

FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Newsletter - Issue #79.1



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome Back!

I hope that you and your families had a good Easter break. Talking to students, there was clearly much rest as well as adventures locally and further afield.



Meeting all students for assemblies this week I have celebrated many of their accomplishments in the Spring Term, including in the classroom, around school, on the sports field, in extra curricular activities and through local and national competitions.

Looking forward to this term, there is a raft of opportunities on offer and what they can ACHIEVE, not just this summer but into their futures. In particular, I have focused on teamwork and what they can ACHIEVE; not simply by bettering themselves, but also through learning to work better with others.

Examinations

Core to the next few weeks will be revision and examinations for many of our older students. For example, next week sees Language Speaking and Textiles Exams for Year 11, as well as our Year 13 Art Exam. It has been great to hear and see the work these young people are doing to realise their goals and ambitions. Thank you to all staff, family and friends who are supporting students during this time.

Welcomes

As we start a new term, we welcome several new colleagues. I am sure that you will join with me in wishing Miss Naomi Carr Austin (Head of Performing Arts),



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

SPORTS CALENDAR

TERM 5 EVENTS - WEEK B

WED 22 APRIL	DofE Pre-Expedition Meeting	6-7pm
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
MON 4 MAY	Bank Holiday Monday	
TUES 5 MAY	Year 6 Parents Induction Evening	6.30-8pm
WED 20 - FRI 22 MAY	Silver DofE Training Expedition	
THU 21 - FRI 22 MAY	Bronze DofE Training Expedition	
FRI 22 MAY	End of Term 5	3.15pm finish
MON 25 - FRI 29 MAY	May Holidays	
MON 1 JUNE	Start of Term 6 (Week A)	

SCHOOL TERM DATES

Miss Aeira Marsh (Computing) and Mrs Tricia Dance (School Medical Officer) all the best as they begin their FPSS careers.

Take care,

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



YEAR 7 PARENTS' & STUDENTS' CONSULTATION EVENING

Thursday 23rd April 3.45-7.45pm

YEAR
7

On Thursday 23rd April there will be an opportunity for parents/carers of Year 7 to meet their child's subject teachers at Furze Platt Senior School. Face to face appointments will be available between **3.45-7.45pm** in the Theatre and Main Hall. (please note the start and end times may vary for staff members).



Parents' Evenings are very important events that allow you to gain helpful insights into your child's progress, discuss upcoming assessments and find out how families can support students with revision, therefore we would request you attend the appointments with your child.

[PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR PARENTS EVENING BOOKINGS](#)

Appointments have been capped at ten appointments initially; this is to allow every parent access to speak to subject staff. Our primary goal is to ensure that every parent has fair and equal access to feedback from their child's subjects. With children studying more than ten subjects, a completely unrestricted booking system could lead to a scenario where only a small percentage of parents secure appointments, leaving many without the opportunity for valuable feedback.

By implementing a limit, we aim to distribute these opportunities more evenly among parents. Closer to the evening we will release remaining appointments slots for parents to potentially access more subjects.

If your child is currently SEND K Support, you are welcome to book an optional appointment with Mrs Jack during parents' evening to discuss anything related to your child's need. While appointments with the SENCo are not required, they are available for parents and carers who would find a conversation helpful.

To maintain the efficiency and punctuality of the event, we have also enforced a five-minute travel time between appointments. This buffer helps ensure that each meeting runs smoothly and stays within the allotted time frame.

The appointments are open to book and will close on Thursday 23rd April at 2pm.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 23rd April.

Miss R Lake, Deputy Headteacher

EARLY FINISH: Thursday 23rd April

School will close at 2.45pm in preparation for parents evening.

LATE START: Friday 24th April

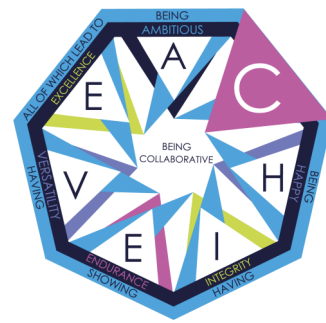
Students should go to their first lesson (not Form) for a prompt 9.15am start.

A reminder of our **EARLY FINISH** Thursday 23rd April

Period 1 starts promptly at 8:45 am.
School finishes at 2.45pm.

