

Hello!

If you haven't had the chance to meet us at a Parents' Share morning - do come along - you will be most welcome We are having mince pies and a chat this Thursday 8th Dec in Maidenhead - details below. You don't have to be registered with us, just come along between 9.30-11.30am. Our advisers are available for a chat or to answer any questions you may have about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, there will be other parents there too to share your knowledge, information and to have a chat with someone who may have shared experience. If you are nervous or worried about coming - drop Millie an email millie.rust-clarke@rbwm.gov.uk and she can meet you outside.

We know Christmas can be overwhelming as well as packed full of sensory triggers - we have some tips below as well as details about a resource pack from the Witherslack Group.

From all of us at IAS we wish you a very Merry Christmas

With best wishes,
Jean, Chris Donna & Millie

Meet the team



Jean Hobson
Service Manager



Chris Doyle
Adviser



Donna Hembury
Adviser



Millie Rust-Clarke
Business Support



*Xmas
Parents' Share*

Thursday 8th Dec

0930-1130

*Drop in for a cuppa,
a mince pie
& a chat with us*



@ Friends House, 14 West Street,
Maidenhead



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

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

Emotionally Related School Avoidance (ERSA) & Anxiety

With the Educational Psychology
Service & IAS team

Thursday 19th January 2023
0930-1130

@Friends House, 14 West Street, Maidenhead SL6

Book your free place via :

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/474023044687>



The Transition Event Online

A VIRTUAL EVENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT THEM.

The Transition Event Hub brought to you by My Family your Needs, brings together experts, young people and parents/carers to talk about planning post-school transitions for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Whether you have a question relating to attending a specialist college, legal matters and EHC plans, or you would like to hear from another young person with SEND who can offer their advice, we hope our content supports you and the young people you care for during this next chapter of their lives.

[Find out more here](#)

Feelgood feature - GAP Clubs visit to McLaren

Here's one of The Autism Group (TAGs) highlights - a trip by their GAP club members to the McLaren



Technology Centre . Click on link to review the BBC coverage - best enjoyed with a cup of tea and a big smile! : <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-berkshire-63596593?>

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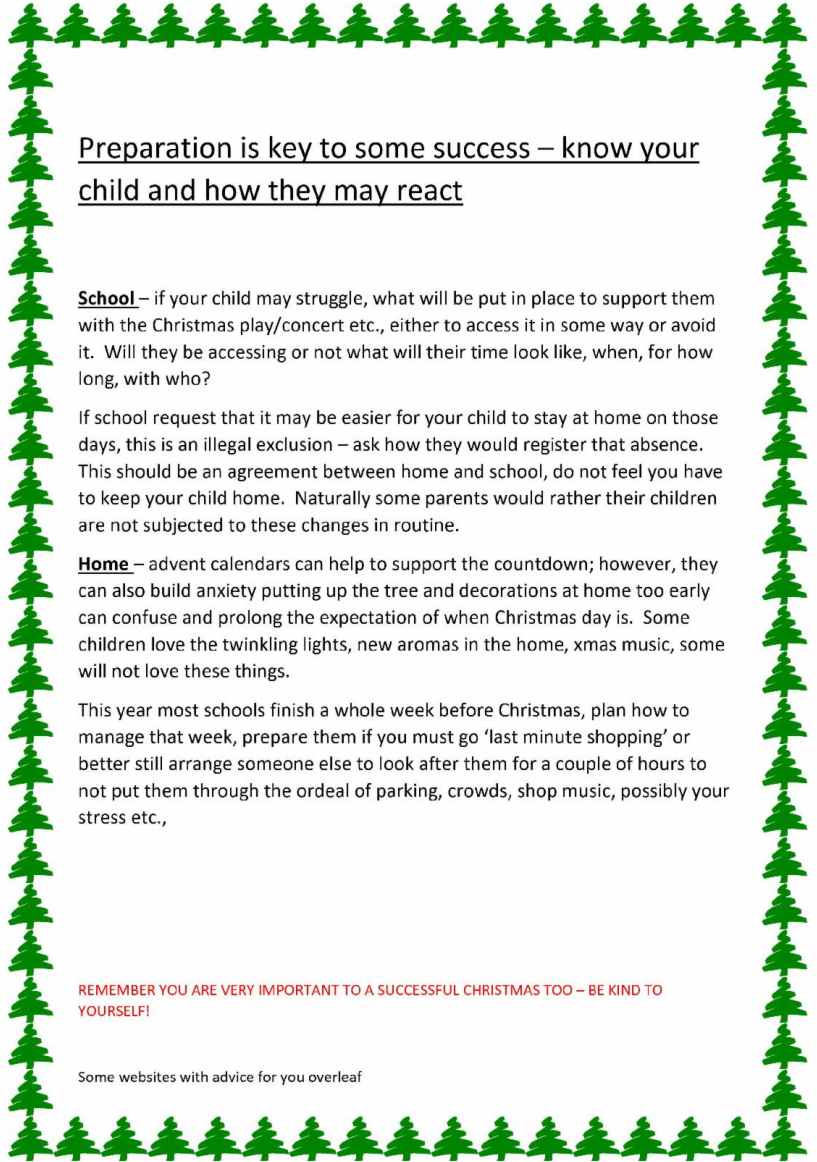
Witherslack group Seasonal Support Pack: Access webinars and podcasts to support you and your family this December!

