

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #78.9



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents and Carers,

Ofsted

Our week has been dominated by our visit from Ofsted. I would like to thank all parents and carers who sent such supportive messages, as well as those who took time to help the school by completing the survey. Students also deserve praise for their openness with inspectors as they shared their experiences at FPSS.



As you may imagine, the inspection process is rigorous and necessitates a huge effort from our staff. I would like to thank them for their tireless efforts on behalf of our students, including at Year 8 Parents Evening the day after the inspection.

I realise that parents and carers will be curious to know the outcome. We are now following Ofsted's publication process. In all likelihood the report will be shared around the start of May.

Samsung Competition

Alongside Ofsted, on Tuesday we were delighted to welcome Samsung to school. They were accompanied by a film crew to run a workshop and also celebrate Amy and Alice's success in being one of only 24 groups to make it to the semi-finals. Many congratulations once again to them both on their innovative and clever design.

Science Fair - Monday 16th March

On Monday we have our Science Fair from 5pm which features some fabulous projects from students in Years 7, 8 and 9. Please do come along and take a look at their engaging displays and experiments. From what I have seen so far, students should be very proud of what they have achieved.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

Next week (Week A) - Upcoming Events

MON 16 MARCH	Science Fair	5-7pm
WED 25 MARCH	Spring Concert	7pm
THU 26 MARCH	Year 10 Parents & Students' Consultation Evening	4.15pm-7.15pm
FRI 27 MARCH	End of Term 4	12.30pm finish
MON 30 MARCH - FRI 10 APRIL	Spring Holidays	
MON 13 APRIL	Start of Term 5 (Week A)	8.40am-3.15pm
THU 23 APRIL	Early Finish for all year groups	2.45pm
THU 23 APRIL	Year 7 Parents and Students' Consultation Evening	3.45pm-7.45pm
FRI 24 APRIL	Late Start for all year groups	9.15am

SCHOOL TERM DATES

Spring Concert - Wednesday 25th March

Following the Science Fair, our next school event is our annual Spring Concert which showcases a range of musical talents from our very accomplished students. This is always a highlight of our Spring Calendar and promises to be a wonderfully entertaining evening.

Take care,

Dr Andrew J Morrison (BA Hons, PGCE, MA, PhD)



CLICK HERE FOR SPRING CONCERT TICKETS

YEAR 10 PARENTS' AND STUDENTS' CONSULTATION EVENING

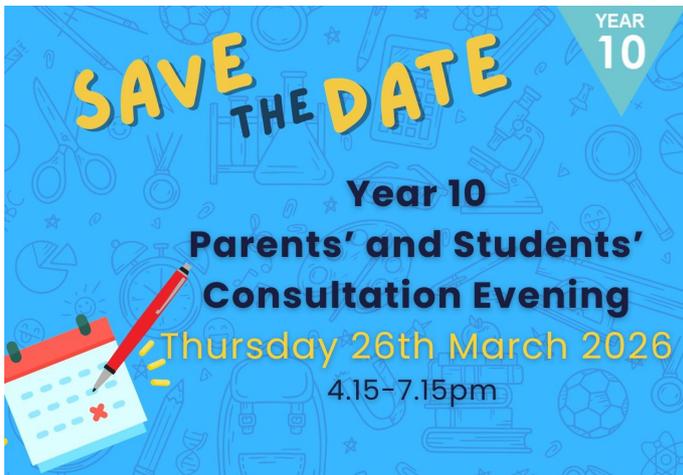


THURSDAY 26TH MARCH

We are holding our Year 10 Parents Evening for parents and carers of students in Year 10 on Thursday 26th March.

This event will be held in school from 4.15-7.15pm.

This is an important opportunity to meet teachers and discuss your child's progress. More details about booking appointments will be sent nearer the date.



SCIENCE FAIR



MONDAY 16TH MARCH 5-7PM

Get ready to be amazed! Our Year 7, 8 & 9 students will be showcasing their incredible science and engineering projects - full of creativity, curiosity and innovation.

The Science Fair is a brilliant chance to celebrate their hard work, problem-solving and scientific thinking. From bold experiments to imaginative designs, there's so much to explore!

