

Walsall SEND Service Communications



Walsall Council

SPRING 2 2026

WELCOME TO THE WALSALL SEND SERVICE SPRING TERM 2 COMMUNICATIONS

These communications are designed for parents and carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Here, we share important updates, celebrate successes, and highlight opportunities for you to engage with and shape SEND services in Walsall. We are committed to working together to improve support, services, and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. Your voice matters, and we welcome your feedback and involvement.

ARE YOU ON OUR MAILING LIST?



Stay up to date with the latest SEND news, updates, and events in Walsall by joining our mailing list. If you are not already receiving our emails, please contact: localoffer@walsall.gov.uk

OFSTED & CQC LOCAL AREA SEND & AP INSPECTION REPORT

Following a detailed three-week inspection in December 2025, Ofsted and the CQC have published their report on Walsall's Local Area Partnership.

The report highlights clear, positive progress across Walsall Council and the NHS Black Country ICB - SEND and AP Partnership in how they support children and young people with SEND and those in Alternative Provision.

Inspectors recognised significant development, acknowledging the hard work and dedication of teams across the partnership. While the report also outlines areas for continued improvement, it reflects a strong foundation and real momentum for ongoing change.

You can read the full report here: [Ofsted Report](#)

A full summary is also available on the SEND Newsroom: [SEND Newsroom](#)



SHARE YOUR VIEWS ON PROPOSED SEND CHANGES



The Government has recently published a Schools White Paper called *Every Child Achieving and Thriving*.

Alongside this, a national consultation has been launched on proposed changes to the SEND system called *Putting Children and Young People First*.

These are proposals only, which means nothing is changing for children and young people with SEND right now.

Your child's support, including SEND Support, Education, Health and Care needs assessments (EHCNAs) and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), will continue to work in the same way as they do currently. The consultation simply invites families and professionals to share their views before any decisions are made.

When might anything change?

Any changes would happen gradually over a number of years.

The consultation information suggests that:

- assessments under any new system would begin from September 2029
- any changes to support provided through EHCPs would not take place before September 2030

For families, this means that your child's current support and legal rights remain the same.

Have your say

Parents, carers, young people and professionals are invited to share their views as part of the national consultation.

The consultation will close on **18 May 2026**.

Respond to the consultation here: [SEND Reform Consultation](#)

Further information

- [SEND consultation supporting information sheets](#)
- [SEND reform - information in alternative formats](#)



EMPOWERING PARENTS: FREE SEND INFORMATION SESSIONS

A SEND PARENT'S GUIDE: UNDERSTANDING SEN SUPPORT & EHCPs



This information session explains how support begins with SEN Support and how this forms the foundation for any future EHCP request.

What The Session Covers:

- Understanding the support schools can offer
- How to work together with school staff in a positive way and feel confident in the conversations you're having
- Ideas and questions to use when talking about your child's support to help you feel prepared and involved in decisions about your child's support
- How schools decide when further assessment might be needed and the steps they follow

📅 18th March 2026

🕒 6pm - 7:30pm

📍 Online Via MS Teams

Use the link or scan the QR to book your place now:
[Understanding SEN Support & EHCPs](#)



A SEND PARENT'S GUIDE: UNDERSTANDING SEND SUPPORT IN SCHOOLS



Learn how schools support children with additional needs and what help should be in place for every child. This information session will help you understand what Ordinarily Available Provision and SEN Support look like in practice, and give you the confidence to have informed conversations with your child's school.

What The Session Covers:

- Learn what Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) means and the support schools should offer all children every day.
- Understand how this support comes before a child is placed on SEN Support or starts the Graduated Approach.
- Feel more confident talking with your child's teacher or SENCO about the help your child may need.

📅 21st April 2026

🕒 10:30am - 12pm

📍 In Person - Walsall Civic Centre

Use the link or scan the QR to book your place now:
[Understanding SEND Support](#)



A SEND PARENT'S GUIDE: EHCP ANNUAL REVIEWS - MAKING THEM MATTER



This session explores how Annual Reviews work, why they matter, and how they support key transitions. Families will learn how to prepare, contribute effectively, and work with schools and professionals to ensure plans stay relevant and focused on their child's needs.

