



Summer at Last!

Always my favourite term, the weather is (mostly) better and the children and staff always seem that little bit happier. It still a way to go yet but it is also a sad and exciting time as at the end of term as we say farewell to our Year 6's. They will soon be doing their Year 6 SAT's and we're sure they will all do their very best and we wish them all the very best of luck with these. Lot's of exciting things are happening for all our children in all the classes this term so keep an eye on notices and letters coming out to you over the next few weeks.

There are more than the usual number of pages in this edition so thanks for reading!

Cristal Palace

It was a real shame about the weather during this event but all schools have enjoyed the parts they played in the build up and will be sharing what they did with their own communities. If you haven't seen the joint video, here it is:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZcgffjVvfcPvCaeKFTvkPdnWtRoWupbz/view?usp=drivesdk>

Attendance

During Star of the Week assembly I always make it clear to all the children that it can't be helped if anyone is ill. Please never feel under pressure to send your child in if they are ill.

What we do suffer from is **persistent absence** and this is our focus. This is frequent absence with no real or acceptable explanation. This can sometimes become a safeguarding issue and so our school is doing what all schools are doing and following these cases up accordingly, as per DfE and Sefton Guidelines. All schools also reward children for good attendance and as you know—we are good at rewards at BPS—for everything!

We can't ignore attendance issues and we are under scrutiny for how we deal with this.

So, the focus is on those with poor attendance not necessarily through illness. When there are **frequent** illnesses then we will request evidence of any medical advice sought. We also aim to support children we recognise with EBSA issues (Emotionally Based School Avoidance) and we would like to thank all our parents who support what we do here to assist with this complex matter.

With our recent more focussed attention with this sensitive matter—our overall attendance average is now above national average. Thank you for all your continued support.

Poverty Proofing

Recent studies show that 20% of the UK population are living in relative poverty. Poverty proofing focuses on the understanding that poverty is not just about a lack of money, but a lack of choices and opportunities, and it aims to bridge this gap. Here at BPS, we aim to reduce stigma, remove barriers, improve equity and ensure equal access, often by, for example, ensuring the requirements for our branded uniform are not excessive, limiting endorsements, ensuring free school meal students cannot be identified, and ensuring all children can participate in trips or theme days. We are proud of the achievements of our children and will do all we can to support all of them and any costs or challenges that may be involved along their journey. We will never seek to make money from parents and the minimal amounts when we do (e.g. Tuck Shop, toy sales, discos and occasional sponsored event), goes back into buying things for the children. We also try to limit the number of charities we support so apologies if we have to turn down any requests. I hope this information was a little bit helpful.

Summer Discos and Sportsday News Coming Soon!

We will aim to have these dates out to you shortly.

National Year of Reading

I'll be updating about our up and coming involvement with this important whole year event and how we can **Go All In** in the next issue.

All About Sefton - This is a little delayed but many events are still to come and there is useful advice on children's book reviews, screen time, SEND advice, NSPCC information and family event.

www.allabout-family.co.uk/sefton

admin.birkdaleprimary@schools.sefton.gov.uk or 01704567516

Buzz

Often the children in school will have taken massive steps forward either socially or academically during the day and of course, this should be celebrated. Could I request that when you greet your child at hometime, phones go away. When my children were younger I asked what they had done during school on any particular day as soon as I saw them and they would often say, "nothing." But, at least, they knew I cared I suppose! At BPS, all staff make every effort to ensure the children should be able to let you know at least one thing that was a positive 'buzz' for them during the day. At home here are a few things that may come in handy to value the feelings of the children:

- Do** - Be specific. Attach praise to a specific behaviour so children learn which behaviours are valued - e.g. 'I like the way you put your toys away'; 'I like the way you were helpful to your sister'.
- Notice positive behaviour and praise as soon as you see it. Use positive voice tone and body language, smile and be enthusiastic.
 - Praise steps in the right direction. Don't wait for perfection. Praise the effort: 'You're nearly there'; 'You've really tried. Well done!'
 - Praise what you see more than what you hear - e.g. if Nick picks his coat up off the floor when you ask him, complaining and moaning all the way, praise him for doing as you ask and ignore the protesting.
- Avoid** - Adding a criticism. For example, don't say, 'Good job putting your shoes away. Why can't you always do that?'
- Minimising. For example, if a child is anxious, don't respond when they succeed by saying, 'See, it wasn't that scary' as it minimises their achievement.
 - Missing opportunities to praise. For example, when you make a request, stay around and pay close attention to whether or not it's followed through. Don't issue instructions and go on to something else.

