

# Local Area Newsletter



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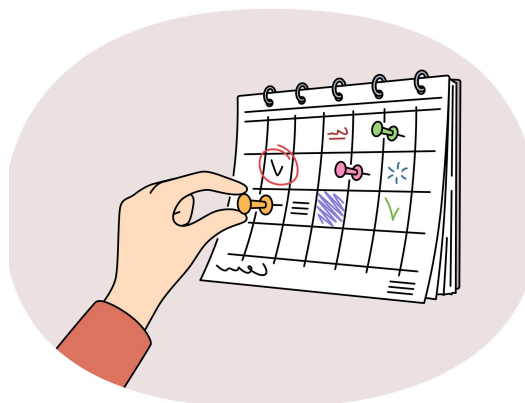
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# Date announced for our 2025 Inclusion Summit

Our sixth Inclusion Summit will be held on Tuesday 20 May 2025 at Windsor Racecourse. The event will feature presentations and a marketplace full of stalls.

In February 2024, the Summit was an amazing opportunity for professionals in the education, health and voluntary sectors to come together with parents and carers to discuss the progress and steps we can take to make the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) a place of inclusion for all children and young people (0 to 25) with special educational needs and disabilities. You can see some pictures from last year's Summit below.



## New Preparing for Adulthood transition process

We have recently changed the way we work in social care. Since 1 September 2024, all young people who are eligible for support from social care are now supported by adult social care from their 18th birthday. For care experienced young people, please ask them to get in touch with their personal advisor to see if this will affect their support.

For those already 18, the process may differ slightly. Your young person will be contacted by someone from the Transition Team who will discuss the next steps. These steps are different depending on their circumstances, but they will include talking about the current support, what goals your young person has for the future and what support they might need to get there.

Achieving for Children and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead aim to complete this 'handover' process by the end of March 2025.

[For more information about this updated transition process, please visit this Local Offer page.](#)



# Inclusion Ambassadors

Inclusion is important and should always come first. We want your young person's voice to be heard as change starts with them.

Do they want to make a difference in their school and community?

Is inclusion important to them?

Do they want to make sure the voice of all children and young people is heard?

Then becoming an Inclusion Ambassador might be perfect for them.

The purpose of having an inclusion ambassador is to have a young person representative from each school in RBWM (aged 11 or above) in order to gather and reflect their thoughts and opinions on inclusion in the borough.

This offer is open to all pupils in the school who are interested in championing inclusion in their community.

Find out more by:

- [Watching the Inclusion Ambassadors animation](#)
- [Filling out this Inclusion Ambassadors online form](#)
- Speaking to the school's SENCo
- Emailing [elaine.keating@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:elaine.keating@achievingforchildren.org.uk)

Look out for details of our Inclusion Activity Day, taking place on 15 March 2025.



## 'Voice of the Child' nominations

At Achieving for Children, we will be having our yearly staff awards ceremonies in April, and we would love for children and young people to be involved in the nomination process. This year, we're introducing a new award called the 'Voice of the Child'. This award celebrates individuals who have ensured that the voices of children and young people have been truly heard and acted upon.

Nominations from children and young people will help us recognise the work of these outstanding individuals, and they might win a trophy at their work awards.

[The nomination form can be found here.](#)

Children and young people may use the form more than once to nominate as many people as they like. We encourage parents and carers to explore the form together with their children and young people to support their participation.



## Missing school supplies? Why not try the stores below:

Store, website and discount	Location	Type of supplies
<a href="#">WHSmith</a> - 10% off for students. ( <a href="#">Please check the terms and conditions.</a> )	10 Princess Square, Bracknell RG12 1XW  16 to 22 Nicholson Shopping Centre, Nicholsons Walk, Maidenhead SL6 1LB  19 High Street, Marlow SL7 1AU  6 Thames Street, Windsor SL4 1PW  39 High Street, Ascot SL5 7HG	Pens, pencils, notebooks, pads, calculators, stationery, folders, files and pencil cases.
<a href="#">Ryman</a> - reduced prices	55 to 57 Nicholsons Walk, Maidenhead SL6 1LL  107 Peascod Street Windsor SL4 1DN  49 High Street Bracknell RG12 1EA	Pens, pencils, notebooks, pads, calculators, stationery, folders, files, school bags, lunchboxes, revision guides and pencil cases.
<a href="#">Argos</a> - reduced prices	Order online. Collection addresses below:  Sainsbury's, Providence Place, Maidenhead SL6 8AG  Sainsbury's, Lake End Road, Taplow SL6 0QH  Sainsbury's, 14 to 22 West Street, Marlow SL7 2NB  Sainsbury's, Maxwell Road, Beaconsfield HP9 1QH	Stationery, backpacks, water bottles, lunchboxes, uniform items (details below) and technology.  <b>Uniforms</b> Gingham dresses, trousers, shorts, skirts, polos, PE kits, school shoes, socks and tights.