Prizes & Rewards

- Trip to the Big Bang Fair for all participants
 - Winners entered into the national competition with a chance to win £500
 - Trophies, rosettes & house points up for grabs
- Bring the family and support our young scientists!

REMINDERS - TRIPS AND VISITS



Parents and carers of students attending the following trips this year have been sent the information below:

Ski Trip 2026 - information needed by Monday

A link to the medical form and behaviour contract were sent via ParentMail this week, please make sure these have been completed by Monday 16th March at the latest.

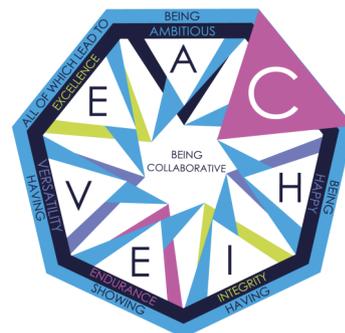
Greece 2026

The final payment for the Greece 26 trip is now due. Payment should be made via ParentMail by Wednesday 25th March.

Costa Rica 2026

Please be advised that the final payment for Costa Rica is due shortly. Payment is via ParentMail by Thursday 26th March and can be found in the Payments area.

Thank you.





Cars

When dropping off or collecting students, parents and carers should always move to the farthest end of the parking bays. There are currently a number of drivers who pull up at the entrance of the lay-by which is resulting in traffic queues on the main road which blocks road users, some of whom overtake to get past, and this all increases the danger of people getting hurt unnecessarily.

Cycles

Please can parents also remind students that they should ride carefully to and from school, being considerate of other road users.

Thank you.



FREE WEBINARS

How You Can Support Your Child To Manage Exam Stress

Monday 16th March 7pm



[CLICK HERE FOR KOOTH WEBINAR](#)

How You Can Support Your Child During Exams

Tuesday 17th March 6-7pm



Prepare your child for the final week before any test or assessment

Support your child in establishing a good routine the night before

Help your child to perform better in their exam

[CLICK HERE FOR ELEVATE EDUCATION'S WEBINAR](#)



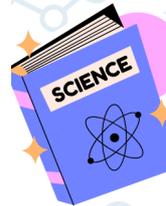
Great work from our Sparx Science Champions!



SPARX SCIENCE CHAMPIONS



1. SIMRAN VADHER
2. MYA BIRK
3. MEYORA DE SOUSA
4. LOIS SELLMAN
5. SUBHAN WARAICH
6. SIMON LASMANIS
7. RHYS HOLMES
8. TALIA ABOU SALEH
9. AYAAN TARIQ
10. TOM SHAW



WE ARE HIRING!

School Medical Officer - Extended deadline



SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER TO START ASAP

35 hours per week, 8.15am-3.45pm term time only plus 2 INSET days
 £24,957 - £27,073 annually (actual)
 Closing date: 9am Monday 16th March

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

Join our team!



SPRING CONCERT

WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH 7PM

Tickets available now!

We are excited to announce that tickets are now available for our annual FPSS Spring Concert! This special event is a celebration of music at our school, showcasing performances by our talented students.

Our students have been working hard to prepare a variety of performances, including choral renditions, instrumental pieces, rock bands, and vocal solos. For some, this will be their final performance at FPSS, making it an emotional and memorable evening. We would love for you to join us as we bring the spring term to a wonderful close with an evening of music.



[CLICK HERE FOR SPRING CONCERT TICKETS](#)

WORLD BOOK DAY

- Literary Quiz
- Library Cluedo
- Book Swap
- Author Visit



Thank you all for your support with World Book Day last week. We had a wonderful week in the library.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the Literary Quiz. The questions were challenging; out of almost 100 participants only 12 managed to get over 40/50 correct answers (we did check the automatic marking and corrected the scores upwards, just in case anyone is wondering!). The overall winners were Beatrix (Year 8) and Summer (Year 10), who both got 47/50. Let's see who can beat it next time!

