

Welcome to the June edition of your Slough SEND Newsletter!

In this edition, we update you on the very exciting news of the opening of four additional modular classrooms at Arbour Vale School, info on our extensive services provided from our Children's Centres and Family Hubs and an update to a forthcoming SENCo Information Day, that we are planning to run in September for schools. Also, as always in our issues, we offer a range of other helpful links to services and provisions, that you might find useful.

Thank you for taking the time to catch up with us. If you would like to make any contributions to future editions or just to share your news please get in touch SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk. We would love to hear from you!

Slough Borough Council Coffee Morning

Parents and Carers, Arbour Vale is delighted to invite you to an informal coffee morning at our school on Monday 23 June 2025, 9.30-11am. The event will be hosted by Slough Borough Council, with representatives from Slough Children's First service and Slough SEND and Inclusions Team.

This event will be an excellent opportunity for parents and carers to share experiences of SEND provision and engage in shaping the ongoing transformation of the service whilst enjoying a cup of tea



or coffee and engage in open conversations with senior leaders and representatives from organisations that support children with special educational needs.

The session will aim to:

- Provide an update on progress made so far in our transformation journey
- Listen to your views as parents and carers
- Open up a discussion around co-production and future involvement.

To help us plan appropriately, we kindly ask that you confirm your attendance as soon as possible by emailing Manjula.Odedra@arbourvaleschool.org.

If you have any questions about the morning, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Contacting the SEND Team

There are two dedicated email addresses to help you contact us, and to help us effectively respond to you, we would ask that you please use the correct email address depending on the nature of your contact with us:

SEND_ECHNArequest@slough.gov.uk

This email is the address to send all your ECH Needs Assessment requests.

SENDteam@slough.gov.uk

This email is for all other enquiries.

Or call us on **01753 787676**.

Join our mailing list, so you don't miss out on future updates on the Service!

Do you want to receive copies of this newsletter on a regular basis? If so, please join our mailing list. Also, please encourage any parents you know who would find this newsletter interesting and useful. Colleagues working to support children and families are also encouraged to subscribe for direct updates and information. Please email us at SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk to be added to the mailing list.

We are working hard to improve the way we communicate with you and ensure that children and young people are at the heart of everything that we do!



Completion of Arbour Vale School's new classrooms for SEND pupils

A group of pupils recently took a tour of their brand-new school building which has been taking shape at the back of Arbour Vale School over the last few months.

The addition is a single-story building with four bright and spacious classrooms to enable the school to provide places for additional children with SEND in years 4 to 6.

This addition to the school was made possible with an investment from Slough Borough Council of £4m, to support the number of children requiring a school place - without which many would have to be found in out of area schools.

The building has its own play area so that classes will be able to go outside when the weather is good. There are also toilets, sinks for hand washing, and plenty of storage for educational resources.

The official grand opening is planned for July, with the new classes already being moved into by eager pupils and staff. It has been a fantastic addition to the school and something that we can all be proud of. We wish Arbour children many



years of comfortable learning in their new space.

Neil Hoskinson, Associate Director of Education, and Inclusion at Slough Borough Council said "We are delighted that more young people will be educated at Arbour Vale School in the future, and in such wonderful classrooms. The use of wood and glass to create a light and spacious learning environment, that

uses cutting edge eco-friendly technology, is something that the council and the school have developed in close partnership and both can be rightly proud of the end result. I look forward to attending the formal launch in July but, more importantly, seeing young people educated every day in this great building."



Slough Children's Centres and Family Hubs SEND Stay and Play

On the 10 April we held our first holiday stay and play at Monksfield Way Children's Centre. Families identified that they would like a safe space for their children in the holidays.

The session was attended by five families with eight children, and was supported by a Childcare Professional and Outreach Worker, with our aim being to offer a safe space for children with SEND. The children could access both indoor and outdoor provision, as well as the session being an opportunity for parents to meet with other families.