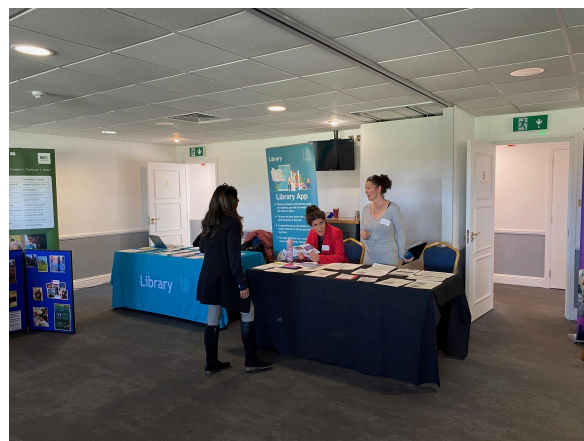
	Sainsbury's, Uxbridge Road, Slough SL1 1SU  Other address available	
<a href="#">Goyals</a>	28 Bridge Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 8BJ	<b>Uniforms</b> Polos, t-shirts, cardigans, PE joggers, PE shorts and sweatshirts.
<a href="#">Marks and Spencer</a>	130 Peascod Street, Windsor SL4 1DN  60 High Street, Maidenhead SL6 1PY  22 to 26 Spittal Street, Marlow SL7 1DB  293 to 299 Bath Road, Slough SL1 5PR - collection only	<b>Uniforms</b> Sweatshirts, cardigans, dresses, trousers, shorts, skirts, polos, PE kits, school shoes, socks and tights.
<a href="#">B&amp;M</a>	Slough Trading Estate, 417 Montrose Avenue SL1 4XP  9 to 10 High Street, High Wycombe HP11 2AZ	Pens, pencils, notebooks, pads, calculators, stationery, folders, files, school bags, lunchboxes, revision guides and pencil cases.
<a href="#">Tesco</a>	Taplow Tesco Superstore, Bath Road SL6 0NX  Windsor Tesco Superstore, Dedworth Road SL4 4JT  Slough Tesco Extra, Brunel Way SL1 1XW	<b>Uniforms</b> Sweatshirts, cardigans, dresses, trousers, shorts, skirts, polos, PE kits, school shoes, socks and tights.  (Most items come in packs of two.)
<a href="#">Asda</a>	Telford Drive, Slough SL1 9LA  Holmers Farm Way, High Wycombe HP12 4NU	<b>Uniforms</b> Sweatshirts, cardigans, dresses, trousers, shorts, skirts, polos, PE kits, school shoes, socks and tights.  (Most items come in packs of two.)



<a href="#">Sainsbury's</a>	<p>Providence Place, Maidenhead SL6 8AG - collection only</p> <p>Uxbridge Road, Slough, SL1 1SU - collection only</p>	<p><b>Uniforms</b> Sweatshirts, cardigans, dresses, trousers, shorts, skirts, polos, PE kits, school shoes, socks and tights.</p> <p>(Most items come in packs of two.)</p>
<a href="#">School Days Direct</a>	<p>20A Buckingham Avenue, Slough SL1 4QA.</p>	<p><b>Uniforms</b> Sweatshirts, cardigans, dresses, trousers, shorts, skirts, polos, PE kits, school shoes, socks and tights.</p> <p>(Most items come in packs of two.)</p>



# Highlights from the Preparing for Adulthood event, “Leaving School: What’s Next?”



In October 2024, Achieving for Children (AfC) and RBWM hosted their new look careers event for young people at Windsor Racecourse. This event was specifically tailored for young people with education, health and care plans (EHCPs) seeking more information about the opportunities available to them after year 11. For some young people, this might mean pursuing a college course alongside a part-time job, while for others, it could involve a more supportive pathway, such as a Supported Internship.

The event successfully welcomed 97 students from 10 RBWM schools, including specialist, mainstream, and resource bases. Designed with the diverse needs of young people in mind, students attended in small groups with their schools and were allocated specific time slots to ensure a calm and structured environment. A quiet room was available for young people needing a break. To encourage communication, both students and stall holders used a colour-coded sticker scheme so that young people could show their communication interest at the event: green meant happy to chat, yellow signified you can talk to me and red indicated don't talk to me. This was received positively by the young people, staff and stallholders.

We were delighted to be able to host 37 representatives from 17 local organisations, and you can find a full list at the end of this article. The event offered a unique space for independent, informal conversations, providing advice and opportunities for young people to share their aspirations, plans, and concerns about life after year 11. The organisations in attendance provided information on employment, Supported Internships, volunteering, apprenticeships, further studies, benefits and support services - helping young people prepare for their transition to adulthood.

Feedback from all participants, including students, school staff, and stallholders, was overwhelmingly positive. Many found the event valuable and expressed interest in attending again in the future.

Here are just a few comments from the schools and a final note from one of our stallholders:

*“I just wanted to say thank you for today’s event. The students, my colleagues and I really enjoyed the visit and found it to be very beneficial. The venue was*



*perfect, having a slot to ourselves so it wasn't too overwhelming, it really worked, and the companies who were there were all really helpful and friendly. I liked the fact that there was so much information readily available, and the companies were realistic and achievable to our students, showing them real opportunities and options for the future.” - High level teaching assistant job coach*

*“Manor Green and College Link students loved it. It is so important to provide these opportunities for SEND students.” - Headteacher from Manor Green School*

*“Thanks so much to you and the team for today. The young people and ourselves found it really useful. Thanks.” - Principal/Co-Founder and Headteacher from Beech Lodge School*

*“Really popular with parents too!” - Windsor Boys School*

*“[It was good] to be able to speak directly to the young people and explain that they can contact us directly, and that they have a voice and we will listen”. - Information, Advice and Support Service (IAS), Windsor and Maidenhead*

RBWM and AfC would like to thank the students, schools and local organisations for being part of the event and embracing its inclusive ethos.