You may also have been wondering about the murder in the library... well, we're happy to inform you that our wonderful supersleuths have cracked the case wide open! It was Mr Sankey, in the Careers Room, with the photocopier! All participants have now received their Library Cluedo Certificate and the overall winner was Mattie (Year 8).

Students also had a good time choosing some new books at the book swap table, which we hope they will enjoy reading.



Last but not least, the Year 7 students all very much enjoyed the author visit on Friday from David Barker. David talked about his journey to becoming an author, the inspirations for his 'London Falling' trilogy and judging a book by its cover.

He read the beginning of the second book, *Pax and the Forgotten Pincher*, and then gave the students some tips for their own writing: thinking about the power of three, giving a twist to familiar places and putting things that you're interested in into your stories (board games in his case!).

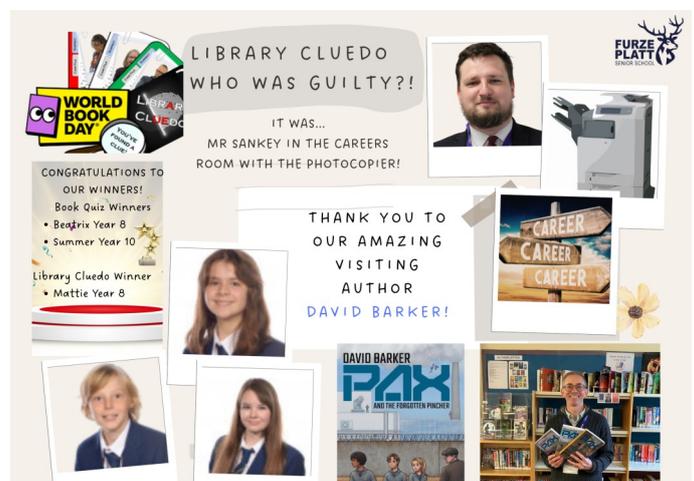
If you didn't order books beforehand, but would now like to, David has confirmed he can sign and dedicate books and deliver them to school for us. Please order by **Tuesday 17th March**. Payment is via ParentMail and can be found in the Payments area.

As before, books are £8 for one or £21 if you order all three.

We also have copies of his books in the library for anyone who would like to read them.

Thank you again for getting involved and making our World Book Week such a success.

Mrs Sweetland and Mrs Allanson, School Librarians



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SIXTH FORM (YEAR 12) MOCK INTERVIEW DAY

Monday 13th July 2026



Looking to give something back to the community? Want to help prepare young people for the world of work? Ready to give them a taste of what an interview is like?

We are looking for people to come and take part in our Sixth Form Year 12 Mock Interview Day on Monday 13th July between 9.30am and 3.15pm.

You can do the whole day or just an hour or two. Whatever works best for you. The idea is to interview up to 2 students per hour and give them advice on their interview skills and CV.

Feedback from both students and the employers/ interviewers was so positive and constructive last year.



For more information please contact our Sixth Form Careers Advisor Claire Beale via the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO CONTACT CLAIRE BEALE, SIXTH FORM CAREERS ADVISOR](#)



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT...

[WORKEPERIENCE @FURZEPLATT.NET](#)



YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

DEADLINE TO ADD PLACEMENTS - FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

Year 10 Work Experience will take place from Monday 22nd – Wednesday 24th June 2026.

How to add your placement:

- Agree the placement with the employer first
- Log in to Unifrog (www.unifrog.org)
- Scroll to 'Placements' and click 'Add a placement'

Once submitted, Unifrog will automatically email the employer, parent/carer and school to collect permissions and key information.

Please ensure all details are entered accurately for the process to run smoothly.

[CLICK HERE FOR HELP WITH WORK EXPERIENCE](#)





SCHOOL CLUBS - TERM 4

How can...
...my child take part in clubs
and activities at FPSS?



