DSPL9 Delivering Special Provision Locally



DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 4

21.10.26



DSPL 9/HFL Autumn Term SEND Briefing

Tickets are now available for SENCos to book to attend the autumn term DSPL 9/HFL briefing. This terms session will take place on Tuesday 17th November from 1.30-3.30pm at Westfield Academy, Tolpits Lane, Watford.

Please use the link below to book your space:

https://hub.hfleducation.org/courses/dspl-9-briefing-autumn-171126

Booking information:

- The link is hidden in the HFL Hub shop so SENCos won't be able to search for.
- SENCos will need to get their 'booking manager' to make the booking on their behalf (this is usually and admin/head teacher)
- When the confirmation email is received the booking manager needs to forward this to the SENCO
- SENCOs will then need to click on the enrolment link in the confirmation email in order for the session to show on their dashboard.



Special School Outreach Offer

As you will all be aware, across DSPL 9 there are 3 schools that provide outreach for those CYP with EHCP (year 1 upwards) as part of the special school outreach offer:

- Colnbrook: CSlack@colnbrook.herts.sch.uk
- Garston Manor: Kimberley.Joynson@garstonmanor.herts.sch.uk
- Chessbrook: ER@chessbrook.herts.sch.uk

Please can we ask that once you have made a referral to the local authority for this service (Service request - Hertfordshire Grid for Learning), that you contact the school to inform them that you have done so. This will enable them to monitor the situation.

INCLUSION BY DESIGN: DEVELOPING YOUR SCHOOL'S INCLUSION STRATEGY

If you were unable to attend the face to face Inclusion by Design workshop that took place earlier this week, HFL will be delivering an online version on Monday 9th November, 9.30-11.30am. Please use the booking link below to book your space:

Inclusion by Design: developing your inclusion strategy | 9 November 2026

Please note: People can also book here if they just want to access a recording of the session and the resources.

DSPL TA ACADEMY

Please be reminded that the autumn term TA drop in session will be taking place on Wednesday 21st October from 1-2pm. This is an online opportunity for TAs to jump on and speak to myself, Mandy Brandon and an EP about any child/student or situation that they require support with.

For ease I have popped the teams link below:

Microsoft Teams meeting
Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/349393168217798?p=p9wIxhywXcU811eDgM
Meeting ID: 349 393 168 217 798
Passcode: fw7oF2kR

Please share this with any TAs who would like to join us.

SEND ACADEMY

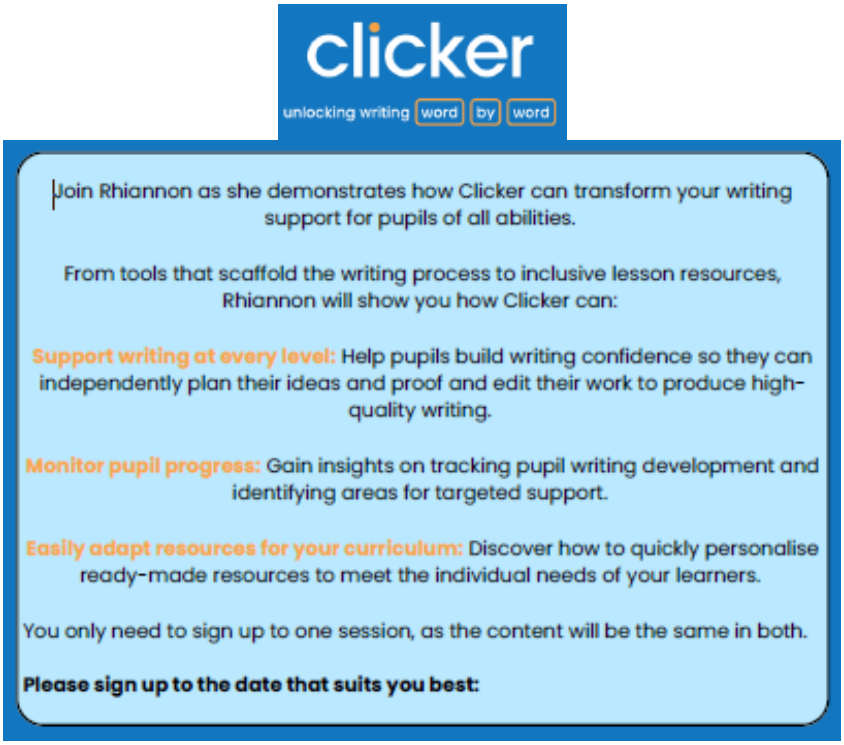
Invision360

EHCP Auditing Sessions for SENCOs in DSPL 6, 7, 8 and 9.

