



PATHFINDER NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCING... PAT THE PATHFINDER BEAR

Hello guys!

I'm Pat the Pathfinder Bear, and I'm SO excited to meet you!

I travel from school to school to help amazing kids like you learn how to be kind, brave, and curious. I am going to be spending time with you in your schools! I may be a teddy bear, but I've got a big heart, and a whole lot of love for learning new things!

I'm so excited to be a part of the amazing things you do in your school!

Here's a little more about me:

I love making new friends (that means you!)

I think kindness is super cool—even small acts can make a big difference.

I'm not afraid to try new things... even if I mess up sometimes!

I carry my special book to document all the awesome things I see and learn.

I've already enjoyed my first two outings to Holly-Hill School's Community Day and a summer fayre at Four Dwellings Primary! (pictured below)

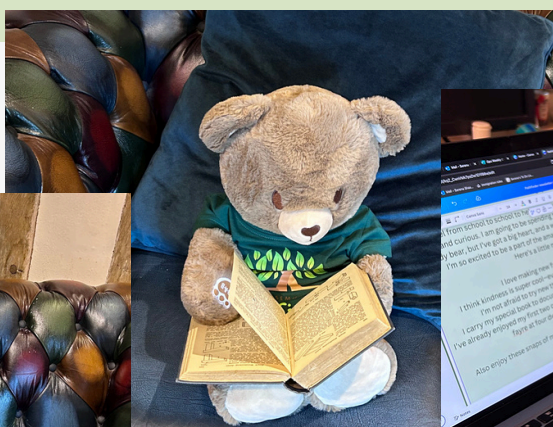
Also enjoy these snaps of me being helpful around the office ! See you soon !

Hugs and high-fives,
Pat the Pathfinder Bear

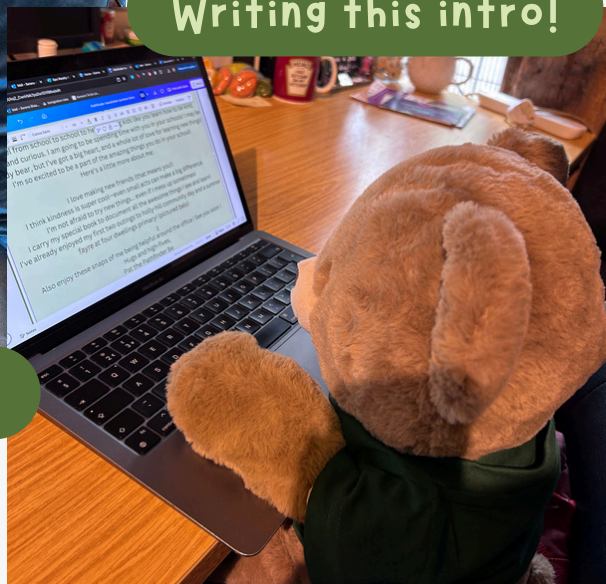
...having a nap



Reading a book



Writing this intro!



INTRODUCING....ELEN TILSTON, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LEAD!

In this newsletter you can expect:

Pat the bear

Intro from Elen
Tilston

Pathfinder
associates

Pathfinder
Alvechurch
Celebration

Interview with Holly
Hill

Family corner

Bulls in the city
updates

Kids corner!

Hey everyone! I am Elen Tilston (also known as Tilly or Till) and I have worked with Pathfinder for about 7 years in various capacities! I have been a Pathfinder School Based Worker, Pathfinder Coordinator and currently my role is Research & Development Lead – coordinating our exciting new research and supporting the continued development of various other projects across Pathfinder. So if you have any new ideas...please come and have a cuppa and a chatter with me!

I've previously worked as Assistant Coordinator for a mental health wellbeing group, One-to-One Mentor for children with additional needs, Pastoral Manager in a mainstream secondary school and Head of School in a special school – I'm pretty passionate about trying to make education as accessible to everyone as possible...it is not one size fits all!

I tend to have two modes: supersonic or sleepy dormouse, but whichever mode I'm in, I'm usually smiling! I'm trying to think of something interesting to say about what I do in my spare time, but clearly I'm not that interesting...eating, sleeping and dancing (in line with either supersonic Elen or sleepy dormouse Elen)!!

