



# Family First Fostering Spring Newsletter

**Happy Spring Everyone!**

**We all hope you are in good spirits and looking forward to returning to the new normal as soon as possible! As we approach this new season the one thing that is certain is that we are only a phone call away should you need any support!**

*The promise of spring's arrival is enough to get anyone through the bitter winter. - Jen Selinsky*

## **AGENCY UPDATES**

### **New Staff**

**We would like to welcome Chanise, our new Supervising Social Worker to the team!**



### **Congratulations to our New Carers**

**We have also had a few new carers join the agency. We would like to give ST, AR, LG, LS, AI and CM a huge welcome and we look forward to joining you on your fostering journey!**

## **Placements Updates**

**As lockdown is starting to ease and children have returned back to school, we are starting to see more referrals coming through. However, this is not at the same level as pre-covid due to many social workers still working from home.**

**With more home visits being conducted we are expecting more referrals in the upcoming months. Additionally, with the summer months ahead it is likely for more unaccompanied minors to come through.**

## **COVID-19**

**With the Government gradually easing the current restrictions, staff are slowly returning to the office. Please feel free to call the office should you need to contact the team. It is still important that we follow the guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19 which will help us to stay on track for the Roadmap out of Lockdown. We will continue to send regular updates but feel free to call us for more information.**

**We are continuing to hold virtual training, panels and other meetings for the foreseeable future. Social Workers will be carrying out home visits in line with legislation. Please let them know if anyone in your household displays any symptoms or comes into contact with anyone in your household displays any symptoms or comes into contact with anyone who has. Also, if you have symptoms or have tested positive for coronavirus you must inform your SSW straight away.**

**Since our last newsletter there has been a massive vaccine roll out. As Foster Carers you should have been invited to get the vaccine. Please let your SSW know when you have received your vaccines so we can update our records. If you require any ID please let us know.**

**Also we would like to give special recognition to one of our young people who has been very brave in hospital with his treatment!**

**Well done to VO for Headteacher's commendation for 'outstanding achievement with home learning' in February!**

## NOTICES

### Goodbyes: Transitions and Endings for Children

We know this period is extremely difficult for not only the young person but for the entire household. Please remember to speak to your SSW for guidance and support. If a young person is staying put please ensure arrangements are being made prior to turning 18.

### South London Tender

Family First Fostering recently came 7<sup>th</sup> in the South London Tender. This means we will be first preference for referrals including Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children from local authorities in South London. Thank you to Noor and Deborah for their hard work. Please contact admin for more information.

### Training

We are offering more online training courses to support our Foster Carers this year. Please discuss the training requirements with your SSW.

Please ask our SSW or Louise for the Training Schedule for this year if you have not seen it yet.

You are required to complete a minimum of 5 (8 for new carers) trainings per year.

New Foster Carers must complete Safeguarding training within their first 6 months, this is compulsory.

Paediatric First Aid Training Certificates are valid for 3 years. Please contact your SSW or Louise if your certificate has expired.

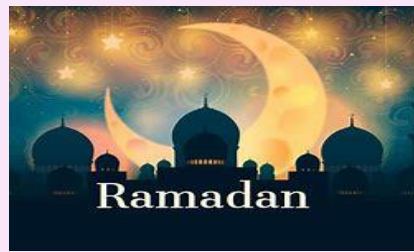
## CELEBRATIONS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

### Easter

We hope you all have had a lovely easter and enjoyed lots of Easter Eggs - (obviously in moderation)



### Ramadan



Don't forget to send photos of your celebrations to the office for Life Story Work!

## BACK TO SCHOOL

The Coronavirus pandemic has affected day to day lives, finances and the education for all children. Although many children are happy to be returning to school some children may find it difficult to settle back in. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact our SSW who will be happy to support you.

As part of a mass testing programme, schools and colleges are currently testing pupils – you may need to seek permission from the local authority social worker. Check with your SSW if you are unsure.



Our new website is up & running. Check out [www.familyfirstfostering.com](http://www.familyfirstfostering.com)

### THINGS TO DO THIS SPRING:

- ✓ Easter Egg Hunt
- ✓ Decorate eggs
- ✓ Follow the Coping Calendar
- ✓ Download World Walking App to explore the world while you walk
- ✓ Looking for last minute cooking inspiration? Try the Yummly App - it suggests free recipes using the items in your fridge
- ✓ Host a games night
- ✓ Visit [im-a-puzzle.com](http://im-a-puzzle.com) for online puzzles
- ✓ Host your own Come Dine with Me
- ✓ Learn a new skill
- ✓ Make a spring wreath

Special Shout Out to MWB & DB

“for their flexibility, commitment and the excellent support they’ve provide to young people.”



## REMINDERS

### Health & Safety

It is really important that Foster Carers continue send in statutory health and safety documents. Any outstanding health checks due to the lockdown need to be brought up to date urgently. If you have any questions or issues please contact your SSW as soon as possible.

### DBS Certificates

The following people must have a DBS if at a fostering household.

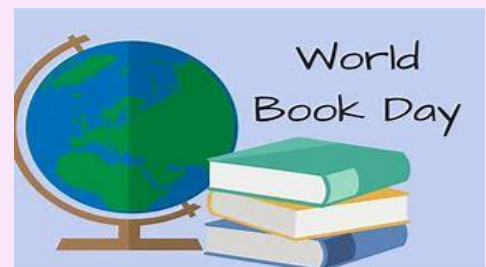
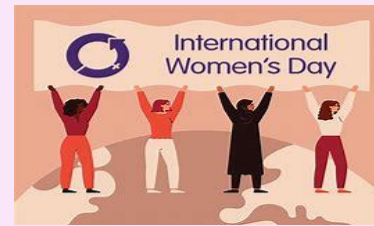
- ✓ Household members
- ✓ Regular visitors
- ✓ Back up carers
- ✓ Support network
- ✓ Young people staying put

Having a valid DBS for anyone who is around a young person is extremely important, which is why we are constantly chasing this up with carers. DBS applications must be completed 3 months prior to your existing one expiring.

### CHARMS

Don't forget to sign off your monthly reports and other items on CHARMS (there's training available if you need some support). Please ask your SSW or the admin team if you have any questions.

## CELEBRATIONS SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER



Send us photos of your celebrations!

### Dates for your diary

Good Friday – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April  
Easter Sunday – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April  
Last day of Passover – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April  
Easter Monday – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April  
Ramadan Start – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April  
Queen's Birthday – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
Stephen Lawrence Day - Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April  
St George's Day Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
Orthodox Good Friday – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April  
Orthodox Holy Saturday – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May  
Orthodox Easter – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May  
Bank Holiday – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
Eid ul Fitr – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May  
Bank Holiday – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May

### Upcoming Training:

Understanding Trauma: 07<sup>TH</sup> April 2021  
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Safeguarding: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
Life Story Work: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
Understanding internet Safety Safeguarding: 06<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
Therapeutic Level 1: May 2021  
CHARMS System & Recordings: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
PACE: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**We are now offering a psychotherapy support services to Foster Carers – speak to your SSW to take advantage!**

There are also number of interesting and useful courses available for your young people!

Please ask Louise or your SSW for further details.

### Massive Thank You

A massive thank you to all our carers, especially with how difficult the past year has been, you have done an amazing job!