These sessions offer SENCOs the opportunity to audit the quality of an EHCP together with Hertfordshire County Council's SEND Quality Assurance Team, using the Invision360 auditing software, during the autumn, spring and summer terms.

Autumn Term Session (DSPL 6 Venue):
Wednesday 4th November
9.30-11.30am
Cranborne Primary School
Laurel Fields, Potters
Bar EN6 2BA

For all information including booking links please see the attached flyer.



Inclusive writing provision for primary classrooms **–**
Session 1 on Wednesday 18th November 2026 at 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM GMT – Inclusive writing provision for primary classrooms - Session 1 - Crick Software UK

Inclusive writing provision for primary classrooms -
Session 2 on Thursday 19th November 2026 at 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM GMT - Inclusive writing provision for primary classrooms - Session 2 - Crick Software UK

Once people have registered, they will receive a confirmation email and a reminder before the webinar. They will also be able to access the recording afterwards.

Please see attached flyer for all details.

SENCo Drop-Ins

This academic year Gemma Hall and Mandy Brandon will be moving the weekly drop in sessions to a Thursday morning (before school) or lunchtime and rotate this on a weekly basis.

These sessions are an opportunity for any SENCos, Head Teachers, Pastoral Leads or staff to jump onto a call and ask any question big or small that is SEND related.

MORNING SESSION:
The first session 8-8.45am session will take place on Thursday 10th September and will run until the end of the summer term:
Microsoft Teams meeting
Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/33742930953952?p=UVsoWANjoUGmNQEUt3
Meeting ID: 337 429 309 539 52
Passcode: 9SM3ML3v

LUNCHTIME SESSION:
The first session 12-1pm will take place on Thursday 17th September and will also run until the end of the summer term:
Microsoft Teams meeting
Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/381362195089344?p=npG00zLkEDiny3CZcM
Meeting ID: 381 362 195 089 344
Passcode: Zq6kk6nK



FIF Autumn 2 Deadline

Please be reminded that the deadline for FIF applications is Wednesday 11th November.

Applications from schools **must** be sent to **admin@dsplarea9.org.uk**

You must attend your cluster meeting to present your application.

Please note the application deadlines and cluster meeting dates. Applications for Early Years Enhanced Provision Funding (from PVI settings, maintained nurseries and school-based nursery classes) must be sent to DSPL9EYEPF@bournehall.herts.sch.uk



DSPL 9 Young Carers Event

The last few tickets are available for colleagues to join us at the Niland Centre on Wednesday 11th November for our Young Carers Event.

Date: Wednesday 11th November 2026
Time: 9.30am-12.30pm
Venue: The Niland Centre, Bushey, WD23 4EE

To book your space please click on the link below: https://buytickets.at/dspl9/2249946

For all details please see the attached flyer.

How VSEND can support FIF

Katy Alexander has kindly recorded a training session to highlight the benefits of using VSEND to support the FIF application.

Please click on the link below to access the training:
Hertfordshire Valuing SEND (VSEND) - information, training and resources - Hertfordshire Grid for Learning

The training can be found half way down the page.





CYPMHS October 2026 Newsletter

There is a range of information in this month's issue including:

- New East of England 24/7 all age crisis text support service due to go live on 28 October
- With Youth launches a newsletter for parents and carers
- First Steps ED #ScrollSafe
- Spotlight on togetherall for ages 16+

To access the newsletter please click here.

JUSTTALK

We are excited to share with you our new initiative for Hertfordshire schools '**Bricks for 26': Resources and support for schools, colleges and other professionals**

In Hertfordshire we are taking collective action to protect childhood and encourage safer digital lives for our children and young people. The law now requires schools to be phone-free spaces during the day. We, alongside passionate Hertfordshire schools who are already leading the way in this, are supporting more schools across this academic year to go further. Brick phones only for all primary schools and in secondary schools for year 7s, rolling up year on year.

