



# NEWS

## January 2010

Hello and a Happy New Year to you all! Extended schools provide access to a range of services and activities, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of children, families and the wider community. Schools are not expected to deliver these services and activities on their own but to work with other schools and with external partners and providers – for example, the health service, the local college, private and voluntary organisations. This newsletter is intended to give you an idea of how we can help you to support your child.

You will find information about extended services on your school notice board, and on the Consortium website.

We would really appreciate you taking the time to read this newsletter and to feedback to us on the services we provide on the enclosed questionnaire. Your opinion really matters and will help us to offer even more and better support for you all throughout 2010.



## MEET YOUR TEAM



### **Maureen Miller (ESCO)**

Extended Schools Co-Ordinator

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Mobile: 07922 222712

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### **Kelly Evans (PCYP Support Worker)**

Parent, Child & Young Person's Support Worker

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Email: [ke@westfield.herts.sch.uk](mailto:ke@westfield.herts.sch.uk)

### **Zoë Whawell**

Extended Schools Administrator

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***For more information visit our website : [www.hertsextendedschools.org.uk/westwatford](http://www.hertsextendedschools.org.uk/westwatford)***

***Or call Maureen Miller on 07922222712***

## WHAT IS PARENTING SUPPORT?

There are times in all our lives when we all ask ourselves if we are getting it right— but in parenting there is no perfect pattern to follow, and in an ever changing world this task is often challenging. All we can do is aim to be "good enough" parents to our children. For free confidential support please call Kelly Evans our Parent, Child & Young Person's Support Worker on 07545 696010 or 01923 231560 ext 1721. We are running parenting sessions as below—if you want to join one or find out more please ring Kelly.

Coping with Teenagers (6 weeks) Thursdays 09.30—11.30 Starts 28th January Westfield CTC

Harmony in the Home (7 weeks) Mondays 12.30 -14.30 Starts 1st February Westfield CC

Helping children Learn (6 weeks) Thursdays 19.00—21.00 Starts 28th January Knutsford Primary School

Understanding Children's Behaviour (7 weeks) Wednesdays 09.30—11.30 Starts 27th January Westfield CTC



One of our parenting support partners is Parentline Plus - a free confidential support for parents, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They have been offered prevention 513 funding which is currently taking place in our Consortium. You will or may have already been asked to

take part in filling out a questionnaire as part of a consultation process to help us find out what needs are within your area, by doing this Parentline Plus can then identify these needs and run free parenting sessions/workshops.



## WHAT IS FAMILY LEARNING?

Family Learning is a way of supporting parents to improve their skills, especially in Literacy, Numeracy and English (for speakers of other languages—known as ESOL) - they can in turn support their children's learning.

Family Learning can be just for adults or can be where part of a class involves working with children too. Courses are run to improve skills to allow adult to take qualifications e.g. English Speaking Board or National Tests (which are equivalent to GCSE grades) and take place within our Consortium schools. Classes are usually held whilst older children are in school and if required for younger children a crèche is often provided.



If you are interested in improving your skills in this way please look out for information on your school notice board or contact your Consortium Co-ordinator, Maureen Miller to find out more.

# extended opportunities pilot

Extended Opportunities is a pilot project taking place in your Consortium. It is a government fund aimed at helping children do the things they want to do, take part in sports and activities and get involved! The funding is available to pay for children to take part in up to 2 hours of out of school activities per week and 30 hours during holiday periods. Children can choose from the activities already offered at or through the schools or activities available elsewhere such as leisure centres or clubs. The Funding can also be used to pay fees to attend clubs such as the Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Brownies, Guides and many other organisations, even to join a local football team or music group.

*Children will be selected **by their school** if they are eligible for the Extended Opportunities Funding against a certain criteria. The schools will approach eligible families to invite them to join the scheme.*

For more information contact your Extended Schools Co-ordinator, Maureen Miller on 07922 222712



## WHAT IS A CAF?

A CAF (Common Assessment Framework) is a way of working with children and young people which involves listening to you and your child to find out their needs and their strengths and to assess if they need any additional support.

The CAF form and process is there to help your child get the support they need and ensures that everyone working with your child works together in a co-ordinated way to support your family. By completing the CAF form and having a "Team Around The Child" meeting all agencies will work together to support your child and family to achieve the best possible outcome.

If you would like to find out more about the CAF process please feel free to contact your school or Kelly Evans on 07545 696010; or you can log onto [www.hertsdirect.org.uk](http://www.hertsdirect.org.uk)

## WHAT IS CONTACT POINT?

Contact Point is an online directory of all children in England up until their 18th birthday, with a facility to stay on to 25 (with consent) for those accessing transitional services. It is a quick way for professionals to find out who else is working with the same child or young person, making it easier to deliver more coordinated support and improve outcomes for children.

Contact Point can only be accessed by professionals who have been trained and undergone strict security checks. There are checks in place to ensure the system is being used correctly and safely.

If you wish to find out more about Contact Point you can email the team at [contactpoint-enquiries@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:contactpoint-enquiries@hertsc.gov.uk)

**For more information visit our website : [www.hertsextendedschools.org.uk/westwatford](http://www.hertsextendedschools.org.uk/westwatford)**

## Half term activities

**Monday 15th February— Fashion Design (10.00—13.00) with WildChild—for 8-12 yr olds**

**What to Bring:** One item of clothing or accessory that you would like to rework and update (from charity shop or from wardrobe, e.g T-Shirt, Jacket, Bag, Jeans)

Cost : £20.00

**Monday 15th February—Skateboarding (14.00—16.30) with Wildchild - for 7—12 yrs olds**

**Clothing:** Appropriate sturdy footwear and loose clothing.

Cost £15.00

**Mon—Fri— A Play in a Week (10.00— 15.00) for 13- 15 yr olds—with Daydreamer Theatre Company**

A chance to develop drama skills and create a play in a week.

Cost £45

To book or find out more please contact Maureen Miller on 0792222712

Other activities will be advertised on our website : [www.hertsexterndedschools.org.uk/westwatford](http://www.hertsexterndedschools.org.uk/westwatford)

## SCHOOLS IN OUR CONSORTIUM

Bromet, Cassiobury Infants, Cassiobury Juniors, Central, Chater Infants, Chater Juniors, Chessbrook ESC, Field Infants, Field Juniors. Holywell, Laurance Haines, Oxhey Early years Centre, St Anthony's RC, Watford Grammar School for Boys, Watford Grammar School for Girls , Westfield Community Technology College.



## HAVE YOUR SAY.....

Here is your chance to have your say on what we are presently doing. Enclosed is a questionnaire please complete this and send it back in to your school or alternatively send it to Maureen Miller, 22 Tolpits Lane, Watford, WD18 6NS.

Thank you for taking time to read through our newsletter.

For more information visit our website : [www.hertsexterndedschools.org.uk/westwatford](http://www.hertsexterndedschools.org.uk/westwatford)

Or ring Maureen on 0792222712