LATE START Friday 24th April

Period 1 starts promptly at 9:15 am.
Anyone arriving after 9:10 am will have to sign in (late) at Main Reception.



TERM 4 READING AND MATHS CHAMPIONS

Your commitment to improving your reading skills and pushing yourselves further each day has truly paid off!

The hard work and consistency of our Term 4 winners have set a fantastic example for others.

READING PLUS TERM 4 CHAMPIONS

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Year 7	MITHUN V K	TYLER A	HIRUN F	MARTIN G	MATTI G
Year 8	HELENE S	ETHAN C	ELLIE U-T	ADA W	SAM B
Year 9	MEYORA D S	ALEX A	HAYDEN P	GRACE C	AAYAT I

Sparx Maths

A massive congratulations to all of our students who showed outstanding commitment and perseverance with Sparx Maths last term! Your hard work, focus, and determination to improve each week has been fantastic to see.

A special shoutout to our Term 4 winners – your consistency and effort have truly set the standard.

Keep challenging yourselves, embracing those problem-solving moments, and striving for excellence, we are incredibly proud of you all!

SPARX MATHS TERM 4 CHAMPIONS

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Year 7	HIRUN F	SUBHAN W	HEITOR L	VIVAAN P	LIAM Z
Year 8	GULIA P	ALIX H	MADDIE T	SUMMER H	JAKE K
Year 9	DIVITH G	MEYORA D S	VEANNE W	LILLY H	EMILY G-T
Year 10	SEB S	GRETEL A	IBRAHIM K	NATHAN T	ROBEL T
Year 11	JUAN P	MILEY K	SIMON L	AHMET K	NELA S

SCIENCE STARS OF THE WEEK...

Great work from our young scientist too!

SPARX SCIENCE CHAMPIONS

- MEYORA DE SOUSA
- VEANNE WITHANA
- MITHUN VIJAYA KUMAR
- ALI EL GUOSHI
- MYA BIRK
- SIMRAN VADHER
- LOIS SELLMAN
- JAYDEE MITCHELL
- OSCAR LIPSCOMBE
- TALIA ABOU SALEH

Reading Plus

A huge well done to all of our incredible students who have shown dedication, resilience, and a real love of reading this term through Reading Plus.

Revision Packs

Revision resources for each subject are on FP-Cloud under Raising Achievement and Year 11. Within this site there are links to subject-specific revision websites, revision guides, how to revise tutorials, and past papers with their associated mark schemes and examiners' reports etc.

Exam Timetables

While students already have access to their exam schedule online via examsassist.co.uk, it is important that students check these thoroughly, so they know when their exams are. Making a copy of this timetable is often a good idea. A public exams handbook for Students and Parents is available to download from the school website for guidance on all aspects of the exams season. Students will also receive the official JCQ exam regulations information with their timetables. We recommend that you discuss these with your son/daughter to ensure that they are absolutely clear about expectations of how they conduct themselves during exams.

Exam Phase 1 - Thursday 7.5.26 – Thursday 21.5.26 (inclusive)

The main body of exams starts in full on Thursday 7th May. There will be a full revision / final preparation programme throughout the exam period, with subject-specific preparation sessions as short a time as possible before the exam. (This will normally be the afternoon before a morning exam or the morning before an afternoon exam – where it does not clash with another exam.)

During Exam Phase 1, students will either be in an exam, a revision session for that exam or in their normal lessons. When in normal lessons, students will have a choice of either working with their teacher for that subject or to revise for another subject – quiet study will be expected. However, students will not be expected to attend tutor time and will thus not be required in school until 8.45 if they have a 9.00am exam or 9.10 if they are going to normal lessons or a revision session. When students have an afternoon exam they will be permitted to leave the school site as soon as the exam finishes.

Exam Phase 2 – Friday 22.5.26 – Wednesday 17.6.25 (inclusive)

From Friday 22nd May Exam Phase 2 starts. During this phase students will attend their exams and the associated revision sessions. When they are not in an

exam or a revision session they will have Home Study, where they will be expected to be working at home preparing for their next exam. Access to the library to study during phase 2 is possible for limited number of students, however permission will need to be given by myself or Mr Jones in advance. Please contact us if you would like your child to be considered.

Details of the revision programme that will run during Exam Phases 1 & 2 will be published in April and will be shared with you.