#### **Participating organisations:**

The Achieving for Children and RBWM SEND Team, Bracknell & Wokingham College, College Link, Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust, IAS RBWM, Legoland Windsor, Manor Green School, RBWM Libraries, the Department for Work and Pensions, Jobcentre Plus, Reading College, The Henley College, The Link, Way2Work, Ways into Work and Windsor Forest Colleges Group.







## Autism Group's online workshops and events

### **Parent workshop for girls with autism: virtual**

The Autism Group's parent workshops are aimed at giving parents insight into how autism might affect their young person and some simple strategies to help support their needs.

This workshop will explore how autism uniquely affects girls and young women. It will also examine why autism can be challenging to diagnose in females, and provide insights on how to best support their distinctive behavioural patterns. The workshop is suitable for parents and carers of primary and secondary school aged girls and young women.

Tuesday 11 February 2025 between 7pm to 8.30pm, online. For booking, please visit [the Autism Group's girls with autism event page](#).

### **Parent workshop for empowering calm: virtual**

The workshop aims to help parents understand physical responses to distress and overwhelm, and how these might be interpreted as 'challenging behaviour'. Autistic children and young people can frequently experience high stress levels interacting with a world that isn't set up for autistic people, and this workshop invites you to explore who is challenging who, and to learn some strategies and ideas to try and restore calm.

Thursday 30 January 2025 between 10am to 12pm, online. For booking, please visit [the Autism Group's empowering calm event page](#).

### **Tea with The Autism Group (TAG) for parents**

These sessions are time for you, when the children are in school or can be looked after, so that you can take a short break to relax with a tea or coffee, and talk freely with people who understand and relate to life's good bits – and any not so good bits.

These free sessions are led by autism professionals who are also parents of autistic young people. We welcome those whose children have a diagnosis as well as those who are waiting for an assessment. Parents can attend sessions in Maidenhead, Windsor, Bracknell and Slough. More details, including how to book, can be found [on the TAG group sessions page](#).

### **Console gaming club for autistic young people aged between 16 to 25**

This club offers the chance for autistic young people to play a wide range of off-line console games with other like-minded peers. Suitable for those aged 16 to 25 who are of mainstream ability, but who need support in their social understanding.

The club is held in central Maidenhead, every fourth Saturday afternoon. The cost is £32.50 per quarter. For more details, including information on other special interest clubs, [please visit the clubs page on the Autism Group website.](#)



# The Special Educational Needs and Disability Register: sign up

The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Register is a list of children and young people from Windsor and Maidenhead, who have special educational needs or a disability. All local areas must have a register by law, but it is your choice if you would like to complete it.

Parents, carers or guardians can register on behalf of a child or young person. If you are a young person, you can register yourself if you are over the age of 13.

To be added onto the register, the young person must live in RBWM and be under 25 years of age.

## Why should you register your child or young person?

The SEND Register helps the borough support children and young people with disabilities or complex needs by:

- giving relevant information, advice and support that is targeted directly to the child or young person's needs
- sharing information from other agencies which specialise in working with children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities

It also provides the following benefits:

- the register accurately reflects the range of disabilities and special needs of the resident population aged 0 to 25 years
- offers a better understanding of individual needs, therefore helping us to plan services for the future of all children and young people with special needs

[For more information on the SEND Register, please go to the Local Offer website](#) or scan the QR code. [To complete the registration, please fill in our form.](#)



## Short breaks and respite feedback

If your child or young person receives a short break from the Children and Young People Disability Service (CYPDS), we would welcome feedback on the support you receive.

Please follow the link below or scan the QR code and complete the feedback form.

[Short break and respite survey.](#)

Your feedback will help us improve our services.





# Children's mental health week

Children's mental health week will take place from 3 to 9 February 2025. Everyone has mental health, just as everyone has physical health. Mental health is how you are feeling inside or how we express our emotions.

## Tips for families

- **Journalling:** encourage your children and young people to express their emotions and thoughts through journalling. It can be less confronting than speaking out loud and is a helpful way to process what is going on.
- **Make space for reflection:** giving children and young people a space to reflect on their different emotions can help them to better understand themselves and their needs. Examples of this could be baking, walking or colouring in together.
- **Be visual:** using imagery to help your children or young people express their emotion can be a good way to understand your child's thoughts and feelings. Please see some examples for you to use on the next page.
- **Practice mindfulness:** try mindful activities and quiet family time to enjoy being present in the moment. This can help children and young people be aware of their thoughts and emotions and learn a useful new coping technique.
- **Communicate:** communicating with your child or young person is important as if we do not listen or understand our children, we aren't able to help in the best way possible. To ensure good communication, be open, positive and understanding.