By signing up to the Witherslack Groups' Seasonal Support Pack you will be given access to a library of resources which have been hand picked to support families over the winter break.

Here are just some of the topics you can expect to be in the support pack-

- Managing sibling relationships
- Changes to routine
- Planning for special occasions
- Top tips for staying calm and positive
- Sleep support
- Practical advice for going on holiday
- Managing anxiety
- Christmas Support Podcast

[Click this link to register for the resources](#)



Preparation is key to some success – know your child and how they may react

School – if your child may struggle, what will be put in place to support them with the Christmas play/concert etc., either to access it in some way or avoid it. Will they be accessing or not what will their time look like, when, for how long, with who?

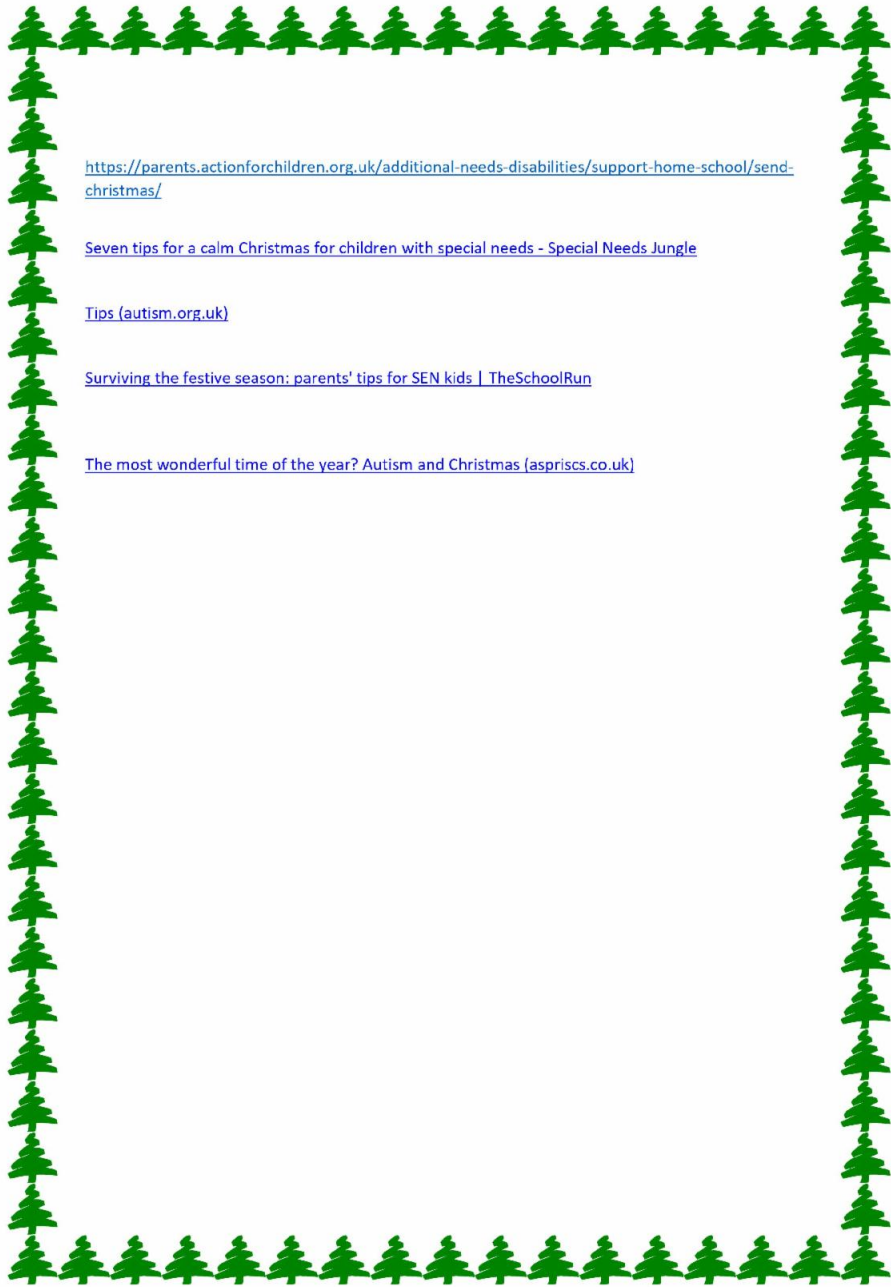
If school request that it may be easier for your child to stay at home on those days, this is an illegal exclusion – ask how they would register that absence. This should be an agreement between home and school, do not feel you have to keep your child home. Naturally some parents would rather their children are not subjected to these changes in routine.

