

Spring Newsletter

April 2026 Edition

With spring here and brighter weather ahead, we hope you can enjoy some time outdoors and recharge over the holidays. This newsletter includes details of what we have been up to, upcoming events and updates on national SEND developments and holiday activity ideas.

Round up of News and Updates

Headlines



This term, we met with young people and participated in a bowling session with the Hi5! Bath Rugby Foundation Sports and Social Club, and met families at the new Play & Shine sessions for younger children run by Keynsham and District Mencap. Thanks to partners like Southside, the library service, and B&NES Parent Carer Forum for their support.

We had stalls at Bath College Apprenticeship & Careers Fair and Bath Volunteer Fair. Our monthly surgery at Midsomer Norton Library remains busy – book your spot through our website. We held two information sessions to explain how to review draft EHC plans, and more will be scheduled soon.

Children and Young People

Summer and Jane have been handing out our new postcard with details about our services for children and young people. If you would like to have any of these or our bookmarks please get in touch.



Take Over Tuesdays!

You might have noticed some different colours appearing on our Facebook posts. Each Tuesday our social media focuses on content for children and young people – look out for the orange and purple. If your child or young person would like to get involved in suggesting content or in joining SEND Out, our young people’s participation group, please get in touch.



New number for SMS Texts

Our number has recently changed to:

07401 404081

Please can you save this new number and delete the old one. Our main telephone number: **01225 394382** remains the same.



Wait times might be a little longer...

We're delighted to see more families reaching out for support, but this has meant a spike in enquiries over recent weeks. As a result, you might find that our response times are a little longer than usual. We appreciate your patience and understanding as the team works hard to help everyone as quickly as we can.

Local Developments

Bath and North East Somerset Council has published [Our Plan for SEND](#) which gives information about the steps which the local authority is taking to improve the lives of children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers.

The council has also updated and published its [Inclusion and SEND Commitment: Ordinarily Available Provision](#). The document is designed to assist Primary and Secondary Mainstream Schools deliver fair and consistent practice and provision for all children and young people, including those with SEND. The document sets out clear expectations of what can reasonably be expected from education settings.

SEND National Developments: What You Need to Know

Many of you will have seen that the government has set out proposals to reform the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) system in England in its schools white paper: [Every Child Achieving and Thriving](#)

It's important to know that, although there's plenty of discussion about possible changes, the publication of a white paper **does not** change existing SEND law. Your child's legal rights to support remain the same for now.

SAVE the dates: 5 and 6 May 2026

We have teamed up with Bathnes Parent Carer Forum to offer a daytime and an evening virtual information session about the white paper. We will outline the proposals, answer your questions and let you know how you can share your views on it.



Have Your Say: Consultation Opportunities

This Spring, there are several opportunities for you to share your thoughts and help shape the future of SEND services:

SEND Reform

The Department for Education is consulting on its plans for SEND reform set out in its white paper. The consultation; [SEND reform: putting children and young people first](#) is hosted on a separate website to the white paper and is open until 18 May 2026:

Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school

The Department for Education is consulting on proposed updates to the statutory guidance on [supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#).

The consultation seeks views on proposals to strengthen the way children and young people with medical conditions and allergy are supported and kept safe. The [consultation](#) is open until 1 May 2026.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) – Call For Evidence

You can share your views on the government's review of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) – the Timms Review.

Find out more, and how you can have your say here:

[Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment](#)

Council for Disabled Children parent carer survey– Help Shape Better Services for Children with Neurodevelopmental and Neurological conditions / SEND

The Council for Disabled Children are exploring how health, education, and social care services are provided to families of children with disabilities, what families currently receive, and what they think a high-quality service should look like.

[Find out more about participating](#)



Theme of the Month: Our themes for February and March were Appeals, Tribunal and Mediation

Check our social media channels for updates.
Below are helpful resource links:

Pages on our website have lots of information and links to resources.

sendiasbathnes.org.uk

IPSEA

Has published information on preparing for mediation.

ipsea.org.uk

and on appeals to the SEND Tribunal:

ipsea.org.uk



Our Events

All our events are free. To book your place follow the links provided or visit the 'Events Page' of our website: sendiasbathnes.org.uk/events

5th May 7.00-8.00pm

**SEND reforms FAQs - In conjunction with B&NES Parent Carer Forum
Have Your Say.**

Online

6th May 10.00am-11.00am

**SEND reforms FAQs - In conjunction with B&NES Parent Carer Forum
Have Your Say.**

Online



Events for Children & Young People

12th May, 5.30pm-7.00pm

**SEND Out - Children & Young People's Participation Group meeting
Virtual Sessions (Teams)**

An opportunity for young people (aged 12- 25) to have their voices heard
and get involved.