If you have any queries, then please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr Jones – email (james.dollery@furzeplatt.net and nicolas.jones@furzeplatt.net).

Mr J Dollery, Assistant Headteacher

Year 11 Education Records Service (ERS)

The Department of Education (DfE) have been running an online 'Education Records Service' pilot scheme to date with a handful of schools across the country and now wish to extend the opportunity to more schools. As a result, the Department of Education (DfE) are allowing us to issue digital education records to our students who wish to take up this opportunity. We intend to make this service available to all our Year 11, 12 & 13 students in 2026, with a further rollout to other year groups from next year.

Education records are part of a new service from the DfE to provide students with their education information and help them share this information as part of their post-16 journey.

Education records contain unique education information for each student, including:

1. their name, address and date of birth recorded on our database
2. the schools they have attended
3. their qualifications (after results are released)

any support needs such as Free School Meals and SEN support

Education records will be issued via the DfE education record app. **To take part, Year 11 students must download the app onto their phones from the Apple (minimum iOS version 15 or newer) or Google App**



SCHOOL CLUBS - TERM 5

(minimum version 8.1 or newer) stores at home prior to Tuesday 21st April. The rest of the issuing process will take place in school (during PSHE lessons from Tuesday 21st April).

After the issuing process, pupils will have their education information on their phones. They can then use the app to share this information digitally with sixth forms or colleges when they enrol.

We see this as a great opportunity for students to have an electronic copy of their results and make it far easier for them prove achievements and personal details to potential employers or future education establishments. As well as providing a consistent, secure information directly from DfE-held data.

If you do **not** wish for your child to take part in this pilot scheme, please can you complete the following opt out Microsoft Form – [FPSS - ERS Opt-Out Form. – Fill in form](#)

For further information, please see Parentmail where you will find a list of Q&A on the ERS scheme.

Mr J Dollery, Assistant Headteacher

Parents and carers of students received invitations at the end of last term to book clubs for this term at Furze Platt Senior School. Please do not delete these emails as more clubs may be added. Check junk/spam folders if the email (evolve.furzeplattsnvisits@edufocus.co.uk) is not found. To sign up for My EVOLVE for club overviews, follow these steps:

1. Click the link in the email.
2. Press the 'create account' button.

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

Please note:

- Bookings must be made through the original email invitations sent on 27th March.
- To choose dates, please click on the activity name.
- Avoid duplicating bookings for the same session.
- Upper-year students may receive invitations to non-relevant academic clubs; select only appropriate sessions.
- To remove a student from a club, please email enrichment@furzeplatt.net

Thank you.



elevate[▲]

education

Live Parent Webinar: Ask Me Anything (Live Q&A)
Tuesday 28th April 6:00-7:00pm (BST)

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

[CLUBS LIST FOR NEXT WEEK](#)

**DOFE AWARDS PRE-EXPEDITION MEETING
WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL**

We are pleased to invite parents and carers to a Pre-Expedition Information Evening for students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Awards.

The meeting will take place on:

Date: Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Furze Platt School Theatre

During the evening, we will provide important information about the DofE expeditions, including:

- Expedition overview and expectations
- Training and practice expedition details
- Kit list and packing guidance
- Safety procedures and supervision
- Medical considerations
- Food and nutrition on expedition

There will also be an opportunity for you to ask any questions.

We strongly encourage all parents/carers to attend, as this meeting will help ensure that both you and your child feel fully prepared for the expeditions.

Mr D Randall, DofE Expedition Leader

**"A huge thank you to the teachers
and support staff for providing so
many extra-curricular opportunities.
These activities have created
wonderful memories that my
child will cherish for years to
come."**



Thank you to those of you who have already submitted assessor reports for the 3- and 6-month sections.

Please see a reminder below of how to submit the assessor reports:

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO ON SUBMITTING REPORTS](#)

- Log into eDofE to see which sections need reports submitting

Here is a link to forward to the assessor to complete the report online: <https://www.dofe.org/run/assessors-report>

Please remember:

The assessor can be anyone over the age of 18 years, but they **MUST** be unrelated to you

- The assessor will need your ID number, which can be found on your eDofE account near where your name and photo should be.
- The dates recorded on the assessor report **MUST** reflect the start date of the section on eDofE. There are some sections that have not been approved yet because of this. Please log into eDofE to check.
- If you are uploading photos of a written report, please ensure the whole page can be seen and read clearly. Some reports have not yet been approved because of this. Please log into eDofE to check.
- I have blank paper copies of the report in AR3 if needed.