Parents and carers may wish to sign up to My EVOLVE for an overview of clubs, what's on etc – you can do this from the club or academic support clinic emails sent to you in two easy steps:

1. Click on the link in the email as usual to see clubs/clinics
2. Click 'create account' button.

SCHOOL CLUBS LIST

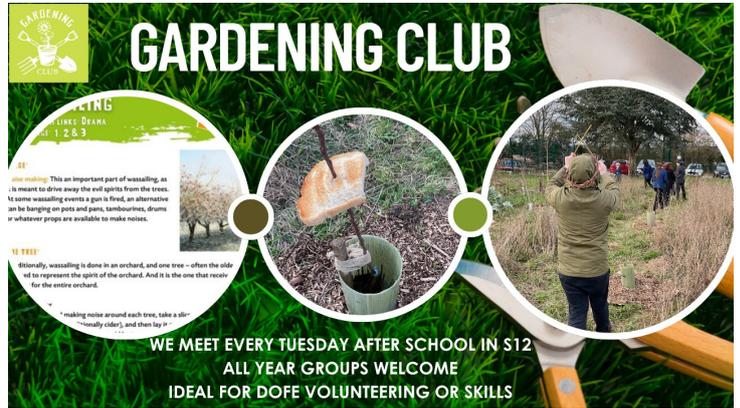


GARDENING CLUB



Gardening Club had another fruitful session, making an excellent job of wassailing the orchard.

The robins were fed toast and the trees were serenaded 'to chase out evil spirits and for good fortune and a bountiful harvest'.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRONZE AWARD



Physical section

Making the most of the (all too brief) sunshine with Mr Gumbs and some of our Year 9 The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze Award students, enjoying working on their Physical section!









7442



8543



7593



7097

HOUSE WINNERS THIS WEEK



Great work from all our Falcons - this week's House winners!



TOP TEN EAGLES

- 1st - Mollie Clark
- 2nd - Sveva Matthews
- 3rd - Ellen Knott
- 4th - Lily Tobin
- 5th - Harry Strudwicke
- 6th - Salman Zeb
- 7th - Jessica Simpson
- 8th - Samuel Boddy
- 9th - Michael Street
- 10th - Alex Tucker

TOP TEN HAWKS

- 1st - Thea Winrow-Davies
- 2nd - Skye Eastern
- 3rd - Abbie Connell
- 4th - Chloe Pursey
- 5th - Mason Squires
- 6th - Tyler Appleyard
- 7th - Jacob-George Lonsdale-King
- 8th - Daniel Farrall
- 9th - Gretel Anagho
- 10th - Julia Evans



HOUSE ASSEMBLIES FOR EAGLE AND HAWK

This week the House Captains from Eagle and Hawk delivered House Assemblies, with Denis Senyurek (Year 11 and Hawk House Captain) welcoming Hawk students with their flag!

TOP 10 HOUSE WINNERS & HOUSE CAPTAINS



TEABAG THROWING & BOTTLE FLIPPING COMPETITIONS



Students had great fun in this week's House competitions, throwing teabags and bottle flipping!

EAGLE AND HAWK HOUSE WINNERS

Well done to all our Top 10 Eagle and Hawk students for gaining the most points since September. All were rewarded with an Easter egg.






SPRING CONCERT

Wednesday 25th March 2026 - 7.00pm

TICKETS
NOW
ON SALE

SAFEGUARDING FOCUS

Teenagers can face a number of safeguarding risks. It is important to be vigilant to warning signs in order to best support young people. One such risk may be around eating disorders. The below provides some helpful advice and guidance if you are worried about your child.

Eating disorders - What are they?

An eating disorder is a mental condition that involves controlling eating, usually to cope with other feelings or troubling situations. The most common eating disorders are:

Anorexia nervosa – controlling weight by not eating enough food, doing too much exercise or both

Avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder (ARFID) – avoiding certain foods, limiting how much you eat, or both. Often this is due to negative feelings about the smell, taste or texture of certain foods, or a negative experience with a type of food (e.g. choking or vomiting)

Bulimia nervosa – going through cycles of eating a lot of food in a short amount of time (binge eating), and then getting rid of the food from your body to try to stop gaining weight (purging)

Binge eating disorder (BED) – regularly eating large quantities of food over a short period of time, until you're uncomfortably full. Someone with BED might feel like they're not in control of what they're doing

Pica – experiencing cravings to eat things that aren't food, with no nutritional value, such as soap, chalk, dirt or paper. Someone might feel they can't stop themselves from eating these things

