



# Somerford Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs H Frampton

12<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are excited to share that from Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September we will be having some very special visitors from Paddy's Purpose in school over 3 weeks to teach the children about life with disabilities. Each class will be attending a workshop run by local mum, Gemma and her 11-year-old son Paddy who has Quad Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy and Multiple Learning Difficulties.

The workshops will cover all aspects of living with disabilities including looking at specialist equipment and exploring how someone with disabilities might play and access leisure activities. Paddy is non-verbal, so the children will be exploring different ways to communicate without words. The children will also learn how important it is to remember that just because someone might not be able to communicate, it is rarely the case that they don't understand what is going on around them or what might be said about them.

During the workshop there will be food and drink tasters as the children learn about how Paddy's diet is restricted, as he cannot chew food. These will include chocolate, candyfloss and popping candy. We realise that these are not the most healthiest of snacks but nutrition and the importance of a healthy diet will also be discussed and the children will be able to choose if they wish to try the foods or not. If you have not yet given your consent for food tasting, please collect a consent form from Reception. There will be the opportunity to experience what it might be like to have a visual impairment and everyone will get to experience using a wheelchair.

The workshops are fun and interactive so that children who experience them will have a clearer understanding about disabilities and an awareness and acceptance of those who may be very different to them. A very valuable life lesson, I'm sure you agree.

Paddy's Purpose workshops are funded by the local charity The Dorset Children's Foundation and as a thank you to them we will be holding a 'Bring a bear to school' day on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October. All the children will be allowed to bring in a teddy bear along with a donation. We suggest £1 but any amount will be greatly appreciated.

If you would like any further information prior to the workshops you can contact Gemma herself via social [media@paddys](mailto:media@paddys) purpose.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lindsay Bowen  
SENCo

**Enjoy**

**Aspire**

**Achieve**