Tuck Shop Takeover

Thank you to everyone on the School Council who helped out with the Tuck Shop takeover before Easter. You raised a whopping £200.13 to spend on something of your choice on the school! Well Done!

Clubs

Please find a list of all the before and after school clubs that will be running during the *Summer term*. Each club will send a letter home with details and starting dates (this could be after half term). Unless otherwise stated, children will be collected from the main playground gate. *All the staff run the clubs on a voluntary basis, please could we politely ask that you collect your child on time.*

Day	Club	Year groups	Times	Run by
Monday	Running club	Year 3&4	3.20pm-4.20pm	<u>Mr</u> Curragh and <u>Mr</u> Murphy
Monday	Netball Club	Year 5&6	3.20pm-4.20pm	<u>Mrs</u> Eden and <u>Mrs</u> Harding
Tuesday	Girls' Football Club	Year 5&6	3.20pm-4.20pm	<u>Mr</u> Murphy and <u>Mr</u> Gallagher
Tuesday	Creative Writing Club	Year 5&6	Lunchtime	<u>Mrs</u> Biggs
Thursday	Art Club	Year 2	3.20pm-4.15pm	<u>Mrs</u> Perkins and Miss Bradley
Wednesday	Maths Club	Year 5&6	Lunchtime	<u>Mrs</u> Szabo
Thursday	Boys' Football Club	Year 5&6	3.20pm-4.20pm	<u>Mr</u> Murphy and <u>Mr</u> Gallagher
Thursday	Birkdale Buddies	KS2	3.20pm-4.00pm	<u>Mrs</u> Corlett and Miss Mullin
Thursday	Computing Club	Year 5&6	3.20pm-4.20pm	<u>Mrs</u> Cousins
Thursday	Wally Cain	Year 6	3.20pm-4.20pm	Miss Mullin and <u>Mrs</u> Eden

Please also see the next few 'What's On In Sefton Information' pages.

What's on in Sefton

Summer Term 2026



ADDvanced Solutions
Community Network
Supporting you to find the answers

ADDvanced Solutions Community Network

supports the emotional health and wellbeing of neurodivergent children and young people, their families and the professionals that work with them. **No diagnosis or referral is needed to access the offer.**

SEFTON Community Network Group

Wednesday afternoon during term time



Join us from **12:30pm – 2:30pm**

Venue: May Logan Healthy Living Centre, 294 Knowsley Rd, Bootle L20 5DQ

No booking needed, just come along

Come along and meet our team, to learn more about neurodiversity from those who can share lived experiences and practical strategies. Our groups create a welcoming, accepting and relaxed environment for parents and carers, you are not on your own.

[Get directions](#)



May Logan Centre

North Park and Garden



The centre is located on Knowsley Road, opposite Bootle Ambulance Station. It is a 10 minute walk from Bootle New Strand bus and train stations.

Topics this term:

Wednesday 15 th April	Tantrums V meltdowns what is the difference?
Wednesday 22 nd April	Developmental Delay Supporting Areas of Need
Wednesday 29 th April	Developing Theory of Mind in Neurodivergent Children
Wednesday 6 th May	Supporting Transition and managing changes
Wednesday 13 th May	Autism with a Demand Avoidant Profile (PDA)
Wednesday 20 th May	Open session seek advice around any problems

Half Term Break

Wednesday 3 rd June	An Introduction to Autism (ASD)
Wednesday 10 th June	Barriers to School Attendance and strategies to support
Wednesday 17 th June	Understanding and Supporting Executive Functioning
Wednesday 24 th June	Choosing a School making an informed choice
Wednesday 1 st July	Preparing for the Summer Holidays
Wednesday 8 th July	Open session seek advice around any problems

If you can't make it face-to-face, join us online...

Online opportunities to learn more about neurodiversity from the comfort of your own home! With your camera and microphone off for your privacy, you can interact using the chat/Q&A feature to ask any questions you may have. Come along, learn more and get some strategies.

Monday Online Community Network Group

Mondays during term time



9:30am - 11:00am
Online via Zoom

[Click here to register](#)

Monday 13 th April	Open Session seek advice around any problems
Monday 20 th April	Supporting Organisational Skills and Planning
Monday 27 th April	Using Music to Support Neurodiversity
Monday 4 th May	No Session due to BANK HOLIDAY
Monday 11 th May	Preparing Neurodivergent Young People for the Future
Monday 18 th May	Developing Theory of Mind in Neurodivergent Children

Half Term Break

Monday 1 st June	Supporting Transition and managing changes
Monday 8 th June	Supporting Neurodivergent Children to Access Learning
Monday 15 th June	Autism with a Demand Avoidant Profile (PDA)
Monday 22 nd June	Choosing a School making an informed choice
Monday 29 th June	Preparing for the Summer Holidays
Monday 6 th July	Encouraging Independence and Building Confidence