The session was so successful that we repeated it the following week, and a decision has now been made to offer this during every school holiday.

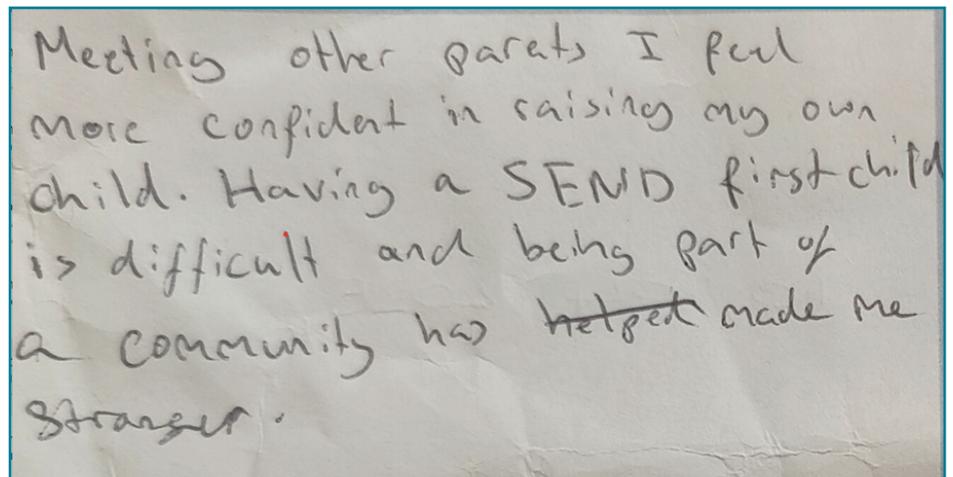
Our next session was held in the May half term where we offered the same provision, with the option for parents to stay longer using the

space for a picnic that was facilitated by the parents themselves.

If you would like to enquire about future stay and plays - please contact your local Family Hub for more details [Slough Information and Services Guide | Slough Children's Centres and Family Hubs](#).

Our hope is that whilst your children play, you are able to meet and

Feedback from one parent:



connect with other parents who can share their experiences, challenges, tips, and ideas or just feel part of a community where you gain support, and confidence as well as share a few laughs and smiles.

'Perhaps the secret to living well is not having all the answers, but in pursuing unanswered questions in good company'

Rachel Remen

Proposed SENCo Information Day for Schools at Arbour Park Stadium: calling all SENCo Professionals

We are in the stages of planning a SENCo Information Day in September, that would give SENCos the opportunity to talk with different stallholders and learn about the services available across Slough.

This would also be an opportunity for SENCos to speak to multi-agency professionals and learn more about their resources, strategies, processes, assessments, timelines, and support. It would be a good chance to share challenges, best practice, and tips amongst professionals, along with networking, connections, and hopefully meet some new friends

and colleagues from other areas.

Some of the areas we are hoping to bring together are:

- CAMHS, anxiety and depression pathway, neurodiversity service and eating disorder service
- Together As One or YES
- Detached Team
- SENDIASS
- EP, SALT, OT, Play therapists
- Local Offer
- SCF
- Short breaks
- Sports clubs and activities specific to SEND
- Counselling services
- Youth violence charities or

violence against parents organisations

- GEMS
- Specialist school staff eg. Arbour Vale/Littledown
- Work experience pathways for PIA
- Assistive technologies.

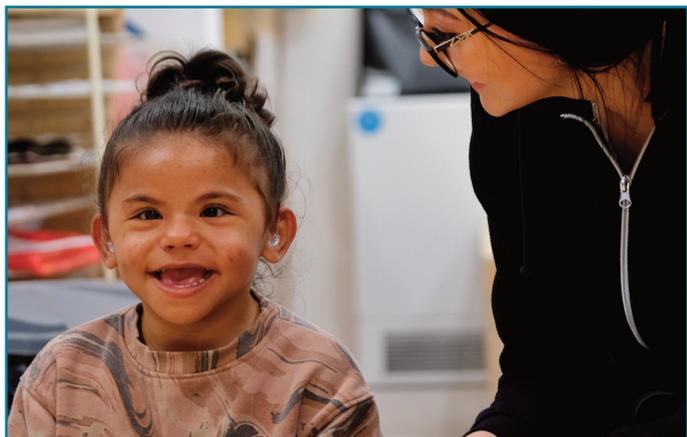
Keep an eye out in future editions for more information ahead of September's event!