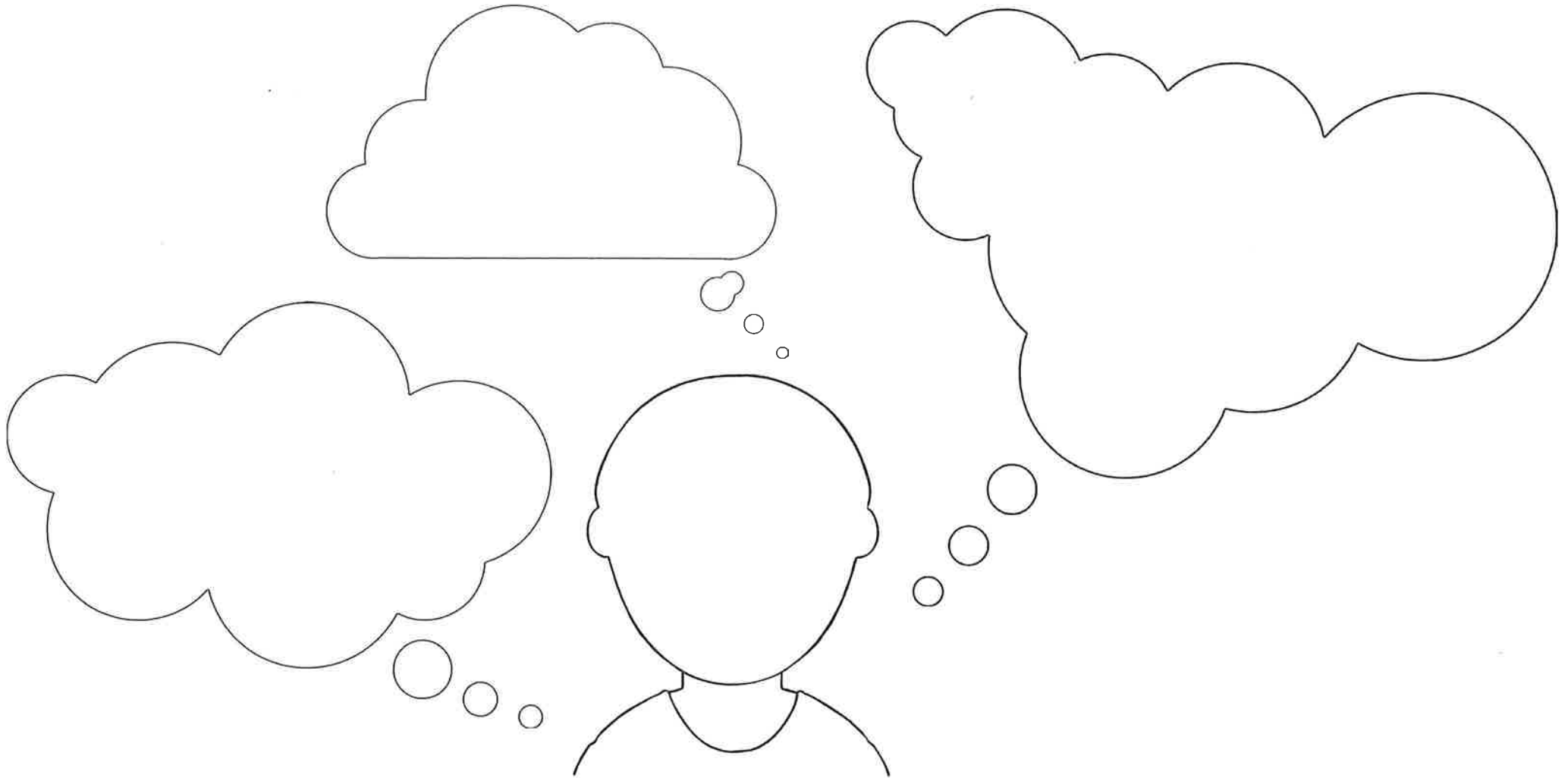
## Tips for children and young people

- **Be curious about your emotions:** notice your emotions and thoughts. You can use techniques to process these emotions such as meditation or journalling.
- **What matters most:** our values are often what make us tick, so reflect on what really matters to you. It may help you understand yourself better and make choices that feel right for you.
- **Feedback, feedback, feedback:** other people we know can often see things about us that we miss. Sometimes these can be areas for us to develop and sometimes they can be our strengths. Either way it's great to have a friend, family member or teacher that can help us with our blind spots.
- **Get creative expressing yourself:** by being creative you can often help yourself express emotions and show parts of yourself that are sometimes hidden. Examples of this could be painting, singing, dancing or something else.

Below we have included a few useful tools you can use to help.

# Things That Make Me Happy

What makes you happy? Have a think and talk about your ideas with a grown-up and your friends. Draw an idea into each thought bubble – you can draw a smiley, happy picture of you too!



## Strategies to Reduce Anxiety Prompt Cards



twinkl.com

Read your favourite book.



twinkl.com

Whistle or hum your favourite song.



twinkl.com

Tap the back of your hand.



twinkl.com

Have a drink of water.



twinkl.com

Take deep breaths in and out.



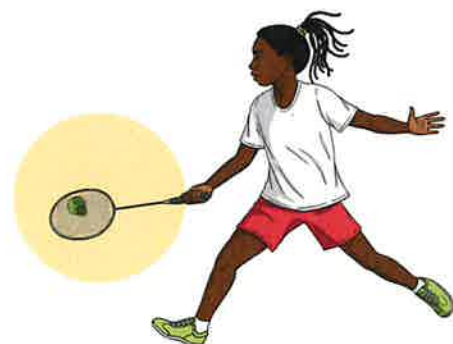
twinkl.com

Draw or colour a picture.



