

This week

- Mon 8 Feb: Celebrating Chinese New Year at lunchtime
- Mon 8 Feb: Last day for notice of changes/cancellation to music lessons
- Wed 10 Feb: Ash Wednesday Service, 2.00pm, St Peter's Church
- Fri 12 Feb: Non-uniform day for Home-Start Dacorum
- Fri 12 Feb: Friends of Thomas Coram Valentine's Disco for pupils
- Fri 12 Feb: School closes for half term break

Dates further ahead

- Mon 22 Feb: Pupils return to school after half term break
- Tue 1 Mar: eSafety workshop for parents, Westfield School
- Thu 3 Mar: World Book Day

[A full calendar is available on our website](#)

Notices and reminders

On [Monday 8 February we will be celebrating Chinese New Year](#) at lunchtime. If your child does not normally have school lunches there is no need to fill in a form – just top up their WisePay account and then they can order a lunch at morning registration. School lunches cost just £2.30 per day.

Parent/carers are welcome to join us in [St Peter's for our Ash Wednesday service](#) on Wednesday 10 February at 2.00pm. We would also appreciate volunteers to walk down (and back) with us; please come to reception at 1.20pm.

[This week is our Big Write](#). Look out for your Talk Homework, which will also be available to download from the school website.

On Friday 12 February there will be a ['dress-down' day in support of Home-Start Dacorum](#). The charity started in a home in Greenway Road, Berkhamsted and has been supporting local families for over 30 years across the Borough. Children will be allowed to attend in non-uniform in return for a donation of £1.00. Most schools in Berkhamsted and Dacorum are supporting this local charity on this day.

[Thursday 3 March is World Book Day](#). As part of our preparations, we are setting a challenge for pupils over the February half term: Where is the most unusual place you have ever read a book? Over the half term holiday, we would like pupils to have their photograph taken reading in an unusual place; it could be in this country or overseas; inside or outside. They might be reading a book, a poster, a comic or a leaflet. We would like to use the photographs to create a display for World Book Day; so after half term, please bring the photograph in an envelope with your child's name and class on.

Recent letters

Last week we sent out these letters which are also available on our website:

- None

This week's attachments

Today we're attaching:

- Friends of Thomas Coram Valentine's Disco for pupils
- ASD/ADHD Meeting for Parents
- eSafety Workshop for Parents
- DSPL Newsletter

A reminder that the school requires [notification of any changes/cancellation to music lessons](#) for the summer term in writing by Monday 8 February.

We are now collecting [Sainsbury's Active Kid vouchers](#). If you have any, please send them into school with your child. Thank you.

Any [unwanted U-rated DVD films](#) you may have at home and which would be suitable for wet breaks and lunchtimes would be most welcome! Thank you.

A reminder that the [Easter weekend break](#) (Friday 25 March – Monday 28 March) does not fall within our Easter school holidays this year and that term ends on Friday 1 April at 1.00pm.

Valentine's Disco! At Thomas Coram School

Friday 12th
February
3:30-6.00pm

**Deadline for
application
Wednesday 10th
February please!**



**ONLY
£5
Per
child!**

Tickets must be bought in advance as only those with signed permission from a parent may attend!

It's a dress down Friday- so wear something for dancing!

**Child name(s) and class _____
(All children attending must be named above)**

I have made arrangements to collect my son/daughter at 6.00pm

Parent/carer authorising signature _____

Parent/carer email _____

(Email addresses will be added to the FoTC mailing list and not shared with any third parties)

Cash or cheque to be enclosed with ticket order- cheques made payable to 'The Friends of Thomas Coram'

Snack and drink included. Tuck Shop will be available so a small amount of money may be brought in!



**Are you a parent of a child with
ADHD/ASD/Communication Disorder or with
Sensory Processing needs?**

A daytime support group has been set up at Westfield Primary School for parents across Berkhamsted.

The group is facilitated by Lisa MacGovern (School Family Worker) and Sian Evans (INCO at Westfield Primary). Cathy May from ADD-vance will attend along with Jo Whitlock from the Communication Disorders Team.