Children's Centres and Family Hubs

At Slough Children's Centres and Family Hubs we know that having a child under five is a wonderful experience, but it can be a time when you have more questions than answers.

We offer a range of range of activities and events across the week from Monday to Friday, that include Play and Stays, NHS workshops and services for antenatal and postnatal parents, Library Services time, healthy eating and much much more.



Sometimes it is just nice to connect with new people, parents and carers who share some of the challenges and highs of life.

To register: [Complete the Slough Family Hub registration form online](#) or scan the QR code.



Please check out our 'what's on' section of [Slough Information and Services Guide | Slough Children's Centres and Family Hubs](#) for more details about our timetables.

Useful numbers:

Monksfield Way Children's Centre:
01753 578691

Penn Road Children's Centre & Family Hub:
01753 574420

Chalvey Grove Children's Centre & Family Hub:
01753 574387

Yew Tree Road Children's Centre:
01753 527571

Romsey Close Children's Centre & Family Hub:
01753 540797

Year 5 SEND Roadshow



Are you a parent/carers or family member of a child in Year 5 with Special Educational Needs (SEND)? Do you have any questions, or want to find out how pupils with SEND are supported in secondary schools in Slough? Pop along to our roadshow where there will be representatives from Slough secondary schools, and services that support parents/carers and young people with SEND.



Tuesday 24 June 2025

at Arbour Park Stadium, Arbour Park,
Slough, SL2 5AY, between 1-3.30pm

For further information email: ISSadmin@slough.gov.uk

www.slough.gov.uk
Slough
Borough Council

Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme

What is the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower?

The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower is a simple tool for you to voluntarily share that you have a disability or condition that may not be immediately apparent - and that you may need a helping hand, understanding, or more time in shops, at work, on transport, or in public spaces.

Just because you can't see it, doesn't mean it is not there.

Globally 1 in 6 of us live with a disability. That is approximately 1.3 billion people.

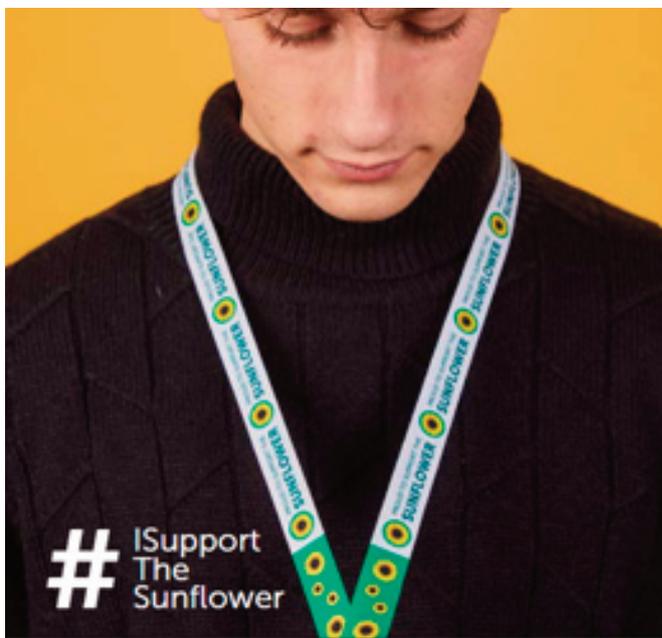
But while some of us experience a disability that is visible, many have a non-visible condition or experience a combination of both visible and non-visible conditions.