Home – advent calendars can help to support the countdown; however, they can also build anxiety putting up the tree and decorations at home too early can confuse and prolong the expectation of when Christmas day is. Some children love the twinkling lights, new aromas in the home, xmas music, some will not love these things.

This year most schools finish a whole week before Christmas, plan how to manage that week, prepare them if you must go 'last minute shopping' or better still arrange someone else to look after them for a couple of hours to not put them through the ordeal of parking, crowds, shop music, possibly your stress etc.,

REMEMBER YOU ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO A SUCCESSFUL CHRISTMAS TOO – BE KIND TO YOURSELF!

Some websites with advice for you overleaf



<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/additional-needs-disabilities/support-home-school/send-christmas/>

[Seven tips for a calm Christmas for children with special needs - Special Needs Jungle](#)

[Tips \(autism.org.uk\)](#)

[Surviving the festive season: parents' tips for SEN kids | TheSchoolRun](#)

[The most wonderful time of the year? Autism and Christmas \(aspriscs.co.uk\)](#)

Manage your energy bills and your carbon footprint.

Sustainable Warmth is a new Government grant scheme designed to provide **FREE** fully-funded energy-efficiency upgrades and **YOU** could be eligible.

- Designed to support households most likely to be impacted by rising fuel bills.
- Energy-saving tech and upgrades installed by TrustMark-approved installers.
- Creating warmer, healthier homes.
- Helping to cut carbon emissions.
- Funding available for homes on and off the gas grid.

Want to find out if you're eligible for a **Sustainable Warmth Grant**? Use the details below to find out more.

Visit: www.berkshire-applications.co.uk or call City Energy on: 02921 680951

Apply by 31 December 2022

Find out more at <https://rbwmtogather.rbwm.gov.uk/hub-page/environment-and-sustainability> or scan the code below:



www.rbwm.gov.uk



SCAN ME TO APPLY



#MANAGEYOURENERGYBILLS



Household Support Grant

The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead has been given £587,905 in the latest round of the government's Household Support Fund, to help vulnerable households most in need this winter.

Some £300,000 of this funding will help vulnerable residents facing very difficult

choices around household expenditure, such as between heating and eating. This complements the council's wider cost of living support in its 'Here to Help' campaign. For the rest of the funding, nine frontline distribution partners will identify those residents in greatest need to receive a one-off cash payment of £145.

For more details visit about the Household Support Fund and other help available, please visit www.rbwm.gov.uk/here-to-help.