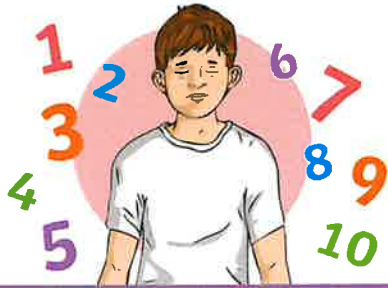
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Get some exercise.



twinkl.com

Find a quiet space, close your eyes and count to ten. Keep repeating this until you feel calmer.



twinkl.com

Write a story.



twinkl.com

Think of a place that makes you happy.



twinkl.com

Find your special object, such as a fidget toy, a picture or a photograph.



twinkl.com

Try and relax your body by focusing on how it feels when you relax.



twinkl.com

Arrange to spend time with your friends.



twinkl.com

Listen to an audio book or your favourite song.



twinkl.com

twinkl.com

# Understanding Emotions



Why is the girl happy?

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Why is the boy sad?

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Why is the boy happy?

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**Why is the girl scared?**

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**Why is the boy sad?**

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**Why is the boy scared?**

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**Why is the girl sad?**

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**Why is the baby sad?**

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**Why is the boy angry?**

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**Why is the baby happy?**

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## February half-term holiday activities: where and when?

Event, activities and websites	Where?	When?	Do you need to attend or can you just book for your child or young person?	How to register
<a href="#">Odds Farm Park</a> - Love and Lamb	Wooburn Common, High Wycombe HP10 0LX	15 to 23 February 2025	Parents or carers need to attend.	<a href="#">Please book the Love and Lamb event through this link.</a>
<a href="#">Reading Community Football Trust SEND Holiday Multi Sports Camps &amp; Play Courses</a>	The Avenue School, Conway Close, Tilehurst RG30 4BZ	17 to 19 February 2025	N/A	<a href="#">Please book the courses and camps through this link.</a>
<a href="#">Bee Happy Club</a>	Maidenhead, Bray Village Hall High Street, Bray SL6 2AR	17 to 20 February 2025	Children will need comfortable clothes and shoes. A healthy snack, packed lunch and a bottle of water should be provided by parents or carers.	Please call on 07849 772108 or email <a href="mailto:info@bee-happy.club">info@bee-happy.club</a>
<a href="#">Junior Adventures Group</a> - Holiday HQ	Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell RG12 9SE	17 to 21 February 2025	Parents or carers may need to attend.	Please call on 0333 577 1533 or email <a href="mailto:hello@junioradventuresgroup.co.uk">hello@junioradventuresgroup.co.uk</a>
<a href="#">Fun Fest</a>	Claytons Primary School, Wendover Road, Bourne End SL8 5NS	17 to 21 February 2025	N/A	<a href="#">Please book Fun Fest through this link.</a>



## What does the government offer?



### Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance is a benefit for people who are giving regular and substantial care to disabled people. Parents or carers could get £81.90 a week if they care for someone for at least 35 hours a week. The child or young person does not have to be related to, or live with, the person they care for. Parents and carers do not get paid extra if they care for more than one person. If someone else also cares for the same person, only one person can claim Carer's Allowance.

[For Carer's Allowance eligibility, please visit the government website.](#)

### Carer's Credit

Carer's Credit is a weekly Class 3 National Insurance credit for carers which will protect your future entitlement to State Pension and bereavement benefits. Parents or carers could get Carer's Credit if caring for someone for at least 20 hours a week.

[For Carer's Credit eligibility, please visit the government website.](#)

### Universal Credit

Universal Credit is a payment to help with living costs. You may be able to get it if you're on a low income, out of work or you cannot work.

[For Universal Credit eligibility, please visit the government website.](#)

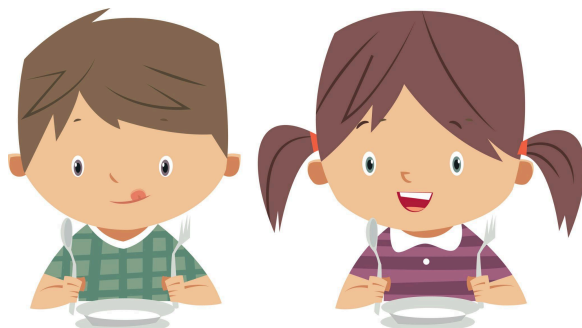
### Pension Credit

Pension Credit gives you extra money to help with your living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income. Pension Credit can also help with housing costs such as ground rent or service charges. You might get extra help if you're a carer, severely disabled, or responsible for a child or young person. Pension Credit is separate from your State Pension. You can get Pension Credit even if you have other income, savings or own your home.

