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## Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

A reminder about our [Worcestershire Schools Marketplace Event](#) after half term. Teams including Inclusion Support, HR, Finance, Place Planning and Health & Safety will be on hand to answer any questions about the support they can offer. The session is free and is a drop-in style, so you can pop in anytime between 3pm-5pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> or Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Please do register your attendance though so we can keep an eye on numbers.

Thank you to those who joined our Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) information session on 7<sup>th</sup> May, we hope you found it informative. Included in the bulletin you will find a link to the recording of the session, as well as an Expression of Interest form for you to complete if your school is interested in being included in the programme.

You will see an article within our SEND News and Updates section about our two new Co-Production Officers, Chanika and Amy, who have recently started with us. This is an exciting milestone in our efforts to improve co-production with children and young people with SEND about the services that matter to them. If you have any groups or sessions with young people that you could invite Chanika and Amy to then please get in touch with them at [SENDco-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:SENDco-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk). And please do share their information within your school communications to parents and carers too if young people should like to get involved.

I hope you all have a good half term break.

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## Latest education news and updates

### Edenred Portal Access for May half term 2025 FSM Vouchers

As confirmed by email to all schools on 1<sup>st</sup> April, FSM eligible pupils will receive £10 per child in vouchers for the upcoming half term holiday. Edenred Portal access will be available from 12<sup>th</sup> May and close on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June. Schools will have access to issue a £10 voucher per child to cover the holiday period. They will expire **one month** after they have been issued.

After the portal access closes on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025, schools and parents will have until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025 for any outstanding voucher queries to be resolved, by emailing [FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk).

#### Key points:

- Accessing the portal: You must use the WCC ordering site with your existing WCC account (22463), the login page can be accessed here: [Edenred Online Ordering](#)
- Eligibility: Vouchers are for FSM eligible children aged 4 – 16 and in years Reception to Year 11 (not including nursery or 6th form students).
- Voucher expiry: Advise parents to redeem vouchers promptly to avoid expiry. All vouchers issued during this period will expire after one-month from the date of issue. Once redeemed, the supermarket eGift card will have a longer expiry date in accordance with their chosen supermarket T&Cs, see page 6 of [Parent Carer FAQs](#)
- Make sure you have the correct recipient email address and that parent/carers are notified they will be in receipt of a voucher.
- Invoicing for overspend: Schools will be invoiced for any overspend above the expected amount per school.
- Historic expired vouchers will not be paid due to budget monitoring and programme claiming requirements. Exceptions may be considered if there are extenuating family circumstances which the school will need to verify.
- Eligibility for vouchers is linked to FSM status. There may be families who have FSM status, but their circumstances have changed during the Universal Credit switch over protection of status. Please consider that vouchers are issued to those children and families who require the support.
- To help monitor the vouchers issued under this scheme, please can you ensure you include the URN or UKPRN for the school when placing the order.
- Year 11 pupils with FSM status remain eligible for vouchers until the end of the academic year i.e. they can be issued the £10 for half term and the £60 voucher for the summer holiday.

For further help, see these useful links:

- Edenred User Guide - for ordering and supermarket details: [user guide](#)
- Parent/Carer FAQs - [Parent Carer FAQs](#)

- Forgotten Password – [Password reset](#)
- Redeem eCodes - [Redeem eCodes](#)
- For any queries, refer to the guides first, then contact [FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershires.gov.uk](mailto:FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershires.gov.uk)

Please continue to signpost families to local support and information:

- [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme](#)
- [Household Support Fund Worcestershire webpage](#)
- [Cost of living support](#) information is available on the council's website

## Education Planning Obligations - consultation on proposed policy changes

Worcestershire County Council is consulting on proposed updates to its Education Planning Obligations Policy, which guides how housing developers contribute to local education infrastructure. New housing developments often lead to increased demand for school and early years places. Where this demand can't be met through existing provision, developers may be required to make a financial contribution towards the cost of increasing local education places. The updated Policy reflects national and local changes, rising demand for specialist SEND provision, and the latest Department for Education guidance. If approved, it will apply to planning applications submitted from 1 September 2025.

