



Delivering Special
Provision Locally



DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 8

14.01.26



**Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring Term.
We hope you had a restful break.**



**DSPL 9 is pleased to invite you to the official launch of the
DSPL 9 Lending Library**

Date: Wednesday 25th February 2026

Times:

12-12.45pm

1-1.45pm

2-2.45pm

Venue: The Green Room, Bournehall Primary

To enable as many of you as possible to attend the event please book a time slot using the link below:

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/2012587>

Following the launch of the lending library, the website will go live on Thursday 26th February for SENCOs to reserve items.



VSEND Child Profile Workshop

We are pleased to provide DSPL 6 and 9 with an opportunity to access a VSED child profile workshop during the spring term. This session will be delivered by Katy Alexander (HCC VSEND Lead) and provide SENCOs with an opportunity to work through a child profile and how the VSEND tool can support assessments and next steps.

Date: Monday 9th March

Time: 9.45-11.15am

Venue: Cranborne Primary School, EN6 2BA

To book a place please use the link below:

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/1984039>



SEMH Focused Solution Circles

Our popular SEMH solution circles are continuing this term. Feedback from these who have attended has been very positive:

It was helpful to speak to other professionals to gain further ideas and thoughts on the situation.

To be able to have a range of professionals who I have previously spoken to regarding the child in the same call and were able to provide instant strategies for support.

To access the SEMH solution circle please use the link below. Once the form has been completed and sent you will be provide with a date and time to attend.

[SEMH Solution Circle Referral Form](#)

Monday 26 th January	Primary SEMH Focus	8.30-9.30am
Monday 23 rd February	Primary SEMH Focus	3.30-4.30pm
Monday 16 th March	Secondary SEMH Focus	8.30-9.30am
Monday 27 th April	Primary SEMH Focus	8.30-9.30am
Monday 18 th May	Primary SEMH Focus	3.30-4.30pm
Monday 8 th June	Secondary SEMH Focus	3.30-4.30pm
Monday 29 th June	Primary SEMH Focus	3.30-4.30pm



DSPL 9 EBSA Support: tier 3 and 4

The deadline for the second round of tier 4 support is 19.01.26. Please ensure any referrals and supporting evidence for this support is sent via schoolsfx to admin@dsplarea9.org.uk

Bookings are currently being accepted for the tier 3 solution circles in the spring term:

Monday 19th January

Monday 2nd March

Monday 23rd March

Please use the link below to book a place before completing the paperwork.

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/1778138>

As always, any questions please contact gemmhall@dsplarea9.org.uk



DSPL 9

Benchmarking and Planning audit completion session

DSPL 9 would like to invite SENCOs to attend either of the sessions provided to take time to complete their Benchmarking and Planning Tool and reflect upon their current practice prior to the survey in the summer term.

Purpose of the session:

- Completion of the Benchmarking and Planning Tool
- Dedicated time to consider each of the 5 outcomes and if the school is working at an emerging, expected or exemplary level.
- Celebrate the areas that are working well and consider those areas that need to be developed.
- Network with other local SENCOs and discuss aspects of the tool.

Date: Tuesday 17th March

Time: 9.30-11.30 **OR** 1.30-3.30pm

Venue: The Green Room, Bournehall Primary School

To book your place please use the link below

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/2010430>

**Primary SpLD Online Pupil Focus Surgeries
Academic Year 2025-26**

Following a successful pilot in the summer term, Laura Bloomberg (see bio below) has kindly offered to continue to provide weekly SpLD unnamed pupil focus surgeries for primary schools to meet the local need around SpLD support and next steps.

The purpose of these sessions is to help schools support pupils of concern (SpLD in nature), by giving advice on how to best support their presenting needs and advise on next steps, suitable resources, interventions, quality first teaching strategies, inclusive classroom practice...etc

How do I access this support?

