



## Special Guardian's Newsletter August 2024.

### Hello Everyone

Welcome to August's newsletter. We need to start with a quick update of news regarding the SGO Support Team. As you are aware Kathryn Lightwood joined the team in January, however she has decided to return to her previous work as an independent social worker. We are very sorry to see her go but wish her all the best – it was short but sweet! We will of course update you when a new person has been appointed.

Best wishes

Amy and Jane

---

### Join our Walk and Talk



Join Amy and Jane for a walk and talk. We hope that this will provide a chance to meet other Special Guardians, have a chat and enjoy the fresh air during the summer holidays. Children welcome. Why not bring a picnic and make a day of it.

**When: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August at 11am (stay as long as you like)**

**Where: Telford Town Park Visitors Centre (TF3 4EP – next to the Splash Park) - Amy and Jane will wait here from 11am to 11:30 to welcome those who wish to come.**

---

## Summer Holidays are here, and children get hungry!

### **SUMMER OFFERS - KIDS EAT FREE OR FOR £1**

**TESCO CAFE** - Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p+

**ASDA** - kids eat for £1 all day every day in Asda cafes. No adult spend required.

**SAINSBURYS CAFE** - kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11.30am every day.

**MORRISONS** - spend £4.49 and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

**SIZZLING PUBS** - kids eat for £1 Monday to Friday between 3pm - 7pm when bought with an adult meal.

**BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE** - 2 kids get a free breakfast with one paying adult.

**TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN** - Up to 2 children eat free at breakfast with a paying adult

**TGI FRIDAYS** - kids eat free when any stripes reward member buys a full priced adult meal.

**IKEA** - kids eat for 95p from 11am daily.

**BELLA ITALIA** - kids eat for £1 with an adult meal purchase. Monday to Thursday between 4-6pm.

**DOBBIES** - kids eat for free with any adult breakfast or lunch every day.



## **Things to do and places to go in the school holidays**



There's another school holiday has arrived, and we know how some families can find the holidays a challenge with the juggle of work and keeping the children entertained. If parent carers are looking for things to do and places to go, then the Shropshire Family Information Service Directory is the place to visit. Click [here](#) for fun during the school holidays. For children and young people with SEND, there's also the [Actio activity offer](#) for those who are registered for [All In Programme](#) and Autism West Midlands have events for teens and the whole family, you can find out

more about and book on [Autism West Midlands events page](#).



**Shropshire**  
Fire and Rescue Service

# SHREWSBURY FIRE STATION

# OPEN DAY

## 17TH AUGUST 2024

TO ENSURE AN INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE, WE WILL HAVE A DEDICATED HOUR FROM **10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM** FOR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) VISITORS.

THE GENERAL PUBLIC ARE WELCOME FROM **11:00 AM TO 3:00 PM.**

**OUR OPEN DAY WILL INCLUDE:**

- LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS
- FOOD STALLS
- FACEPAINTING
- ACTIVITIES
- TOY STALL
- FIRE CONTROL VISITS
- CHARITY RAFFLE
- TEA ROOM & SEATING AREA



SUPPORTING THE  
**The Fire Fighters**  
Charity

## Latest newsletter for parent carers of SEND children and young people



The latest edition of the newsletter for parent carers of children and young people with SEND has been issued and is available on the news section of the [Local Offer](#). This newsletter is aimed at keeping parent carers up to date with all things SEND. Please share with any families you are working with who may benefit.

## My child is gaming with strangers – what should I do?

The UK Safer Internet Centre has published a blog post about online chats in games, highlighting some of the risks to children and young people. The blog provides practical suggestions for keeping children safe when using online chats.

Click to read the blog post [My child is gaming with strangers – what should I do?](#)

---

## Autism West Midlands Update



Please find below a link to the latest news from Autism West Midlands, which includes information on support for parent carers with face to face meetings, training, one to one advice sessions and also information on events for teens and the whole family.

Remember no formal diagnosis is needed to be able to access support from Autism West Midlands.

Read their latest news on the [SEND Local Offer](#).

---

## Shropshire Council's Welfare Support Team - Household Support Fund



Shropshire Council's Welfare Support Team has funds available to help people with their essential living costs through the Household Support Fund.