We could encourage schools and settings to take part in the consultation. Find out more and respond here by 17<sup>th</sup> June: [Education Planning Obligations - consultation on proposed policy changes | Worcestershire County Council](#)

## DfE View Your School Attendance Data – June Webinar reminder

The next DfE data webinar is planned for 10<sup>th</sup> June and is open to reserve your place if you haven't already had chance to do so: [DfE attendance data webinar - Tuesday 10th June](#).

The webinar will provide an overview of the data available for schools to use in the View your own education data (VYED) platform, as well as sharing updates on new data sets to support schools in analysing their own data trends and enabling comparisons to other schools.

## Worcestershire's Updated Attendance Resources for Schools

Our Inclusion website is regularly updated to provide attendance information and resources for parents/carers, schools and professionals. Recent updates for schools include attendance policy template revisions, attendance contract examples and links to DfE updated toolkits and good practice webinars amongst others. Visit: [Worcestershire.gov.uk/inclusion-attendance-and-cme](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/inclusion-attendance-and-cme)

## Latest SEND news and updates

### Creating Inclusive Practice through 'PINS' so ALL Children Thrive (Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools) - update

We all have different thought patterns and processes; it is part of the natural variation of neurodiversity. The Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project is a new national initiative to support good outcomes for all pupils in mainstream primary schools, by embracing neurodiversity. Worcestershire has an exciting opportunity for 30 primary schools to join the national PINS programme and be part of this new way of thinking.

By recognising we all have different cognitive processes, PINS benefits all pupils because the changes in practice will provide the conditions for *all* pupils to thrive. PINS aims to work in partnership with primary schools, parent carer forums and local services to develop inclusive provision. The project will focus on strengthening knowledge, skills and improving learning environments to better meet the needs of ALL pupils and improve outcomes for children with neurodiverse needs. It achieves this by:



#### What does each school receive?

- Support to Develop Co-production with Parent Carers
- 37 hours of funded external expert support
- Resources & New Ways of Working
- Networking Across Schools & Services

To identify support needs schools will complete a self-assessment tool. A multi-agency project group (made of up Local Authority, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire and Worcestershire Parent Carer Forum) will work with schools to understand what is working well and where support is needed. A package of support will be discussed with the school and commissioned by the project group. Support will be purchased by LA/NHS from a combination of local system providers (health, education etc), external programmes and private providers.

## Eligibility, Selection & Timescale

We intend to allocate PINS to 5 primary schools in each of the 6 Worcestershire Districts. All schools will be eligible to submit an expression of interest. The programme will run from April 2025-March 2026.

We held an information session via Teams on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – [you can view a recording of the session here.](#)

We have now launched the programme and are asking interested schools to submit a short '[Expression of Interest](#)'. From this information, schools will be selected based on analysis of education and health data to inform an understanding of need. A full list will be published on the SEND Local Offer.

## Co-production officers for children and young people

Two new Co-production Officers have just come into post to improve engagement with children and young people with SEND. Amy Knight and Chanika Benain are now looking to connect with young people through schools and colleges, through the voluntary sector and by attending events across the county. They want to know what young people want from the both the county council and local health services and how we, as a local area partnership, can provide them a voice to be heard. Amy and Chanika can then start to link young people with the services they wish to be a part of.

They are now looking for help in meeting children and young people. They are working with any age up to and including 25 years old and the only requirement is that they have an additional need. This does not mean that they need to be formally diagnosed, or need to have an EHCP, but just a need that requires more than what is ordinarily offered. They can meet them face to face, or chat online. They can do this at school or in their local youth club; they just need them to hear that we want to work with them and be interested!

Contact Amy and Chanika at [SENDco-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:SENDco-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Find out more about co-production for children and young people with SEND on our website: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDcoproduction](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDcoproduction)

## ADHD webinars

NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire and the ADHD Foundation have a series of free webinars to help parents and carers support a child with ADHD.

There are two webinar series available which are available to book via the links below. Please note there is a password to book which is **WORKSHOP**. You will then see a list of dates and times available.

