

# Short Breaks Newsletter

News, Updates and Activities for Children with Disabilities and their Families in Telford



December 2024

## Festive Gardens - Telford Town Park

Step into the world of cinema magic as the Chelsea and Maxell Gardens are transformed with dazzling lights and festive movie projections, creating a captivating “Night at the Movies” experience.

Follow the trail and immerse yourself in iconic holiday film moments, featuring interactive displays, heart-warming movie scenes, festive music at the bandstand, and even a few surprises from your favourite Christmas characters. Don't miss the playful elves making appearances as you explore.

Adult £2.50

Child £1.50

Family of Five (must include at least 1 Adult) £8.00

This event is accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Please be aware there are some inclines and narrow footpaths. There are no steps. This event is in the dark and there are flashing lights and lasers. There will also be music playing.

The event takes place in the Chelsea/Maxell Gardens, which is located next to the Band Stand in the Telford Town Park. Access for this event is behind Southwater Library. The closest car park is available at Southwater multi-storey car park TF3 4EJ.

You can find out more, or book a slot, at [www.telfordtheatre.com/whats-on/festive-gardens/](http://www.telfordtheatre.com/whats-on/festive-gardens/)

For accessibility information and park information visit the Telford Town Park website here – <https://www.telfordtownpark.co.uk/site/index.php>

## Calm Christmas Grotto at Blists Hill

For the first time in 2024, Blists Hill are hosting a special grotto suited to children and young people with disabilities.

‘We know that the grottos and lively atmosphere of our successful Victorian Christmas Weekend events can be overwhelming for some of our visitors. Therefore, from Wednesday 18 December to Sunday 22 December we are hosting sessions for families with children or young people with SEND, or for sufferers of dementia.

The layout and appearance of our grottos will be adapted for your visit and Father Christmas and his Elf will be experienced in welcoming visitors with additional needs.

The grotto is also ideal for families with the combined needs of children and young people with SEND and older relatives with dementia - it will be a safe space for all generations of the family to get together to celebrate Christmas.’

You can find out more about the grotto online at [www.ironbridge.org.uk/events/family-events/calm-christmas/](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk/events/family-events/calm-christmas/)



## Blossom & Bloom Stay and Play

Blossom & Bloom is a stay and play session for infants and pre-schoolers aged 0-5. There are fun activities every week. Come for a coffee and to meet other parents in our welcome and inclusive environment.

Speak with the experienced peer lead team and find out more information on the services available to you. Discuss schools, nursery and support options.

The sessions are open to all children prior and post diagnosis. The group is every Tuesday, term-time only, 10-11.30 at PODS hub. For any extra information contact [Louise@podstelford.org](mailto:Louise@podstelford.org)

## iCan2 Activities

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 4.30-6.30pm, 4All Foundation run a creative arts club at Admaston House. The sessions are divided into dance, drama, and music, with an arts and crafts table. The sessions are centred around child led play and they can play instruments, design costumes, enjoy the music and boogie. You are able to drop your children off, or stay. If you would like to book, email [info@4all.foundation](mailto:info@4all.foundation) with your child's membership number.

As of 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Genius Tuition are going to be running a Sports and Leisure Club, every Saturday, 10am-1pm, at Southall School, and bookings are now open. The programme is supported by qualified sports coaches and care assistants, offering indoor and outdoor sports, games, quiet arts table, as well as a child led play approach. You are able to drop your children off, or stay. If you would like to book, email [support@geniustuition.co.uk](mailto:support@geniustuition.co.uk) with your child's membership number.

We are working with local attractions to offer passes for you and your child to have a fun day out. We currently have passes for Attingham Park, Shugborough, Tenpin, Hoo Zoo and all Ironbridge Museums. If you would like to book a pass, please email [shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk) with your child's name, the pass and the date that you would like to book. We will confirm your booking via email and you will need to show this to reception upon arrival.

If you would like to register as an iCan2 member, please email [shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk)

## Wrekin Forest School

Wrekin Forest School are able to cater for children and young people with disabilities, and they pride themselves in offering an experience that allows all children of all needs and abilities to access Forest School.

They offer dedicated sessions for children and young people with additional needs. Their family days allow the whole family to come to forest school together. They provide a fun, non judgemental environment where children with disabilities are accepted, welcomed and encouraged. They will ensure that all members of the family are cared for and try to be as inclusive as possible. Much of the space is accessible by wheelchairs. They can also provide 1:1 care at their holiday clubs.

'We visited Wrekin Forest School for the first time as a family of 4, my children are 10 and 9 years old. We were all so impressed with the activities on offer, including archery, bread making, toasting marshmallows. The instructors were very friendly and helpful. Take spare clothes and shoes (not just for your children) as you will all get very muddy! The value for money for this place is amazing, I have already recommended it to all my friends on Facebook and wouldn't hesitate to recommend Wrekin Forest School to anyone that will listen. We as a family will be returning for definite! An enjoyable and brilliant day out!'

You can find out more about the sessions online at [www.wrekinforestschool.co.uk](http://www.wrekinforestschool.co.uk)

## Join Our Children with Disabilities Register

The Children Act 1989 required all local authorities to establish a register of children with a disability in their area. This is used to assist service planning to meet the needs of children with disabilities and their families. It is optional and confidential. The information will only be shared with workers from social care, education and health. To find out more or to request a registration form or information pack, please email [shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk).

