Baytree Branches

'Making the most of every day'

Welcome to our September edition of Baytree Branches!

A warm welcome to all our new families, and welcome back to our returning families after the summer break. In this edition, we introduce some of the services and professionals you may come across and highlight essential equipment that can help support your child in school.

Who Might You Meet on Your Child's Journey?

At Baytree, many of our children and young people are supported by a range of different professionals. Sometimes it can feel like there are a lot of services, appointments and unfamiliar job titles to keep track of! We thought we would introduce some of the professionals and services you may come across through school or the clinics your child attends.

Nutrition, Dietetics and Weighing Clinics - A Dietitian provides specialist advice on nutrition and eating, supporting children with growth concerns, specialist diets, allergies, feeding difficulties and other nutritional needs. For children who receive enteral (tube) feeding, Nutricia Homeward Nurses work alongside the Home Management Service to provide specialist support in the community. They offer training for families and carers, home clinical support, and help coordinate feeding equipment and supplies. Baytree also supports with a weighing clinic three times a year for our learners who are gastrostomy-fed. For more information, search online for Home Management Service-UHBW or click the link.

Joint Orthopaedic Clinics - Orthopaedic teams specialise in bones, joints and muscles. Children may be referred to orthopaedic clinics for assessment and monitoring of issues affecting their movement, posture, joints or skeleton. Baytree hosts a joint clinic with physiotherapists, meaning learners can be seen in a familiar environment.

Respiratory Physiotherapy - Respiratory physiotherapists support children with breathing and respiratory needs. They may provide advice about airway clearance, cough support, breathing techniques and managing respiratory secretions.

Wheelchair and Seating Services - These teams help children with their mobility, posture and positioning. They can assess specialist seating and wheelchairs to make sure that children are comfortable, well supported and able to participate in everyday activities as fully as possible. Clinics and repairs take place regularly throughout the school year. For more information, search online for Bristol Centre for Enablement - wheelchairs & special seating or click the link.

AAC West - AAC stands for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. AAC West supports children and young people who have difficulty communicating using speech alone. They can assess a child's communication needs and help find the right ways for them to express themselves, which might include symbols, communication books, switches, signing or electronic communication devices. AAC specialists work closely with children, families, Baytree and other professionals to help make sure that a child's communication system is meaningful, accessible and available across all areas of their life. The aim is to support every child to have a voice, make choices, express their needs and share their thoughts and feelings. For more information, search online for Bristol Centre of Enablement - AAC West or click the link.

Eye Clinics - Orthoptics and Ophthalmology. The Bristol Eye Hospital runs two types of clinics at Baytree. An orthoptist visits to assess how your child's eyes work together, including eye movements and squints. The other clinic is with an ophthalmologist who specialises in detecting and treating conditions that affect vision and eye health, including prescribing glasses if needed.
We will contact you when your child is due to be seen.

CAMHS - CAMHS stands for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. CAMHS supports children and young people who are experiencing difficulties with their emotional wellbeing or mental health. Support can include assessment, advice and therapeutic support for children and families. For more information, search CAMHS North Somerset or click the link.

Community Paediatrics - Community paediatricians are doctors who specialise in children and young people with additional health, developmental or disability-related needs. They often work closely with families, schools and other professionals to understand a child's needs and help coordinate appropriate support. Dr Phillpotts, a community paediatrician, runs clinics at both of our campuses. For more information, search online for Sirona Community Paediatrics or click the link.

SALT (Speech and Language Therapy) - Speech and Language Therapists support children with communication, speech and language. They can also support children who have difficulties with eating, drinking or swallowing. SALT may work with families and school staff to help develop communication strategies and support the use of communication aids. For more information, search online for Sirona children's speech and language service or click the link.

Occupational Therapy (OT) - Occupational Therapists help children develop skills for everyday life. This might include eating, dressing, personal care, play, learning and accessing their environment. They can also provide advice about equipment and adaptations to help children be as independent as possible. For more information, search online for Sirona children's occupational therapy.