1. [Supporting My Child on the ADHD Pathway](#) – For parents whose child is waiting for an assessment for ADHD (two sessions). Sessions include:
  - Developing brain
  - Supporting executive function
  - Impact of attention on planning & organisation

- Sensory differences & emotional responses
  - Recognising & managing emotions
  - Supportive strategies
  - [Download the pre-diagnosis workshop flyer here](#)
2. [Understanding and Supporting My Child's ADHD](#) – For parents whose child has a diagnosis of ADHD (three sessions). Sessions include:
- Neuroscience of ADHD
  - Characteristics
  - Co-occurring conditions
  - Sensory integration
  - Lifestyle & environments
  - Mealtimes, sleep & movement
  - Emotional regulation
  - Supportive strategies
  - [Download the post-diagnosis workshop flyer here](#)

## Free SENDIASS training at your school/setting

SENDIASS provide free SEND Training Workshops and Webinars for parents/carers and professionals.

SENDIASS training workshops can help build knowledge and skills for families with a child or young person with SEND and any professionals that support them. They are now able to offer their workshops for free in your settings. This could be as part of a SEND coffee morning or drop in for your families or part of staff training. Further information about the workshops that they provide can be found on their webpage: [SENDIASS Training delivered at your venue](#)

If you would like them to deliver one of their workshops at your setting for free, please complete their [Training Request Form](#)

SENDIASS also provide regular Training Workshops from their Training Room in Worcester and online webinars. These are available for parents/carers or professionals to book, and spaces are still available for the Summer term. Further information about their available workshops can be found here:

[SENDIASS workshops for parent and carers](#)

[SENDIASS workshops for professionals](#)

## SENDIASS Resources- Preparing for Adulthood

SENDIASS have created a Preparing for Adulthood Checklist. This checklist is designed to support parents and carers to help their young person with SEND to prepare for adult life, by breaking the process down into manageable steps. The checklist can be downloaded from the [SENDIASS preparing for adulthood webpage](#)

## Contact SENDIASS

Herefordshire and Worcestershire SENDIASS we have a dedicated team of advisors offering legally-based and easily accessible information and advice about special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). They support parents, carers, children and young people with SEND and the service is impartial and confidential.

Call: 01905 768153 Monday-Friday 8.30am-4pm (24hr answerphone service)

Email [sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk)

For regular Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) updates, sign up to the SENDIASS mailing list by clicking the sign-up link on their [SENDIASS Contact page](#) or follow them on social media: [Facebook-HWSENDIASS](#). There is also lots of useful information on their website [www.hwsendiass.co.uk](http://www.hwsendiass.co.uk)

## Children and Young People's 0-25 years Neurodivergence Support Service

Families and young people have told us how important it is to get help early for neurodivergent support needs. In response, Herefordshire and Worcestershire NHS are commissioning a new service to provide support for young people aged 0-25 years and their families. People will self-refer to access age-appropriate advice and support on a range of issues delivered through workshops and one-to-one support. This is likely to include support on sensory & communication needs, emotional regulation, healthy diet, sleep routine strategies, masking and self-management strategies to support daily living. The service will also work closely with other services in both counties to link families into more specialist support where needed and provide advice to wider professionals. Commissioning will take place over the rest of this year and the service is expected to be in place in Spring 2026. Lived experience experts will be part of the panel awarding the contract.

## Latest Public Health news and updates

### Solihull Approach – e-learning for parents and families

[Inourplace](#) is funded in Worcestershire to provide families with free access to expert learning about childhood development, wellbeing, brain changes, and much more to help as families connect with their children and enable them to thrive.

Parents/carers can find the [Free Access Checker](#) in the course library to unlock free online learning that could change their relationship with their child for the better.

