

# MARCH 2022

## WIGWAM NEWSLETTER

### Dear All,

The newsletter this month is early for a very good reason. I am on holiday for the last two weeks of March and I wanted to pass on the information about a great new opportunity from the Library for the Easter Holidays and beyond. In addition, we are also now thinking about the Summer Holidays.



Following a successful pilot at Christmas, we are hoping to place workers sponsored by Wigwam at the Playscheme during the Summer Holidays, giving a possible 120 days of supported places at £26 a day, £13 a half day per child.

(Support will be available for families who will find paying that amount a struggle; please feel free to contact me confidentially if that is the case when applying).

We will also pay for any second child or more children from one family. Places will be available for children who have just finished Reception to those who have just finished Year 5 (4- to 10-year-olds).

The next step will be that in May I will ask parents to contact me and let me know how many days or half days you would like. This will be to indicate to us and the Youth Commission whether we will need one or two sponsored workers and to work out the logistics of transport and whether Wigwam will need to support this.

In June you will be contacted at the same time as applications for the Playscheme opens to complete the application form and send in payment to secure your place with the Youth Commission.

**Please don't do anything about this yet, I will let you know when to register your interest.**



T: 07839 121678

W: [www.wigwam.org.gg](http://www.wigwam.org.gg)

E: [support@wigwam.org.gg](mailto:support@wigwam.org.gg)

### Summer Activity Proposals

I appreciate that this isn't going to be suitable for all children. If anyone has any ideas of other activities we can organise for the holidays, please let me know. I will be running the Summer Project for the young adults so any activity must be led by parents, (a mum organising the Petit Train ride for 40 children at Christmas is a good example of this) but we will be able to offer financial support. Text or phone 07839121678 with any ideas.

## Autism Drop-In Sessions at the Library

Throughout April the Guille-Allès Library is running a series of Autism drop-in sessions for children.

We are very keen to ensure we're providing a positive and welcoming experience for people with autism, and we would like to become known as an Autism Friendly Library. We can already provide a range of sensory relief items in the Children's Library, and we have been working closely with Autism Guernsey and with fellow libraries in the UK to plan our next steps.

**Children's Autism Drop-in Sessions**

Guille-Allès  
Public Library



**Thursdays in April 16:30 - 18:30**  
Special sessions tailored for children with autism – with or without diagnosis

- Fidget toys and sensory equipment available
- Sensory story times
- Clear autism-friendly library signage
- A calm room provided

Before your visit, view our library social story at [www.library.gg/accessibility](http://www.library.gg/accessibility)

These new sessions will run every Thursday afternoon in April, 16.30-18.30, in the Children's Library. The aim is to provide a time when families of autistic children can visit the library and know to expect a welcoming and inclusive experience in an environment tailored for their needs. This will include:

- Dimmed lighting and reduced noise levels in the Children's Library.
- Sensory equipment including headphones, lap pillows and fidget toys.
- Signs to raise awareness of the sessions.
- Directional signs to assist users to find their way around.
- Social story on the Library website under 'Accessibility.'

In addition, there will be a Calm Room available for families in the Dorey Room on the second floor. Our trained staff will be on hand to ensure their visit to the Library is a positive one.

At 17.00pm each week there will be a story session run by my colleague Abi, who has extensive experience working with Autistic children and their families.

## Because we care

*Wigwam Support Group LBG (company no.58948)*

*Guernsey Charity (CH315)*

*Member of the Association of Guernsey Charities (No.288)*



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Thanks to MoonPig for sponsoring this newsletter; supporting families in our community.