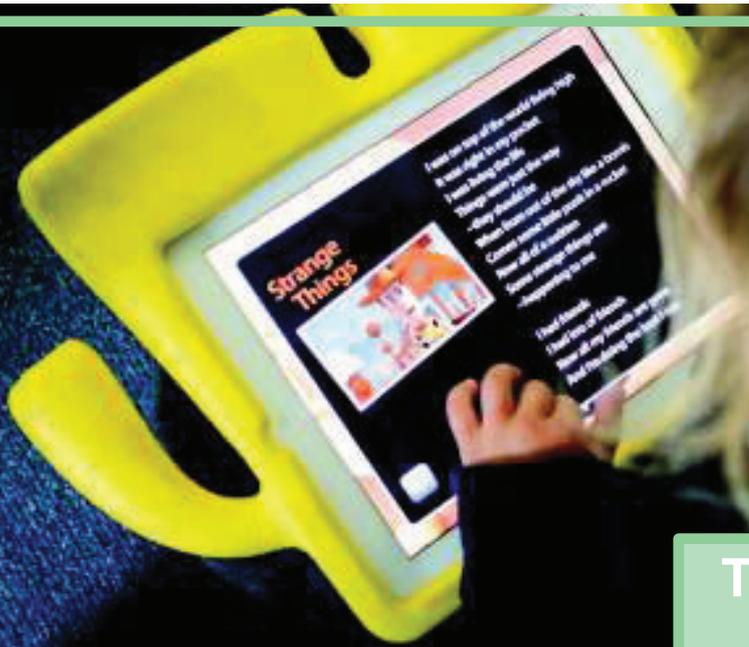
Our next meeting is :

Wednesday 10th February 1.15-2.30 pm

At Westfield Primary School (Community Room), Durrants Lane,
Berkhamsted, HP4 3PJ

Tea and coffee are provided and toddlers are welcome!

eSafety information session for parents



Topics covered

Cyber-bullying, social networking, online grooming, damaging postings, inappropriate websites, gaming, help and advice.

- Are your children safe online?
- Should you leave them alone with access to the internet?
- What are your children doing online?
- Is there anything you need to do?

Tuesday 1st March 2016, 7.00pm to 8.15pm

Call **01442 862 729** by **Friday 26th February** to book your place

**Westfield Primary School
Durrants Lane,
Berkhamsted HP4 3PJ**

Herts for Learning Ltd
01438 845111
www.hertsforlearning.co.uk

**Herts
for Learning**

The logo for Herts for Learning features the text 'Herts for Learning' in a green, sans-serif font. Below the text is a decorative border composed of various small, colorful icons representing different subjects and activities.

Welcome

Welcome to the DSPL Dacorum Newsletter for professionals and parents and carers. We hope that it will give you a sense of what's going on with DSPL and special educational needs in Dacorum, and also let you know how you can get involved or be supported.

Autism Review

Dacorum DSPL is responding to the recommendations made in Dr Glenys Jones's Autism Review. We will be appointing an Autism Lead who will work with schools to make sure that they have inclusive practices and can support children and young people with a diagnosis of ASD. We are working with Hertfordshire County Council to make an Autism Awareness film, showing how mainstream schools can support children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders and how it can improve their experience of school. You can read more about the recommendations at: <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/healthsoc/childfam/dspl/>

Schools' Autism Awareness Week 14-18th March 2016

The National Autistic Society has produced free resource packs for schools to promote awareness of the condition, through lessons and assemblies. You can download these at:

<http://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/world-autism-awareness-week/schools-autism-awareness-week.aspx>

One of the recommendations in Dr Glenys Jones's report is:

"That whole school work is done on teaching every child about diversity and difference in terms of skills, abilities and preferences which includes information on key developmental and medical conditions such as autism, hearing and visual impairments, physical disabilities and learning disabilities. This should include areas of strength and interests in addition to areas of difficulty. A useful exercise would be for staff to ask all children in a class to develop a profile of themselves using different formats, as appropriate, and for these to be presented to the class by the pupils over a period of a term." (Recommendation D45)

We would love to hear if you use these resources and how they worked at your school – please let us know. Raising awareness amongst fellow pupils was a suggestion that came up at the Dacorum DSPL Conference last term and we will be running more initiatives in this area.



