

# DORSET AUTISM IN SCHOOLS

*Project Newsletter*

*December 2023*



## VOLUME 3



You can share your views & experiences using the QR code below..



## TRAINING TEAM UPDATES

The training team are excited to report that we have been rolling out the delivery of the Making Sense of Autism training throughout the Autumn Term and have started to develop action plans with our individual schools through the coaching sessions.

We have also delivered two Leadership Courses, sharing good practice and bringing interesting debates to the sessions. Training has also taken place with Locality Staff and individual teams who support the schools in Dorset.

Here are some of the highlights:

We have delivered:

- Total training: 20
- Total number of delegates: 842
- Coaching sessions: 5

There are opportunities to access additional central training next term: Making Sense of Autism, Good Autism Practice and Understanding Anxiety Modules. These can be booked through NEXUS.



# PARENT/CARER AND STUDENT PARTICIPATION

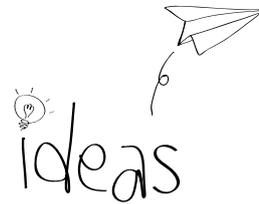
## Student Participation



We believe that it is essential for students to be part of our project team and have a platform to share their experiences. Hence, we are inviting 20 students to join us on this project - 10 in a face-to-face role and 10 in an online role to bring in a range of skill sets.

The student's responsibilities include:

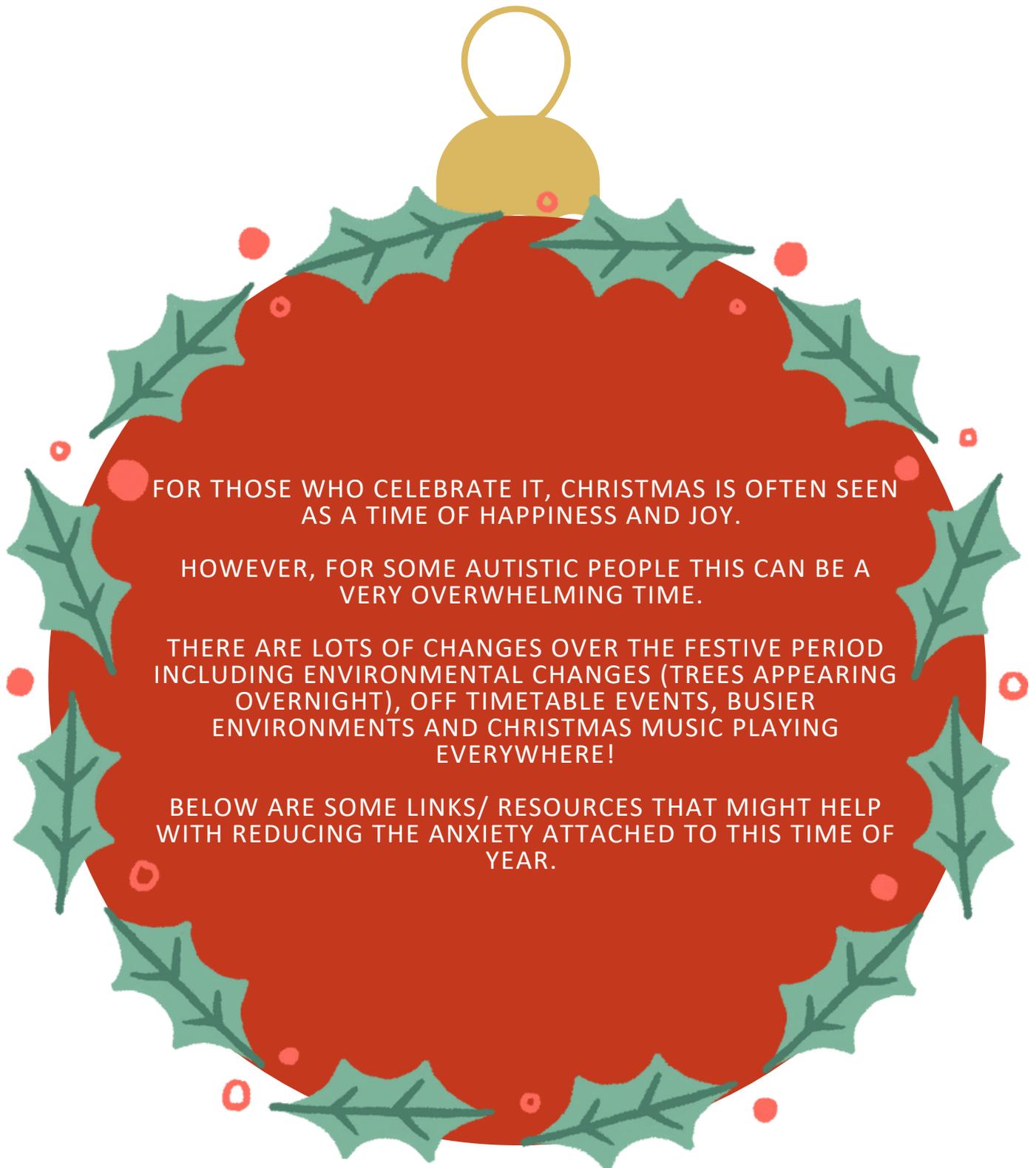
- Collaborating with other Student Participation directors to share ideas and add them to the TEAMS site.
- Completing tasks assigned during meetings and in the TEAMS site.
- Examples of possible tasks may include:
  - Creating and administering questionnaires to peers at your school
  - Gathering data
  - Designing flyers or posters
  - And any other ideas that you suggest!
- Evaluate the impact of the participation group.



## Parent /Carer Training

Our project team, comprised of caregivers and SENCOs, is collaborating to create an effective parent/carer training program. Recently, we welcomed two parents and two SENCOs to our team to strengthen our efforts. The training will provide an introduction to autism and be tailored to parents/carers who are on the diagnostic pathway or have already received a diagnosis.





FOR THOSE WHO CELEBRATE IT, CHRISTMAS IS OFTEN SEEN AS A TIME OF HAPPINESS AND JOY.

HOWEVER, FOR SOME AUTISTIC PEOPLE THIS CAN BE A VERY OVERWHELMING TIME.

THERE ARE LOTS OF CHANGES OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES (TREES APPEARING OVERNIGHT), OFF TIMETABLE EVENTS, BUSIER ENVIRONMENTS AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC PLAYING EVERYWHERE!

BELOW ARE SOME LINKS/ RESOURCES THAT MIGHT HELP WITH REDUCING THE ANXIETY ATTACHED TO THIS TIME OF YEAR.

- <https://beaconhouse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Managing-The-Christmas-Sensory-Overload-1.pdf>
- <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-uidance/topics/leisure/christmas/tips>
- <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/professional-practice/christmas-resources>



**We hope you have a lovely break  
and look forward to seeing  
you in the New Year.**

**2024**