They may be able to help people with things like:

- Food
- Energy and water costs (including payment towards arrears)
- Essential white goods
- Essential furniture items
- Essential bills

If you aren't sure whether they can help with an item, please contact them on 0345 678 9078, selecting option 1 to speak to an adviser.

To apply, people should call them on 0345 678 9078, selecting option 2.

For more information on the Household Support Fund at Shropshire Council, see [here](#)

For more information on the Welfare Support Team, see [here](#)

Please also familiarise yourself with the following web pages, [Cost of living help](#) and [Unclaimed benefits](#)

---

## Parenting Help and Support Line

Being a parent can be tough sometimes. We are here for you with a friendly listening ear and practical advice on everything from behaviours that challenge to sleep issues. No judgment, just support, through this anonymous and confidential service.

Call 01743 250950 Monday - Thursday, 9.30am - 4.30pm or Friday, 9.30am - 3.30pm or email: [parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk)



The Parenting Team continue to provide a wide-ranging offer, from the extensive series of universal [online modules](#) (Access code Darwin18), to virtual and face to face Understanding Your Child, Understanding Your Teen, Sleep Tight workshops and more, all listed on our [Family Information Directory](#)

---

### Find your lost Child Trust Fund account

If you're aged 16 or over and your birthday is not before 1st September 2002, this form could be of real value to you.

If you were born in the United Kingdom you're almost certain to have a Child Trust Fund - money put into a personal account for you by the Government, which could now be worth £1,000 or more. You can take control of it from your 16th birthday, before getting access to the money at 18.

If your parent or guardian/carer knows which account provider it's with, that's fine - no action is needed. But if they don't know where your account is, please use the link to access the form [Missing Money - Lost Child Trust Fund - helping 16 & 17 year-olds find their account \(sharefound.org\)](#) Complete and submit the form, then print it, sign it, and send it to us at the

freepost address shown on the printed form, so that we can find it for you. Note: if we need to check with HMRC, this search can only be made on receipt of the signed paper form.

**Please note that this form must be completed by the young person to whom the account belongs.**

**Please only complete the form once to avoid duplications** – if you have any amendments or have not heard from The Share Foundation, simply contact us and we can help!

Tel: 01296 310400 or Email: [info@sharefound.org](mailto:info@sharefound.org)

Please contact the SGO support team for more information if required.



## **Kinship is the leading kinship care charity in England and Wales.**

We're here for all kinship carers. The grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, other family members and friends who step up to raise children when their parents aren't able to. We want every kinship family to have the recognition, value and support they need and deserve.

### **Evidence suggests that children in kinship care:**

- have levels of **special educational needs and disabilities** similar to other social care groups, including children looked after. These are most commonly social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH).
- have better **educational outcomes** than children in unrelated foster or residential care, but still considerably lower than those in the general population.
- grow up to have better educational, health and employment **outcomes in adulthood** than those from foster or residential care, but not as good as those who grew up in parental households.



### **Book Trust – getting children reading**

- [BookTrust stall at Kinship Roadshows with free books and resources to keep](#)
- [Story sessions \(online and in-person\)](#)
- [Online resources and book recommendations](#)
- [Training for carers \(online and in-person\)](#)

**More information available at:** [booktrust.org.uk/kinship-care](https://booktrust.org.uk/kinship-care)

[Bridget.Blanchard@booktrust.org.uk](mailto:Bridget.Blanchard@booktrust.org.uk)



**Join us  
online for  
a summer  
drawalong**

Hosted by **George Webster**

**Wednesday 21 August**  
14:00 to 14:35

Online event for you and your  
child(ren) with drawing and  
stories!

All ages welcome, perfect  
for 4-8 year olds



For more information visit:  
[Booktrust.org.uk/kinship-care](https://booktrust.org.uk/kinship-care)

Follow us on social: @BookTrust

©2024 BookTrust Charity number 313343

## Kinship QR Codes

Kinship carers, why not join our Kinship Community - [shorturl.at/swJLM](https://shorturl.at/swJLM)



And sign up to Kinship's upcoming training - [shorturl.at/akA56](https://shorturl.at/akA56)