Where We Will Be:

2nd April, 9.30-12.00pm

Relaxed Storytimes

Sensory Space, Bath Central Library

21st April, 10.15-11.15am

Portage Play and Explore

Hope House, Radstock

27th April, 10.00-11.00am

B&NES Parent Carer Forum Cafe

Three Ways Cafe, Three Ways School

29th April, 9.00-10.00am

SASS Coffee Morning

Longfellow's Cafe, Fosse Way School

30th April, 11.30-12.30am

Tea and Talk session

North Star 180°

5th May, 9.00-10.30am

Coffee Morning

Three Ways Cafe, Three Ways School

7th May, 9.30-12.00pm

Relaxed Storytimes

Sensory Space, Bath Central Library

8th May, 10.00-12.00pm

Parents Plus ADHD Programme

Keynsham Children's and Family Centre

14th May, 1.00-2.00pm

Step Into School

Online

19th May, 10.00-3.00pm

Parent and Carer Day

Keynsham Library





Holiday Activities and Events

Specific SEND and Inclusive Events:

Spring B&NES Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

Free for children and young people who receive benefit-related free school meals (FSM) and potentially for children and young people not on FSM, who meet additional criteria such as young carers, children with an EHC plan, with low school attendance or at risk of exclusion. To find out more, you can view the brochure here:

[HAF Spring Brochure](#) or via the website [Activate](#).

[Livewell B&NES](#) has information about holiday clubs and activities: [Playschemes](#) They also share opportunities and activities on their public [Facebook](#) page.

General Free Events

This Easter, [The Roman Baths has cracked the perfect family day out](#) with a line-up of trails, creative activities, hands-on archaeology and special evening openings.

You can also find out about [events happening in libraries](#).

[The Holburne Museum](#) offers a free "Find the Easter Hare" trail from 29th March to 14th April, where children can pick up a 'Draw & Explore' trail.

[Bath City Farm](#) hosts an Easter egg hunt and "Springtime Shenanigans" on 8th April (2pm–3pm), featuring poetry, farm animals, and a free chocolate treat.

[Victoria Art Gallery](#) provides free, nature-themed craft activities for children, such as creating fishy collages and pond art, running from 10.30am–12.30pm on select dates.

[The Roman Baths](#) offers free drop-in arts and crafts sessions (7–10 April) where children can make seed paper flowers. They also have a Hoot's Egg-cellent Discovery trail from 28 March – 19 April.

Note: Entry is free for B&NES residents with a Discovery Card.

Opening Times Over Easter

Our service opening times remain the same throughout April except for bank holidays, when we are closed.

Please note that, it may take us a little longer to respond to enquiries. We have less cover so that all staff can have a rest. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this period.

We will have a short break from our library appointments over the Easter holiday period but we are here to answer your telephone calls, emails and enquiries as usual.

To book appointments please visit the 'events' page on our website.

Get Advice

Weekly SEND Surgery Book a 30-minute confidential appointment with our SENDIAS practitioners each Wednesday during term-time, available in person at Keynsham library, by phone, or via Microsoft Teams from 10:00–11:30 am.

We offer advice, review documents, help with forms, and suggest next steps. Appointments fill quickly, so check our website regularly for new openings.



Bookable Telephone Appointments

Would you like to have a phone call with one of our trained practitioners? We have 30 minute telephone appointments available to book on our website. [Book here](#). Evening sessions are available for those who need out-of-hours support.



Support at Meetings

If you have an education meeting and would like someone to accompany you, our [Meeting Supporters](#) are happy to help. They are trained volunteers who can take notes and offer support, so you feel more confident and informed. Contact us to find out more or to request support.



Volunteer with us!

Could you give a few hours a week to speak to families over the phone, who have engaged with our service?

An important part of our work is to gather feedback from service users and we are looking for a volunteer to support us with this.

This is an interesting and flexible role during term time. Training is provided.

Please visit the [volunteer section of our website](#) for more details

For an informal chat please call Jane on **01225 395065**

From all the team at Sendias Bathnes, we wish you a joyful Spring and holiday season!



Contact Us

sendias
bathnes

Please contact us in the following ways:

Via our website: sendiasbathnes.org.uk/getintouch

Call us: **01225 394382**

Email us: sendias@bathnes.gov.uk

Text us: **07401 404081**

Stay connected with us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates and upcoming events