

Hello,

The countdown to Christmas has begun! We have put together a round up of relevant information you may find helpful. We hope you can find a few minutes to yourself to catch up with our latest news and Parents' Share details with a hot cuppa and a mince pie.



Just a reminder we are open and you can always get in touch with us via ias@rbwm.gov.uk. We are picking up messages on 01628 683182 once a day so you can leave a message and we will get back to you. Please note as a term time service we will be closed from Monday 20th December and reopen on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

With best wishes,

Jean, Chris, Lisa & Millie

Have your say on GP services - Healthwatch



Healthwatch Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead want to hear about your experiences of accessing GP services in the Royal Borough from Thursday 1 July this year.

All feedback is anonymous, and the results will be collated and put into a report which will be shared with NHS services and organisations to help shape the way services are developed in the future.

Take part on the [Healthwatch WAM website](#), the closing date to take part is **Friday 31 December**.

Learn more in the [Healthwatch press release](#).

New Year Parents' Share dates Thursday 6th January 9.30-1130am

Our New year Parents' Share meeting is taking place at Friends house and will feature **Kelly Nash, Area SENCo** who will be talking to us about the SEND Consultation and chatting to parents.

Please book a place via :

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parents-share-with-kelly-nash-area-senco-tickets->



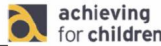
Future dates:

Thursday 3rd February - Venue TBC

Thursday 3rd March - Featuring Dr Caroline Bird, Educational Psychologist Venue tbc

Thursday April 7th .

RBWM's 5 Year SEND Strategy - Consultation



RBWM's 5 year SEND Strategy - Consultation events

AIM

To **improve outcomes** for families and help **raise the achievement** of children and young people with **SEND** so that they can **fulfil their potential**. We want to **strengthen the support** we offer at a time when the amount of funding available is not keeping pace with the growing levels of need, such as autism.

VISION

Every child and young person aged 0-25 with a special educational need and/or disability (SEND) in RBWM **will be happy, healthy and achieve their fullest potential**. All children and young people are entitled to an education that enables them to make progress so that they: **achieve their best; become confident individuals living fulfilling lives and make a successful transition into adulthood**.

MISSION

To implement **an efficient and inclusive system** where practitioners work with families, children and young people aged 0-25, to **develop trust and confidence** in order to build genuine and good quality partnerships. This will be achieved by practitioners from all sectors working together collaboratively to **deliver the most appropriate local provision and support**.

Key Stakeholder	Event
Parents and Carers	Face-to-face (Windsor venue) - Tuesday 11 January 2022, 7-8.30pm Register your interest here
	Face-to-face (Maidenhead venue) - Wednesday 19 January 2-3.30pm Register your interest here
	Online event - Thursday 13 January, 6-7.30pm Register your interest here
Children and Young People	Face-to-face ' Participation day ' - Saturday 22 nd January 2022, 10am-2pm *Information via schools (11+ settings)
Wider community members	Face-to-face Stakeholder Conference – Thursday 27 th January 2022
	Consultation questions will be made available to complete online.

Booking Links

11th January
Face to Face
Windsor

19th January
Face to face
Maidenhead

13th January -
Online

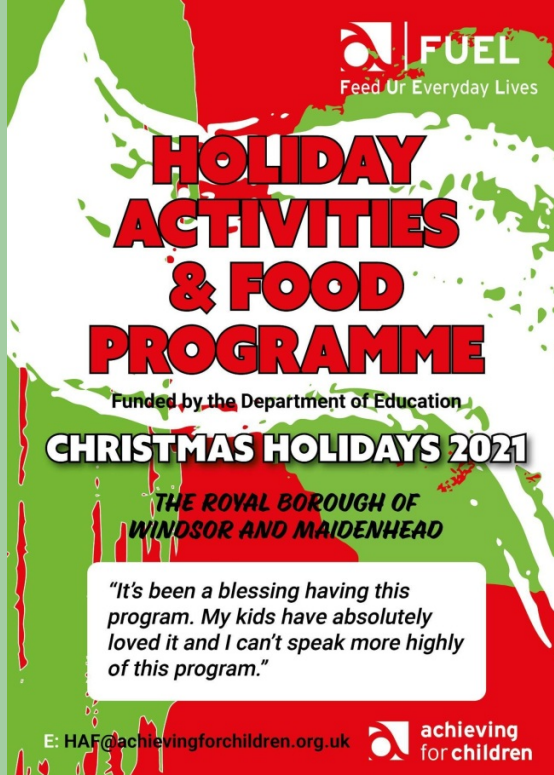
FUEL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The Christmas holiday programme will run for 4 days between 20 and 23 December and there are a number of clubs running across the borough.

In 2020, the government announced funding to enable Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programmes to run across the whole of England in 2021. The programme has provided healthy food and enriching activities to children who are eligible for benefits related free school meals.

The aim of the FUEL programme is:

- To eat healthily and understand nutrition



- To be more active through engaging and enriching activities
- To be safe and not to be socially isolated
- To learn more about the different services Achieving for Children have available in the local area

How much does it cost?

All activities are free for children and young people who receive benefits related free school meals (FSM).

Will my child stand out as receiving free school meals?

A majority of providers camps are also open to the general public for a fee. When booking and during the camps themselves all attempts are made not to highlight those children and families in receipt of free school meals.

