



Norfolk County Council



Virtual School Sensory Support News update



Welcome!

Welcome to our newsletter, we hope you are enjoying the warmer weather and additional Bank Holiday we have had this year.

We are pleased that VSSS is working with Gressenhall Museum and the Handprint Theatre Company to provide a workshop for deaf children in years 6 and 7 to allow them to produce a silent film which supports a pupil's transition from primary to secondary education. The workshop is being held on 27th May, and the film will be shown at the

Norfolk Deaf Festival on 7th and 8th July. Your child will need to have booked a place on the workshop if they are going to attend.

There has been some coverage in the media about the national shortage of qualified teachers of deaf children and young people. According to the National Sensory Impairment Partnership, since 2011 there has been a reduction of almost 20% in teachers of deaf children and young people nationally. We are pleased to reassure you that in Norfolk the number of specialist staff has not been reduced and that all VSSS teachers either hold, or are in the process of undertaking, the Mandatory Qualification to work with learners with a sensory loss.

As always, if you would like to contact either of us, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Kind Regards, Delyth and Kate

(Co-Heads of Virtual School Sensory Support)

delyth.crook@norfolk.gov.uk and kate.stocks@norfolk.gov.uk



Norfolk Deaf Festival 2023

The Norfolk Deaf Festival will be back on Friday 7th and Saturday 8th July at the Forum, Norwich. The theme this year is comedy and includes lots of activities for both children and adults, regardless of their hearing loss.

The Bear Ear Clinic will be back in the gallery (via Toylikeme) along with story time on Friday 7th July with Lucy Rogers (deaf graphic illustrator of 'The Quest for the Cockle Implant') and she will be reading the story at 11am and 1pm. On Saturday she will lead a workshop if anyone wants to learn how to draw a character of their own!

West Norfolk Deaf Association will be reading their sensory story about Windy the owl on Saturday 8th July every hour as well as free crafts.

There are also lots of talks in the Heritage room on Friday 7th July (Millennium Library, second floor) from Robotica, looking at their signing avatar; Lipspeaker UK, explaining more about the role of the lipspeaker; Kooth, who will talk more about their online counselling service available for children and adults and the Norfolk Constabulary, who will discuss roles within the police service for those with a hearing loss. If you've ever wondered if you can join the police – come and find out!

Of course, that isn't all – there will be a wide range of organisations and services (including VSSS!), deaf led businesses sharing information via stalls. There will be workouts with Back to Fitness and the infamous deaf comedians Gavin Lilley and Flow TV will be hosting the stage outside. There will also be so much more!! Come and see for yourself!

If you have a hearing loss and fancy seeing yourself on the big screen outside, why not send us your funniest joke?

Follow our Facebook and Instagram @NorfolkDeafFestival and/or look at our website <https://www.norfolkdeaffestival.co.uk> for more information – we really hope to see you there.



King's Lynn baby and toddler group

Do you have a pre-school aged child with a diagnosed eye condition?

Vision Norfolk have organised a group for parents and carers with vision impaired babies and toddlers in King's Lynn. The sessions are free of charge, and refreshments are available.

There is no need to book a place for these sessions.

Venue: King's Lynn Masonic Centre, 9 Hamburg Way, King's Lynn, PE30 2ND

Dates:

7th June

5th and 19th July

2nd and 16th August

6th and 20th September

4th and 18th October

1st and 15th November

If you have any questions or would like any more details about this group, please don't hesitate to contact Josh from Vision Norfolk:

Email: joshua.bartholomew@visionnorfolk.org.uk

Phone: 01603 573000 ext. 505



Thank you for reading our newsletter

We hope you have found these articles engaging. Further information can be found on our Facebook pages:

[Virtual School Sensory Support - deaf children, young people and families - Home | Facebook](#)

[Virtual School Sensory Support - vision impairment | Norwich | Facebook](#)