



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAN Network News – May Half Term 2025

Welcome to CAN Information Network News – with news about the CAN Network, and upcoming activities and events for children with additional needs and their families.



In this newsletter:

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Please note: by sharing information with you, the CAN Information Network is not providing a recommendation or endorsement of the service/organisation.

Hello!

Easter only seems a couple of weeks ago but somehow it is almost half-term...

To help you come up with inspiration for what to do this newsletter has all sorts of ideas, including a special section for those who love the water.

Looking further ahead, I'll be pulling together a bumper issue for the Summer holidays – so as always I'd love your feedback and ideas...

If you know of an event, activity or group - or you subscribe to a group or newsletter you think would benefit other CAN families, do **email** me - I'd love to know.

All best wishes,

Nicola

CAN Network Co-ordinator
can.network@wokingham.gov.uk

Half Term Activities

Get splashing this half term!

Although many local paddling pools and splash pads aren't opening until later in the Summer there are plenty of places to get splashing locally this half term...

Coral Reef run their SEN Sessions throughout school Holidays – online booking: [here](#).



Remember you can use your CAN card as proof of disability for the session, and to book your free carer ticket as applicable.

[Great Hollands recreation ground](#) and [Jocks Lane park](#) in Bracknell may open their splash pads in half term dependent on the weather – so watch the forecast!

The paddling pool at **Beale Wildlife Park** re-opened on 1st May! And they also have a new soft play area to explore. Find out more [here](#).

Although [California Country Park's](#) paddling pool won't be open until the Summer holidays – the water play section of the playground is open for creative splashy play!

On the water activities at [Dinton Activity Centre](#) include boat hire – and remember your CAN Card offers 10% off pay and play boat hire – ring 0118 934 4424

Camp Mohawk users will be able to use the pool from half term – find out more, including how to register [here](#).

As well as continuing their regular Tuesday morning disability swim and SEN soft play sessions **Loddon Valley Leisure Centre** have plenty of family swim sessions throughout half term and a special **INFLATABLE DAY** in the pool on Friday 30th May. This will include a SEN session (probably afternoon - timing TBC). They tell us that this should appear in the booking section of their website very soon - [Loddon Valley Leisure Centre | Wokingham | Places Leisure](#)

To find out more and register for the disability swim group please call the centre on 0118 931 2066

Half Term Activities



Swings and smiles in Thatcham run their family play sessions throughout half term, providing activities for children and young people aged 0-18 years old with a wide range of disabilities and special needs. – find out more including how to register and book [here](#).

Thames Valley Adventure Playground will be continuing their 'Super Hero Mayhem' theme throughout May. More information about booking [here](#).



Camp Mohawk are running family sessions throughout half-term. Find out more about their accessible facilities, registering, and more [here](#).

Building for the Future - Our House is a unique accessible play centre, in Wokingham, where families can meet and all children are celebrated.

Half Term Stay and Play Sessions:

Tues 27th May – 10-12pm

Thurs 29th May 12-2pm



No need to book - any queries please email nicki@bftf.org.uk or call 07925 692277



Prospect Park Railway are running a SEND Session on:

Thursday 29th May –

1.30pm – 4pm

They ask for donations for rides during these sessions rather than charging.

You can find out more about the railway [here](#).

Sport Together Berkshire Festival of Inclusivity - Friday 30th May 25



Come join us at the The Hurst Leisure Centre in Tadley, UK for an exciting morning filled with sports and inclusivity! This in-person event is all about bringing people together through the power of sports.

Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just looking to have some fun, this festival has something for everyone. With a wide range of sports activities and games, you can try your hand at Boccia, Cricket, Football, New Age Curling, Netball and much more.

But it's not just about the games. We believe in the power of inclusivity, so we've designed the festival to be accessible to all. Our facilities are fully equipped to accommodate people of all abilities, ensuring that everyone can participate and enjoy the day.

So, mark your calendars for May 25 and get ready to experience the joy of sports and inclusivity at the Sport Together Berkshire Festival Of Inclusivity. It's a day you won't want to miss!

Website: [Sport Together Berkshire, Festival of Inclusivity](#)

Costs £10 Per Day



Craft Sessions at your local Library

Wokingham Libraries have exciting events going on at half term. Booking will go online a few weeks before the events – through the link above or by visiting <https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk> and clicking on 'events':

Get Arty

arts and crafts for children 4-10. Booked in advance, with £2 charge per child, payable on the day.

Events will run from 10.30am to 11.30am at:

- Lower Earley Library, Tuesday 27 May
- Wokingham Library, Friday 30 May
- Finchampstead Library, Friday 30 May

Craft drop-in session at Twyford Library

Thursday 29 May for a craft drop-in session, 2.30 - 4.30pm. No booking required, £1 per child.



HALF TERM ACTIVITIES AT BRACKNELL LIBRARIES

craft drop in
Harmanswater Tuesday 27 May 10.30am to 12pm
Birch Hill Thursday 29 May 2 to 4pm
Sandhurst Thursday 29 May 2 to 4pm
£1 per child, no need to book

free scavenger hunt
all week during opening hours
Crowthorne
Great Hollands

For children aged 2 to 7



drop-in
ECO
CRAFT CLUB

Saturdays from
10:00-11:30am
at Bracknell Library
Cost: Free

bracknell-forest.gov.uk/
libraries

We've come a long way since Shhhhh!

