# **UNITY NEWS**



**North Solihull Schools Collaborative** 

Summer Term 2018

# **Brand New School for Yorkswood!**

Work has started on a brand new replacement school at Yorkswood Primary in Kingshurst this spring, the seventh primary school to be rebuilt in north Solihull in the last decade. The new build along with three recently remodeled primary schools, marks the completion of the Council's North Solihull Primary Programme. In total, over £60m will have been spent improving every single primary school in the North Solihull Regeneration Area benefitting over 4000 children. At a cost of £5.7m, the

new school at Yorkswood, will replace the current outdated buildings with a modern design and facilities fit for 21st century learning.

Andy Tunstall, Head Teacher of Yorkswood Primary School said: "Everybody associated with Yorkswood Primary School is delighted that the work on our fantastic new school will begin, this spring. A great deal of thought, planning and hard work has gone into the project and we are grateful to Solihull for maintaining their commitment to creating a 21st Century building, fit for our children, staff and the wider community. Through projects and events we will keep all stakeholders involved, engaged and informed as the building develops." The new school will be completed by Summer 2019.





Andy Tunstall, Headteacher; Councillor Ken Meeson and Andy Hood, Director of Interclass Plc, make preparations for the building works at Yorkswood Primary School.

The new community hub at Capitol House, on Kingshurst Way, next to Yorkswood School will be opening after Easter. Already, the hub is to be the base for the Kingshurst baby clinic, supporting mums every Monday and Tuesday. The hub consists of a large open space for parents and carers to relax and enjoy a cup of coffee whilst their little children play. There is a large kitchen area with a cooker to enable support for cooking healthy



food for the family on a budget. There is a separate training suite and four computers to enable online training and practical support in producing your own CV and help you into work. The hub will be a centre for information not only for parents of Yorkswood School but for all residents in Kingshurst! See pictures on page 2.

### **Easter Play Scheme**

The Unity Easter Playscheme will be taking place at Bishop Wilson CE Primary School, from Tuesday 3rd April to Friday 6th April and Monday 9th April to Friday 13th April 2018. There will be Easter Egg hunts & other exciting activities taking place throughout the fortnight. Forms will be delivered to the Unity Schools interested in taking part.

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Mums and Dads Join Reading in School

As part of the family learning at Coleshill Heath Community School, Sarah Fentham, has been running reading workshops for parents. It has provided an opportunity for parents and carers to join their children in school for a story session and to borrow books from the school library. Children who took part in all five sessions received a certificate, trophy and a book to keep. The aim was to raise the importance of reading with children and to help develop literacy skills. Both the children and the adults enjoyed sharing the stories together. As a consequence some parents purchased new books for their children to enjoy at home, which will further help the development of their children in school. Some parents will now take part in the 'Make and Take' Workshop Sarah is now supporting along with Abigail from Solihull College who can provide further learning opportunities for parents.



# Inside the New Community Hub at Capitol House

See below pictures giving an insight into the new community hub at Capitol House, in the grounds of Yorkswood School on Kingshurst Way, Kingshurst. The photos show part of the relaxed seating area, the training room and computers available. For access to the hub please contact; Sue Watson, Community Development Manager for Unity on 07920 161 408.





# **Unity Holiday Scheme**

The February half-term play-scheme, took place at Bishop Wilson Primary School, providing sporting and leisure opportunities for Key Stage 2 pupils from Coleshill Heath, Windy Arbor and Bishop Wilson Unity schools.

In total there were 71 pupils attended the 5 days of the play-scheme, amounting to 331 session attendances in all. The Unity play scheme proved to be extremely popular and a number of parents complimented staff on the organisation of the week's events.

A wide variety of activities were offered during the scheme, including Archery, Bench-Ball, 'Crazy-Cricket', Curling, Dodge Ball, Hide & Seek, Craft Session, Modern Dance, Mountain Biking, Stove Cooking & Camp-Craft, Multi Activity Relay & Maze, Golf Putting and a final afternoon of Home Cinema, where parents and siblings were also invited to attend. In addition to the above, 24 children enjoyed a trip to Waseley Hills Country Park & Lickey Hills Visitor Centre, which included an orienteering route and ariel glide! All activities were supervised by regular Unity staff from both the Sport & Leisure and Outdoor Education Teams, supported by an enthusiastic team of volunteers.