Find out more here: [Emotional health and wellbeing for parents](#)



## Family Hubs Webinar

Family hubs provide a welcoming place for families and expectant parents to access information, signposting, and services in the community. There are 9 family hubs across Worcestershire, and a number of outreach locations, providing a range of support to families with babies and children. To find out more, refer a family or get in touch with your local hub visit [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/familyhubs](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/familyhubs)

Family Hubs are also running free webinars for organisations to attend to find out everything they may need to know about family hubs. [See flyer and QR code for more information.](#)

## National Smoking Drinking and Drugs (SDD) Survey Schools Advisory Group

NHS England are looking for volunteers with experience of teaching PHSE in secondary schools to support in shaping and implementing the Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use in Young People Survey (SDD) as part of our Schools Advisory Group.

### Background

The survey is the national source of information in England on smoking, drinking and drug use among young people for government departments and Local Authority Public Health bodies. Data is from school children aged 11 and 15 and provides the official national estimates of how many young people aged 11 to 15 smoke, drink alcohol or take illicit drugs along attitudinal and general awareness questions. [Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England - NHS England Digital](#)

The last reported survey was for the academic year 2023/24 and for the first time survey responses were collected electronically. The results were published in October 2024. [Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England, 2023 - NHS England Digital](#)

### Role of the advisory group

The role of the advisory group is to provide advice in the delivery of the surveys and help ensure the needs of schools are fully considered in the designed and implementation of the surveys. Aims:

- Provide guidance on the development of the SDD Survey including design of survey content and school materials
- Provide guidance and feedback on analysis and reporting
- Support innovation and make recommendations to the SDD Steering Group in order to improve the Survey

There will be approx. 3 meetings over the course of the survey (from now until publication in autumn 2026). The meetings will be held by Microsoft Teams Video Conference, and poll members will determine the most convenient times for meetings. Feedback on some topics may be sought via email correspondence where appropriate.

Interested staff can declare interest by emailing their name, role, email address and school name to [surveys.queries@nhs.net](mailto:surveys.queries@nhs.net)

## Primary and first schools: Expressions of Interest for emotional wellbeing teaching programme

Public Health are funding a small number of schools to have access to an evidence based emotional wellbeing teaching resource for one year (2025/26 academic year) plus staff training (6 staff).

Outcomes from delivery of this programme include:

- ✓ Better social skills
- ✓ Reduced bullying
- ✓ Improved class climate
- ✓ Increased emotional literacy
- ✓ Increased coping skills & resilience

The [Skills for Life](#) Partnership teaching programmes provide between 18 and 24 45 minute lessons for Years R to 6 addressing:

- Feelings
- Communication
- Making and breaking relationships/Friendships/Helping each other
- Solving problems
- Change and loss/Difficult situations
- Fairness and justice (Y5 & 6)
- Moving forward

Online training dates (one session) for up to 6 staff members are:

Tuesday 24th June 2025 - 15:00 - 17.30 BST

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 - 15:00 - 17.30 BST

If your school does not have a WEST team and is not already delivering a whole school teaching programme around emotional wellbeing and you would like to join this offer please contact Public Health

[ccharlton@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:ccharlton@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## Latest Government news and updates

### Updated Careers Guidance – What Schools Need to Know

On 8 May 2025, the Department for Education confirmed that all schools, colleges and – for the first time – independent training providers (ITPs) will be expected to follow the updated Gatsby Benchmarks for Good Career Guidance from September 2025.

While the guidance is only statutory for schools, **all** institutions are encouraged to start preparing now.

Key changes include:

- Greater emphasis on the quality of careers education
- Annual leadership reviews of careers provision
- A future guarantee of two weeks' meaningful work experience for every young person
- Expanded use of the Careers Impact System to measure outcomes

Headteachers and senior managers are being urged to back their Careers Leaders – with time, training and investment – so that young people get the guidance they need to reach their goals.

To help you prepare, the **Worcestershire Careers Hub**, from Careers and Enterprise Company and delivered in partnership with Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership, will be holding a special information event:

**Thursday 10 July 2025**  
**The Studio @ The Hive, Worcester**  
**9.30am to 12.30pm**

This is an opportunity for Careers Leaders to get ahead of the changes and are strongly recommended to attend. To book or find out more, email: [showells@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:showells@worcestershire.gov.uk)

[Careers guidance and access for education and training providers - GOV.UK](#)

## Latest training news and conferences

### Introducing the 6-week Trauma-Informed Parents' Journey in your school - how to get involved

Following a highly successful 6-week pilot at a trauma-informed first school in Worcestershire, we are excited to introduce this transformative course. Designed to support parents in adopting a trauma-informed approach with their children, this initiative is now being expanded to more schools, fully funded by Public Health.