Other specified feeding or eating disorder (OSFED) – when someone's symptoms don't exactly match those of the other eating disorders

Risk factors for developing an eating disorder can include:

- Individual risk factors – a child with an eating disorder is more likely to have experienced low self-esteem, a preoccupation with perfectionism, anxiety or is particularly sensitive
- Sensory processing differences, e.g. linked to their autism or ADHD, that make certain food textures or smells overwhelming
- Growing up being unhappy with a certain aspect of themselves, such as feeling too tall or not being good at sport
- Growing up in an environment where they've been surrounded by weight concerns, such as parents/carers

who diet, or comment on their own weight/the child's weight

- Being bullied for their weight
- Adverse childhood experiences, such as experiencing abuse or neglect or living with family members who have problems with substance abuse

Dieting, especially at an early age, can make it more likely for someone to develop an eating disorder

What to look for

- Rapid changes in weight, or behaviours to hide changes such as wearing loose-fitting clothing or refusing to get changed for lessons like PE :
- Eating lots of food very quickly
- Eating very slowly
- Hoarding food
- Suddenly refusing foods they previously tolerated
- Eating alone, e.g. they might find a secret place in school to eat
- Rigid rules around food or eating
- Putting themselves on restrictive diets or calorie counting, or they might use fitness apps to log everything they're eating
- Exercising more than before, or generally over-exercising
- Lying about how much they've eaten, what they've eaten, when they've eaten or their weight
- Going to the toilet a lot after eating
- Stealing food from classmates, the school canteen or nearby shops

General changes in behaviour that may indicate a safeguarding concern, e.g. not coming into school or being absent from lessons, changes in mood, being more withdrawn or tiredness

What to do if you have a concern

- Contact your child's GP or child's pastoral lead or click the links below for more information:

[YEAR GROUP PASTORAL LEAD CONTACTS](#)

[NHS OVERVIEW OF EATING DISORDERS](#)

[BULIMIA](#)

[BINGE EATING
DISORDER](#)

[ANOREXIA NERVOSA](#)

PAID TEACHING INTERNSHIPS



SCAN ME

CONSIDERING TEACHING AS A CAREER?

Teaching Internships can help you decide if teaching is right for you.

If so, then Teach Maidenhead's 3-week teaching internships could be for you!

Starting on **Monday 8th June**, lasting 3 weeks and spread across the 6 secondary schools in Maidenhead you will have the opportunity to gain some hands-on classroom experience. The programme will include shadowing teachers and students, opportunities to observe and evaluate teaching practice. You'll experience life in the classroom and join a team of teachers who can help you gain insight into what it's like to be part of the profession.

For more information, please scan the QR code above.

Or follow this link:

<http://www.teachmaidenhead.co.uk/index.php/sep>

Or contact: claire.eadie@furzeplatt.net

ARE YOU...

- a current undergraduate in 2nd, 3rd or 4th year or master's student?
- studying Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Modern Foreign Languages, Design & Technology or a closely related degree?

WOULD YOU...

like to earn **£455 per week** whilst gaining a good understanding of the daily life of a teacher.

WWW.TEACHMAIDENHEAD.CO.UK

FOOD
THEME DAYS

ST PATRICK'S DAY
17TH MAR

Try something from our specially themed menu!

We're celebrating St Patrick's Day!

elevate
education

Elevate Education's Spring Term
Parent Webinar Series

Elevate Education delivers high-impact workshops to our students that help to develop their study skills, motivation, and exam preparation. Over the next term, you're invited to join their parent webinar series, where you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking
13th January 6:00pm (GMT)

How You Can Make Technology an Ally (& Not the Enemy!)
27th January 6:00pm (GMT)

How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory
10th February 6:00pm (GMT)

How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams
3rd March 6:00pm (GMT)

How You Can Support Your Child During Exams
17th March 6:00pm (GMT)

Register today at: <https://go.elevateeducation.com/ukschoolwebinar>

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MAIDENHEAD FESTIVAL
SOUND LAB

UNLEASH YOUR INNER MUSICIAN AT THE SOUND LAB!