Bracknell
Forest
Council

Wokingham's Children's Fun Day



Lots of free activities including fairground rides, farm animal meet & greet, face painting, go kart rides, wonderful birds of prey, ferret racing, hands on arts and crafts and much more!

All activities are free at this event sponsored and organised by Wokingham Town Council.

This is an accessible event with **Me2 Club** providing a sensory tent and quiet area.

Find out more about the fun day [here](#).



More about Me2 Club

Does your child need help at a mainstream activity club?

Me2 Club is an inclusion charity for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities in the Wokingham and Reading Boroughs. Supporting children and young people aged 5-19 to take part in mainstream leisure activities by recruiting and training volunteers to 'buddy' 1:1 with them (2:1 when required) so they can join in and have fun and access a wide range of activities including sports clubs, uniformed groups and drama classes. No formal diagnosis required for support.

Find out more [here](#).

CAN Network News

The CAN Information Network is part of Wokingham Borough Council and is an information and support service for children, young people and young adults (up to age 25), and their families who live in the Wokingham Borough.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to visit the CAN Information Network web page.



The way you apply for and renew your CAN Card has changed!

CAN card applications and renewals have now moved online.

Please visit <https://directory.wokingham.gov.uk/kb5/wokingham/directory/dcr.page> when you are ready to apply for a new card.

You will need to register for an account before you can start your application.

You will need to upload a recent photo of your child, and evidence of your child's disability – this can be a scan or a photo.

Types of evidence accepted

- Letter from health professional clearly stating diagnosed disability
- Education, Health & Care plan where diagnosed disability has been identified in writing

We will need this evidence for each renewal, as well as new applications.

When renewing your card please make sure you also re-register for this mailing list by also clicking on the box: **I wish to join the CAN information network contact list**

If you have difficulty or access issues around using the new online form please [email](#) us for support.

Your CAN Network – Your Newsletter

- What would you like to see in your CAN Network Newsletter?
- What have you found most useful?
- Are there any activities that you are struggling to access locally?
- Does your child have a special interest you'd love to see a feature on to help you find linked activities or groups?

Email us at can.network@wokingham.gov.uk

Preparing for adulthood: SEND market stall event



Would you like to know more about your options once you turn 16?



Wokingham Borough Council's SEND Service invites you and your family to a free, market stall event, to explore options for your future and find out what support is available locally.

This in-person event is aimed at young people aged 12+ with SEND, and their families.

Wednesday 21st May 2025

The Crescent Resource Centre, Earley, RG6 4HB.
Drop in anytime between 3.30pm and 6.30pm

Please book free tickets [here](#) for everyone in your family attending.

Services attending event:

Bracknell and Wokingham College
Reading College
The Bulmershe Sixth Form
College-Link (at Manor Green School)
Optalis
Ways into Work
Wokingham Elevate
Building for the Future Plus

ASD Family Help
Autism Berkshire
Me2 Club and SEND Youth Forum
Wokingham Youth Council
SEND Voices Wokingham
Wokingham Recovery College
Wokingham CAMHS Primary Mental Health Team for Youth

There will also be representatives from the following Wokingham Borough Council services:

Preparing for Adulthood Team
Transport Team
SEND Service
Emotional Wellbeing Hub

Some useful links:

ASD Family Help Open to all autistic individuals or those with associated conditions. No diagnosis required. Connect with other autistic or neurodiverse adults or parents and carers at regular drop-in sessions. Fun activities for children and teenagers, social groups for adults and outings for the whole family. Practical help and advice navigating diagnosis, education, benefits, or day to day life; via phone, email, or face-to-face meetings.

ASSIST (Autism Spectrum Service for Information Support and Training). ASSIST offer targeted help for Wokingham Borough families with a child or young person (up to 18) with a diagnosis of autism, or on the pathway for an autism assessment. Contact the team for information, advice, guidance and signposting in relation to autism. **Anyone** who has an interest in autism or feels that the strategies shared might be useful is welcome to attend an ASSIST autism focused workshop

Parenting Special Children - charity, set up to help other parents/carers navigate the world of SEND empowering families whose children/young people are neurodivergent and/or have special needs and/or disabilities including early life trauma.

Promise Inclusion - Activities and groups where children with learning disabilities and/or autism have the opportunity to feel included, empowered and amazing!

- Activities where siblings can feel supported and have the chance to have fun.
- Helping adults with learning disabilities and/or autism learn new skills, become more independent and build self-esteem in a supportive environment.
- A community made of PINC staff and volunteers – all with first-hand experience as Carers offering support, advice, empathy and respite to fellow carers.

Send Voices Wokingham - the independent parent carer forum for the Borough. It was set up to ensure that the families and carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities between 0-25 years of age in the Wokingham Borough, can have a voice and participate fully in the development of services.

The SEND Local Offer webpages tell you about local support for children and young people aged 0 to 25, with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families. Sign up to the **SEND Local Offer newsletter** for half-termly updates.

Wokingham Carers Partnership - A partnership of three commissioned local charities: Age UK Berkshire, Berkshire Youth and Promise Inclusion. Offering information, advice, and support to people throughout Wokingham who are caring for a child or adult family member, partner or friend.