[For Pension Credit eligibility, please visit the government website.](#)

[For more information on any of the above, please visit the government website.](#)

# Places where kids can eat for free all year round



<p><b><a href="#">Asda</a></b> Kids eat for £1 all day every day at Asda cafés, with no adult spend required.</p>	<p><b><a href="#">Morrisons</a></b> Spend £5 at a Morrisons Cafe and get one free kids' meal all day, every day.</p>
<p><b><a href="#">Beefeater</a></b> and <b><a href="#">Brewers Fayre</a></b> Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult.</p>	<p><b><a href="#">Gordon Ramsey restaurants</a></b> Kids under eight eat free all day, every day at selected restaurants.</p>
<p><b><a href="#">SA Brain Pubs</a></b> Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult main meal. Only available on Wednesdays.</p>	<p><b><a href="#">Dobbies Garden Centres</a></b> For every adult breakfast or lunch purchase, kids eat for free every day.</p>
<p><b><a href="#">Pausa Café at Dunelm stores</a></b> Kids get one mini main, two snacks and a drink free with every £4 spend. Applicable after 3pm.</p>	<p><b><a href="#">Whitbread Inns</a></b> Two kids under 16 eat free breakfast with every adult breakfast purchased.</p>
<p><b><a href="#">The Real Greek</a></b> Kids under 12 eat free every Sunday. Each adult should spend £15 or more to qualify for one free kids meal.</p>	<p><b><a href="#">Bella Italia</a></b> Children eat for £1 with any adult main. Applies Monday to Thursday, between 4pm to 6pm.</p>
<p><b><a href="#">TGI Fridays</a></b> Kids eat free when 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase an adult's main meal. (App required)</p>	<p><b><a href="#">Bills</a></b> Two kids can eat free all day during weekdays with one adult main. Applicable Monday 17 February to Friday 28 February 2025.</p>
<p><b><a href="#">Sizzling Pubs</a></b> Kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal. Applicable Monday to Friday, from 3pm.</p>	<p><b><a href="#">Hungry Horse</a></b> Kids eat for £1 on Mondays.</p>

# Activities available in and around Windsor and Maidenhead:



- [Thames Valley Adventure Playground](#)
- [Braywick Court Sprites: fun football and fantastic gymnastics](#)
- [Autism Berkshire workshops and courses for adults](#)
- [Pan disability football for 8 to 11 year olds, Mondays 6pm to 7pm](#)
- [Teen disability football, Wednesdays 5pm to 6pm](#)
- [Clip'n'Climb, climbing sessions for young people with SEND](#)
- [Jump-In trampolining SEND session](#)
- [Slough Ice Rink, level 2 additional needs ice skating lessons for 5 to 16 year olds](#)
- [Bracknell Trampoline Centre, additional needs sessions, Saturdays at 12.30pm and 1.30pm](#)
- [Building for the Future: events for those with SEND](#)
- [Chance to Dance SEND dance club](#)
- [4Motion CIC dance for 9 to 12 year olds, Thursdays during term time](#)
- [Moo Music for 0 to 5 year olds](#)
- [Make/Sense Theatre](#)
- [GEMS Bear Cubs for 5 to 10 year olds](#)
- [The Look Out Discovery Centre](#)
- [Maidenhead United FC Community Trust football, Sundays for 5 to 14 year olds and Mondays for all ages](#)
- [Farm Buddies](#)
- [List of sport and outdoor activities on the Local Offer](#)
- [Access Activities: adventure sports](#)

## Max Card: what is it?

The Max Card can be provided to children, young people and young adults with additional needs (0 to 25 years) living in RBWM, whether it is a physical, sensory, or a learning disability.

The Max Card is a credit card size card which can be shown to certain organisations as proof of your child or young person's disability.

### Why should you register your child or young person?

By registering for a Max Card, the information you provide also helps us to:

- Maintain the SEND Register.
- Support our planning for future services and identify any gaps in current service provision for children and young people with additional needs.
- Ensure that families with a child or young person with additional needs are kept fully informed of issues that may affect them, and to advise them of relevant new services and opportunities.

It also provides the following benefits:

- This is a service offered by Achieving for Children, through the Children and Young People Disability Service (CYPDS), and there will be no personal cost to families for this card.
- Families will also benefit from discounts at multiple attractions nationwide. A full list can be found on [My Max Card](#) however please do not register through this website.

[For more information on Max Cards and how you can sign up, please go to the Local Offer](#) or scan the QR code.



maxcard

## Spotlights

### **Anne Bishop | Area SENCo and Manager of the Specialist Advisory Teaching Service**

#### **How did you get into the role?**

I have been working in schools for over 20 years as a teacher, and have held a range of roles including SENCo, assistant head and deputy head. I have also spent some years as a chair of governors. During this time, I have always enjoyed the variety that my roles have offered, from working with pupils, families, staff and other professionals. I particularly enjoy the collaborative element to the role of working in schools, not only with families and staff within the school but with other schools and outside agencies. My view has always been that we are working together to provide the best education for all children. This includes not just those in one school. When I saw the role of Area SENCo advertised, I felt this role would give me the opportunity to continue this collaborative style of working.



#### **What do you enjoy about the role?**

Having only been in post for eight weeks this is a hard question to answer as I am still getting to know all the different elements of the role. But so far, I have really enjoyed meeting the vast number of young people, parents and professionals who I will be working with in RBWM; everyone has made me feel very welcome.

#### **An interesting fact about yourself?**

I like to stay fit which has caused me to return to the world of ice skating after spending about 10 years of my childhood as a competitive skater. My body doesn't bounce as well as it did as a child skater but amazingly I have managed to retain some of the skills involved.