Hertfordshire SEND Strategy

Hertfordshire County Council's Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy was published in September 2015 and can be downloaded from:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/s/sendstrategy1518.pdf>

A number of workstreams have been identified, around themes such as Exceptional Needs Funding and Autism. Dacorum schools are represented on each of the workstreams, and Dacorum DSPL is ensuring that our area is represented in any additional consultation meetings that are held.



ADD-Vance Whole School Training

Dacorum DSPL is now funding whole school training! Following the success at Boxmoor Primary School last term, we will now cover the cost of a full or half day training session for all staff at your school. Please contact us if you are interested in the first instance, and we will then make arrangements with ADD-Vance.

ADD-Vance School Staff Workshops

A one-off ADD-Vance workshop is planned for the latter part of the Spring term for school staff and a further set of twilight workshops are currently being planned for the Summer term. Dates of these will be forwarded in due course.



ADD-Vance Parents' Courses

The next parents' course is starting at the end of February for 6 weeks - "Time out for ADHD and ASD" - Now fully booked. More courses and workshops are planned - we will let you know as soon as dates are finalised.

About ADD-Vance www.add-vance.org

ADD-Vance is a registered charity, providing specialist information, training and advice for professionals, as well as support for children, adults and families on issues relating to Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and related conditions. Sign up as a member and receive regular news and information. ADD-Vance also has a closed Facebook Group to help members share information and advice. To access the group, please go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/677078875703666/>. Once your request has been approved you will be able to view posts and add your own posts and comments.



Parent Support Group

**Every Wednesday
10:30 am to 12 noon**

(Term time only)

@ The Lodge, Woodfield School

Malmes Croft, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8RL

Contact: yvonne.gregory@woodfield.herts.sch.uk
01442 253476

Do you have a child
with additional needs?
Need somebody to
talk to?



Come and meet
other parents for a
coffee and a chat.
Young children
welcome

Whether your child is at mainstream school or a special school,
You are welcome to meet other parents, talk to professionals, or
simply drop in for a coffee and meet new friends who also have a
child with special educational needs.

ALL WELCOME - JUST COME ALONG

www.woodfield.herts.sch.uk

Families in Focus - Free Parenting courses

Families in Focus offers free parenting courses for parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs. More information on their 2016 courses is available at

<http://www.familiesinfocus.co.uk/free-parenting-courses/>



Dacorum School Family Worker Services

Dacorum has four School Family Worker Services which support families with children in local schools. They offer individual advice and also run courses on different aspects of parenting. Some areas have set up support groups of parents of children with additional needs. To find out more please see contact details on back page of newsletter.



Mental Health

Mental health has been identified as a priority for Dacorum DSPL and we will be considering how to respond to this growing need. We are funding training for School Family Workers so that they have practical tools to enable them to support families and will be looking at ways to support children and young people in schools.

Special School Outreach

Dacorum schools are entitled to outreach sessions funded by Hertfordshire County Council as part of County's Special School Outreach review. To access free support, please visit Colnbrook's website and contact the schools directly: <http://www.colnbrook.herts.sch.uk/community/outreach.html>



ELKLAN

Early Years ELKLAN training

We have had some interest from Early Years settings in undertaking this training, and will be able to run a training course if we get enough interest. If you would like to attend this training course, please contact Maria or Jan to register your interest using the details at the end of this newsletter.



Primary and Secondary School ELKLAN training

Dacorum DSPL covers full training costs for ELKLAN training, and dates are sent out regularly to SENCos. Training for Primary School staff is delivered by NHS Speech and Language Therapy, and training for Secondary School staff is delivered by Longdean Speech and Language Base. Contact us if you would like to receive the next set of training dates.



EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLANS
workshops for parents and carers

Who is the workshop for?

- Parents and carers of children and young people who currently have a statement of special educational needs
- Parent and carers of children and young people who are going through the process of getting an EHC plan

What will the workshop cover?

- Why statements are changing to EHC plans
- What an EHC plan is and how it is different from a statement
- What will happen and how it will be done
- How parents can get ready for the change to EHC plans
- How your child or young person can be involved
- What the rights of the child or young person are under the new law
- Who can help to support you and what services/professionals can be involved

How do I book a place or get further details?

Book online at www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk/events - details of the venue locations can be found there too. Or phone HPCI on 07840 360245. These workshops are funded by a grant from the Department for Education and supported by SENDIASS (formerly Parent Partnership) and Independent Support (KIDS). **If you are interested but can't make these dates further workshops are being planned for the summer term so join our network at www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk/join-our-network or email: chair@hertsparentcarers.org.uk to register your interest.**

When and where:

Wednesday 10th Feb 10.30 – 2.30pm
Hemel Hempstead – Holiday Inn - HP2 4UA

Saturday 13th Feb 1-5pm
St Albans - Fleetville Junior School - AL14LW

Tuesday 8th March 10.30-2.30pm
Hertford – KIDS Hub – SG13 7SP

Monday 14th March 10.30-2.30pm
St Albans - Fleetville Junior School - AL14LW

Tuesday 22nd March 10.30-2.30pm
Watford – Stanborough Centre – WD25 9JL

Help, Support & Advice

Herts Local Offer

Information about services available in your local area for parents, children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

directory.hertsdirect.org/kb5/hertfordshire/directory/localoffer.page



Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database

You are entitled to join HAND if you are the parent or carer of a child or young person with an additional need or disability aged 0-19. Benefits of joining include a leisure concession card, and subscription to the HAND newsletter. directory.hertsdirect.org/kb5/hertfordshire/directory/service.page?id=W-oM7uWKTro&familychannel=4

For a list of local support groups and voluntary organisations click here <http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/v/volorgs.pdf>

Dacorum School Family Worker Services

Dacorum has four School Family Services teams, who support families of children attending Dacorum Schools. Advice and support is available on a range of issues, including supporting families of children with additional needs. School Family Workers can also help with the facilitation of Education, Health and Care Plans. The teams also run parenting courses and advice sessions, for example with specialists in special educational needs.

Dacorum Family Services www.dacorumfamilyservices.org.uk;

Gade Schools Family Support www.gadeschoolsfamilysupport.co.uk

Kings Langley Partnership of Schools 01923 271744;

Link Family Services www.linkfamilyservices.co.uk

Hertfordshire SEND Information, Advice & Support Service (SENDIASS)

Formerly known as Parent Partnership Service, SENDIASS is an impartial information, advice and support service funded by Hertfordshire County Council for parents, carers, young people (0-25) and professionals. Phone 01992 555847 or email sendiass@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

Find out more at <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/healthsoc/childfam/specialneeds/educ/parpart/>



The KIDS East and West HUBs 01923 676549

The KIDS HUB offers information and support for parents and carers of disabled children / children with additional needs. aged 0-19 in Hertfordshire. KIDS Hub directory of SEND services has also now been published—take a look at what's going on in your area. www.kids.org.uk/hub



HARC (Hertfordshire Branch of the NAS)

Supporting families and people living with autism

<http://nasherts.org.uk/>



harc – the Hertfordshire branch
of the National Autistic Society



DSPL - How can I get involved?

There are a number of ways in which parents can get involved in services. Herts Parent Carer Involvement is a forum for parents to get more involved in the

shaping and improving of services for children with additional needs. For more information contact your local network at chair@hertsparentcarers.org or visit www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk



The DSPL Dacorum Team

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Jan Nethercoat - DSPL Administrator 07525 917125 Email: nethercoatj@kls.herts.sch.uk