



Hello,

As we approach the Summer Holiday, this bulletin aims to bring you news of events and activities over the holidays and let you know how to contact us. We wish you all a lovely summer break and hope that the sun shines.

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### Round up of news - What have we been up to?

#### Virtual Information sessions

We have offered online training or information sessions this term which have been popular.



We ran a session on what to do when a request for an EHC (education health care) needs assessment is refused by the local authority. There was so much interest in this that we offered an additional session.

fully booked.

Over the summer we will start to plan our events for the coming year. If there are any topics which you would like us to cover, please let us know.

[Click here to email us the topics you would like covered!](#)

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## Meeting Support Volunteers

- Do you have an education meeting to attend?
- Would you feel more confident if someone came to the meeting with you and took notes?

Our meeting support volunteers are here to help. We are delighted that four meeting support volunteers have joined the team. They have been undertaking training and from September/October they will be ready to support you.

### How will it work?

You can contact our service in the usual way, through our contact form, email or telephone. If you need support at a meeting, we will help you to prepare for it. Where appropriate, we will allocate a meeting support volunteer to assist you and attend the meeting alongside you.

After the meeting we will send you the notes of the meeting which they have taken. The meeting support volunteers are not there to give advice. They can help you to have your voice heard, feel more confident, supported and empowered.

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## Local updates

The statutory SEN team at Bathnes Council which deals with Education Health Care Plans has made changes to how it manages enquiries.

Did you know that their staff sometimes receive 200 emails per day. To help them provide a speedier response, they can be contacted in the following ways:

**SEN Team Telephone:** 01225 394306

ending on the age of the child/young person).

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## National Updates

The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP was appointed Secretary of State for Education on 5 July 2024 and Minister for Woman and Equalities on 8 July 2024. She aims to recruit 6,500 new teachers.

No announcements have yet been made regarding the Send and Alternative Provision improvement plan, published under the last government.

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## Transition

We know that change can be difficult.

We have shared an information series with tips on moving on to secondary schools. Please keep an eye on our social media and Instagram. We will share more information over the summer.

In the meantime you may find the link below helpful:

[Click Here for Information Session on Transitions](#)

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## No school place or worried about travel?

As the end of term approaches, there are some children with SEND don't have a school place from September. If you're facing this situation, you may find the following guidance from ipsea helpful:

<https://www.ipsea.org.uk/children-who-do-not-have-a...>

If you are concerned about travel arrangements for September, you may find the following information useful:

<https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/transport/>

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Activate: Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme offers government funded holiday activities with a free meal for any child who is eligible for benefit related free school meals.

### **Who is the programme for?**

This holiday provision is for school aged children from reception to year 11 (inclusive) who receive benefits-related free school meals.

See more here: <https://livewell.bathnes.gov.uk/children-and-families/family-support-services-and-organisations/social-leisure-and-community-0>

### **Holiday Playschemes and Short Breaks**

Details of holiday playschemes for children/young people with SEND, and information about inclusive activities can be found here:

<https://livewell.bathnes.gov.uk/special-educational-need-or-disability-send/holiday-playschemes-and-short-breaks>

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### **Opening times over the summer**

We have a reduced service but we are still open over summer should you need to speak to speak with an Advisor.

There are also lots of resources on our website to help answer any questions you might have.

Please contact us in the following ways:

**Via our website: <https://sendiasbathnes.org.uk/getintouch>**

**Phone: 01225 394382**

**Text message: 07530 263401**

**Email: [sendias@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:sendias@bathnes.gov.uk)**

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**Wishing you happy summer holidays from all the team at  
Sendias Bathnes.**



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