## Chris Caughey | Family Hub Lead

### How did you get into the role?

I have always wanted to work with children and young people and help others, initially my path was focused on being a PE teacher which led me to St Mary's University, Twickenham. After completing my degree, I fell into the unknown of "what next" as the prospect of being a teacher became less appealing. Looking through the paper (that thing we read before social media), one day I saw an advert for Castle Hill Youth Centre, part-time youth worker, three hours a week. This was the same centre I once attended, my thought process was 'you want to pay me to play pool and football, yes please'.



I joined RBWM in 2008 as a part-time youth worker before progressing into numerous full-time roles, including youth website implementation, leading 8 to 13 projects, youth participation and being a senior youth worker, which was where I felt most comfortable and provided most impact through direct 1-1 work with young people. In 2021, our then youth service transformed into the now Family Hub Service, joining forces with the children's centres, family resilience service and parenting service. My role moved from youth work to family work before I had the opportunity of a sole managerial position which is where I remain today, Family Hub Lead (Windsor).

### What do you enjoy about the role?

I've always enjoyed flexibility and freedom within a role, and this role has a variety of responsibilities covering the management of staff as well as the management of programmes and projects. There are many parts of the role I enjoy but here are just two...

I enjoy seeing the growth of staff directly, overcoming challenges, managing complex scenarios, recognising progression in their case outcomes and in themselves. We have a great staff team in the Family Hub Service, all of whom have been on individual journeys in their development, and I like the opportunity I have to provide leadership in supporting them.

Since delivering healthy relationships workshops in schools with the Domestic Abuse Stops Here (DASH) charity many years ago, I have a strong passion and interest in the area of domestic abuse, a topic that impacts every life in one way or another. This has led to my involvement as our service lead for domestic abuse, and attendance at the multi-agency risk assessment conference, the domestic abuse forum and domestic abuse exec group. I am fortunate in having the ability to impact this area both at a more strategic level and also directly through delivery of training, developing our children's programme and in supporting staff members with case reflection.

**An interesting fact about yourself?**

This was a struggle, I really wanted to say I've climbed Everest or something similar but I will keep it simple. I'm proudly half Welsh, and my dad was born and raised in Pembroke, Pembrokeshire, which is a lovely part of the country. I like the small country resilience about Wales, the identity, keeping of traditions and their love and passion for sport. I'm a Welsh rugby fan and there's no better sporting experience than hearing 'Mae Hen Wlad fy Nhadau' at a packed Principality Stadium.

Diolch!

## Sarah Scott | Early Help Advisory Manager



### How did you get into the role?

I have always loved listening to people's stories. I come from a big family and everyone is a storyteller!

I have always worked with young people (since being a young person myself) through volunteering with the church from the age of 12, in hospitals (aged 14 to 16) and later at youth clubs (from the age of 18).

I am told I have a strong work ethic, but I love people, and maybe that comes from being part of a big family. I like listening and helping people, so it has never felt like work to me.

When I was 14, my family and I relocated from North London to Devon. This was a really difficult time as it also coincided with a type 1 diabetes diagnosis. I was a very angry young person at home and a total introvert in school (so can really relate to young people who 'mask' all day). When I came out on the other side, I wanted to give a voice to the other young people who were also facing adversities.

This led me on to study a BA in Youth and Community work in Plymouth (I've never been particularly academic so I got on the course based on the 3000 hours I had completed with Millennium volunteers during my teenage years). During the three year course, I had several placements in drug and alcohol services and a part-time job with a mental health project, which I really enjoyed. After graduating, I did some travelling in Australia (if you ever get the chance, go go go!) and on returning, I relocated to Kingston Upon Thames and lived with my uncle.

My first paid role after graduating was a young carer's support worker in Twickenham. This was a great opportunity for me; I had so much fun during my time there and made a lot of meaningful connections (not just with colleagues in the borough, but with the families I supported).

After this, I went on to become a family support worker with Kingston borough in December 2013 (and was there for AfC's birth in April 2014). I did this role for three years and then stayed at AfC but joined the contact service. After two years there, I considered doing my social work qualification, and having been through and accepted via the application process, I received an email on the day of my interview to say the funding was no longer available. Undeterred, I instead self-funded a master's degree in Advanced Child Protection with the University of Kent, and embarked on a two-year journey of study. At the same time, I was working in an "Edge of Care" service with Surrey County Council, and in my final year, as a safeguarding lead in a large secondary school. I somehow managed to get through it all (with a few grey hairs gained!), and graduated with my MA in August 2019. My thesis subject was: relational trauma in children and assessment implications for child protection practice.



I then applied for a role as a parenting worker with RBWM and got the job. The following year, my current role 'Early Help Advisory Manager' came up and did not require a social work qualification (as it had done previously). With all the relevant training and experience, I knew this was the role for me, and luckily I was offered it.

**What do you enjoy about the role?**

I love the variety of people that I speak to on a daily basis. I love listening to people's stories and helping them to problem solve. My MA has given me the skill to look at our referral information through a micro, macro and meso lens (these are the three levels of analysis that can be used in a variety of fields, including social work, business, ethics, and healthcare).

