



Day Out at Gressenhall

Many VSSS families have previously enjoyed the day out at Gressenhall in August. This year, we decided to widen the age range and include pre-schoolers and children up to Year 4. This proved extremely popular and nearly 60 families (275 people of all ages) attended. The day was a great opportunity for families to come together and enjoy a day out. The Walled garden was too small to accommodate everybody for the picnic so we overflowed onto the meadow and the courtyard. Grandparents, parents, siblings were all involved and enjoyed the many and varied things to do at Gressenhall. The activities included a great adventure playground, the farm, the animals, horse and tractor rides and the day was free for everybody. Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse are part of the Norfolk Museums Service and our thanks go to Jan and his team there for making us so welcome.

Some quotes from people who attended: "This is such a lovely place and being able to spend time as a family without worrying about the needs of my child was brilliant"

"Staff from Gressenhall and VSSS were all great and sensitive to the needs of all of us"

"It is great to be able to relax in a place like this and know people are understanding of our family needs"

"We are on a low income and to be able to have a day like this as a family is brilliant"

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CONTACT US



Check us out on Facebook

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sensorysupport@norfolk.gov.uk

Web: vsss.virtual-school.org.uk

Virtual School Sensory Support - deaf children, young people and families

Virtual School Sensory Support - visual impairment

USEFUL LINKS

SEND PARTNERSHIP

Telephone: 01603 704070

sendpartnership.jass@norfolk.gov.uk

PORTAGE TEAM

Telephone: 01603 704049

portage.service@norfolk.gov.uk

“ I think for us it was useful to see other families in a similar situation. It was our first public outing with his hearing aids in”

We are hoping to do it all again next summer – provisional dates are the 30th or 31st August 2018 so put it in your diary.

Trip to BeWILDerwood

On 19th September we took a group of seven young people to BeWILDerwood. This is the second year in a row that we have been fortunate to visit this fantastic place and the second time that we had a truly awesome time. We spent the day den building, getting lost in the maze, sliding on the aerial slide and whizzing down big (and quite scary) slides. It was a delight spending the day with a group of young people who were determined to have a good time. Everyone was kind and supported each other and we were all grateful that it didn't rain! We have already started to plan next year's trip.





The Norfolk and Norwich Goalball Team

The Norfolk and Norwich Goalball Team which meets alternate Thursdays was recently awarded £232 from Waitrose Norwich through the Community Matters initiative. This generous donation means the club can continue to provide

the opportunity for Visually Impaired Young People to play Goalball and meet to share experiences and ideas for other social events.

The club, which has been in existence for nine years, meets at City College Norwich and if you know someone who would be interested in joining, learning more, or visiting to get an idea of how the game is played please get in touch with John at Virtual School Sensory Support.

The club are keen to develop a team for younger players too so if you think your child may be interested, please get in touch with John.

Contact details:

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RNIB Christmas Shopping Event

Anglia Actionnaires - Christmas Shopping Event

Chapelfields Shopping Centre St Stephens St. Norwich NR2 1SA

Date: Saturday 18th November 11 am to 2pm

A supervised shopping session suitable for 8-17 year olds with a vision impairment (siblings welcome too)

The aim of the session will be to increase independent living skills- money handling, mobility, communication and shopping skills-

We will meet at the St Stephens entrance at Chapelfields (near the Café Nero). For safety reasons we will stay within the Centre for the shopping. For those of you unfamiliar with the centre there is a variety of stores including Boots, Superdrug, Tiger, Claire's, House of Fraser, J.D sports. More details about the shops, parking etc. can be found on Chapelfields website:

<https://intu.co.uk/chapelfield/centre-information/how-to-find-us>

We ask that the young people come with their own money and some ideas for up to 3 gifts for those special people in their lives. RNIB staff and volunteers will supervise the children in small groups to help find the store, select a perfect gift and assist with handing over money and checking change. At 1pm will then move on as a group to the Open Trust – in Castle Meadow – to use the café and to wrap the presents. This will also help retain the surprise for the recipient and develop some wrapping skills. Paper, tape and trimmings will be provided by the RNIB – but please could we ask you to give the children some money for drinks and a snack/lunch whilst there. Parents can then come and meet us at the Open Trust café at 2pm (hopefully having had a break and some child free time themselves.)

All places must be pre booked in advance. If you would like to book your child on – Please return accompanying form or contact: Anna Hiscox CYF Coordinator, RNIB T: 01603 931042, M: 07703 716642 e-mail : anna.hiscox@rnib.org.uk

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