- Sessions will be available every Monday from 9-9.30am and 9.30-10.00am (see dates below)
- Following completion of the google form (link below) you will be contacted by the DSPL 9 administrator to book a date and time to attend.
- Once the booking has been confirmed you will receive the zoom link to attend a session.

What will happen during the session?

- The school SENCO and class teacher **MUST** be able to attend the session.
- Verbal feedback/advice will be provided during the session. No written follow up will be provided.

If a booked session is not attended this service will not be available to you in the future.

Bookings for the spring term are now available:

Monday 2 nd February	Monday 9 th February
Monday 23 rd February	Monday 2 nd March
Monday 9 th March	Monday 16 th March
Monday 23 rd March	

On completion of the google form (see below) you will be issued with a link to book the date and time of your surgery:

<https://forms.gle/Ew9zNNdofVbTPEev8>

Please note:

This service is purely available to enable the schools to best support individual pupils. The information provided by Laura cannot be used as evidence for any referrals or applications.



DSPL 9 SENCo Clusters: Spring 2026

Please see below for the spring term SENCo cluster dates and times.

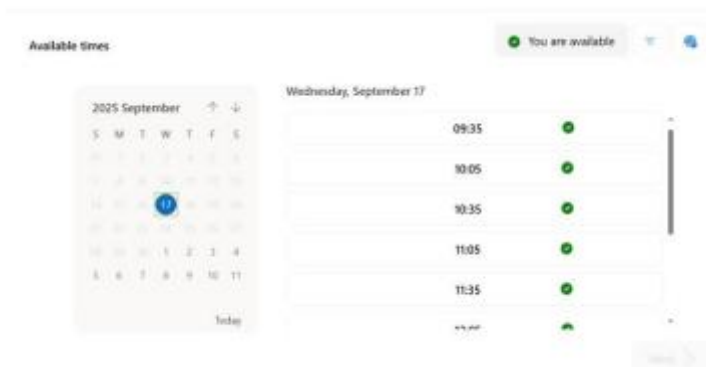
	Spring 2026
Cluster 1	Tuesday 27 th January 1-3pm Shepherd
Cluster 2	Wednesday 21 st January 9.30-11.30am Laurence Haines
Cluster 3	Wednesday 21 st January 1-3pm Highwood
Cluster 4	Wednesday 14 th January 1-3pm St Pauls
Cluster 5	Thursday 29 th January 1-3 Bushey Meads



Spring DROP-IN SESSIONS for Early Years settings in DSPL's 6 and 9 with Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour Specialist Dominique Johnson:

- [Book time with Dominique Johnson: Thursday 22nd Jan EWB Drop in](#)
- [Book time with Dominique Johnson: Tuesday 3rd February EWB Drop in](#)
- [Book time with Dominique Johnson: Wednesday 18th February EWB Drop in](#) Half term
- [Book time with Dominique Johnson: Thursday 5th March 2026 EWB Drop in](#)
- [Book time with Dominique Johnson: Monday 16th March 2026 EWB Drop in](#)

If you would like advice around planning for Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour in the Early Years, please click the preferred date to book a 30-minute MS Teams time slot. Once in the booking system, please access the calendar and click on the relevant date which will then give you available time slots.



At time of booking please send a signed consent single service request to WAT3RIV.ISLTEAM@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Colnbrook School Outreach Service



Supporting pupils with significant learning needs in a mainstream school

A session focusing on regulation and readiness to learn, communication and interaction, understanding school and early learning.

Date: 4th February or 4th March
Time: 2-3.30pm
Venue: Colnbrook School

To book a space please email Clare:
cslack@colnbrook.herts.sch.uk
(places limited to 2 per school)

Multisensory Spelling Strategies

Hertfordshire Cognition and Learning Team



This practical training for Primary and Secondary (KS3) settings is aimed at:

- Teaching Assistants new to the role
- Teaching Assistants who would like a refresher for supporting pupils with spelling difficulties

The Cognition and Learning team are excited to invite you and your staff to our new training course on **Multisensory Spelling Strategies: that really work!**

This course is suitable for **Teaching Assistants in Primary and Secondary** settings who are **new to the role** and for **Teaching Assistants needing a refresher** on supporting pupils with spelling difficulties.

