

Stratton Cluster of Schools’ Extended Services has a website:

www.goldstarfamilies.co.uk

where you will find an event calendar, details of all schools in the area and information on parent/carer support. Browse the site and bookmark it now!



Calling all Dads ...

Would you like to chat to other fathers and male carers about the task of being a 21st century dad? Sometimes rewarding, sometimes overwhelming, other dads must feel the same. We are arranging an evening event at the Sea Cadets’ Hall, Station Road, Biggleswade (opposite the police station) on

Wednesday 24th February 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Do Come Along!

February Half Term activities:

Date & Time	Activity & Cost	Age & Venue	How to book
Monday 15 th Feb 10am-12	Carnival Masks craft workshop £6	Age 9-16 Holmemead	Contact Mandy Setterfield for a booking form. 01767 318123 or mandy.setterfield@holmemead.beds.sch.uk
Monday 15 th Feb 10-10.40	Music for Tinies “Look out there’s a toddler about” free	Age 2-3 Edward Peake	Call 0300 300 8072. Places are limited; please book in advance. Parent need to stay and take part.
Monday 15 th Feb 11am-11.40am	Music for Tinies “Keep Up mums” Free	Age 3-5 Edward Peake	Call 0300 300 8072. Places are limited; please book in advance. Parent need to stay and take part.
Tuesday 16 th Feb 10am-4pm	Drama with Matt Cullum “These Colours Theatre Co” free	Age 8-13 Edward Peake	Call 0300 300 8072. Places are limited; please book in advance.
Wednesday 17 th Feb 10am-12	Gymnastics workshop £4	Age 4-9 Holmemead	Contact Mandy Setterfield for a booking form. 01767 318123 or mandy.setterfield@holmemead.beds.sch.uk
Thursday 18 th Feb 10am-12	Cheerleading workshop £4	Age 4-9 Holmemead	Contact Mandy Setterfield for a booking form. 01767 318123 or mandy.setterfield@holmemead.beds.sch.uk

CAP MONEY – budgeting course: If feeling out of control, confused or worried about your money sounds familiar, or if you would just like help to get your finances into a manageable system then CAP Money is for you. In just three weeks you will be able to save more, reduce any outstanding debts and make better financial decisions. The course will run from 7.30pm on Tuesdays 23rd February, 2nd and 9th March at Biggleswade Baptist Church, London Road, Biggleswade. For more information or to book a place, please speak to Alison on 01767 312667 or visit www.capmoney.org.

Important Computer News

Did you know that the Government has launched a new grant for families on benefits or in receipt of Free School Meals to pay for a computer, 1 year's internet access and service, support and safety features. If you have a child in school years 3-9 and are receiving certain benefits you might qualify. You can ring the Home Access Grant Helpline on 0333 200 1004, or you can contact Mandy Setterfield or Debbie Gauntlett in Extended Services for a confidential discussion and advice on how to apply. Funds nationally are limited, so don't delay.

Extended Services is also pleased to be offering you the chance to learn basic computing so when your new machine arrives you are a step ahead! In November we ran a one-off free taster session for family adults (parents, grandparents, carers). People who attended said *"this was really enjoyable. We went on the internet and learned all sorts of tricks. The tutor was good, and very likeable and the pace was right"*, *"definitely beneficial"*. So, would you like to join our course? Maybe you feel you lack skills? Would you like to be more confident in supporting your child to use a computer? You can call Mandy on 01767 318123 or 07532 454132.

- ✓ Want to improve your maths??
- ✓ Want to enhance your career prospects??
- ✓ Want to help the kids with their homework but feel a bit rusty??
- ✓ Want a maths qualification?

WE CAN HELP!! Basic maths sessions are starting on Tuesdays from 2nd February 1pm to 3pm, at a Biggleswade venue, yet to be confirmed. To find out more, you can ring Mandy Setterfield on 01767 318123 or email mandy.setterfield@holmemead.beds.sch.uk. Or you can contact Anne Unger at Bedford College on 01234 291819.

Disability Support Group for parents and carers

Does your child have a disability? We have set up a support group for parents, come along and meet other parents and share your knowledge and experiences. We hope to see you there!

Dates: 26 January; 23 February; 16 March; 20 April; 18 May; 15 June

Time: 7pm-8.30pm

Venue: Space for Sports and Arts, Holmemead Middle School, Biggleswade

Mandy Setterfield (formerly Franklin) Extended Schools Co-ordinator, Stratton cluster 01767 318123 mandy.setterfield@holmemead.beds.sch.uk 07532 454132	Debbie Gauntlett Parent Support Assistant, Stratton Cluster 01767 318123 debbie.gauntlett@holmemead.beds.sch.uk 07754 838299
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Stratton Cluster of Schools is made up of: The Lawns Early Excellence and Children's Centre, Caldecote, Dunton, Lawnside, St. Andrew's and Southlands Lower Schools, Edward Peake and Holmemead Middle Schools, Stratton Upper School and Sunnyside Special School