

Families Matter

Issue 40 March - April 2017

Hello... Welcome to the 40th edition of our newsletter! Spring is definitely on the way, we've got the clocks going forward by an hour on Sunday 26th March at 1am. This is also Mothering Sunday...we're not sure who planned that! The Easter holidays start on 10th April, check out the Events calendar on our website www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk for details of fun things to do. It's also a busy time for children starting school this September, please see the article below for key dates and our top tips.

School Allocation Days

March 1st is the National Allocation Day for Secondary School places for September 2017. You must accept the place you have been allocated or apply for the waiting list to be reconsidered by 10th March.

For Primary, Infants or Junior Schools, the date you'll receive your allocated place is April 18th. You have until May 2nd to respond.

Please be aware that if you reject the place you have been allocated, your child could be allocated any spare place in the county. Call us on **0800 542 02 02** for more advice.

Safety First...

First Aid

If your child needed emergency first aid, would you feel confident in knowing what to do? Celebrity doctor, Dr Dawn Harper, and St John Ambulance have joined forces with the Channel Mum website to produce a range of 60 second first aid videos explaining how to treat a range of ailments and emergency situations your child may face. On the website, you will find advice on treating allergies, burns and fever, tips on spotting signs of sepsis and meningitis, how to react to seizures and choking and what to do if your child needs CPR. See the videos at www.channelmum.com/firstaidcourse.



There are currently 200,000 grandparents and family carers raising up to 300,000 children in the U.K. **Grandparents Plus** is the national charity which champions the vital role of grandparents and the wider family in children's lives, especially when they take on regular childcare commitments or a caring role in difficult family circumstances. They offer advice, information and support to grandparents, and other family

members, who are looking after a relative's child or are thinking of doing so. Their Friends and Family Advice Line is a free, confidential and impartial service providing advice and signposting to appropriate support services for issues such as welfare benefits and other sources of financial support, employment, debt, education and social care for those looking after a relative's child. Call **0300 123 7015** between 10am-3pm Monday - Friday or email advice@grandparentsplus.org.uk. They also run a Grandparent Contact Helpline for those who've lost contact with a grandchild, or who are about to. The helpline is open Monday and Friday 2-4pm, otherwise there are resources, factsheets, and details of support groups available from the website www.grandparentsplus.org.uk.



Family Information Service



If you would like to receive your copy of this newsletter automatically or have any suggestions, email us at familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

0800 542 02 02 or 01452 427362
www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk



Wallet Watch...

Tax-Free Childcare

Parents who earn at least £115 per week but less than £100,000 per year could get a Government contribution of up to £2,000 per child under the age of 12, per year, or up to £4,000 for disabled children under 17 years old, to go towards their childcare costs. Parents will need an online account which can be used to pay childcare providers. You can sign up on this website to receive an email when you become eligible www.tax.service.gov.uk/childcare-schemes-interest/welcome. If you already receive Childcare Vouchers, Tax Credits or Universal Credit, you can check whether you would be better off with the tax-free childcare scheme at www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator. The scheme will start in early 2017, starting with parents of the youngest children eligible being able to apply first, and will be rolled out fully by the end of the year.



Make Mothering Sunday Eggs-ellent!

If you'd like to show your appreciation to your Mums, Grannies, Aunties, or anyone else who looks after you, why not treat them to a nice cuppa?

You will need:

- *An egg box
- *A tea bag
- *Card
- *Glue
- *A straw or pipe cleaner
- *Glitter, pom poms, ribbon or crayons



Carefully cut around the egg box so that you have a cup shape. Stick it on to your card. Bend the straw or pipe cleaner around and cut it to size before sticking it down to make a handle. Decorate around the cup however you'd like with flowers, hearts or Mum's favourite things. Leave it to dry and pop a teabag in the cup for Mum to enjoy later! If tea isn't Mum's 'cup of tea', you can use the egg boxes to make a bunch of flowers instead.



www.intheplayground.co.uk & www.netmums.com

What's On?

All these events and activities, plus Easter Holiday Camps and fun can be found on our website www.glofamiliesdirectory.org.uk/whatson

Tuesday March 7th, 11.00am-12.30pm - **Push It Real Good** - The Cenotaph, St John's Church, Cirencester. Bumps, babies and children all welcome for a walk around Abbey Grounds and coffee afterwards in town. A great way to get exercise and make new friends. Walk lead by CheltenhamMaman.

Saturday 11th March, 9.30-11.30am - **Gloucester Cathedral**. A **FREE** fun and relaxed coffee morning with a bouncy castle to keep the children entertained.

Friday 31st March, 4-7.30pm and Saturday 1st April, 10am-1pm - **My Stage School FREE Trial** - Cheltenham. **FREE** trial for 4-18 year olds of any ability for fabulous classes in dance, drama and singing. Friday class at Bettridge School and Saturday class at St James Primary School.

Monday 10th April, 9am-4pm - **Cookery Course** - Tewkesbury School Sports Centre. Learn to make bread, sausage rolls and lots of other homemade treats. For 7-13 year olds, £15. Call 01684 293953 to book.

Sunday 16th April, 10am-3pm - **Mad Hatters Tea Party** - The Bird & Deer Park, Prinknash. Face painting and Alice in Wonderland themed activities. Adults £7.80, children £6.80 when booked online. Children in fancy dress are half price! Barbeque food available to buy.

Saturday 29th - Sunday 30th April, 1-5pm - **Amberley Cow Hunt** - Amberley Parochial School. To coincide with the real cows returning to the common, come and hunt for 30 novelty wooden cows hidden around the village. Face painting, photo booth, entertainment and a tea tent for the whole family!