This opportunity is available to Worcestershire First and Primary schools/settings that have engaged with the TIS UK diploma, funded by Worcestershire Virtual School. Schools/settings with a trauma-informed practitioner are invited to express interest in joining the Parents' Journey project.

In 2025/26, there will be three opportunities for practitioners to receive training, equipping them to deliver the parents' course within their school or setting. To find out more, we highly recommend attending our free 30-minute webinar, designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the project. Please note that spaces are limited, and only a select number of schools/settings can be included in this offer.

In this webinar, you'll learn about:

- The background of the project
- The parents' course content
- The resources available to support delivery in schools
- The dates and venues for practitioner training
- How to express interest in a training place

Cost: Free

30 June 2025, 4pm to 4.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10593

## KS2: Year 6 Writing Moderation Surgery – additional date added

This session will give you the opportunity to bring the work of 3 pupils for our team of moderators to look at. They will be able to guide you as to whether you are presenting enough evidence, the right sort of evidence and what more might be needed. Whilst this is not formal moderation, the team will be able to consider judgements and offer support and guidance.

Cost: £43.50 + VAT per delegate

03 June 2025, 4pm to 5.30pm, Worcester, course code: 10371

## KS2/3 Transition and Induction Workshop

Worcestershire schools are involved in a 3-year research programme with the University of Manchester TAST 5-7, trialling the impact of Transition resources for the RHSE Curriculum and the impact on the emotional wellbeing of pupils.

The intervention programme designer, Liz Stevenson, has now provided us with an opportunity to use some resources and activities specifically designed for delivery in the next academic year for your new cohort of pupils. Liz is running a workshop to explore these resources and how they can be delivered for maximum impact.

We do hope you can attend – if not then please pass on the details to someone else within your school who might find the session to be of value.

When: Mon 16<sup>th</sup> June 09.00 – 12.00

Where: The De Montfort School, Evesham

Who: Transition Leads/Y7 Form Tutors/Pastoral Leads/RHSE Leads

Questions / Queries regarding the workshop: Lisa Bradbury [LBradbury@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:LBradbury@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Book via CPD and search course code 10594

This training session, supporting effective transition, offers a selection of thoughtfully designed teaching activities to help your cohort settle into their new school life with ease. It includes:

- A range of practical and paper-based activities tailored to help pupils navigate their new surroundings and understand the expectations of secondary school life. These activities are designed to be engaging and informative, ensuring pupils feel comfortable and confident in their new environment.
- Each activity comes with a suggested delivery time of 10 to 20 minutes, making them perfect for integration into various parts of the school day. Whether during form time, PSHE sessions, or as starter ideas for all class teachers, these activities can be seamlessly incorporated throughout the school year.
- By participating in this training session, you will gain valuable insights and practical ideas to help a smooth transition to Secondary School for your pupils.

## Worcestershire Schools Marketplace Event

Our free marketplace event is a great opportunity to connect with Local Authority teams to find out what support and services are available to your school. This drop-in event is open to all school staff in Worcestershire to access key information, ask questions, and find resources that could benefit your school.

### Confirmed teams and services attending include:

- Human Resources
- Virtual Schools
- Training and Conferences
- SLA's and EStore
- School Finance
- Property Services
- School Improvement Team
- Inclusion Support Services (Learning Support, Autism, Educational Psychology)
- Safeguarding
- Education Engagement
- Attendance
- Place Planning
- Health and Safety

### Event details:

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> or Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Worcestershire County Cricket Club, New Road, WR2 4QQ

Register your attendance via CPD and search course code 10560

## Free Playwork courses

Delivered in partnership with Adult Learning Worcestershire, we are putting on special courses for those interested in Playwork. One is an exploration and explanation of the principles of playwork, while the other is a Skills Bootcamp course leading to a Level 3 Award. Details are available below or find out more by seeing the attached course posters.