Physiotherapy - Physiotherapists support children with movement, mobility, strength, balance and posture. They may provide exercises, positioning advice and recommendations for equipment. Physiotherapists often work with school staff to help incorporate therapy into a child's everyday routines. The physiotherapists are in school every week. Please speak with your class teacher if you have any concerns. For more information, search online for Sirona children services physiotherapy or click the link.

Lifetime Service - The Lifetime Service is a specialist community children's nursing and psychology service for children and young people with life-threatening or life-limiting conditions. The team works closely with families and other professionals providing support with nursing care, clinical tasks, care planning, training for families and carers, hospital discharge planning and transition into adult services. The team can also provide psychological support for family members. Some children may also receive support from the Lifetime Continuing Care Team, which can provide specially trained nursing and support staff, including support at home and in school, depending on the child's individual needs. For more information, search Sirona children's lifetime service or click the link.

Vaccination Team - Vaccinations help protect children and young people from serious illnesses by providing routine and additional vaccinations when needed. The vaccination team works with families, schools and healthcare professionals to make sure children are offered the appropriate immunisations. They also run clinics at Baytree for school-age vaccinations. For more information, search online for Sirona school age immunisations or click the link.

Bladder & Bowel Service - The Children's Bladder and Bowel Service supports children and young people with bladder and bowel difficulties, including constipation, daytime wetting and bedwetting. The service provides assessment, advice and treatment to help children achieve healthy bladder and bowel habits. For more information, search online for Sirona children's continence service or click the link.

School Nursing Service - The School Nursing Service supports the health and wellbeing of school-aged children and young people. School nurses can offer advice, support with ongoing health needs and signpost families to other services when appropriate. They also run the Reception and Year 6 National Child Measurement Programme within Baytree. For more information, search Sirona school nursing service or click the link.

Our Health Lead – Kirsty Tudor is a Registered Children's Nurse. Kirsty works closely with children, families, school staff and healthcare professionals to support the health needs of our pupils. This can include helping to coordinate care, supporting medical needs and helping families communicate with healthcare teams. Kirsty's email is kirsty.tudor@baytreeschool.co.uk

Making everyday life easier!

There are lots of simple products available that can make everyday activities a little easier for children and young people with additional needs. Below are just a few examples that some families have found helpful.

Swim pads for older children and adults – Reusable swim pads are available in larger sizes for children and young adults who are incontinent, helping them enjoy swimming with confidence and enabling them to access our hydrotherapy pool**.** For more information, search online Fledglings - swimwear & accessories or click the link.



360° Feeding Cups and Doidy Cups – Both 360° Feeding Cups and Doidy Cups support children & adults to develop independent drinking skills. 360° Feeding Cups allow the person to drink from any point around the rim, helping to reduce spills, while Doidy Cups feature a unique slanted design that makes it easier to see the liquid as they tip the cup. These cups encourage confidence, coordination and independence. For more information, search Fledglings - products Doidy cup & Munchkin - 360 sippy cup or click the links.



Sensory Body Socks – Stretchy body socks that provide gentle compression and proprioceptive input. They can support body awareness with a calming effect and promote regulation. For more information, search Sensorydirect - body sock or click the link.

Adaptive Cutlery – Adaptive cutlery is designed to help disabled people develop independence during mealtimes. Featuring ergonomic handles, lightweight designs, and easy-to-grip shapes, these utensils help people with reduced hand strength, limited dexterity, or coordination difficulties. For more information, search Fledglings - adaptive cutlery or click the link.

Wheelchair Cosy Covers – Wheelchair Cosy Covers are a practical alternative to coats for disabled people. They provide warmth and protection from the wind and rain without restricting movement or interfering with wheelchair straps. Easy to put on and remove, keeping disabled people warm and dry. For more information, search Bundle Bean kids fleece lined wheelchair cosy or click the link.

Adaptive Clothing – Adaptive clothing is designed for people with additional needs who repeatedly remove their clothing due to sensory differences or developmental needs. Featuring discreet back zips, secure fastenings and soft fabrics, they help reduce unwanted undressing while maintaining dignity, comfort, and a typical everyday appearance. They can also help keep continence products securely in place. For more information, search online Fledglings - kaycey secret zip back jumpsuits or click the link.

