

Hello!

We hope you are well and keeping warm now the weather has turned.

We are excited to be launching our **IAS Surgery** next month. An opportunity for you to book a 15minute slot with an adviser face to face to discuss anything you need to regarding SEND. You can find details below. Please note we do not need to be working with you for you to book an appointment so please do share this with friends and family who may find it helpful.

If we have worked with you this academic year, or in the summer term this year we really need your feedback - it takes no more than a few minutes but really helps us improve our service. The survey is anonymous but helps us get a better understanding of how our service is impacting families. You can find the form here: <https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/ias-evaluation>

With best wishes,
Jean, Chris Donna & Millie

Parents' Share Programme



We hold monthly meetings that we call The Parents' Share where parents and carers can come and share their experiences, knowledge and successes. Sometimes we have speakers and we are always open to new ideas and topics so do drop us a line to let us know.

You can book your free place for the following sessions via the links below.

NEW!

IAS Surgery - 6th December at Ascot Library

Book a 15 minute slot with one of our advisers, come and have a cuppa with other parents and carers whilst you wait. Book by emailing us here ias@rbwm.gov.uk
Please note you do not need to be registered with us to attend.

SEN Support & Inclusion Quality Mark 16th November

An Information session all about SEN support in schools: what you can expect from your child/young persons school and what the Quality Inclusion Mark for Schools is. Session being delivered by Kelly Nash, Area SENCo and IAS team, with a Q&A opportunity.

Book here

Emotionally Related School Avoidance (ERSA) with the Educational Psychology service - 22nd November

An information session regarding Emotionally Related School avoidance run by the Educational Psychology service and IAS advisers, opportunity for Q&A at the end of the session. **Book here**

A Parent guide to Alternative Provision 10th December

A guide to what Alternative provision is, what it looks like in RBWM and what you can expect from it. **Book here**

Wellbeing Session and Mental Health with Kooth & RBWM Mental Health team 18th January 2024

What Mental health support is there for you, your child /young person within the borough. What resources are there and how does it work.

Book here

Preparing for Adulthood session 22nd February

What does the pathway for Preparing for Adulthood look like, what does transition look like, what help is there - come along and find out with the PfA team.

Book here

News, Webinars, Events & Information



East Berkshire Neurodiversity network

Save the date - The next network meeting will take place on Thursday 28th November at 12:30pm - 2pm.

Come and join us to hear from Pauline Peters and Samina Hussain, Senior Transformation Leads from Frimley ICB.

During this meeting, Samina and Pauline will be asking

network members to engage in feedback sessions focusing on how we can improve services for neurodivergent Children and Young People.

This is an opportunity to talk about your experiences and to contribute to service design and delivery.

To register for the session, please follow the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpdO-tqzsjHdysPiBmWmi8-uisFZAktgF2>

Once registered, you will be sent a link to join the meeting. You must register to receive the link.



Do you live in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead? Have you left education recently?

At Achieving for Children, we deliver social care, education and health services to young people across RBWM, and we want to involve you as we review our **Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) transition process**. As you might already know, the PfA transition describes the time when a young person moves into adult life, this might be volunteering, work or university. If you can relate to this, we want to hear from you on:

- **Were you offered any support?**
- **How easy was it to access the support?**
- **Where did the majority of the support come from?**
- **Did it feel relevant and helpful?**
- **What went well?**
- **What can we do better?**

To share your views, please contact Jo Dixon, PfA Transition Project Manager on: joanne.dixon@achievingforchildren.org.uk or call/text 07849304655

Tales for Children

If You're Three or Thirty, Nine or Ninety
These are the Tales for You

A very big fat frog has drunk all the water in the world. The animals are gasping. How can they make him laugh so he'll splurge it out?

A young man takes himself off before mum turns him into a sardine. Can three trolls get him up the crystal mountain to win the prize?

Three boys get magic presents from their uncle – a telescope, a carpet, and a lemon. Which one can heal the princess's squirrel flu?

Storyteller: David England and his drum
Beat the Drum Yourself. Tell Your Own Story.

**Maidenhead
Quaker Meeting House**
West Street (behind M&S), SL6 1RL

**21st October
at 2pm**



CENTRE *for* AUTISM
Wellbeing
Hub Launch

Thursday 9 November 2023 – in person and online event

In person: 19:00–21:00, G10 lecture theatre, Palmer Building,
Whiteknights Campus

Online: 19:00–20:15

Please join us for the launch of the new Centre for Autism Wellbeing Hub at the University of Reading. The aim of the Hub is to support autistic young people and their families to lead their best lives.

During this hybrid event, we will give an overview of the project and set out how our local community will be involved in shaping its future direction. It will include talks from:

- **Professor Robert Van de Noort**, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Reading
- **Professor Carmel Houston-Price**, Head of the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences
- **Sarah O'Brien**, autistic advocate, academic, published author and University of Reading alumnus
- **Dr Fiona Knott** and **Dr Jo Billington**, Wellbeing Hub project leads

Refreshments will be available afterwards for those attending in person.

For more details and to book your place, please [visit our website](#).



*Achieving for Children have made a video explaining the **SEND Local Offer website** in a bit more detail.*

The video can be found here: <https://rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/local-offer/information-and-advice/how-to-use-the-local-offer-website>



Please share! It's really important that

all parents, carers and professionals understand the impact of poor visual acuity and the simple steps that really make a difference.

You'll find the video on our YouTube channel, but we've also added it to our website with all our other resources on vision and eye health. [Click here to find them all.](#)



contact
For families
with disabled children

Lawyers lend support to free school meals campaign

Contact share thier new free school meals template letters - written by human rights lawyers, and our latest events include sessions on moving into adulthood.

Many eligible disabled children are unfairly missing out on a free lunch because they can't attend school or are unable to eat the meal provided due to dietary or sensory needs. Human rights lawyers have [written a free school meals guide and four template letters](#) to help families whose disabled child is eligible for free school meals, but can't access them in the standard way.

You can highlight your particular situation in [our online flow chart](#). You'll be directed to the correct template letter to use. The letters include important information including who to send the letter to at the school or local authority.



Children out of school: your top questions - IPSEA

If you missed IPSEA's recent webinar 'My child is out of school - what can I do?' you can still [catch up on the recording](#).

Topics include:

- Reasons why children may not be in school,
- What to do if a child or young person with an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan is out of school,
- What to do if a child or young person without an EHC plan is out of school,
- What the law says for different age groups, and Next steps and where to go for help.

Witherslack Webinars and Online Resources



Register your place at witherslackgroup.co.uk/what-is-autism

Webinar: What Is Autism?

Presenter: Anne-Marie Harrison,
Education Director from Ideas Afresh
Education

Date: Tuesday 31st October



Register your place at witherslackgroup.co.uk/celebrations-and-sensory-processing

Webinar: Celebrations & Sensory Processing

Presenters: Laura Oliver and
Margaret Morton, Occupational
Therapists from our Group

More info & sign up at:
<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/resources/what-is-autism/>

Date: Friday 3rd November
More info & sign up at:
<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/resources/celebrations-and-sensory-processing/>



Support Pack: ADHD Awareness Month

Free advice & support for parents and carers who are looking for strategies to support children with ADHD.

More info & sign up at:
<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/resources/adhd-awareness-month/>



Podcast: Embracing Neurodiversity & Home Life

Guest speaker: Tracy Bowyer, Parenting Co-ordinator from The ADHD Foundation Neurodiversity Charity

Listen now at:
<https://shows.acast.com/631212e3a66f240012d94c79/652cfb66bf84120012aff5be>