What The Session Covers:

- What an Annual Review is and why it matters
- Roles of schools, families, and other professionals
- How Annual Reviews link to key transitions (e.g., primary to secondary, post-16)
- How to prepare effectively and contribute as a parent
- Practical ideas and helpful resources

📅 6th May 2026

🕒 6pm - 7:30pm

📍 Online Via MS Teams

Use the link or scan the QR to book your place now:
[EHCP Annual Reviews - Making Them Matter](#)



A SEND PARENT'S GUIDE: PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD:



Preparing for adulthood works best when everyone works together. This session will explain what Preparing for Adulthood (PFA) means in practice and how schools, families and services work together to support children and young people to prepare for adulthood.

What The Session Covers:

- What Preparation for Adulthood (PFA) is and why it is important
- The 4 key areas of PFA
- How you as a parent can help at home with simple, practical steps
- What schools and settings are expected to do
- Tips, advice, and useful resources to make the journey easier

📅 10th June 2026

🕒 10:30am - 12pm

📍 In Person - Walsall Civic Centre

Use the link or scan the QR to book your place now:
[Preparing for Adulthood](#)



JOIN OUR SEND PARENT PARTNERSHIP GROUP



SEND PARENT PARTNERSHIP GROUP

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person with **Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)**? We want to hear from you!

Join our **SEND Parent Partnership Group** to share your experiences, provide valuable feedback, and help shape SEND services in Walsall

Why Join?

- **Have your say** - Share your thoughts, ideas, and experiences.
- **Make a difference** - Contribute to improving SEND support and services in Walsall.
- **Connect with others** - Meet with other parents and carers like you!

Together, we can create positive change!

If you're interested in joining, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Sam:

 samantha.house@walsall.gov.uk

 Walsall Council

Are you passionate about making a difference for children and young people with SEND? We're looking for more parents and carers to join our Parent Partnership Group.

This group meets every **4 weeks**, either online via MS Teams or in person, to discuss a variety of topics and share ideas that help shape local services.

Your feedback is invaluable, and we'd love to hear your voice!

“

The partnership group has made me feel involved in making positive changes. I feel heard and that my opinions are valued. It is a great opportunity to meet with parents in the same boat which is great as we are able to share tips & help each other. Sam is fantastic makes us all feel welcome

”



Next Meeting:

When: **Tuesday, 24th March**

Time: **10:30am - 12:30pm**

Location: **In Person at Walsall Civic Centre**

For more details or to get involved, please contact us at

Localoffer@walsall.gov.uk.

FAMILIES FIRST FOR CHILDREN SEND PARENT SUPPORT SURVEY



Families First are looking at new ways to improve support for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND, and they want to shape this support with you.

To do that, they need to hear from as many families as possible. Please complete the short SEND Parent Support Questionnaire below. Your experiences and ideas will help design a support offer that genuinely reflects what families need.

The more families who take part, the stronger and more representative the final support offer will be. Thank you for taking the time to share your views.

Complete Questionnaire here: [SEND Parent Support Questionnaire](#)

PARENT/CARER SUPPORT

WALSALL SENDIASS WORKSHOPS

For more info and book your space contact Walsall

SENDIASS here: [WalsallSENDIASS](https://www.walsall.gov.uk/sendias)

Date	Time	Session	Venue
Wednesday 14th January 2026	11am-12:30pm	Workshop 5 - How to make a request for a Parental lead EHCP	Manor Farm Community Centre, Rushall, Walsall, WS41EU (Room 3)
Tuesday 10th February 2026	10am-11:30am	Workshop 6 - Appealing school placement (Section I)	Manor Farm Community Centre, Rushall, Walsall, WS41EU (Room 3)
Thursday 12th March 2026	10am-11:30am	Workshop 7 - How to make a request for a parent lead EHCP	Manor Farm Community Centre, Rushall, Walsall, WS41EU (Room 3)
Monday 20th April 2026	10am-11:30am	Workshop 8 - How to approach a school meeting and any ongoing problems	Manor Farm Community Centre, Rushall, Walsall, WS41EU (Room 3)
Thursday 14th May 2026	11am -12:30pm	Workshop 9 - Refusal to Assess workshop	Manor Farm Community Centre, Rushall, Walsall, WS41EU (Room 3)
Tuesday 9th June 2026	11am-12:30pm	Workshop 10 - Refusal to Issue Workshop	Manor Farm Community Centre, Rushall, Walsall, WS41EU (Room 3)
Tuesday 14th July 2026	10:00-11:30am	Workshop 11 - Surviving the Summer holidays and Activities available	Manor Farm Community Centre, Rushall, Walsall, WS41EU (Room 3)