Wednesday Online Community Network Group

Wednesdays during term time



5:00pm - 6:30pm
Online via Zoom

[Click here to register](#)

Wednesday 15 th April	Developmental Delay Supporting Areas of Need
Wednesday 22 nd April	Tantrums V meltdowns what is the difference?
Wednesday 29 th April	Using Music to Support Neurodiversity
Wednesday 6 th May	Preparing Neurodivergent Young People for the Future
Wednesday 13 th May	Supporting Transition and managing changes
Wednesday 20 th May	Specific Learning Difficulties <small>Including dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia</small>

Half Term Break

Wednesday 3 rd June	Supporting Neurodivergent Children to Access Learning
Wednesday 10 th June	Open Session seek advice around any problems
Wednesday 17 th June	Using Social Stories to support understanding
Wednesday 24 th June	Neurodiversity and Mental Health
Wednesday 1 st July	Preparing for the Summer Holidays
Wednesday 8 th July	ADHD, Autism and Masking

If you are using a phone, you will need to download the Zoom app beforehand. Please be mindful of your data usage. If you do not have an unlimited data plan, you may need to connect to a Wi-Fi connection to prevent charges.

Learning Programmes

Neurodevelopmental Conditions Learning Programme

This programme equips parents and carers with a greater understanding of neurodevelopmental conditions, specific learning difficulties and associated mental health needs and provides practical strategies that support the difficulties that may present:

- **Neurodevelopmental Conditions - including Autism, ADHD, Sensory Processing Difficulties, Specific Learning Difficulties.**
- **Managing everyday challenges and behaviours - including sleep, toileting and eating difficulties.**
- **Your Local Offer, disability welfare rights and SEND, Early Help and Education Health Care Plans.**

No referral or diagnosis is needed.



Face-to-Face Programme - Summer 1

Across 3 Tuesdays - you attend all 3.

From **9:30am - 2:45pm**

Venue: Litherland Family Hub,
Boundary Road, Litherland, Sefton L21 7LA



[Click here for directions](#)

[Contact us to register](#)

Session 1 & 2	Session 3 & 4	Session 5 & 6
Tuesday 5 th May	Tuesday 12 th May	Tuesday 19 th May

Or join us online...



Online Programme - Summer 1 (via Zoom)

Tuesday Evenings from **6:30pm - 8:30pm**

[Click here to register](#)

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
Tuesday 14 th April	Tuesday 21 st April	Tuesday 28 th April	Tuesday 5 th May	Tuesday 12 th May	Tuesday 19 th May



Online Programme - Summer 2 (via Zoom)

Thursday Evenings from **6:30pm - 8:30pm**

[Click here to register](#)

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
Thursday 4 th June	Thursday 11 th June	Thursday 18 th June	Thursday 25 th June	Thursday 2 nd July	Thursday 9 th July

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Autism Learning Programme – Face-to-Face

The Autism Learning Programme has been designed to support and empower parents and carers in their understanding of how autism is experienced by children and young people, providing learning, guidance and practical support strategies. The programme is designed for parents and carers whose child or young person has an autism diagnosis. Subject to availability, places may be available to those whose child is under assessment for autism. Face to face programmes are delivered in various locations across Liverpool and Sefton. This offer is in partnership with Alder Hey NHS Trust Neurodevelopmental Pathway.

Each programme is tailored to address the specific challenges facing either **preschool and primary** age children or **tween and teenage** young people.

[Contact us to register](#)



Autism Learning Programme Preschool and Primary (3-10 Years)

[Contact us to register](#)

Focusing on the specific presentations and needs of autistic children during childhood up to the end of primary school.

Across 3 Mondays - you should attend all sessions
From **9:30am - 2:45pm**

Venue: CE3 Centre (near Morrisons), Conleach Road, Speke, L24 0TY



[Click here for directions](#)

Session 1 & 2	Session 3 & 4	Session 5 & 6
Monday 13 th April	Monday 20 th April	Monday 27 th April



Autism Learning Programme Tweens and Teens (11-18 Years)

[Contact us to register](#)

Focusing on the specific presentations and needs of autistic young people as they navigate high school, puberty and increased social expectations.

Across 3 Tuesdays - you should attend all sessions
From **9:30am - 2:45pm**

Venue: Family Life Centre, Ash Street, Southport, PR8 6JH



[Click here for directions](#)

Session 1 & 2	Session 3 & 4	Session 5 & 6
Tuesday 23 rd June	Tuesday 30 th June	Tuesday 7 th July

Autism Learning Programme - Online

We also offer the Autism Learning Programme online, exploring how autism is experienced by children and young people. This offer is in partnership with Alder Hey NHS Trust, commissioned by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside.

