

November 2024



## Welcome from Nina Broderick - Inclusion Lead

Welcome to December's newsletter! I'm Nina Broderick, the Inclusion Service Leader. I oversee many different areas, including the Specialist Teaching Team, SEND Support Service, Local Offer, SEND Youth Council, and other project work.



December and the Christmas break can be a very exciting time of year for all but also one where children and families can easily come to feel overwhelmed by. I'd like to share with you our information on supporting services that maybe helpful to you at this time:

[How you feel matters in Milton Keynes | Milton Keynes City Council](#)

[Coping over the festive season | Milton Keynes City Council](#)

While many children adapt well to changes and enjoy the Christmas activities at school, this time of year can be challenging for some. If you are concerned about your child's adjustments, please speak to the SENCo to review and adjust support.

Should further advice and support be needed, [SENDIAS](#) can also offer impartial information and advice.

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## My Voice Counts - SEND Youth Council

We are extremely proud of our SEND Youth Council's achievements this term. They attended the first Milton Keynes Youth Summit, engaging with leaders and developing their debating skills. They also met with SEND Partnership Manager Mim Kendrick to inform thinking towards the new SEND Strategy, with the current

strategy due to come to an end this academic year. Members also had a very important vote on their name, which they agreed by majority to now be known as 'My Voice Counts' which I'm sure we will all agree is a fantastic and very fitting new name.

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## Ordinarily Available Provision

We are excited to share that two important documents have been developed collaboratively by a range of stakeholders across Milton Keynes. This was an action of the Inclusion SEND Strategy Workstream.

These documents, called the "Ordinarily Available Provision", outline a comprehensive range of adjustments and provisions that could be provided as part of the ordinarily available support within schools and settings.

One document is specifically for early years, and the other is for school-age children. They serve as valuable reference points for all setting/school staff, helping them plan necessary adjustments and targeted support for students with additional needs. These documents explain provision that can be in place in settings and schools within what is known as the 'graduated approach' and would not require an Educational Health Care Plan to access.

[Ordinarily Available Provision - Early Years](#)

[Ordinarily Available Provision - School Age](#)

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## Activities and events

Please find a selection of events listed below, more can be found here [SEND calendar of events](#).

[Woburn Emporium Ice Skating](#) – various dates available

[Relaxed screening Wicked MK Gallery](#) – 15.12.24

[Top Jump SEND Session](#) – various dates available.

[Willen on Ice](#) – 19.12.24

[Thomley Breakfast with Father Christmas](#) – 20.12.24, 21.12.24, 22.12.24, 23.12.24

[Thomley](#) have a variety of events over the Christmas holidays

[Climb Quest SEND Sessions](#) – 22.12.24

[Land of lights at Gulliver's](#)- various dates available

[Christmas at Mead Open Farm](#) - various dates available



## Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2024

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) program offers free activities and meals for children and young people who receive benefit-related Free School Meals. Running for 4 days from 30th December 2024, the program includes sports camps, theatre performances, outdoor adventures, and more. Bookings opened on 1st December.

For more information and booking, please see the [HAF page on the MKCC website.](#)

**Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2024**

## Phase Transfer

Phase transfer is when a child moves to a new stage of education. During this time, their Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan is reviewed to ensure it still meets their needs in the new setting.

The SEND team are in the process of finalising placements for September 2025 for children with an EHCP who are due to either:

- start school
- currently in Year 2 (attending infant school provision)
- Year 6

If you have a child/children in one of those year groups you will be receiving an email by the 15 February 2025 with their next provision named on the plan.

For any questions after receiving this notification, email [ehcp@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:ehcp@milton-keynes.gov.uk), and a team member will reply within 5 working days.

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## Starting primary or junior/middle school in September 2025

For children at SEND support or who are currently within the EHC assessment process, to find out more about applying for a school place, please use the following link.

[Starting primary or junior/middle school in September 2025](#)

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## Short breaks

For children/young people with a finalised EHCP you may be interested in the following [short break](#) offers:

### Booking lab

We would like to remind families to sign up for the short break online vouchers, please find the link [here](#).

We are continuing to reach out to providers to sign up for the short breaks service. Please find further information on the [Booking Lab link on the Local Offer!](#)

### SportWorks

SportWorks is our commissioned short break provider, who offer after school, weekend and holiday activities.

Please find further information on the [sportworks website](#).

[Information on SportWorks](#) and their booking system can be found [here](#).

### Land of lights

As part of our short breaks offer for children and young people with an EHCP, we are excited to offer for a second year running children and young people, along with an accompanying adult, a free ticket to Land of Lights on January 2nd at either 18:00 or 18:15. You will have an email from the short breaks team advising how to book your ticket or you can book your tickets [here!](#)

Please note there is a limited number of tickets and it is a first come first served basis.



## Parents and Carers Alliance (PACA)



[PACA MK](#) will be taking a break over the festive period, from Tuesday 24 December to Wednesday 01 January.

Messages will be picked up during this time with a delayed response. We look forward to connecting with families over the festive period whether you're attending our webinars, online coffee and chat or Family Christmas Party .

Please keep an eye on our [Calendar](#) which is updated regularly for events and coffee mornings in 2025.

## SEND IAS Update

[MK SENDIAS](#) Service will be closed over the festive period, from Wednesday 25 December to Wednesday 01 January. We will re-open on Thursday 02 January 2025 and will respond to any messages left during holidays as soon as possible.

The SENDIAS team would like to extend our warmest wishes for the festive period and a Happy New Year to each and every one of you.

Please see information for the [SEND Drop In January](#)



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## [SEND Local offer](#)

For more information on services, support and activities for children and young people with SEND can be found on our [Local Offer website](#).

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**Wishing everyone a restful break.**





## Sign up!

We produce this newsletter half termly. If you are not receiving this directly and would like to, [please follow this link to sign up.](#)

We welcome your views on the newsletter and any ideas you have for future editions, please share your views via [email.](#)

[Sign up here!](#)

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**This newsletter has been co-produced between and the MKCC SEND Team, SENDIAS, Health colleagues and with engagement from Parents and Carers Alliance (PACA MK).**

*PACA is an independent forum for parent carers of children and young people with disabilities or additional needs who live in Milton Keynes.*

*We share our experiences with the SEND Team as an independent voice representing what matters to families in MK. We do this by taking an active role in meetings such as the Short Breaks Steering Group, Local Offer Group and the SEND Strategic Partnership Board.*

*The idea for this newsletter came from our regular meetings with the SEND Team, with the aim of keeping parents informed and up to date with the latest developments in SEND.*

*If you are a parent and would like to join PACA MK, or would like to know more about us, please visit [PACA MK](#)*

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**Note: Please do not respond directly to this email.**

For SEND queries email: [SEND support line](#)