



Donnington Wood C of E Junior School SEND Newsletter Spring Term 2026



The purpose of our newsletters is to give you information about SEND at Donnington Wood C of E Junior School and provide up to date information about support in the Telford and Wrekin area.



Mrs Joanne Jenks
SENDCO
Donnington Wood C of E
Junior School

Mrs Jenks is Donnington Wood Junior school's SENDCO (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator). If you have any concerns regarding your child, and would like to speak to Mrs Jenks, please do not hesitate to contact me at: a3035@taw.org.uk

Alternatively, you may find further information on our SEND page of the school website:

[dwj-information-report-25-26.pdf](#)



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Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough



Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Discover all you need to know about education, health and care services in Telford & Wrekin.
www.telfordsend.org.uk

Find clear and accessible SEN advice, information and support on:

Leisure, fun and short breaks activities
How schools support SEN
Specialist services
Personal Budgets
Travel Assistance
Health Services



Mental Health and Wellbeing
Social care
Preparing for Adulthood
FAQ's for Parent Carers and Families
SEND Newsletters
Local offer for Young People



SEND Provision in School

SEND means *Special Educational Needs and Disabilities*. Every school has something called a SEND register. Think of it like a helpful list that shows which children might need a bit of extra support in school.

A child might go on the SEND register if they need help that's a little extra or a bit different from what other children usually get. This could be support with:

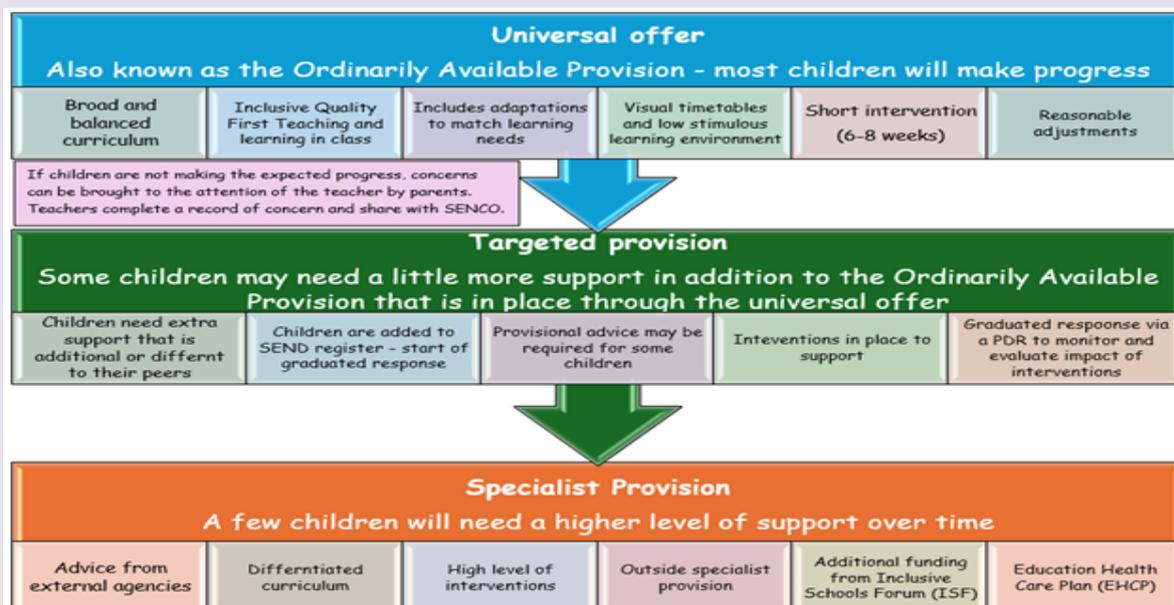
- Learning and thinking
- Talking or understanding others
- Feelings, behaviour, or mental health
- Hearing, seeing, or moving

To figure out who needs extra help, teachers do a few things. They might watch how children learn, look at their work, or chat with parents and teachers. If you're curious, you can find more details in our school's SEND Information Report on our website.

One really important thing to know: the SEND register isn't fixed forever. It changes! Some children might stay on it for a long time, while others might come off it once they no longer need extra support.