Date and Time	Activity	Location	Details
<b>Monday</b>			
Every Week—10-11.30am	PODS Sensory Session	PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU	To book PODS activities, visit <a href="http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS">www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS</a> . For any queries, contact <a href="mailto:support@podstelford.org">support@podstelford.org</a>
Every Week—3.45-4.45pm	PODS Sensory Session		
Every Week—4-5pm	PODS Stop Motion		
Every Week—4-5.30pm	Soft Play for Juniors	Telford Ice Rink, International way, Telford TF3 4JQ	To book, visit <a href="https://www.telfordicerink.co.uk/info/5/soft-play">https://www.telfordicerink.co.uk/info/5/soft-play</a>
Every Week—6-8pm	Soft Play for Seniors		
Every Week—11.15-12.15pm	Children's Autism Hub Coffee and Chat	Hazeldine House, Central Square, Telford TF3 4JL	To book, contact 01952260062 or email <a href="mailto:childrensautism@tandwcvcs.org.uk">childrensautism@tandwcvcs.org.uk</a>
<b>Tuesday</b>			
Every Week—3.45-4.45pm	PODS Sensory Sessions	PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU	To book PODS activities, visit <a href="http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS">www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS</a> . For any queries, contact <a href="mailto:support@podstelford.org">support@podstelford.org</a>
Every Week—4-5pm	PODS Minecraft		
Every Week—4-6pm	Pirates and Princesses Soft Play SEND Session	Unit 17, Cedar Court, Halesfield 17, Telford TF7 4PF	To book, call 01952582382
Every Week—6-7pm	Airea 51 SEND Session	Airea 51, Stafford Park 12, Telford, TF3 3BJ	To book, visit <a href="https://www.visittelford.co.uk/things-to-do/airea51-p1418561">https://www.visittelford.co.uk/things-to-do/airea51-p1418561</a>
Every Week—4-5pm	Challenging Perceptions Youth Wellbeing Group	Park Lane Centre, Woodside, TF7 5QZ	To book, call 01952683700.
Every Week—3.30-4.30pm	4 All Boxing	104-106 Southgate, Telford TF7 4HG	No booking required.
<b>Wednesday</b>			
Every Week—3.45-4.45pm	PODS Sensory Session	PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU	To book PODS activities, visit <a href="http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS">www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS</a> . For any queries, contact <a href="mailto:support@podstelford.org">support@podstelford.org</a>
Every Week—4-5pm	PODS Lego		
Every Week—6-7pm	Airea 51 SEND Session	Airea 51, Stafford Park 12, Telford, TF3 3BJ	To book, visit <a href="https://www.visittelford.co.uk/things-to-do/airea51-p1418561">https://www.visittelford.co.uk/things-to-do/airea51-p1418561</a>
Every Week—4-5pm	4 All Dodgeball	104-106 Southgate, Telford TF7 4HG	No booking required.

If you would like to discuss your child's needs or accessibility requirements, please contact the activity provider on the details above ahead of the session to avoid disappointment.

Date and Time	Activity	Location	Details
<b>Thursday</b>			
Every Week—4-5pm	PODS Activity Sessions	PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU	To book PODS activities, visit <a href="http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS">www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS</a> . For any queries, contact support@podstelford.org
Every Week—10.30-1.30pm	Special Needs Activity Centre	7 Downemead, Hollinswood, Telford, TF3 2EW	For more information, please visit SNAC on Facebook.
First Thursday of Month—4.30pm	Children's Autism Hub Dugout 11-18yrs	Hazeldine House, Central Square, Telford TF3 4JL	To book, contact 01952260062 or email <a href="mailto:childrensautism@tandwcvcs.org.uk">childrensautism@tandwcvcs.org.uk</a>
<b>Friday</b>			
Every Week—1-2pm	PODS Sensory Sessions	PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU	To book PODS activities, visit <a href="http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS">www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS</a> . For any queries, contact support@podstelford.org
Every Week—10-12pm	Ice Rink SEND Session	Telford Ice Rink, International way, Telford TF3 4JQ	To book, visit <a href="https://www.telfordicerink.co.uk/info/5/soft-play">https://www.telfordicerink.co.uk/info/5/soft-play</a>
Every Week—5-6pm	Ice Rink SEND Session		
Third Friday of Month —7pm	Funky Friday Inclusive Disco 15+	The Navy Club, Bellman's Yard. Newport, TF10 7AJ	Entry is by pre-booked ticket only. See Facebook page Funky Friday Inclusive Disco for booking details.
Every Week—10-11am	Challenging Perceptions Under 5's Parents and Toddlers	Park Lane Centre, Woodside, TF7 5QZ	To book, call 01952683700.
<b>Saturday</b>			
Every Week—1.45-2.15pm	Silhouette Dance SEND Session	Randlay Avenue, Telford, TF3 2LH	To book, call 07792300692.
Every Week—10-11am	PODS Activity Session	PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU	To book PODS activities, visit <a href="http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS">www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS</a> . For any queries, contact support@podstelford.org
<b>Sunday</b>			
Every Week—12.15-1.30pm	SEND Swimming	Abraham Darby Leisure Centre, Ironbridge Rd, Telford, TF7 5HX	To view full timetable, visit <a href="https://www.telfordandwrekinleisure.co.uk/info/4/swimming">https://www.telfordandwrekinleisure.co.uk/info/4/swimming</a>
Every Week—5-6pm	Wrekin SEND Swimming Club	Wellington Leisure Centre, Tan Bank, Wellington, Telford TF1 1LX	For more information, search Wrekin Special Swimming Club on Facebook or call 07530465472.