3 FACTS ABOUT ME



3 facts about me;

1. I'm a big cheese and chocolate lover – not together, although maybe worth a try...
2. Anything Maths/number related sends me into a panic!
3. I love a list – if it's not written down, it's not happening!



Introducing our...

PATHFINDER ASSOCIATES

In 2024 Pathfinder introduced the role of the Parent Associate. We encourage parents to use their talents, and expertise and spare time. We offer in return additional training and support and the opportunity to become more formally part of Pathfinder work. Our Parent associates are helping us to design and plan Pathfinder Shared Authority work. Our work is greatly benefitted by their creativity and experience.



SARAH

My name is Sarah; I run a send support group at Pathfinder's on Wednesday mornings. I am a single mom to two amazing children who are both autistic and who have had many struggles within the school system. My life changed when I was appointed the most amazing family support worker through Birmingham Pathfinder; who worked with me; and believed in me; and gave me the tools I needed to advocate for my children. Having the support from everyone at Pathfinder, I then went on to start my own group with my lived experience to support other families going through similar experiences. My passion is to help people and being a Parent Associate has given me the opportunity to do that.



THE PATHFINDER ALVECHURCH FC PARTNERSHIP CELEBRATION

We officially launched our partnership with Alvechurch Football club at a celebration on Wednesday 9th July at The Hayes (now known as The Birmingham Pathfinder Hayes!) We had families, charities, and the Lord Mayor of Birmingham in attendance. We had an array of craft stalls, sports activities, sensory activities ran by SENSE, a food buffet and even an ice cream van! A special thanks to Anygirl Netball and Aura MMA gym for attending and running activities for our children and young people as well as Charlie Fogarty for goalkeeping the whole afternoon in a penalty shoot-out competition.

Birmingham SEMH Pathfinder and Alvechurch FC have worked informally together over the last two years and now will be working in a more formal partnership. Together, they will combine football and sports coaching with a family support and early help offer, and acting as a catalyst for social action and community development.

Rob, Head of Service at Pathfinder, said, "We're delighted to officially partner with Alvechurch FC, which is more than a football club - it's a community asset. They're really aligned with Pathfinder values and we are working toward the same goals. We would encourage other organisations up and down the country to develop similar partnerships because we've seen it can have a hugely positive impact for young people."

Mark Fogarty, Sporting Director at Alvechurch Football Club, said, "It's fantastic to see the Alvechurch-Pathfinder collaboration going from strength to strength; it's been brilliant seeing all the families here today and it just shows what can be achieved when we work together to find creative solutions."





FEATURED SCHOOL:

Holly Hill Methodist C of E Infant & Nursery School

An Interview with Mark Carr, Headteacher and Aimee Deane, School Based Worker.



Why was it important for you to have a Pathfinder Family Support Worker?

It is important because it has meant that we are more connected with the support models that are out there. We work in an area that has a high need for support and so it has been really important and beneficial to work with Pathfinder as their knowledge has opened so many avenues for this.

What have been the benefits of working with Pathfinder?

The enhanced training on offer has been a really big benefit of being a Pathfinder school, having access to things such as NVR training has been a really good way to up-skill our staff. We also greatly value the oversight and support that our Pathfinder Coordinator offers. Pathfinder supervision offers 'fresh eyes' from outside of the school context. The support for staff and the wealth of knowledge and resources that Pathfinder provides, allows us to better support our families. For example, our links with Pathfinder have allowed us to set up a community pantry and wardrobe for our families.

What would you say to other schools who are thinking of working with Pathfinder in the future?

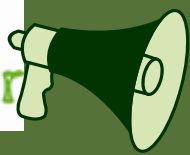
I would say do it! I think that the benefits to the school mean that you have more support for your pastoral team. The wider network offered, means that you can strengthen the offer you have got for your families. There is no cap on the support and it is forever expanding which is so exciting to see.

We also want to quickly highlight your amazing Community Day as it was such a perfect example of the way community can come together through schools.