Have you ever wondered why spelling is so challenging for some pupils in your school?

In this training session, we will briefly examine some of the reasons behind why spelling is so difficult; then explore practical, fun, easy-to-use strategies that **really** work. You will leave with plenty of ideas and engaging techniques, with the confidence to support pupils to be more successful in spelling.

This course will cover:

- Why spelling is so challenging for some of our pupils in school
- The difference between phonically decodable words and those tricky common exception words
- Simple ways to assess common exception words
- Why **overlearning** really matters and how **multisensory** strategies support retention

And the best part? You will receive an **e-folder with a whole toolkit** of resources including creative spelling games and strategies you can start using right away to make spelling engaging and memorable.

Please do join us for a practical, fun, and inspiring session that will transform the way you teach spelling!

See attached flyer for all details.



Whizzy's Words-2 Phase 2 Phonics Intervention

The Cognition and Learning team are excited to invite you and your staff to our Whizzy Words -2 training.

Whizzy's Words-2 is a one-to-one phonics intervention (3 x 20 minutes per week) created especially for pupils who:

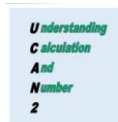
- Are having difficulty securing Phase 2 sounds and who are not yet blending or segmenting consonant-vowel-consonant words.
- Have shown little progress despite targeted catch-up using their school's phonics programme.

This engaging hands-on training session will:

- Share how to accurately assess pupils' needs and identify gaps in phonic knowledge
- Show how to identify appropriate targets for intervention
- Model how to deliver this multisensory, cumulative, highly structured intervention
- Provide opportunities to practise elements of the intervention with colleagues

Following training all attendees will receive a comprehensive set of electronic resources to aid successful delivery of this intervention back in school.

See attached flyer for all details.



UCAN2 Number Assessment and Intervention

The Cognition and Learning team are excited to invite you and your staff to our popular UCAN 2 maths intervention.

This course is suitable for SENCOs & Teaching Assistants

UCAN2 is a hands-on intervention designed to break down early number skills into small, achievable steps using the Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract approach.

- Suitable for pupils in Years 2-6 with severe and persistent number difficulties
- Targets Reception to Year 3 maths objectives: counting, place value, addition & subtraction
- Includes a practical diagnostic assessment to identify and target gaps in early number knowledge

The course will cover:

- How to administer the UCAN2 Number Assessment to identify gaps, set clear teaching targets and monitor progress
- The lesson structure, which enables a small steps teaching approach, securing early number concepts
- Exploration of the different activities used in the UCAN2 Intervention

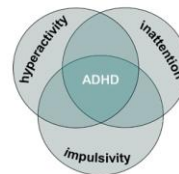
On completion of the course, all delegates will receive the full UCAN2 resource pack which includes the assessment.

This course is very popular, early booking is advised.

See attached flyer for all details.



Hertfordshire ADHD Training



Free Training

ADHD & Girls (online)

11th February 2026, 9:30am to 11:30am

19th May 2026, 9:30am to 11:30am

Please see the attached flyer for all details including how to book.



Please see below information about an upcoming series of three national Whole School SEND webinars, to run in January / February 2026.

These are free-to-access via the Department for Education's Universal SEND Services contract, and aimed at teachers, SENDCos and school leaders at all levels.

The series is called **Leading Specialist Spaces in Mainstream**. It will cover different components of leadership, curriculum, specialist pedagogy, assessment, and the experience of children with complex SEND profiles who are learning in separate, internal spaces in mainstream schools.