I love the team that I work with, although we are small - we are mighty! Susan Wood and Tracy Harbage are utterly committed to their job and are incredibly knowledgeable, I am always learning from them.

Most of all I love the opportunities that come my way to influence changes in the system.

**An interesting fact about yourself?**

I am type 1 diabetic and wear an insulin pump (it is the size of a pager which I clip onto my clothes and is connected via a cannula into my stomach). So if I walk past you in the office and I'm buzzing or beeping... you're not going mad, it's just my pump trying to alert me.

## Abbreviations and commonly used terms

- **Achieving for Children (AfC):** community interest company providing children's services in Windsor and Maidenhead.
- **Annual health check:** a free check-up of your overall health.
- **Assessment coordinator or annual reviews officer:** the individual working within the SEND Team at Achieving for Children who coordinates education, health and care needs assessments, and the creation and maintenance of education, health and care plans.
- **Children and young people:** children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- **Children and Young People's Disability Service (CYPDS):** the social care team supporting children with disabilities within Achieving for Children.
- **Children and Young People's Integrated Therapies (CYPIT):** NHS team encompassing occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech and language therapy.
- **Department for Work and Pensions (DWP):** responsible for welfare, pensions and child maintenance policy.
- **Disability Living Allowance (DLA):** a payment to help with care and mobility needs if you're living with a disability.
- **Dynamic support registers (DSRs):** the mechanism for local systems to identify children, young people and adults who are at risk of admission to mental health inpatient services.
- **Education, health and care needs assessment (EHCNA):** a statutory process undertaken by the local authority (Achieving for Children) to determine what support a child or young person needs. This might result in the issue of an education, health and care plan.
- **Education, health and care plan (EHCP):** education, health and care plan.
- **Educational setting:** where a child or young person is educated: early years settings, schools or colleges.
- **EHCP annual review:** the review that is held each year to monitor the progress the child or young person has made towards achieving the intended outcomes in the education, health and care plan.
- **Emotional literacy support assistant (ELSA):** a specialist teaching assistant providing targeted and time-limited intervention support to pupils who have social, emotional and mental health needs.
- **Emotionally related school avoidance (ERSA):** a term referring to pupils who do not attend school, often having prolonged absence due to underlying emotional reasons.
- **IAS Service:** Information, Advice and Support Service.
- **MASH:** Multiagency Safeguarding Hub (also known as SPA) is the single point of contact for all safeguarding concerns about children and young people living in RBWM.
- **NEET:** young people not in education, employment or training.

- **Occupational therapist (OT):** supports children and young people with physical or sensory needs.
- **Preparing for Adulthood (PfA):** the process of moving from childhood into adult life. It is used by professionals to describe the changes in services when a child becomes an adult. This transition can happen at different times for different people.
- **Preparing for Adulthood education engagement officer:** does short pieces of targeted work with young people (aged 16 and above) who need additional support with transition into their next educational provision, and with young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) to re-engage them with educational or training placements.
- **Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM):** local authority in Berkshire, south east England.
- **Special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCo):** a specialist teacher with an additional qualification in special educational needs.
- **Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or special educational needs (SEN).**
- **Single Point of Access (SPA):** single point of contact for all safeguarding and wellbeing concerns regarding children and young people (also known as MASH).
- **Speech and language therapist or therapies (SALT):** supports children and young people who have difficulties with speech, language and communication, as well as swallowing.
- **Transition social worker:** supports the transition out of children's social care into adult services.

## Helpful resources

Website	Number	Email
<a href="#">Autism Berkshire</a>	01189 594594	<a href="mailto:contact@autismberkshire.org.uk">contact@autismberkshire.org.uk</a>
<a href="#">Autism Group</a>	01753 373244	<a href="mailto:info@theautismgroup.org.uk">info@theautismgroup.org.uk</a>
<a href="#">Activities and clubs</a>	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">SEND Register</a>	N/A	<a href="mailto:disabilityregisterRBWM@achievingforchildren.org.uk">disabilityregisterRBWM@achievingforchildren.org.uk</a>
<a href="#">GEMS</a>	01753 373244	<a href="mailto:gems.4health@nhs.net">gems.4health@nhs.net</a>
<a href="#">IAS (Information, Advice and Support Service)</a>	01628 683182	<a href="mailto:ias@rbwm.gov.uk">ias@rbwm.gov.uk</a>
<a href="#">Local Offer</a>	N/A	<a href="mailto:local.offer@achievingforchildren.org.uk">local.offer@achievingforchildren.org.uk</a>
<a href="#">Max Card</a>	N/A	<a href="mailto:maxcard@achievingforchildren.org.uk">maxcard@achievingforchildren.org.uk</a>
<a href="#">Slough - NotJUST A Store</a>	07768 656 973	<a href="mailto:hq@not-just.org.uk">hq@not-just.org.uk</a>
<a href="#">SEND Voices</a>	N/A	<a href="mailto:info@svrbwm.org.uk">info@svrbwm.org.uk</a>
<a href="#">SPA (Single Point of Access)</a>	01628 683150 option 2	<a href="mailto:MASH@achievingforchildren.org.uk">MASH@achievingforchildren.org.uk</a>



If you would like to provide feedback on this local area newsletter edition, please email [disabilityregisterRBWM@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:disabilityregisterRBWM@achievingforchildren.org.uk)