The conditions of being enrolled on the award were that all activities were to have started by Friday 24th October 2025.

Therefore, we expect all assessor reports for the 3- and 6-month sections to be submitted no later than Friday 24th April 2026.

I am available in AR3 during break times.

Miss D. Carty, DofE Volunteering, Skills, Physical and Gold Award Manager

[CLICK HERE FOR ASSESSOR REPORT GUIDANCE](#)

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN P.E.?

U15 Football Team success

Huge congratulations to our U15 Football team who were crowned League Cup champions yesterday, securing an excellent 4–2 victory against Brakenhale.



The boys were outstanding throughout the match, and it was great to see their hard work, commitment, and teamwork pay off on such a big occasion. They fully deserved the result and represented the school brilliantly.

This is a fantastic achievement and a very proud moment for the school.



...and their coaches!

Our incredibly modest coaching team of Mr Tipp, Mr Corbett and Mr Brown have, over the past three years, built an outstanding culture within their football teams and across the club. Students train with them twice a week, from 7:35–8:30am every Tuesday and Thursday, and the impact of that consistency is clear. Students say:

- “They don’t give up on us, even if we give up on ourselves.”
 - “They push us, but in a relaxed way, and if we make a mistake, they encourage us to fix it next time.”
- “They make me feel like I can take a chance, and that it’s okay to make mistakes if I’m trying to do the right thing.”

A heartfelt thank you to them all.



Sixth Form Interhouse

Last term our Sixth Formers competed in a sporting Interhouse - everyone really enjoyed it with lots of effort to build House pride in evidence!

It was a brilliant way to end the term. Thank you to Miss Taylor for organising!



More PE photos from this week

Great work from our Year 7 Athletics group and Fitness Club Dodgeball!



3200

3754

3445

3445

HOUSE WINNERS THIS WEEK



Following on from their success as House End of Term winners, well done to our Falcons for gaining the most positive points this week!



EARTH DAY - HOUSE CHALLENGE



Wednesday 22nd of April is EARTH DAY

- A chance to collaborate creatively and create a sprightly spring atmosphere at FPSS!
- This will prove your ability to show Achieve value "Eggcellence"



MAIDENHEAD RFC YOUTUBE DOCUMENTARY

On England Rugby's YouTube channel, a short documentary series about community / 'Grassroots' rugby through the lens of Maidenhead RFC has just been released.



Produced by Polar House Media, the crew spent hundreds of hours interviewing, filming and editing the footage to create a wonderfully moving, informative and thrilling docuseries highlighting what grassroots Rugby is, what it can do for the community, and just how important the club is to those that use it.

Please click the link below for the 'Heart of the Game' docuseries about the current state of Community Rugby through the lens of Maidenhead RFC. There are many clips involving Furze Platt students, parents and even some staff appear!

Mr C Gill, Teacher of PE

CLICK HERE TO WATCH 'THE HEART OF THE GAME'

Form Challenge:

NEXT WEEK: Reduce your carbon footprint!

- Walk or cycle where possible
- Eat one plant-based meal
- Turn off unused devices
- Bring reusable bottles to school!

Tutors: Email suggestions and wins to

HoH@furzeplatt.net



THE WEEK AT FURZE PLATT

Year 7 Textiles - Final Outcomes

Our latest rotation of Year 7 Textiles has come to an end, and what a fantastic set of outcomes!

Students have created some amazing appliqué pieces, showing creativity, skill and attention to detail throughout the project. Many took inspiration from designers Yinka Ilori and Ettore Sottsass, resulting in bold, colourful and imaginative work.

A brilliant start to their textiles journey - well done, Year 7!



Year 10 Textiles – Fascinator Designs

Exploring materials such as wire, papier-mâché and found objects, our Year 10 students have been developing their skills in structure, texture and creative design to create these stunning fascinators. Each piece shows individuality and imaginative thinking.

A brilliant display of craftsmanship and creativity with fantastic work from everyone involved!



"We are acutely aware of the immense effort that goes into making our school such a vibrant and nurturing environment for our pupils.

Beyond the academic successes, we see the care and creativity staff bring to the classroom and the wider school community every day."