The registration link for each of the sessions are below:

22nd January 2026 – 4pm-5:45pm - [Leading Specialist Spaces in Mainstream: Critical Foundations | Whole School SEND](#)

27th January 2026 – 4pm-5:45pm - [Leading Specialist Spaces in Mainstream: Specialist Pedagogy in Practice | Whole School SEND](#)

10th February 2026 – 4pm - 5:45pm - [Leading Specialist Spaces in Mainstream: Assessment, Voice, and Partnerships | Whole School SEND](#)



School Census 15th January 2026

HFL have produced a useful blog for SENCOs to support them in ensuring the information around SEN data is up to date and ready for the census later this month:

The School Census: why it's important for SENCOs to spring clean their SEN data:

<https://www.hfleducation.org/blog/school-census-why-its-important-sencos-spring-clean-their-sen-data>

small steps Hertfordshire Council delivered by Small Steps Hosted at Croxley Danes School Hertfordshire

FOR PARENTS & CARERS OF CHILDREN IN HERTFORDSHIRE
ALL WELCOME

EXTREMISM THRIVES ON MISUNDERSTANDING
A BRIEFING ABOUT THE 'DARK SIDE OF THE INTERNET'
Let's get informed!

MONDAY
9 FEBRUARY 2026
6-8pm

At Croxley Danes School
Baldwins Ln
Croxley Green,
Rickmansworth
WD3 3LR

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER
www.eventbrite.com/e/1948503467263

IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT...

- What is your child watching online?
- What are the dangers and warning signs?
- Who are they interacting with?
- Are they spending too much time online?

Join our session for parents and carers to learn how can we support our young people to stay safe online.

Small Steps is a specialist company aimed at raising awareness of the dangers of Extreme Right-Wing (ERW) extremism via quality training delivered by people with lived experience of radicalisation.
For more information visit: smallstepshub.com

Please share the attached flyer with your school community.



CYPMHS HertsHub is LIVE!

Your one-stop hub for mental health advice, self-help tools, and services for children and young people!

The CYPMHS HertsHub has launched! Co-produced with young people, parents, carers, and professionals, this new platform will make it quicker and easier to find the right support for children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing in Hertfordshire.

From building healthy daily habits to getting help early, HertsHub aims to empower young people and families to take charge of their emotional wellbeing – because feeling good matters!

With information and signposting to a wide range of free services, the site brings everything together in one place: self-help resources, early support options, and more specialist services and contacts for help in a crisis.

Explore now: www.hertshub.co.uk



My Hertfordshire Healthcare Passport

The new **Hertfordshire My Healthcare Passport** is live.....

Please help in spreading the word, it's a simple booklet that families and carers can fill in to share important details about a child's health, likes, dislikes, and the best ways to support them.

I have attached 2 x versions of the document and poster for you to choose from, one includes the East and North Herts Trust logo, and the other one includes the standard NHS logo. The link to the passport can be added to your website, East and North Herts Trust will host the link for version control and updates which are kindly carried out by their comms team.

Why it matters:

- It makes sure children get care that really fits their needs.
- Families and carers feel reassured that staff understand their child.
- It helps different services work together more smoothly.
- Information can be easily transferred over to the Purple Folder to support with transferring from CYP Services to Adult Services

What you can do:

- Mention the passport to families who might find it useful.
- Encourage them to keep it up to date.
- Remind them to bring it along when their child sees new teams or moves between services.

[You can find more info and copies of the passport here](#)

Support in accessing the interactive pdf document can be found attached to this email.



Hertfordshire
Family Centre
Service



Please scan here to book
your FREE place

You are invited to our

CONNECT OVER COFFEE: EARLY YEARS NETWORK MEETINGS

Wednesday 18th March, 09:00 - 10:30
Leavesden Family Centre
Watford, WD25 7QZ

Join us at our NEW morning meet ups. An opportunity to connect and network with colleagues from local early years settings. Drop in and enjoy a coffee with us for an informal networking session for Early Years professionals.



Learn more about how we can support you and the children in your care and their families



Share your experience of local needs and find out about local support available



Hear from partner organisations on a range of interesting topics

We look forward to welcoming you for a morning filled with networking, learning, and sharing ideas.



Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you



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