PARENT/CARER SUPPORT



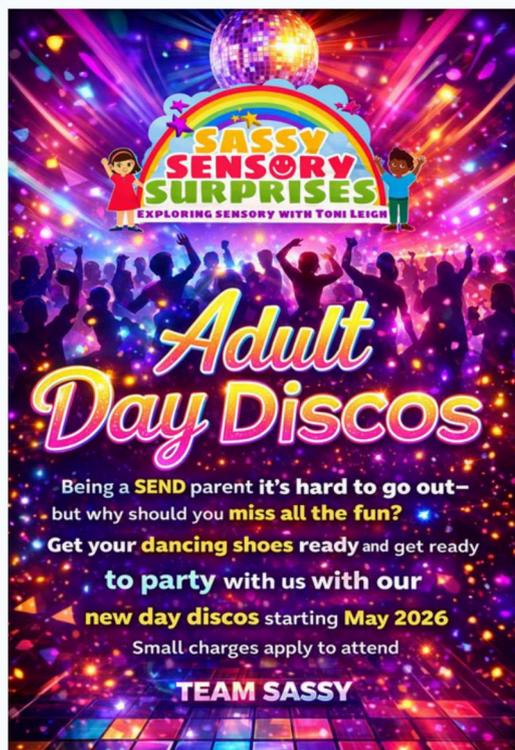
FACE WALSALL PARENT CARER FORUM

The forum is not a support group but actively gathers parents' voices and experiences to ensure families' needs are at the heart of local decision-making

See Below for upcoming events:

Date	Event	Location
Monday 16 th March 7pm	SEND Reform - Ken Upton	Online Via Zoom
Wednesday 18 th March 7pm	Developmental Language Disorder - Libby Hill	Online Via Zoom
Saturday 21 st March 2pm - 4pm	FACE Easter Party	Starlight Multicare
Tuesday 24 th March 10:30am	Coffee & Breakfast	Harvester George Stephenson

For more info please use this link: [FACE Walsall Facebook Group](#) or alternatively drop them an email on: facewalsall@gmail.com



Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

Join us for a relaxed Mother's Day Afternoon Tea with Sassy Sensory Surprises CIC, a chance for SEND parents and carers in the community to come together in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Date: Tuesday 17th March 2026

Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Location: Wolverhampton - open to all send families

For more info contact Toni on:

toni@sassysensorysurprises.co.uk

HEALTH SUPPORT

SUPPORTED WAITING NETWORK DATES

The supported waiting partnership network meetings will be running every month where there will be guest speakers to advise on a variety of monthly topics and many services who support with access to additional support for you and your child.

Each monthly meeting will be held on the **Last Wednesday of the month, 9:30am - 11:30am** at **Manor Farm Community Association, Rushall, WS4 1EU**

Upcoming Dates:

- Wednesday 25th March
- Wednesday 29th April
- Wednesday 27th May
- Wednesday 24th June

For more information or further advice please call: **01922 656463**
or email pals.officer@nhs.net



ANNUAL HEALTH CHECKS FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

An annual health check can help you stay well by talking to a doctor or nurse about your health and finding any problems early, so they can be sorted out. For children and young people 14 years and above with a diagnosed learning disability.



For more info click this link: [AnnualHealthCheck](#)



Health for Kids makes learning about health fun with games, colourful characters and simple guides for children, plus helpful advice for grown-ups

For more info: [Health for Kids](#)

HEALTH FOR TEENS

Health for Teens offers clear, supportive information on everything from feelings and growing up to health, relationships, lifestyle and sexual health. With articles, guides and local updates, it's a one-stop hub to help young people stay informed, confident and healthy

More Info: [Health for Teens](#)

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



Define Fine is a national parent carer led peer support organisation.

Our team all have lived experience of children and young people with school attendance difficulties, sometimes referred to as EBSA: Emotionally Based School Avoidance.

Parent Carers are invited to join our national closed Facebook parent peer support group of over 7.5k members. We provide information, peer to peer support, regular Q&A sessions online bookable through Eventbrite.