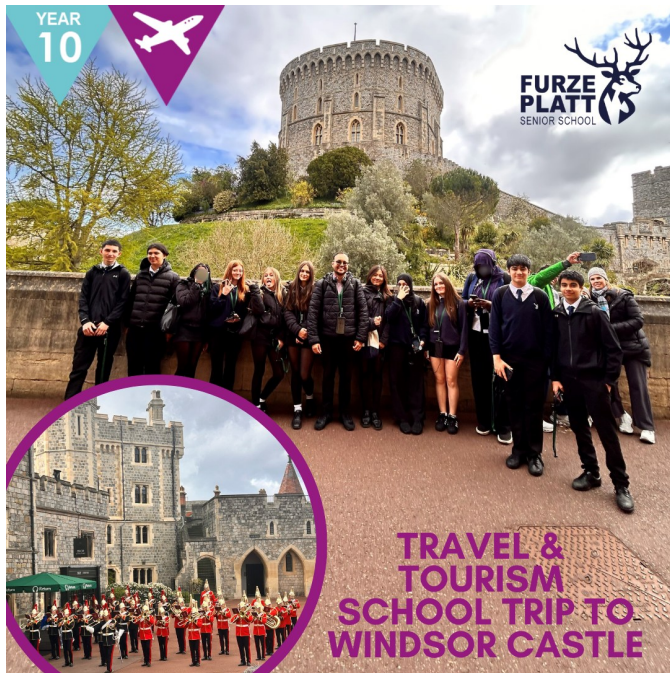
OUT AND ABOUT TRIPS AND EVENTS

Year 10 Travel & Tourism Trip

Our Year 10 Travel & Tourism students headed out on an exciting school trip to Windsor Castle on Thursday as part of their studies.

Students are exploring how visitor attractions use consumer technologies to meet both customer needs and organisational goals.

A fantastic opportunity to experience the industry first-hand, deepen understanding and bring classroom learning to life!



Year 10 Construction – Taster Day

Last term, our Year 10 Construction students enjoyed a fantastic taster day at Langley College as part of their 'Progression Plan' unit.

The visit gave students valuable insight into further education pathways and careers within the construction industry, helping them to explore their next steps beyond school.

TASTER DAY AT LANGLEY COLLEGE

YEAR 10



Greenpower in Action!

During the Easter holidays, a dedicated group of students came in to work on our Greenpower cars—and what a productive session it was!

With plenty of tweaking and tinkering, the team got McQueen running more smoothly and faster than ever before.



The hard work is paying off, and students are feeling confident ahead of our first race of the season at Goodwood this May.

A fantastic example of teamwork, problem-solving and engineering in action - well done to everyone involved!

SKI TRIP 2026



After a good journey to La Thuile and a delicious lunch, a welcome meeting and ski fittings on arrival, we were looking forward to some really fun skiing. Despite some initial tricky conditions, everybody made significant progress, from the first time skiers to the advanced groups whizzing down the black runs. After skiing, our reps put on a quiz, and it was very entertaining to see the competitive nature of our students before we went out for dinner!

The next few days saw brilliant sunshine at La Thuile, ensuring everyone was keen to hit the slopes early to make the most of their time. We have been so impressed with their progress - some of our students even skied over to France.

The evening's entertainment continues to be great fun; we have enjoyed pizza, crepes, a range of sports including dodgeball and football, quizzes, karaoke and more.

Students were presented with achievement certificates - well done to them all.

Many thanks to Mr Jones and the Ski Team for another wonderful trip to Italy. Here's to Ski Trip 2027!





Raising money for Thames Hospice

Sneak Peek... Our Elephants Are Ready!

Here's a first look at our completed FPSS elephant sculptures... but we're not revealing everything just yet!

[CLICK HERE TO SEE A FACEBOOK VIDEO SNEAK PEEK](#)

To see them in full, visit the Trunks Across The Thames trail, opening Monday 13th July - a free, family-friendly celebration of art, creativity and community.



In the meantime, you can still support our fundraising for Thames Hospice via the link below:

[DONATE TO THAMES HOSPICE HERE](#)

Trunks of Treasure - Charity Auction!

As part of our fundraising journey, FPSS also took part in Trunks of Treasure - hunting for unique finds and contributing to a special auction at Windsor Auction House.