### Play Matters: The 8 Principles of Playwork

This online evening course explores the core principles that underpin high-quality playwork practice. Perfect for anyone working with children, it provides a deeper understanding of how to support children's right to play in a meaningful and developmentally supportive way. Two cohorts are available to fit around busy schedules.

Free 5-session course, September-December 2025

Book via CPD, course code 10583

[Download flyer](#)

### **Skills Bootcamp: Transition to Playwork (Level 3)**

A fantastic opportunity for professionals in childcare or education to upskill and gain a Level 3 Award in Transition to Playwork. This 16-week online bootcamp includes 4 hours of live weekly teaching and is ideal for teaching assistants, childminders, and early years staff with at least 2 years' experience.

Fully funded 16-session course, September-February 2025

Book via CPD, course code 10588

[Download flyer](#)

### **DfE Virtual Attendance Conference for Secondary Schools Breaking Down Barriers to Opportunity: Transforming Attendance**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 10am to midday.

This virtual event will feature the very best elements from the hugely popular series of regional, in-person attendance conferences in March. In response to demand from the sector, attendees will hear from keynote speakers, DfE Officials, attendance experts and trust and school leaders to bring together the best, evidence-based practice on tackling absence and driving up attendance.

#### **Who should attend?**

This conference is aimed at secondary school leaders, senior attendance champions, attendance officers, school-level governors, and others working with secondary school pupils to improve school attendance. This virtual conference is an excellent opportunity for those who were unable to attend the in-person events or would like to revisit their learning.

[SIGN UP - breaking-down-barriers-to-opportunity-transforming-attendance](#)

### **Attendance Training – 25<sup>th</sup> June - A few remaining places**

To ensure compliance with 'Working together to Improve School attendance' statutory guidance updates (August 2024), the two final training dates for this academic year to support schools considering escalation procedures to secure regular attendance will be running on 25<sup>th</sup> June:

[Using Legal Action to Address Pupil Absence: Guidance for Schools](#)

[Court Process and Writing Effective Witness Statements: Guidance for Schools](#)

Senior attendance leads and attendance staff who have not been able to attend these courses within the last 12 months are invited to join.

Recent delegates unanimously reported an improved understanding of the legal requirements upon them as schools, as well as opportunities to identify practical opportunities within their own settings to enhance good practice.

For further course details and to enable your CPD leader to book your place please use the links above.

Should you need any support with booking the training team will be able to assist further:  
[workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk) Tel: 01905 844420

## Including breastfeeding learning in your PSHE curriculum: webinar for secondary schools

The session aims to equip staff with the knowledge, skills and confidence to teach about breastfeeding in schools which should help to normalise breastfeeding, empower students and collectively provide the best start in life for the future generations.

- The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health recommends integrating breastfeeding education into Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) classes, particularly in secondary schools.
- The Statutory guidance for Relationship, Sex and Health Education requires pupils, by the end of secondary school to know;
  - the roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising of children including the characteristics of successful parenting and
  - the characteristics and evidence of what constitutes a healthy lifestyle and
  - how to maintain healthy eating and the links between a poor diet and health risks
- Breast milk is the ideal food for newborns and infants, supplying all the nutrients they need for healthy development. It contains antibodies that help protect infants from common childhood illnesses, such as chickenpox and supports a healthy weight in children.
- The World Health Organisation recognise that children and adolescents who were breastfed as babies are less likely to be overweight or obese.
- Additionally, children who are breastfed generally engage more with education. Some studies have linked breastfeeding to improved educational outcomes.
- There are numerous benefits for women who breastfeed, for example a reduced risk of breast and ovarian cancers.