For more info use this link: [DefineFine](#)

YOUNGMINDS

The **YOUNGMINDS** website is full of advice and information to give young people the tools to look after their mental health.

YOUNGMINDS has a great bank of resources to support children and young people with SEND with their mental health.

For more info check out this link: [YOUNGMINDS](#)



Scan to get started or visit: kooth.com



It can be hard to know what to do when you have something on your mind. That's why Kooth is here. We are totally free and anonymous — and we're here whenever you need us. Go to kooth.com whenever you're worried, feeling low — or just need someone to listen.

Feeling worried?
Text chat with our team. They're here to support you with whatever you're going through. We won't ask for your name or address and you don't need a referral from your doctor.

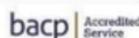
Feeling alone?
Use our forums and discussion boards to get advice, find people who feel the same — and to help others. You can also share your experiences anytime by submitting a poem or article.

Feeling unsure?
It may help you to write your feelings down, or to set a personal goal. At Kooth, you can set goals and use an online journal whenever you choose.

Feeling lost?
We have a tonne of helpful podcasts, videos and articles on all kinds of topics, from self harm, anxiety and depression to coming out, relationships and self care.

Free to use	No doctor's referral needed	We're a BACP* accredited service	Live text chats with our team from midday to 10pm on weekdays and from 6pm to 10pm at weekends.
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Start here kooth.com: free access to support today.



*BACP stands for British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy. We're an accredited service, and our practitioners are either BACP accredited or working towards it. You're in safe hands.

Free Emotional Wellbeing Support for Young People in Walsall



Wysa's **AI wellbeing coach** provides a safe, non-judgmental space to talk about anything on your mind. Whether you're struggling with **sleep, exam stress**, or just need support, Wysa is here to listen.

Gain full access to **150+ self-help exercises**, from mindfulness and meditation to therapy tools for anxiety and depression.

Get **FREE** student wellbeing support today!

Student download

Scan the QR code from your phone OR use the link: <https://get.wysa.uk/rVzkVH2LmBb>

If asked for a code, please enter: BCWA2023

Please note: Free resources for students can ONLY be accessed via the QR code or link above, not by downloading the Wysa Everyday Mental Health App from the Google Play or App Store. Only accessible via mobile device, not accessible from a desktop device.



CHILDREN/YOUNG PERSON OPPORTUNITIES

SHORT BREAKS provide opportunities for children and young people with a disability to spend time away from their families, relax, develop new friendships, take part in new experiences, and have fun doing positive activities. They also give families a break from their caring responsibilities, a chance to rest or spend time with their other children.



The Universal offer can include activities like leisure and sports services, youth and play services, voluntary and community facilities and sports and games clubs

The Targeted offer - School Holiday activities, to access this, children and young people should:

- be aged from 8 to 17 years old (up to their 18th birthday)
- live in Walsall
- have a diagnosed disability and
- be in receipt of disability living allowance (DLA)
- An up-to-date short breaks passport (reviewed and updated within the last 12 months) is required to access the service, to ensure we have the right information for the planning of activities and support for our children and young people

The Short Break booklet and expression of interest online form for the activity schemes for every holiday (excluding Christmas) is available six weeks before each school holiday. For information on how to sign up please email: shortbreaks@walsall.gov.uk



Thrive into Work are offering 1-to-1 job finding support to young people with additional needs including health conditions

For more info use this link: [ThriveIntoWork](#)



Get hands-on with Radio, Podcasting, Video Production, Scriptwriting, Interviewing and Editing for **13-25 yr olds**.

For more info on how to get involved
Email studio@kicradio.co.uk

Calibre Audio are offering **FREE**

Audiobooks for young people under 25 with additional needs - scan the QR code or use the link for more info:

[CalibreAudio](#)



Sibs

For brothers and sisters
of disabled children and adults



Sibs is a UK charity that exists to support people who grow up with or have grown up with a disabled brother or sister.

For more information on how they could support your family use this link: [Sibs](#)

CHILDREN/YOUNG PERSON OPPORTUNITIES



P.O.P.
POSITIVE OUTCOMES PROJECT

SCAN ME
15 - 25

The Positive Outcomes Project (POP) supports 15–25-year-olds in Walsall with challenges such as mental health, employment, finances, and isolation. The service offers mentoring and one-to-one support through referrals, connecting individuals with trained staff for tailored wellbeing support.