And if your child is on the SEND register, please don't worry. It can feel emotional, but it's not a bad thing at all. It just means we want to make sure your child gets the right help, and that everyone working with them knows how to support them so they can have the best possible experience at school.

At Donnington Wood Junior School, the support we give in class is split into three different areas. If a child is on the SEND register, they will be receiving targeted provision, which means they get extra help that is specially planned to meet their needs.



Interventions at Donnington Wood

Sensory circuits help children manage how their bodies process sensory information. Through specific activities, children can improve coordination, balance, and their ability to stay calm or alert. This prepares them to learn, play, and participate in daily tasks. Sensory circuits are especially helpful for children who feel restless, anxious, or easily distracted. They usually include three parts, performed in the same order:



Alerting activities to wake up the body, such as running, marching, bouncing or heavy work.

Organising activities that improve balance and coordination, like walking along a line, balancing on one foot or sorting equipment.

Calming activities to help children feel relaxed and ready to concentrate, such as chair pushups, blowing bubbles or playing with fidgets.



At Donnington Wood, we use **Read Write Inc. Phonics (RWI)** to give children the best start in reading and writing. RWI helps all children learn to read **quickly and confidently**, so they can focus on understanding what they read and improving their spelling and vocabulary.

RWI is a **daily intervention** that is tailored to each child's individual needs. Children are assessed **at least every half term** so we can check their progress and fill any gaps in their learning.

We also strongly encourage **regular reading at home**, as this makes a huge difference to your child's progress and helps build their confidence as a reader.



Socially Speaking is a programme that helps children learn the skills they need to make friends, build good relationships, and feel more confident in everyday life—even outside of school. The programme is split into three parts:

1. Let's Communicate - learning how to talk and listen to others
2. Let's Be Friends - understanding how to make and keep friends
3. Let's Practise - using these skills in different situations

As children move through the programme, they become better at listening, talking, and working with others. Their confidence grows, and this helps everyone enjoy better social interactions both in and out of the classroom.





Miss Henley delivers our Talk Boost Interventions.

Talk Boost KS2 is a targeted programme for children aged 7-10 who need a bit of extra help with talking and understanding language. It's designed to boost their confidence and skills so they can catch up with their peers. The programme runs for 8 weeks and aims to help children make faster progress with their language and communication.

The sessions are fun and active, and they focus on key areas such as:

- Listening carefully
- Learning new words
- Telling stories
- Working with others and making friends
- Having conversations

Together, these activities help children grow their language skills and feel more confident joining in at school.

At Donnington Wood Junior School, some of our staff have been trained by Occupational Therapists to run a programme called Cool Kids. Cool Kids is a fun and easy exercise programme that helps children with things like balance, coordination, focus, and confidence. It helps build strong big-muscle skills, which then make smaller tasks (like writing or cutting) easier too.



Cool Kids helps children practise three main skills:

Proprioception

This is a fancy word for knowing where your body is in space. It helps you move without bumping into things. Activities like crawling and pulling help build this skill.

Vestibular

This is your sense of balance and movement. You use it when you jump, spin, or roll. That's why Cool Kids includes things like rolling, jumping, hopping, and spinning.

Praxis

Praxis means being able to plan and carry out actions. Some children find this tricky—they might need to watch others first or might seem unsure about what to do. Cool Kids helps with this by giving children activities where they practise moving in new ways, using equipment, and planning simple tasks.

At Donnington Wood, Miss Brennan is the person who runs the Cool Kids sessions and helps children build these important skills.





IDL is a computer-based programme that helps children with dyslexia and other learning difficulties improve their reading and spelling. It's a *multi-sensory* system, which means it uses lots of different ways to help children learn, like speaking, listening, looking, and typing. IDL was originally designed for children with dyslexia, and we use it in school as a targeted intervention.

How does it work?

IDL uses light, sound, touch, and voice to help children learn and remember spelling and reading patterns. When a child starts the programme, they first complete a reading and spelling assessment. IDL then gives them their own username and password.

