

YOU'RE NOT HOME ALONE

ISSUE 13

Dear colleague,

Happy Diwali to all of our members who celebrate the festival of light! Welcome to our 13th edition of our newsletter, You're Not Home Alone. With all of the uncertainty that lockdowns bring, we wanted to carry on and provide useful information for you and your family, so you know we are here for you. Please do continue to send any pictures of any activities from our newsletter that your children have enjoyed doing – we've loved seeing so many.

 Just contact marketing@fostertalk.org or call **0121 758 5013**
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PASS THIS ON TO YOUR COLLEAGUES AND TO OTHER FOSTER CARERS.

FOSTERTALK HAS A NEW CEO

We're delighted to introduce our new CEO, Daniel Croft.

Daniel has been involved in fostering, in one way or another, for the past 32 years. As a child he grew up in a household that fostered, he then went on to become a registered manager and later a Managing Director of his own IFA for 17 years. In recent years he has focused on helping independent IFAs improve outcomes for children and young people.

“ I can't honestly remember a time when fostering wasn't a part of my life and I am extremely passionate about the industry, and the people and children within it. I'm looking forward to leading the FosterTalk team and helping to improve the services currently available to carers so that the children who find themselves within foster care have the best possible start. **”**



Daniel Croft, CEO Foster Talk

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

As we enter into our second week of lockdown, we want to do everything we can to support you and your families. Young people often say they are ok when often they may need some additional support, probably now more than ever.

YoungMinds is an organisation that supports young people with their mental health. If you're worried about the impact of coronavirus on your mental health, you are not alone.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a new and uncertain time for all of us, so it is only natural that it will affect our mental health in different ways. With the right help and support, we can get through this.

If any young person needs some support please text **YM to 85258**.

STOP THE SPREAD!


Text YM to 85258
 for urgent mental health support

Available all day, every day.



 DOWNLOAD THE NHS APP
[CLICK HERE](#)

ARE YOU A WINNER?



During the summer we ran an amazing competition in our FosterTalk app: TalkOut, giving you the chance to win an annual family Merlin pass!

We received over 500 entries via members sharing stories, posts and comments across the news feed, groups and chat. Thank you to everyone who entered and helped to grow our TalkOut community!

All names were put into a random draw picker and we can now reveal that a winner has been selected! Head over to your TalkOut app and search #merlincompetition to find out if you have won! Don't forget that you can access TalkOut at any time, simply send your email and fostering provider name to talkoutapp@fostertalk.org to register.



Our training team will be happy to help

training@fostertalk.org

Call: 0121 758 5013

FOSTERTALK VIRTUAL TRAINING

We've released a new training course to our online, virtual training portfolio. Our FosterTalk **Cultural Competence training** covers caring for children from different backgrounds, challenging racism and implementing strategies for children and young people to deal with racism. It provides foster carers and social work staff a sound level of understanding and ability to promote equality, diversity, and rights of individuals and groups within society. Some feedback we've received includes, "It was a very engaging, and energetic style of training."

"Thank you again for delivering this course and look forward to attending the next course on topics such as this. Given it was delivered virtually, I have no doubt the quality of the course did not differ to what it would be like face to face as the content was packed full of engaging material."

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Together with EPIC Youth, we're running a competition to design a Christmas card for us to produce, print and sell to raise money for our EPIC Youth charity. We're delighted to have already received some entries from your budding artists. Ask your children what Christmas means to them and get them to draw it. It could be family related, a personal interpretation or even a humorous sketch. A nice activity to fill some half term holiday down time.

There are 3 entry levels for the competition. 1-5yrs, 6-11yrs and 12-16yrs. One winner will be selected from each category and all 3 winning pieces of artwork will be printed and 2 copies of each design will be put into a pack for the public to purchase (6 cards per pack).

Winners will receive an amazon voucher and a pack of printed cards to keep.

All ideas are welcome and need to be emailed to epicyouth@martinjames.foundation by 20th November 2020.

DISCOUNTS



As you are aware, as a FosterTalk member you have access to lots of discounts on family days out, electrical equipment and lots more. We currently have a great discount with Sky who are offering up to 35% off some TV packages, 7.5% off Hobbycraft and 16.5% cashback from Cadbury Gifts Direct. www.fostertalk/membersarea

NATURE THIS NOVEMBER

The Warwickshire Hedgehog Rescue Centre has asked that people don't leave their used pumpkins out for hedgehogs to eat as they have a sweet tooth and fill up on them more than they should – they should be eating cat food, beetles and worms. Pumpkins make great bird feeders though s why not have a go and fill the pumpkins with seeds and nuts for the birds in your garden to enjoy?

GET CRAFTY THIS AUTUMN

Autumn monster leaves – paint some scary faces on an array of fallen autumn leaves, you can even attach wooden sticks and create your very own puppet show.



This is a lovely craft activity for all children who love ballet and ballerinas. Print off the ballerinas and dress them in beautiful Autumn leaves.

A free printable for the ballerinas can be found here - [FREE PRINT CLICK HERE](#).



TAX RETURN PAPER SELF-ASSESSMENT DEADLINE!



If you do a self-assessment tax return don't forget the HMRC deadline of the 31st January 2021. Take advantage of our simple, streamlined fixed fee tax return service and call us for help and advice on completing this if needed.

Don't forget we can help anyone in your household with their tax return – we are not just about Foster carer tax returns, we can help with all areas of tax and benefit advice.

Call us on **0121 758 5013** or email enquiries@fostertalk.org

Best regards

The FosterTalk team

www.fostertalk.org

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