This term, our online Autism Learning Programme focuses on **Tweens and Teens**



Autism Learning Programme
Tweens and Teens - online via zoom
Thursday Evenings from 6:00pm - 8:30pm

[Click here to register](#)

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
Thursday 16 th April	Thursday 23 rd April	Thursday 30 th April	Thursday 7 th May	Thursday 14 th May	Thursday 21 st May

Additional Online Workshops

Short, online webinars to help you better understand a topic related to neurodevelopmental conditions. Interact via the chat and Q&A with any questions.



An Introduction to Autism (ASD)

Autism presentations in children and young people, and strategies to support at home and in school.

Tuesday 21st April
9.30am - 12.00pm

[Click here to register](#)



Introduction to the SEND Process and EHCPs

Understanding the processes to access appropriate support for children and young people with SEND in their educational setting.

Tuesday 12th May
9.30am - 12.00pm

[Click here to register](#)

Sensory Processing Difficulties

Exploring the common challenges experienced by children and young people who have difficulty processing sensory information.

Tuesday 23rd June
9.30am - 12.00pm

[Click here to register](#)



Supporting Executive Functioning Difficulties

Providing strategies to support organisation, sequencing and time management for neurodivergent children and young people.

Friday 3rd July
9.30am - 12.00pm

[Click here to register](#)



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No referral or diagnosis is needed.



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Across 3 Tuesdays - you attend all 3.

From 9:30am - 2:45pm

Venue: Litherland Family Hub,
Boundary Road, Litherland, Sefton L21 7LA



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[Contact us to register](#)

Session 1 & 2	Session 3 & 4	Session 5 & 6
Tuesday 5 th May	Tuesday 12 th May	Tuesday 19 th May

[Or join us online...](#)



Online Programme - Summer 1 (via Zoom)

Tuesday Evenings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm

[Click here to register](#)

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
Tuesday 14 th April	Tuesday 21 st April	Tuesday 28 th April	Tuesday 5 th May	Tuesday 12 th May	Tuesday 19 th May



Online Programme - Summer 2 (via Zoom)

Thursday Evenings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm

[Click here to register](#)

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
Thursday 4 th June	Thursday 11 th June	Thursday 18 th June	Thursday 25 th June	Thursday 2 nd July	Thursday 9 th July

Professionals Neurodevelopmental Conditions Awareness Raising Training

Designed to improve understanding of neurodevelopmental conditions (NDCs), how they may present and how one condition may overlap with another. Professionals attending this training will develop knowledge, skills and confidence to better support neurodivergent children, young people and their families:

- **Better Understand and recognise ADHD, Autism, and other NDCs**
- **Appreciate the impact that unsupported NDCs on an individual and their family**
- **Understand how sensory processing difficulties impact children and young people**
- **Identify local support available for professionals, children, young people and families**



Next Available Training - ND Awareness

Wednesday 1st July

From **9:15am - 4:00pm**

[Contact us to register](#)



Venue: To be confirmed following registration

ADDvanced Solutions Community Network is commissioned to deliver a limited number of Neurodevelopmental Conditions Professional Awareness Raising Training. If you are interested in this full day's training for your team, please call the office on 0151 486 1788 or email info@advancedsolutions.co.uk



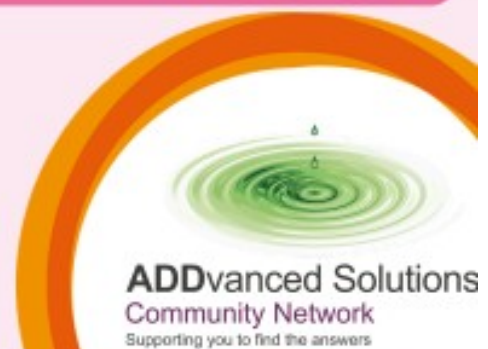
Seeking Crisis Support?

ADDvanced Solutions Community Network is not a crisis service. If you, a child or young person is experiencing acute distress and is deemed to be a risk to themselves or others, please visit your local crisis service.

The details we request when you register are kept securely and used in line with our privacy policy: <https://www.advancedsolutions.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Privacy-Policy.pdf>

Need further information advice or guidance around neurodiversity or our offer in your area?

Please call the office on 0151 486 1788, email info@advancedsolutions.co.uk or visit our website www.advancedsolutions.co.uk



Get in touch with us

