A big thank you to all the parents and carers who gave their views in this year’s consultation on short breaks and leisure activities.

Parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) were asked to fill in a survey on the types of short breaks their children or young people access, if it is going well and what would make it better. Short breaks can include going to the scouts, after school clubs or staying at a short break overnight stay. Everyone who filled in the survey had the chance to win a £50 Meadowhall voucher as a thank you for taking time to give their views. We are happy to announce that Jeanette Kettell was the lucky winner of this year’s prize. The voucher was presented to Jeanette’s daughter Amber-Jade Kettell at her school.

The results of the survey help develop the Rotherham’s Short Breaks Needs Assessment and Short Breaks Statement. Both documents can be found on Rotherham’s SEND Local Offer website: www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk

NEW ACCESSIBLE PROVISION FUND TO HELP COMMUNITY GROUPS

As part of Rotherham’s short breaks offer, a small grants fund is available for voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to increase access to mainstream activities for children and young people with SEND aged 0-25.

The funding could be used for training programmes for staff, to purchase equipment, to purchase additional staffing hours to support individuals who may require extra help and expenses for an established group of young people with SEND to work with mainstream providers.

Applications will be open from Friday 11 January 2019 and the closing date for receipt of applications will be Friday 8 February 2019.

If you have any questions about the grant application please contact Shafiq Hussain:

e. shafiq.hussain@varotherham.org.uk

t. 01709 834458
Meet our hero Dick Whittington and his feline friend Tommy the Cat who travel to London to seek their fortune.

Location: Rotherham Civic Theatre

Signed performances are on the Thursday 27 December at 11am and Saturday 5 January at 6.30pm. A relaxed performance will also take place at 11am on the Thursday 27 December.

Adults £15.50, Children and Concessions £13.50
Family ticket £54

**LITTLE LEARNERS**

**CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AND SENSORY PLAY AT CLIFTON PARK MUSEUM**

Christmas Crafts and Sensory Play
18 December, Clifton Park Museum
10.15am to 12 noon

Let your little ones have fun making Christmas Crafts and Sensory Play.
Suitable for 1 to 4 year olds.
Messy clothes advised as there will be paints.

£2.50 per child
Booking required: 01709 336633

**CRAFT ACTIVITY AT RAWMARSH LIBRARY**

Come along and join the fun at Rawmarsh Library!
22 December, 10am to 12 noon

A FREE fun, free drop in session for crafty kids
t. 01709 510775

**Tramp2Lean:** Every Monday starting from 7th January 2019 6.30pm to 7.30pm
£3 per Jumper.

**Mystic Ball Wednesday:** 20th February 2019 at Siverwood Miners Welfare Dalton 6pm till 8.30pm disco, Magician and Tombola £5 per ticket.

**Sleep Clinic:** Are you a parent of a child with a sleep issue, needing advice? We are pleased to offer a sleep clinic based at the RPCF Parkgate drop in. These are 15 minute short sessions taking place monthly.

Our sleep advisor Anna is trained by the Children’s Sleep Charity. Email: anna@rpcf.co.uk or contact RPFC for more details.

Contact details: 01709 296262
www.rpcf.co.uk

**Ability Counts**

**Football**

An inclusive football session for 7-16 year olds and adults with visual impairment, deaf or hearing impaired, intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder and physical disability.

**Saturdays**

at Wickersley School and Sports College

Adults 9.30am - 10.30am
Juniors 10.15am - 11.45am

Call Jack Pitchford on 01709 827767
t. 01709 510775
DRIZZLEPOPP DRAMA GROUP

Following the success of the pantomime ‘Cinderella Drizzlepop’ in July, the new production for 2019 will be Goldielocks and the Three Bears.

Sessions are at Dalton, 6pm to 8pm every Thursday and are free of charge. Please note transport is not available. 

Sessions start in January.

No experience is necessary and the project aims to:

• Develop performance skills
• Increase confidence, communication and independence
• Promote friendship and peer support.

If you know someone aged 11 or above and is interested in this project, please contact Claire Haddon
t. 07791789570
e. claire.haddon@rotherham.gov.uk
or in person at the youth club.

ELEPHANTS IN STEPS & TUMBI CLUB

Monthly themed activities for disabled children/young people at Dalton Youth Centre.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

• Arts and crafts
• Themed games
• Karaoke and music

(Pictured: Aaliyah enjoying a trip to Boston Park Farm)

FUTURE SESSIONS:

Tumbi Club (7 to 12 years)
4.30pm to 7pm
22 January, Chinese New Year of the Pig
2 February, Theatre trip to see the Worst Witch at Sheffield Lyceum.
19 February, St Valentine’s Day Gangsta Massacre

Elephants in Steps Club
(13 to 25 years)
6pm to 9pm
25 January, Chinese New Year of the Pig
22 February, St Valentine’s Day Gangsta Massacre

New members will need to complete a registration form before taking part.

For further information please contact Claire Haddon on 07791789570

ASTON AND SWALLOWNEST FOOTBALL CLUB

We are looking to add players to their disability team for ages 8 to 16 years.

Make new friends • Have fun
Be part of a local team/club • we welcome all
Training is on Wednesdays, 5pm to 6pm at at Thomas Rotherham College
James Scally the coach: 8 years coaching, level 2 football coach. Basic sign at level 1 BSL. I have autism myself and I want to give more opportunity for young people who want to play and be part of a team like their peers.
t. 07955680651 or e. jpmescally@googlemail.com
Please call before you turn up!
Find out about resources, services, support, activities and events for children and young people in Rotherham with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Visit the website www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org

AccessAble is here to take the chance out of going out. To give you the detailed information you need to work out if a place is going to be accessible to you.

Our detailed accessibility guides tell you all about a venue’s access. It let you know what access will be like when you visit somewhere. It looks at the route you will use getting in and what is available inside. They are 100% facts, figures and photographs.

Visit www.accessable.co.uk to look at the accessibility guide for Rotherham.

AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT TEAMS

The Autism Family Support Teams Understanding Sensory Behaviours workshop

Has your child received a diagnosis on the autism spectrum or do you feel they may be displaying behaviours linked to sensory differences?

The free one day workshop will introduce information on:

- The senses
- Behaviour linked to the senses
- Strategies that may help

The next workshop is on 18 January, at the High Street Centre, Rawmarsh.

9.30am to 2.15pm.

Parents and carers and young people can ask a Rotherham school/college representative to attend with them.

For further details or to book a place t. 01709 336404
e. AutismFamilySupportTeam@rotherham.gov.uk

MEADOWHALL SENSORY ZONE

We are pleased to introduce the Sensory Zone, with sensory equipment supplied by ROMPA.

The room provides families and carers with a space to bring children with Autism, when they may need time out from the busy shopping centre environment.

The introduction of our new sensory area is part of a wider project where we are increasing awareness of Autism within Meadowhall.

This sensory room is located in the Quiet Room at the Management Suite, situated at the back of The Oasis Dining Quarter near Pizza Hut Express and KFC.

For up to date information on activities, events and services for children and young people with disabilities contact Andy Lound, Rotherham Council’s Children’s Disability Information Officer t: 01709 336423 e: andrew.lound@rotherham.gov.uk

Disclaimer: Every effort is made to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council can accept no liability for errors or omissions. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.