Wednesdays
3:30pm - 5:30pm

- Socialising
- Safe Space
- Confidence Building
- Hobbies and Activities

Fridays
11am - 1pm

- CV Writing
- Job Searching
- Interview Preparation
- College and Apprenticeship Support

Electric Palace, Palace Play, Shop, Eat, Blakenall Row, Walsall, WS3 1LW



popwalsall.co.uk








Supported Internships at Asda

A transition to work programme for young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

What does it involve?

This supported internship programme gives young people with special educational needs the chance to learn real job skills in a busy Asda store.

Interns spend one year learning in the workplace, supported by a job coach, department mentors, and a dedicated classroom tutor. They follow a mix of classroom teaching and hands-on experience in different Asda departments, with the programme running Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Across the year, interns take part in several job rotations so they can try different roles, discover their strengths, and build a wide range of skills. The aim is to help each young person grow in confidence, independence, and overall work readiness.

What skills will I learn?

- Practical experience in real Asda departments.
- Workplace communication skills
- Teamwork and working alongside colleagues
- Problem-solving and following workplace routines
- Building independence in day-to-day tasks
- Growing confidence in a busy, real-world environment
- Preparing for future employment

Who can apply?

- Young people aged 16–24
- Must have a current EHCP
- Want to build skills for work
- Can travel independently or are willing to learn to travel
- Would benefit from structured workplace experience

Our Locations:

- Wolverhampton, WV1 4DE
- St Matthews, WS1 1RS
- Darlaston, WS10 8UZ
- Tipton, DY4 0BP
- Dudley, DY5 1QL

Scan the QR code to apply today!



Or email us on: Mtblackcountry@mencap.org.uk

COMING SOON!



SASSY SENSORY SURPRISES
EXPLORING SENSORY WITH TONI LEIGH

LAUNCHING OUR ONLINE SASSY AFTER SCHOOL CLUB!

- ★ Connect with the sassy team!
- ★ Socialise with other children!
- ★ Get involved in wellbeing activities!
- ★ 1-1 mentoring as well as groups online!

A fun, safe, inclusive space for children with SEND to socialise & learn life skills FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME!

MORE INFO AND LAUNCH DATE COMING SOON!
SMALL CHARGE WILL APPLY

OUR SPECIAL ANGELS

Stay & Play Sessions
Walsall Centre

A calm, welcoming space for children aged 0–5 years and their parents/carers ♥

What's Available?

- ★ Access to our Soft Play Room
- ★ Access to our Sensory Room
- ★ Safe, enclosed environment
- ★ Relaxed, small-group setting
- ★ Tea & Coffee for parents

Our Stay & Play sessions provide a friendly space where little ones can explore, move and play at their own pace – while parents stay, relax and connect with others. This is a parent-led session. Parents/carers remain responsible for their child throughout.

📍 Location: Our Special Angels – Walsall Centre WS1 1TJ
 📅 Date: Wednesday 11th March 2026
 🕒 Time: 10-12pm
 💷 Cost: FREE
 🅑 Free parking at the back of the building
 📞 Message 07949173869 to book

Spaces are limited to keep the environment calm and comfortable.



CHILDREN/YOUNG PERSON OPPORTUNITIES



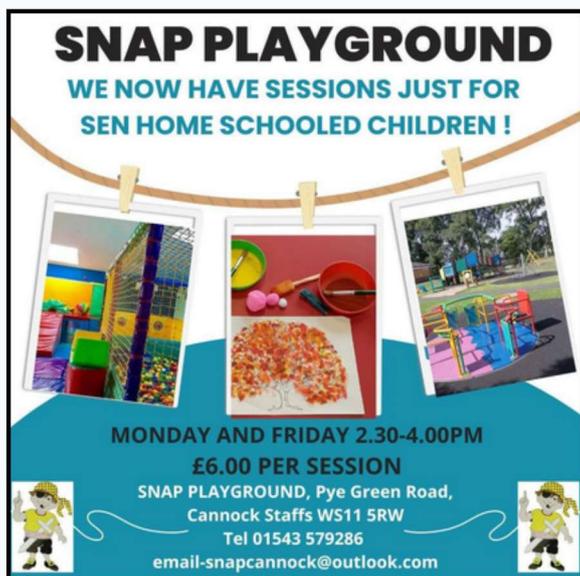
Fuzzy's Ed's
SEN SOFT PLAY EVENING!
MONDAYS 4:30PM - 7:00PM
 Soft Play in: Reduced Noise Environment with a **Warm & Friendly Atmosphere!**
 Organised by **SEN Parents** for Children with Additional Needs
 Please Call Us On: **01922 630458**
 For More Information & Ask to Speak to Amie

1:1 Football Coaching for SEND Children

Streetly Coaching offers personalised 1:1 football sessions designed especially for children with SEND. These quieter, tailored sessions provide a supportive space for children to learn, grow, and develop skills at their own pace.

