

SEND newsletter

Special Educational Needs and Disability



04 March 2021

Welcome to our second newsletter! We hope you are finding them helpful and would love to hear your views and ideas.

We know it has been such a difficult start to the year and we have been pleased to continue to offer support through our SEND Support line and all the team's work with schools and families.

We are looking forward to continuing this support as children and young people return to school on 8 March.



Caroline Marriot
Head of SEND



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News & updates



Phased Transfers

The SEND Team has been working hard to ensure all children starting school, in Year 2 (unless they are in an all through Primary School) and

Year 6 (who have an EHCP have a school place for September 2021).

We are pleased to share that all 149 children with a finalised EHCP now have a school place for September. Every parent and carer who has a child within these year groups should have received an email sharing their child's school place for September 2021.

If you have not received the email, please contact us at EHCP@milton-keynes.gov.uk or you can phone the SEND Support Line on the number below.

SEND Support

The SEND Support Line continues to enable settings/schools, parents, carers and professionals to gain advice, information and support.

Please contact us on **01908 657825** or email us on SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk with any SEND enquiries.

MK SEND Team Support Videos

The SEND Team has been busy developing further resource videos for schools, settings and families to support our children. Our videos share key strategies with a clear focus, to empower schools, settings and families to create new experiences for our SEND children.

These resources can be found on our [dedicated YouTube playlist](#)

Short Break Vouchers 2021–2022

We are pleased to let you know that the online application for Short Break vouchers is now open. Please apply via the [Local Offer page](#). This page also details eligibility criteria (Short Breaks Statement) as well as a list of providers that accept the vouchers.

Please note, if you have applied since 1 January 2021, you do not need to apply again.

We are continuously looking to increase the number and range of providers of activities to join the scheme and will be updating the brochure on a regular basis throughout the year.

We anticipate issuing the vouchers in early April or within three weeks of receipt for applications received after the 15 March. If you have any queries please email EHCP@milton-keynes.gov.uk

We recognise that during 2020/21, many venues were impacted by lockdown, and we have been discussing with PACA MK how we can address this and will be aiming to share some further information on this in the next few weeks.

MK SEND Info Festival 2021

In February the first MK SEND Festival took place online, organised jointly by PACA MK and SENDIAS.

Workshops were delivered on Zoom and Teams for parents, children and young people. A brochure was produced as an alternative to the information stands and is still available to download on our website www.mksendinfoday.co.uk

The opening ceremony is also still available to watch on our website and includes an inspiring keynote speech by Natasha Baker MBE. Natasha is a British para-equestrian who won two gold medals at the London 2012 Summer Paralympics, and three at the Rio 2016 Summer Paralympics.

Thank you to all the parents, children, young people, and professionals who took part. We are in the process of gathering feedback and so far have had some very positive comments. We very much hope that we will be able to meet everyone in person in 2022.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list for future events, please email pacamk@gmail.com

For more information about MK SENDIAS contact: **01908 254 518** (9:30 - 4:30 Monday to Friday) www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mksendias

MK People: Nina Broderick

Inclusion & Intervention Team Manager

I joined the Inclusion and Intervention Team as a Specialist Teacher over 5 years ago, having previously been a SENCo and Department Manager for most of my teaching career in Milton Keynes.



I have grown up and later taught in Milton Keynes all my life along with three generations of my family and have 3 main passions: supporting children with Special Educational Needs (particularly those with social communication needs), Milton Keynes and horses! In my job I am lucky enough to combine all three when I include the occasional session at our amazing Field of Dreams!

I love the variety of experiences that my role brings from working directly with children and young people and their families through to our work with schools and collaboration with colleagues in health and social care.

Our work is about delivering early support, advice and evidence-based practices which enable children with SEND to achieve their full potential so that they can lead happy and independent lives.

Upcoming events



Parent programme sessions

for Parents and Carers of Children with Additional Needs

All our parent programmes are free to join using Microsoft Teams. Full joining instructions are provided upon receiving an invite. Turn your camera off, bring a cup of tea and enjoy!

To sign up for any of the Inclusion and Intervention Team parent/carer programmes, please contact us on SENDSupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk or call us on **01908 657 825**

[Click here for an overview of the sessions and all dates / times](#)



Just let us know your name, the name of your child's school, your child's age and the name and date of the session/s you would like to join. Find out more about our parent/carer programmes on our [Mk Local Offer webpages](#) for parents/carers.

Here is what parents and carers are saying about our sessions:

"I have found these a great help and it is nice to hear from other parents in the same situation as myself."

"This (the training) has been incredibly useful, thank you so much. It is so reassuring that the SEN Support Line is there too."

New [SEND video resources](#) can also be found on our local offer web pages.

Sign up!



We are going to be producing this newsletter half termly. If you would like to receive it directly, please contact sendsupport@milton-keynes.gov.uk

We would also welcome your views on the newsletter and any ideas you have for future editions!

This newsletter has been co-produced between and the MKC SEND Team and Parents and Carers Alliance MK.

PACA is an independent forum for parent carers of children and young people with disabilities or additional needs who live in Milton Keynes.

We share our experiences with the SEND Team as an independent voice representing what matters to families in MK. We do this by taking an active role in meetings such as the Short Breaks Steering Group, Local Offer Group and Additional Needs and Disabilities Strategy Group.

The idea for this newsletter came from our regular meetings with Caroline Marriott, with the aim of keeping parents informed and up to date with the latest developments in SEND.

If you are a parent and would like to join PACA MK, or would like to know more about us, please follow this link <http://www.pacamk.org/become-a-paca-member/>

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