The recently published JSNA on Social media and smartphone associated harms in school-aged children and adolescents (5-18 year), evidences further the need to take action and support our education establishments and parent/carers to make a change lite-bite-cyp-online-harms.pdf. So what are we doing?

We have now launched Bricks for 26, a collective pledge, that we are asking all primary and secondary schools to sign up to – agreeing that from next academic year they will have the policy of brick phones only for primary students and year 7s. Throughout this academic year, we will be providing schools with resources to help with the implementation of this, including parent communications that can send out, a recording of the Hertfordshire Smartphone-Free Childhood pledge Headteachers webinar delivered by Clare Fernyhough at Generation Focus, as well as 3 championing schools sharing practical ways to make a change Hertfordshire Smartphone-Free Childhood pledge - Headteachers webinar (June 2026); and further information and resources to help in their policy change.

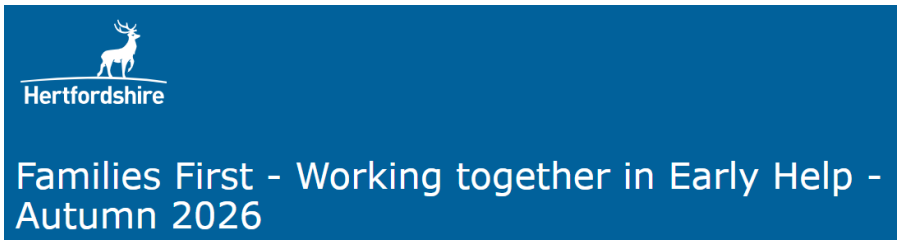
To make effective change, we need to also support parents and carers. Navigating the challenges of access and usage of social media, smartphones and technology can be challenging for parents and carers, guidance and information can often be confusing. To support parents and carers have conversations with their young people about the importance of safe online/ social media/ smartphone usage, as well as making informed decisions about their young persons access to such devises and platforms, collectively with partners across Hertfordshire, we are developing resources to provide information and guidance around safer online and smart phone usage.



Please see the attached flyer to find out more about the SEND Learning week taking place between Monday 30th November and Friday 4th December.

The SEND Learning week will kicks off on Monday 30th November with an in person launch event, followed by a wide range of online interactive SEND webinars spanning across the week.





You're invited to join our Families First, Working Together in Early Help Events

Join us this Autumn at our Working Together in Early Help learning events. These events are a great workforce development opportunity as well as a chance to network with other Families First partners.

The events are in person across the county and will be focused on school attendance and how the national social care reforms (also known as the Families First Partnership Programme) are being implemented in Hertfordshire with presentations from:-

- Children's Services Attendance Team
- Services and programmes that support Emotional Based School Non-attendance (EBSNA) such as Local Schools Partnerships, DSPLs and The Bridge
- Operational updates on the implementation of the national Families First Partnership Programme in Hertfordshire

Events are taking place across the county on the following dates:-

Wednesday 4 November 26, 9:30-12:30, South Hill Centre, Hemel Hempstead
Tuesday 17 November 26, 9:30-12:30, Broxbourne Borough Council, Cheshunt
Friday 20 November, 26, 9:30-12:30. Icknield Centre, Letchworth
Wednesday 25 November 26, 9:30-12:30, Three Rivers District Council, Rickmansworth

Book your place here: Families First - Working together in Early Help - Autumn 2026

SWHP CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2026



Christmas Wellbeing Bags:

Partner with us this festive season

Help us bring comfort, warmth and care to local families this Christmas. Partner schools and local companies can host a donation collection point and encourage their community to give.

BRAND NEW ITEMS ONLY

What to donate

Children

Selection pack / festive sweets • Books
Stationery packs
Bath bombs • Winter hats / socks

Adults

Hand cream • Lip balm • Bubble bath • Hot chocolate sachets / sets • Cosy blankets • Warm socks, including slipper socks



How to take part

1. Host a donation box in your reception or staff room.
2. Collect donations by Friday, 27 November.
3. SWHP will collect the items directly from your school or company.



Every donation helps us create a little festive cheer.

To take part, contact admin@swhp.org.uk

SWHP will add festive activity sheets for children and practical winter advice for adults.