For more in contact:

streetlycoaching@outlook.com

SNAP PLAYGROUND
 WE NOW HAVE SESSIONS JUST FOR SEN HOME SCHOOLED CHILDREN!
 MONDAY AND FRIDAY 2.30-4.00PM
 £6.00 PER SESSION
 SNAP PLAYGROUND, Pye Green Road, Cannock Staffs WS11 5RW
 Tel 01543 579286
 email-snapcannock@outlook.com



SEN After School Play Sessions
Monday & Friday (term time)
 4.00-5.30pm Siblings Welcome!
 £6.00 per child Squash and biscuits included
 SNAP Playground, Pye Green Road, Cannock, WS11 5RW
 Call 01543 579286 to book your place.



SEN Adult Sessions
 at SNAP Playground
 Monday and Friday
 12.00-2.30pm
£8 or £6 for 1.5 hours
 To book,
 tel 01543 579286



Cheeky Monkeys
SEN Session
 Saturday 2nd April 2026 10:00am - 11:00am
 £5 Per Ticket
Sensory Play & Sensory Story Fun!
 Sensory Activities
 Interactive Sensory Storytime
 Calm & Supportive Environment
 Spaces are limited - Book Now!
 ✉ jennyashleigh31@gmail.com

FAMILY EVENTS/OPPORTUNITIES



SEND INFORMATION FAIR - THURSDAY 14TH MAY

Come and meet a range of services and professionals from the Walsall SEND Community

This is an event is designed for parent/carers to come along and to be able to chat to those who offer services to our children/ young people in Walsall

When - Thursday 14th May - 10am - 12pm

Where - Bloxwich Active Living, High St, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 2DA

Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre Saturday 23 March until Monday 1 April 2024

Meet the Easter bunny and his friends!

Live entertainment, arts & crafts, food and Easter fun!



The New Art Gallery, Walsall

31 March — 12 April 2026

Easter Activities

Funny Bunny Hand Puppets

Tuesday 31 March – Sunday 12 April,...

A colorful poster for 'FAMILY EASTER FUN DAY' on 4th April 2026. It features illustrations of children, a bunny, and a basket of eggs. Text includes 'Join us for an egg-citing day out!', 'Beggars Bush Chester Road Sutton Coldfield B73 5BA', and 'Raising money for the Matt Gallagher Foundation'. Hashtags at the bottom are #EasterFunDay, #FamilyEvent, #CommunityDay, and #MattGallagherFoundation.

Join us for an egg-citing day out!

FAMILY EASTER FUN DAY

4th April 2026 FROM 12WARDS

Egg Hunts Games Craft Stalls

Beggars Bush
Chester Road
Sutton Coldfield B73 5BA

Raising money for the
Matt Gallagher Foundation

Bring the whole family for a day
of fun and community spirit!

#EasterFunDay #FamilyEvent #CommunityDay #MattGallagherFoundation

21st March 2026



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS

A gentle reminder for families to slow down and focus on the things that truly matter. It's a lovely opportunity to notice the small moments that bring joy at home, encourage kindness, and support our children's wellbeing.

A simple smile, a shared activity, or a quiet moment together can make a big difference.

SEND SERVICES FEEDBACK

Please could you spare a few minutes to complete this feedback form on your experience with the SEND Services. Please use the QR code or link below. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

[SENDSERVICEFEEDBACK](#)



FEEDBACK

If you have any feedback or wish something to be included in the next SEND Communications please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Next Issue: SEND Services Communications Summer 1

Submit your updates by 22nd April 26 to be included!

Please use the below emails

Sam: samantha.house@walsall.gov.uk

Local Offer: localoffer@walsall.gov.uk



Thank you for being part of the Walsall SEND community!



Walsall Council

