase for all pupils and exploring how phonics progression links across our Belonging, Achievement and Celebration pathways. We have also revisited expectations for the delivery of phonics and reading, including regular phonics teaching, rich speaking and listening opportunities, and frequent 1:1 reading practice. A key focus has been ensuring that phonics and reading provision are clearly planned and visible within class timetables, helping to promote consistency, quality and progression across the school.

Pupils now have individual phonics targets linked to their identified phonics phase. This enables progress to be tracked consistently through Evidence for Learning, allowing staff to monitor achievement, celebrate success and identify next steps to support ongoing phonics development.



2026 Summer Reading Challenge: Read to the Beat!

It's FUN and FREE, and every child aged 4 and above is invited to take part! Children read any books they enjoy and take part in fun activities over the summer holiday to collect stickers and rewards including a medal and certificate.

Join the Summer Reading Challenge 2026, Read to the Beat at a South Gloucestershire library during staffed hours from Saturday 4 July finishing by Saturday 12 September, and **pick up your FREE activity bag.**

See the difference the Summer Reading Challenge makes to your child's reading!

"I love that the reading challenge happens each year. My child struggles with English and reading so this is brilliant for him and keeps him off his tech. It's a great skill to have." (Patchway Library)

"The reading challenge was a great way to encourage reading over the school holidays and also provided activities and trips out coming to the library to choose books." (Bradley Stoke Library),

FREE holiday activities: West African Drumming Workshops with Batch Gueye, Crafts, Junk Modelling Workshops and Lego™ Challenges.

Kids Eat Free

Supermarket Info!



ASDA Cafés

Kids eat for £1

All day, every day

No adult spend required.



Morrisons Cafés

One Free Kids' Meal

With any adult meal over £5



TESCO Cafés

Kids Eat Free

With any small purchase.
(From 60p)



**At Participating
Supermarket Cafés!**



Financial Support & Offers

Helping families manage rising costs



Cost of Living Help

Practical advice on managing everyday expenses.

<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/community-and-living/cost-of-living-help/>



Crisis and Resilience Fund

Financial support for families in hardship.

<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/crisis-and-resilience-fund/>



Kids Eat Free – Summer Holidays 2026

Deals where children eat free during holidays.

<https://familysaveuk.co.uk/kids-eat-free>



Financial Support & Wellbeing

Resources for financial help & wellbeing.

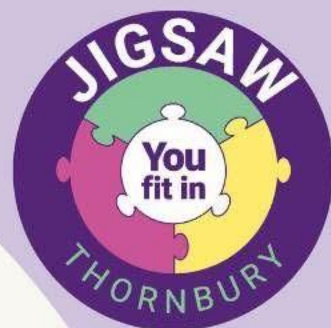
<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/financial-support-and-wellbeing/>



You're not alone – help is available.

Summer Holiday Activities 2026

- Inclusive activities to encourage fun, help reduce isolation and aid friendships for the whole family.
- Spaces available at some of our events. Book now!



www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk



SameAcres

find your flock



Find days out that actually work for SEN children.

SameAcres features venues that accommodate SEN needs and are recommended by other parents with neurodivergent children.

Community, Support & Playdates

Stop explaining and start connecting. Meet local families raising neurodivergent kids to share support, build lasting friendships, and plan stress-free playdates.

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for all SEN
families**



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To celebrate our 10 year Anniversary

JOIN US AT

BRISTOL CYCLING CENTRE

Bristol
Cycling
Centre

Saturday 25 July
9:30am to 4:00pm



Ride the track

Enjoy cycling
on our traffic free
400m track!



Cycling games

Fun games led by
friendly
instructors!



Smoothie Bike

Pedal to
power a delicious
smoothie!



Dr Bike

Bring your bike
for simple
bike checks!



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**Cycling is free for
one day only!**

Book your space by
scanning the QR code
as sessions are limited.