It was a chance for the Frankley community to come together. We had neighbouring schools and services such as Banardo's, and we had services offering signposting support. It was a real success!



FAMILY CORNER

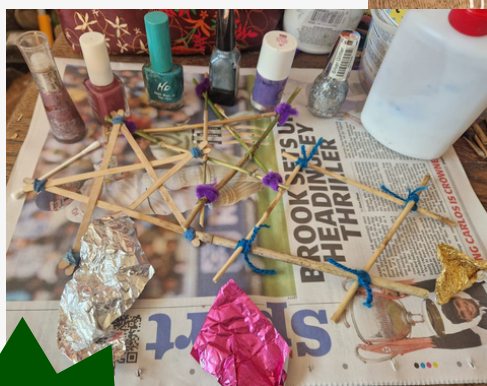
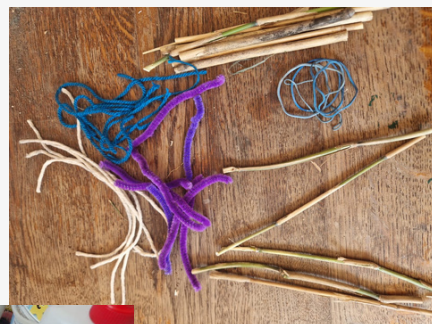


YOU WILL NEED

Some twigs/ small sticks/
coffee stirrers/ lolly sticks.

String/ elastic bands/wool/
pipe cleaners, glue.

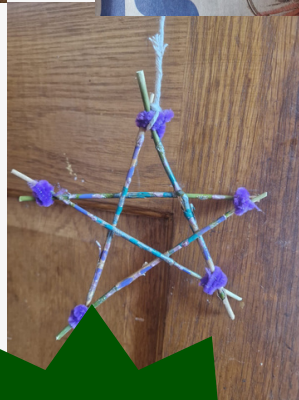
Optional decoration: coloured
paper, buttons, beads, paint,
feathers, nail varnish; felt pens,



To start, arrange your twigs into a
shape – we have made stars and a
diamond

Next, you will join the edges of your
shape together, using string, wool,
elastic bands or pipe cleaners

You can find some
twigs at the park
or reuse your
washed ice-lolly
sticks or coffee
stirrers for the
frames.



Time to decorate!

We have used nail varnish,
coloured paper and wool to
decorate these examples, but you
can use whatever you like!

**Finally, tie some wool or string
to the shape and hang it
somewhere**

Elastic bands
from bunches of
spring onions or
hair bands work
well to tie them
together.



Sweet wrappers
make bright
colourful
decorations, even
kitchen foil or old
buttons and
ribbons: whatever
you can find!



OUR JOURNEY WITH BULLS IN THE CITY...!



MEET BULLDRICK!

'Bulldrick' the Pathfinder Bull is now painted and polished and looking as smart as a child on their first day of school, shiny shoes, and all!

The Pathfinder Fam are always on hand to help and on this occasion, Lewis Davies, partner of one of our co-ordinators, and artist by trade, was more than happy to lend his expertise to help take our design and turn it into a piece of art, that will shortly be on display in the heart of the city centre for all to see.

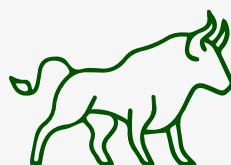
As a process, we tackled it in stages! Firstly, creating a transfer of the Pathfinder logo to mark out the design onto Bulldrick, this was then followed by cutting out (by hand) stencils of the Pathfinder logo, a large one for his back and a smaller one for his forehead before painting the design by hand. To make the design cohesive and pull it all together we added more leaves travelling up his legs and onto his tail! There was over 120 individual leaves cut out in total! Before finally adding brown hooves to echo the tree design and bring the elements together and make a more cohesive design. Finally, Bulldrick was given 3 coats of varnish to ensure he looks super shiny smart for his big debut!

Bulldrick and the other calves are all getting ready to take part in the 'Bull In The City Art Trail' supporting Birmingham Hospice taking place across the city this summer. We found out this week that Bulldrick will have pride of place at Library of Birmingham in the Amphitheatre, as part of the Art Trail over the summer holidays. Hopefully, lots of families will visit Bulldrick, and many of the other Bulls-they all look amazing! We would love you to send us a selfie of your family and Bulldrick and will post as many of them as we can on our social media.