These disabilities can be temporary, situational, or permanent. They can be neurological, cognitive, and neurodevelopmental as well as physical, visual, auditory and include sensory and processing difficulties. They can also be respiratory as well as chronic health conditions such as arthritis and diabetes, chronic pain, and sleep disorders.

Making the invisible visible

As diverse as these conditions are, so are your individual access needs and the barriers you face in your daily life. So, you can opt to wear the Sunflower to discreetly be seen in shops, at work, on transport, or in public spaces.

Please visit www.hdsunflower.com/uk for further information.



I Support The Sunflower

I know what the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower is. Do you?

The Supporter Sunflower lanyard, badge or wristband is a simple way to show that you understand what the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower is and support those who have chosen to wear it by offering a helping hand, understanding or simply a little more time.



Find out more: hdsunflower.com

HIDDEN disabilities

Oral hygiene: Supervised Brushing Programme for early years settings and schools

Community Dental Services is commissioned by Slough Borough Council to offer a Supervised Brushing Programme.

The programme is a preventative toothbrushing programme designed to address oral health inequalities by helping young children to develop positive oral health skills for life.

Brushing each day at school is effective for preventing tooth decay and can establish life-long behaviour to promote oral health.

The funded programme is a targeted programme so only run in targeted settings.

If you would like to know more about the programme and see if your setting is eligible then please email the team on Sophie.Burton@cds-cic.co.uk or Amy.Laburn@cds-cic.co.uk

For those who aren't eligible the team can still offer support, guidance, and training to self-fund your own programme with your setting.

Find out more about the supervised toothbrushing programme with this short [video](#).

There is also more information here: www.communitydental services.co.uk



Holiday planning for parents with children with SEND

As we fast approach the summer season, thoughts for many of us turn to getting away for a bit and the summer holidays!

Taking your child away can be overwhelming, especially if they are upset with changes to their normal routines or new or strange places. Below is some helpful advice and tips on how to prepare your family for that often, long awaited holiday away. Whatever you are planning, we hope that you make some beautiful, fun memories and take a lot of pictures!

Top Tips from parents Going on holiday

PREPARATION:

- Create a story about going on holiday using real photos.
- Have a visual countdown to help understanding of when that could include a tick list of tasks to do.
- Consider appropriate travel insurance.
- Create a plan for the day of travel.
- Use BA Disability service to pre book seats on the plane and pre book special assistance for the airport.
- Apply for a sunflower lanyard.
- Think ahead such as knowing where toilets are at the airport or what to do if a delay.

PACKING:

- Involve the person who has Down's syndrome in packing.
- Think about what to put in hand luggage for the journey and suitcase for the stay.
- Consider what is needed with regards to occupation, soothers, continence, medication, snacks, sensory aids.
- Think about taking food that could be hard to find.

THE JOURNEY:

- Use the social story/visuals to remind them what is happening.
- If needed, free wheelchairs are provided near trolleys at the airport.
- Ensure snacks, food and drink are to hand.
- Have electronic devices charged and available plus any aids/activities that may be useful.

ON HOLIDAY:

- Identify key person at accommodation and let them know child's needs.
- Identify a quiet space for when needed.
- Have a daily visual schedule.
- Avoid too many activities in one day and have an opt out option.
- Consider dividing care giving amongst adults.



What's on

Slough Information and Services Guide | Special Educational Needs and Disabilities - Slough SEND Local Offer

We have a full calendar of events, that can be found via your local offer page [Slough Information and Services Guide | What's On](#) which is updated regularly and can be searched by calendar date.



Newsletter feedback:

this is your newsletter!
If you would like to suggest any changes to this newsletter, see additional information, be added to the mailing list, and/or give feedback, please email sendnewsletter@slough.gov.uk

Thank you for taking the time to catch up with us. If you would like to make any article contributions, in future editions, get in touch SENDnewsletter@slough.gov.uk. We would love to hear from you!