Every step of this journey brings us closer to supporting Thames Hospice and the incredible work they do.

Windsor Auctions

Auction date:

May 16, 2026 10:30 AM BST

Venue address: Unit 18B, Vansittart Estate, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1SE

Lots: 1-500

[CLICK HERE FOR AUCTION](#)



Donations to Gardening Club - Update

Our Gardening Club have been busy planting up the new rectangular Sixth Form planters, kindly donated by RBWM.

With generous support from our PTFA - funded compost and plants grown and sourced by Mrs R Cook and Mrs J Wilson - the planters are already looking fantastic!

A great team effort and well done to everyone involved.



HOLYPORT VILLAGE FAIR

SATURDAY 6th June

FUNFAIR RIDES
FOOD & DRINK

TRADITIONAL GAMES & STALLS
LIVE MUSIC

TIME: 12-8pm
WHERE: Holyport Green Holyport, SL6 2JL
Holyport Community Trust Charity No. 1179097

100 YEARS 1926 2026
UNIVERSITY OF READING

CENTRE for AUTISM WELLBEING HUB

Autistic Thriving at School and Beyond

As part of the University's centenary celebrations, we are hosting a free public hybrid (in person and online) event on the evening of 6 May on the theme of Autistic Thriving at School and Beyond.

Join us for an evening that brings together autistic children and young people, their families, students, professionals and researchers to explore what supports autistic children to flourish in education and everyday life.

The event will include talks from:

- Professor Elizabeth McCrum, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education and Student Experience) at the University of Reading
- Dr Fiona Knott and Dr Jo Billington, Wellbeing Hub project leads
- Andy Smith, founder of Spectrum Gaming, and a passionate advocate for young people's voices in education.

For in person attendees, there will also be an opportunity to review a poster presentation of current autism research from academics and students in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences. Refreshments will be provided.

Wednesday 6 May
G10 lecture theatre, Palmer Building, Whiteknights Campus, RG6 6EW

In person:
18:45–21:00

Online:
19:00–20:30 via Microsoft Teams

For more details and to book your place, please visit our website research.reading.ac.uk/autism, or scan the QR code

Let's have fun at sportworks short breaks

Join fun activities from Monday 20 April 2026
Two new clubs at Maidenhead Community Centre

8 to 13 years old:
Mondays, 4pm to 6pm

14 to 17 years old:
Thursday, 4pm to 6pm

Providing fun, inclusive short breaks for children and young people with mild to moderate special educational needs and disabilities

Please click the links to find out more:
[Monday](#) or [Thursday](#)

achieving for children
Champions for children and families

sportworks

• have a disability that impacts daily life (proof of diagnosis required)
• would benefit from a structured, supported leisure or play session

Who is not eligible?
If your family is currently receiving a package of support from the Children and Young People Disability Service, you are not eligible for this Short Breaks offer.

✓ **Times and dates**
Short breaks sessions will run starting from 20th April:
• after-school on Mondays (8-13 year olds)
• after-school on Thursdays (14-17 year olds)
• at 4pm to 6pm

✓ **Getting there?**
• Activities will be provided by Sport Works
• Activities will take place at: 4 Markov Road, Maidenhead SL6 7HY
• Transport will need to be arranged by the parent or carer

✓ **What sort of things will my child be doing?**
• Participating in fun, structured games and activities designed to develop physical skills and coordination
• Enjoying team challenges and group games that encourage social interaction and teamwork
• Engaging in creative movement and sports-based activities, adapted for all ability levels
• Building confidence, independence, and personal goals through supportive staff
• Experiencing a safe and inclusive environment where everyone can have fun at their own pace

✓ **Cost and parental contributions**
Short breaks sessions may include a voluntary parental contribution. Here's what you need to know:

• Contributions are means tested, meaning families receiving benefits or free school meals are exempt
• Contributions: £5 per child a session
• Contributions are voluntary, no child will be excluded if a parent cannot pay
• Revenue from contributions goes toward supporting and expanding session delivery

✓ **How to apply**
Anyone can refer, including:
• parents and carers
• schools and SENCOs
• early help practitioners
• GPs and health teams
✓ **Referral form:** For Monday and Thursday
[Click here to download](#)

✓ **How to contact for more information**
info@achievingforchildren.org.uk