[Link to Just giving page](#)



The Birmingham Pathfinder Bull 'Bulldrick' will be located at: Library of Birmingham, Amphitheatre, Centenary Sq, Birmingham B1 2ND! The trail is live from the 16th July - 12th October! Share any pics share any pics you take !



FARMERS MARKET FUNDRAISING!

In our efforts as part of the Bulls in the City trail this term, we held a Tombola and other games at the Kings Norton Farmers Market! It was a very beautiful day and everyone was very generous with their donations. We raised a whopping **£254 on the day and over a £1000 in total!**

All of the money raised will go to Birmingham Hospice and we are extremely happy to have supported such a worthy cause.



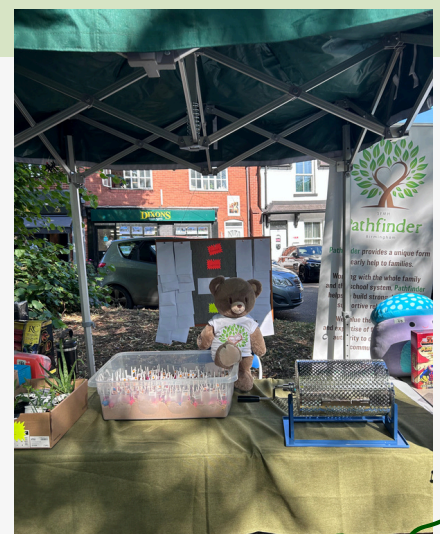
We also want to give a special thanks for all of the prizes donated and a particular thanks to our star prize donors : Spice Merchant restaurant and Bonehead! Both won by the people pictured to the left!!



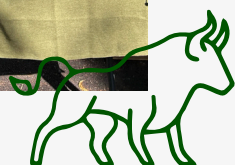
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Pat the bear helping out!!



KIDS CORNER!

An Interview with 'D' – aged 11

What is your favourite way to chill out?

"I love making meatballs and spaghetti for dinner with my mum. I like the way it tastes and feels and I love spending time with the people who I love."



INGREDIENTS

400g minced beef
2 Onions
1 Red pepper
Salt
Black Pepper
Garlic paste
1 tinned chopped tomatoes
1 carton passata
1 pack dried spaghetti

1. Chop the onion and pepper into small pieces
2. Put this in a bowl with the minced beef, 1 tsp garlic powder, pinch of black pepper and mix it all up with your hands.
3. Roll the mixture into balls, and put on a lined baking tray or in an empty air fryer
4. cook in an oven at 180C for 15 mins or in the air fryer for 12 mins.
5. Add boiling water to a large saucepan and add your spaghetti. It should take around 15 mins.
6. Whilst these are cooking, chop the onion into small pieces and fry them in a little oil, until translucent. Add another tablespoon of garlic, the chopped tomatoes and passata, stirring so it doesn't burn.
7. When the meatballs have cooked, add them to the pan of the tomato sauce.
8. Drain the spaghetti and dish up!!
9. Add a bit of grated cheese on top!

What are you looking forward to over the summer?



"Im looking forward to bringing salt with us on holiday to try and get razor clams. I saw a Youtube video on how they sprinkled salt around a cluster of holes in the sand and the razor clams came up out of the sand. You could see the dark edible bits inside the shell."

**We hope you have a brilliant
summer and see you in
September!**



Darren has got together a list of sports clubs to check out!

Anygirlnetball – Daisey Cotterill 07754990612 (Smethwicck but keen to expand into Brum)

Birmingham City Netball Club – Dianne Barber – 07771851903 (University School Birmingham)

Bartley Green Boxing – 07593066707

D&A Boxing, Stirchley – 07800766818

Mannings Boxing gym, Stirchley – 07592 510203

Aurora MMA gym – Suhail – 07825 443999

Fitness Factory 2 - weights, CrossFit and boxing gym – Simon – 07973947792

Learn Active Coaching & Mentoring – Malachi – 07717201972