Making toothbrushing easier - OraNurse Unflavoured non-foaming toothpaste is ideal for people who dislike strong toothpaste flavours and Dr Barman's Superbrush is a three-headed toothbrush that cleans all tooth surfaces at once, helping make brushing easier for people with limited dexterity and quicker for those who dislike it! For more information, search Oranurse - unflavoured toothpaste & Dr Barman's Superbrush.

Sources of local support



North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together (NSPCWT) provides free support, information, and guidance for parents and carers of children and young people aged 0–25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Through peer support, training, workshops, and opportunities to connect with other families, NSPCWT helps parents build confidence, access local services, and ensure their voices are heard in shaping SEND provision across North Somerset. For more information, search NSPCWT or click the link.

SEND and You is an independent charity offering free, impartial advice and support to parents and carers of children and young people with SEND. They provide guidance on EHCPs, education, and navigating the SEND process, helping you to understand your rights and access the support you need. For more information, search SEND and You or click the link.

Support for Carers - North Somerset. Carers Support is delivered by Alliance Homes. They offer free information, advice, wellbeing support, groups, activities and opportunities to connect with other carers. Dedicated support is available for parent carers, adult carers, young adult carers and young carers. Carers can also access helpful handbooks and request a Carer's Assessment to explore what support may be available. Contact Alliance Homes on 03000 120 120. Search online for more information Alliance Homes - Support for carers and N-Somerset - Adult Social Care Support for carers or click the links.

North Somerset's SEND Hub provides information on a range of leisure activities and short breaks for children and young people with SEND. Families can find details of inclusive clubs, holiday activities, sports and creative opportunities, as well as the SEND Clubs and Activities Service **(SENDCAS)** and the Family Time Pass scheme. For more information search online N - Somerset - Children & young people SEND local hub or click the link.

October Holiday Ideas

Imperial Sports Ground – Sensory Room

Imperial Sports Ground's sensory room offers inclusive sessions for children and young people with SEND, providing a safe space to explore, relax and have fun. Sessions are running throughout the October half term, with dedicated 18+ sessions available too, making this a great option for our older learners

https://imperialsportsground.co.uk/sensory-room/#send

SEND Senses – Family Holiday Sessions

SEND Senses offer sensory-friendly family sessions during the school holidays, providing a relaxed and inclusive environment for children and young people with SEND to explore, play and enjoy activities at their own pace.

Thursday 29 October 2026, 10am

https://www.sendsenses.com/

Pumpkinfest at Noah's Ark Zoo Farm

From 19 September to 1 November 2026, families can enjoy *Poo at the Zoo 2*, a fun trail around the zoo, before exploring the Pumpkinfest displays and picking their own pumpkin. There's also a Changing Places toilet, sensory resources and accessible facilities to help make visits more comfortable for families with additional needs.

https://www.noahsarkzoofarm.co.uk/whats-on/upcoming-events/pumpkinfest-poo-at-the-zoo-2/

Castle Batch All-Inclusive SEND Play Park

Castle Batch in Worle is a **fully inclusive SEND play park** designed for children of all ages and abilities. It offers accessible play equipment, sensory planting and a wheelchair-accessible swing, with families able to play together in a safe, welcoming outdoor space. The park is free to use and has accessible parking.

https://wsm-tc.gov.uk/our-services/parks-play-areas/castle-batch-all-inclusive-send-play-park/

Ocean Adventurers is an indoor play centre that has been designed to be accessible for all abilities. SEND exclusive sessions are held on the third Friday of every month, 4-6pm. During this session they turn off music, lower lighting and have very low numbers of children. They are wheelchair accessible, have a Changing Places toilet with hoist and there is even a virtual tour available on their website. Their staff have been trained in accessibility with many having undergone basic Makaton training.
https://oceanadventurers.com/inclusion/

Baytree School is now able to issue **Food Bank vouchers** to families experiencing exceptional difficulties. Each voucher will provide 3 days of emergency food which can be collected locally. Please contact the school office in confidence at

schooloffice@baytreeschool.co.uk