This May Half Term, dive into the world of music at Maidenhead Festival's Sound Lab—a fun, hands-on experience for all ages!

Dates: Wed 8th & Thurs 9th April 2026
Time: 10am - 3pm
Location: Nicholson Shopping Centre

FREE ENTRY

- Try instruments like trumpets, clarinets, saxophones, flutes, and pianos
- Join The Piano Sessions - showcase your talent, inspired by Channel 4's The Piano
- Plus other workshops to be announced!
- Fun for all—kids and adults welcome!

Don't miss this chance to explore music and discover your hidden talents!

Our Partners:

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Learn an instrument

MUSIC CLASSES

ALL LEVELS

ABOUT US

Independent music school offering one to one tuition, workshops, exams and concerts

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REGISTER NOW

Sessions at St Pirans and Furze Platt



SCAN ME



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info@dartnelldanceacademy.co.uk



Every child gets a chance to shine whilst growing their confidence and dance technique.

Dancers get the opportunity to take British Theatre Dance Association examinations and medals, perform in various shows, compete in competitions and fully become part of our DDA family.

We offer classes in Ballet, Modern Jazz, Tap, Acrobatic, Lyrical, Musical Theatre and Speech and Drama for students from 3 years and onwards.

Classes are held at St Luke's Church hall Maidenhead



CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT DARTNELL DANCE ACADEMY

FOOTBALL FITNESS SESSIONS

ELEVATE YOUR GAME

FOOTBALL FITNESS ACADEMY

OUR PROGRAM

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- Stability Training
- Power Training
- Fitness Training
- SAQ Training
- Plyometric Training
- Small Group Sessions

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Elevate Your Game at our Football Centre of Excellence. Our science-backed training programmes focus on strength, power, SAQ, and mobility, designed specifically for football performance. Suitable for players aged 7-17.

MAIDENHEAD WOKINGHAM

More Information:
www.footballfitnessacademy.com
 07871 396 391

FOOTBALL FITNESS ACADEMY

EST 1826

WINDSOR GIRLS' SCHOOL BOAT CLUB

The rowing club for **Windsor Girls' School** and girls & boys at **Comprehensive and Independent** schools in **Windsor and surrounding areas**

EASTER LEARN TO ROW

12:00 - 15:00
30 March - 2 April

Book Here
<http://tinyurl.com/LTEaster26>

Day 1

Rowing technique
Water safety tests

+

Days 2-4

On-water rowing sessions

2 day 30-31 Mar £95	3 day 30 Mar - 1 Apr £150	4 day 30 Mar - 2 Apr £175
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Rowed before? Please email for alternative options

Girls & Boys
 Years 7-13 (ages 11-18)
 Confident swimmers

EERC Clubhouse
 14 Maidenhead Road
 Windsor SL4 5TY

TEAM WORK DISCIPLINE FOCUS STRENGTH & FITNESS FUN!

boats@etonexcelsiorrowingclub.org
www.etonexcelsiorrowingclub.org/juniors

Reading Sailing Club Open Day

9TH MAY 2026
11am - 3pm

**FREE
TASTER
SESSIONS**

Sailing taster sessions for adults & children

**BBQ | SAILING | MODEL YACHT RACING
WINDSURFING | PADDLEBOARDING**

For more information & to book a session,
 email enquiries@readingsc.org.uk
 or visit readingsc.org.uk/openday

Reading Sailing Club, Sonning Eye, Reading RG4 6TT

1 on 1 Support Sessions

An online or over the phone, 60 minute session offering support and advice.

Suitable for Parents and Carers whom:

- Has a child/young person who may have, waiting assessment or has been diagnosed with Autism or AuDHD (Autism & ADHD).
- Require strategies for a new presenting issue.
- Attended workshops/courses previously and need further advice.
- Want to talk confidentially or uncomfortable with group sessions.
- Are neurodivergent themselves or have access needs.

Available for families residing in, or have a registered GP in East Berkshire.

To book your place contact GEMS:

Gems.4Health@nhs.net

0800 999 1342

Sign Up Today!