#### **Hub Events**

#### **Bishop Wilson Hub**

Mondays

STEPS helping adults with learning difficulties into work.

**Tuesdays** 

National Careers CV Workshops

Wednesdays

Barnardo's Jobs Skills Training

Thursdays

Gro Organic 'Dig it Crew'

Fridays

Math's Skills Workshops

#### Coleshill Heath Hub Mondays

Bellis Training for Young People

Tuesdays

Health Exchange

Parent Support

Wednesdays

Knit & Knatter

Pensioners Chit Chat

Sewing Classes

Friday

Bellis Training for Young People

#### Elmwood Hub Monday

Solihull College IT for Beginners Community Art Group

Tuesday

Dean Recruitment Job Skills

Wednesday

Dean Recruitment Job Skills

Thursdays

Dean Recruitment Job Skills

**Friday** 

Craft Group

2nd & 4th Friday of each month Solihull Council Job Shop

#### Fordbridge Hub Mondays

Community Patchwork & Quilting

Parents Group
Tuesdays

Bellis Training

Wednesdays

Bellis Training

ellis Trainii **Friday** 

English Skills Workshops

#### Yorkswood Hub

Re-opening after Easter!

For further information on anything above contact: Sue Watson email: swatson@ unitytrustsolihull.org.uk or Tel: 07920 161 408

# **Community Hub Update**

As you see on the left hand side of this page, activities in the community hubs at Bishop Wilson School, Coleshill Heath School, Elmwood Place and Fordbridge School are continuing to support the local community in a variety of ways. Improving health and well being via Health Exchange who support people at risk of diabetes; through to employment and skills support from the National Careers Service and Dean Recruitment. The new hub at Yorkswood School will now be ready for action following the Easter break so look out for future activities there. Already planned will be the baby clinic serving mums who live on Kingshurst. This term we have featured the hub at Coleshill Heath School which illustrates the good work that is being done!

## **Coleshill Heath Community Hub**



Health Exchange supporting those at risk of diabetes.

Coleshill Heath Community Hub, situated next door to the school main entrance, is a hive of activity providing support from Health Exchange for those at risk of diabetes; Bellis Training who support young people into further training or employment; Foster Care Training and support from Solihull Council and Solihull College sewing classes for the community. In addition, on offer we are holding a knitting group every Wednesday morning for anyone wishing to take part or who wants to learn to knit. Just turn up and join in! Also, gain a qualification in half a day with the Online Basics Course provided by the National Careers Service. Everything we provide is free of charge. For further information on any of the above please contact: Sue Watson, Community Development Manager for Unity on 07920 161 408.



# **Family Fun as Outdoor Learners!**



Parents, grandparents and pupils at Castle Bromwich Junior School have been enjoying outdoor activities with Andy Matthews, Unity's Outdoor Learning Leader. Everyone was very enthusiastic – even in a blizzard! Families worked with Andy every week on Wednesday and Fridays and have made survival shelters, cooked on a campfire and used tools to make wooden knives, bow and arrows and spinners.

# Knit & Knatter!

Every Wednesday 9-11am in the Hub at Coleshill Heath School, B37 7PY

Just Turn Up
Anyone welcome!

Call 07920161408

### **Contact Us**

Give us a call for more information about our activities

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### Windy Arbor Primary School Has New Log Circle

Forest School Leader Andy Matthews has been building a new log seating circle and musical xylophone with help from enthusiastic year 5 pupils. All the pupils at Windy Arbor school will now benefit from this fantastic forest school area. A good way to recycle old saucepans!







Parents and grandparents have discovered the Forest School after hearing all about it from their children. Adults from Yorkswood School PTA have been spending Wednesday mornings in woodland next to the school with Andy, Outdoor Learning Leader. Parents have been making a range of natural woodland items using traditional green woodworking skills including necklaces, dream catchers, wreaths, robins and even reindeers!. One mother said that she enjoyed taking part in Forest Schools as much as her son and was very proud of what she had made during the sessions.