When: 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025, 3.45pm – 4.35pm  
Book via CPD – course code 91415

Book your place on our training and conferences via **CPD** using your school CPD leader login details. Confirmations are issued at the point of booking and go to the delegate email provided. If your school requires support when booking, please contact the training team on **01905 844 420** or email [workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## Latest news from School Teaching Hubs

### Rivers Teaching Alliance

#### ECTF updates

Rivers Teaching Alliance is now looking forward to working with a new cohort of ECTs in September. They specialise in primary ECTs and would be happy to have a chat about what they can offer. As you may have seen there are a couple of changes next year.

#### New for September 2025

Following feedback and research, the programme is undergoing some changes for next year. These include:

- The choice to tailor the sequence of modules to fit with whole school priorities
- Diagnostics that enable personalised learning pathways for each ECT to meet their needs.
- Context-specific materials for EYFS, primary, secondary (all subjects), post-16, SEND schools and alternative provision.
- Mentor-specific support to contextualise and model the content for their ECT as part of their training and study throughout.

Please watch this video for further information: [Discover the NIoT's Early Career Teachers programme webinar](#)

Please get in touch if you would like to find out more or sign up here: [Early Career Framework Programme | For Early Career Teachers – The National Institute of Teaching](#)

#### EYFS

- Assessing the Profile, Making it Count -Wednesday 21st May, 3:30pm-5:30pm
- EYFS in the Autumn Term, Are you Ready? -Tuesday 10th June, 3:30pm-5:30pm

Please get in touch via [teachingschool@riverscofe.co.uk](mailto:teachingschool@riverscofe.co.uk) or [ahaynes@riverscofe.co.uk](mailto:ahaynes@riverscofe.co.uk)

## Latest local news and updates

### Young Volunteers Needed for Summer Reading Challenge

Worcestershire's libraries are actively seeking enthusiastic young volunteers aged 13 to 24 to support this year's Summer Reading Challenge, themed "Story Garden". This initiative aims to inspire children to delve into reading adventures that explore nature and the great outdoors.

This opportunity is a fantastic way to gain valuable skills and experience, enhance their CV or university application, make new connections, and most importantly, have fun! All volunteers will receive comprehensive training and ongoing support from our dedicated library staff.

Students can sign up by visiting: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/worcestershire-libraries/read-and-discover/summer-reading-challenge>



## Worcestershire Chess Megafinal

The 2025 Worcestershire Chess Megafinal, part of the UK Schools' Chess Challenge, is taking place in Worcester City. This event is an excellent opportunity for young chess enthusiasts in Worcestershire to engage in competitive play and develop their skills. It is open to all children who enjoy chess.

### Event Details:

- Date: Saturday, 28th June 2025
- Location: University of Worcester, St John's Campus, WR2 6AJ
- Eligibility: Open to all juniors born after 31/08/2006 (Under 18)
- Time Control: 15 minutes + 10 seconds; ECF rated
- Entry Fee: £25.00
- Registration: [Register Here](#)
- Website: <https://www.delanceyukschoolschesschallenge.com/product/2025-worcester-megafinal/>

## Families on Track Fun on Sunday 22 June

There's fun for all the family at Wythall Park on Sunday, 22 June 2025 with 5K, 10K races and Paula Radcliffe's Families on Track 5K relay race.

Families on Track is an exciting event offering an opportunity for the whole family to enjoy a safe, fun and competitive event together.

Mum, Dad, kids, grandparents, and other friends and family members complete the 5km distance as a continuous relay, in whichever order or combination they decide upon.

To find out more go to <https://wythallhollywoodfunrun.org.uk>

## Rural Children's Play Research

Please see below message if anyone would like to take part:

I am a doctoral candidate with the University of Worcester conducting an exciting and new study into the experiences of rural children's outdoor play.

If your primary school is located in a rural area, I would like to invite your school, and specifically your Year 6 cohort, to take part in this research project. This involves your Year 6 class(es) participating in a focus group and mapping exercise. As a thank you I would like to offer a geography lesson focusing on mapping techniques, types of maps and how to read maps, in accordance with the National Curriculum.

If you would like to find out more or take part please contact me, Fran Musgrave via [musf1\\_20@uni.worc.ac.uk](mailto:musf1_20@uni.worc.ac.uk)



**Sarah Wilkins**

Assistant Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Pupil Place Planning