SEN support

If you feel your child needs support to access mainstream activities or requires specialist provision please contact us to discuss your child's needs. Our FUEL fund could provide your child with one-to-one support with some providers (these are highlighted on the provider and bookings page)

Book via: <https://rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/community-information/information-and-advice/fuel-holiday-activities-and-food-programme/fuel-providers>

Workshops & Courses

What's coming Up in January 2022...

GEMS offers information and support to parents and carers of children with autism and ADHD within East Berkshire. **To book onto any of the below workshops please contact GEMS on: 0800 999 1342 or gems.4health@nhs.net**



Pre & Post Assessment workshops – ADHD - Tue 11th, 18th & 25th Jan at 7pm to 8.30pm (Online)

Session 1: Provides an insight into what ADHD is. Learn about the challenges and concerns often raised. Explore strengths and opportunities related to ADHD.

Session 2: Learn to understand children's anxiety and how this relates to ADHD.

Session 3: Gain an understanding of attention deficit behaviours and how to manage these.



Adolescence- Thurs 13th Jan at 6.30pm to 8.30pm (Bracknell)

Understanding and responding to the changes and challenges of parenting and caring for teenagers on the autism spectrum



Autism & Food - Fri 21st Jan at 10am to 12pm (Online)

For parents/Carers of autistic children with a limited diet. Exploring reasons why diet can be limited and discussing tips for introducing new foods.



What about me? Supporting siblings- Thurs 27th Jan at 6.30pm to 8pm (Online)

Looking at how to help young people understand and thrive in an autism friendly family.



Sensory Processing - Mon 31st Jan at 7pm to 8.30pm (Online)

What to do when worries take over. Tried and tested strategies to implement yourself.

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Pre & Post Assessment workshops – ADHD - Tue 1st, 8th & 15th Feb at 7pm to 8.30pm (Online)

Session 1: Provides an insight into what ADHD is. Learn about the challenges and concerns often raised. Explore strengths and opportunities related to ADHD.

Session 2: Learn to understand childrens' anxiety and how this relates to ADHD.

Session 3: Gain an understanding of attention deficit behaviours and how to manage these.

Girls and autism - Thurs 10th Feb at 6.30pm to 8pm (Slough)

A look at the behaviours and challenges that may be experienced by girls with autism

High Alert- When anxiety strikes - Thurs 17th Feb at 6.30pm to 8pm (Online)

What to do when worries take over. We take a look at what causes anxiety and some tried and tested strategies to tackle it.



Young Minds Survey

Young Minds want young people aged 13-25 across the UK to tell them what the big issues affecting their lives are. Young Minds think the best people to tell them what needs to change are young people themselves.

That's why Young minds need as many young people as possible to have their say in the Big Young People's Survey. Already 6,000 have taken part - can you help them get to 10,000?

[YoungMinds Survey](#)

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EMAIL OR CALL GEMS ON:

GEMS.4HEALTH@NHS.NET

OR **0800 999 1342**

TO CHECK ELIGIBILITY AND AVAILABILITY



contact
*For families
with disabled children*

CONTACT Factsheets

Contact have some wonderful and very helpful downloadable guides on a huge range of topics. You can find information regarding benefits, education, behaviour, relationships and FAQs. You can find them all via the Contact website <https://contact.org.uk/help-for-families/faqs/>



Dear colleagues,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday on the implementation of [Plan B of the COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan](#) we updated the [Special schools and other specialist settings: coronavirus \(COVID-19 guidance\)](#). The government is clear on the critical importance of not disrupting the education of children and young people and the government will prioritise keeping

all education and childcare settings open. The measures will support this.

The main updates are:

- updated advice on supporting vulnerable children and young people who are self-isolating
- updated advice on tracing close contacts and isolation to reflect the forthcoming change to isolation rules
- updated asymptomatic testing section reflecting that you should encourage visitors to test before coming to your setting
- updated to reflect the latest language on children who were previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable
- additional section on mandatory vaccine certification
- updated workforce section to reflect the latest language on adults who were previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable and to reflect the Government recommendation to work from home if you can

We will keep the guidance under review as the situation develops.

Many thanks

Special Educational Needs and Disability Division



‘What do we see? 2 – How the world looks to vision impaired children’.

Thomas Pocklington Trust launched ‘What do we see? 2 – How the world looks to vision impaired children’. Created for professionals who work with vision impaired children and their families, the video simulates five common sight conditions in an educational setting. It aims to raise awareness and understanding of each condition, how it affects a young person and tips to support them.

The video simulates five of the most prevalent conditions in children and young people in an educational setting and used augmented reality to show how things typically look to those living with: Nystagmus, Retinitis Pigmentosa, Cataracts, Retinopathy of Prematurity and Optic Atrophy.



Let our children be heard

A resource for parents of children with severe and complex speech, language and communication needs from ICAN and Contact.

You can View the resources here [**CDC Website**](#)

NEW IAS WEBSITE!

We are really excited to tell you that our

new website is live!

Please do have a look - the website will have videos and downloadable factsheets. We are always keen to improve so if you have any suggestions do let us know.

[WEBSITE](#)



WINDSOR & MADDENHEAD

**Special Educational
Needs & Disability (SEND)**

Information, Advice
and Support Service
for children, young people and parents



Local Offer

e: ias@rbwm.gov.uk
t: 01628 683182

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Advice & Information](#) [Young People](#) [Useful Links](#) [Contact Us](#)