From this, the programme creates a module that matches the exact areas they need help with—whether that's reading, phonics, or spelling. Children are given time in school to work through their modules, and the activities are designed to be fun, engaging, and confidence-boosting.

Dynamo Maths is an intervention we use to help children who find number work really tricky. It's designed for pupils aged **5 to 11** who need extra support with things like number sense, number facts, and understanding how numbers relate to each other.

Dynamo Maths has two main parts:

1. An online assessment

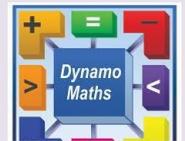
Children complete a computer-based assessment that shows exactly which areas of maths they are finding difficult. This gives us clear, reliable information about what they need help with.

2. A structured intervention programme

After the assessment, children work through fun, step-by-step activities. These include:

- Individual support plans
- Lesson plans used by teaching assistants
- Online tasks matched to each child's needs

The programme is especially helpful for children who have poor working memory or who struggle to move from using real objects (like cubes) to understanding more abstract ideas (like written numbers).



At Donnington Wood Junior School, we're lucky to have our very own **Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA)**. An ELSA is specially trained—and supported by the Educational Psychology Service—to help children understand their feelings and learn how to manage them. This support can be given one-to-one or in small groups, depending on what each child needs.

ELSA programmes usually run for 6-12 weeks and can cover all sorts of areas, such as:

- Recognising and managing emotions
- Building self-esteem
- Making and keeping friends
- Developing social skills
- Coping with loss or bereavement
- Sorting out conflicts in a positive way

Our ELSA at Donnington Wood is **Mrs Rutherford**, and she works with children to help them feel happier, more confident, and better able to cope with day-to-day challenges.

Mrs Brennan runs a special **playtime and lunchtime club** four days a week for children who find friendships or social situations a bit tricky. It's a calm, safe place where everyone can join in, learn how to play together, and get support when they need it.



The club offers guided and supported play, which means Mrs Brennan helps children practise taking turns, sharing, solving problems, and building positive relationships. Most importantly, it's a space where children can relax, be themselves, and enjoy playtime without any pressure.



Precision Teaching is a special way of helping children get better at skills like reading, spelling, or maths. It focuses on practising one small skill at a time so children can learn it really well and feel more confident.

The idea is simple: the child practises a very specific target—like spelling a tricky word or reading a set of sounds—in short, quick sessions. Doing this regularly helps them become more accurate and fluent over time.

At Donnington Wood, our teaching assistants have received training from the Educational Psychologists (EPs) so they can deliver Precision Teaching safely and effectively. This means the sessions are run by adults who know exactly how to support each child and track their progress.

Precision Teaching is often used for children with SEND or anyone who needs an extra boost in a certain area. It's a focused, evidence-based method that helps children see their progress quickly—and feel proud of themselves too!

Literacy Pathway - Targeted Reading Intervention Programme

The Literacy Pathway is a programme that helps us spot early signs that a child might be finding reading or writing difficult. It makes sure children get the right support as soon as possible and that their progress is checked regularly. This helps teachers adapt what they do so every child gets the best chance to succeed.

If your child is placed on the Literacy Pathway, it means that they will take part in a daily intervention.

The Literacy Pathway intervention has three parts:

1. High-frequency words

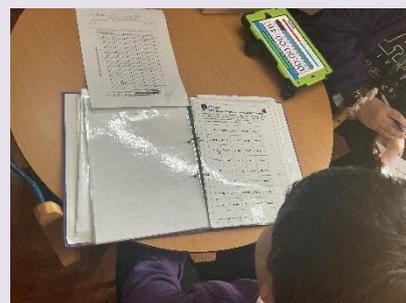
Children read a set of very common words that appear in more than half of everything we read. They try to read as many as they can in one minute, aiming for 50 words.

2. Phonics practice

Children practise reading words with a particular sound (phoneme) or spelling pattern (grapheme). They sound out the words and blend them together, aiming to read 20 words correctly in one minute.

3. 1:1 reading

Children read individually with an adult. This helps them build confidence and read more smoothly and fluently.



Colourful Semantics is one of the tools we use at Donnington Wood (throughout the curriculum) to help children with reading and writing. It's a clever way of using colours to show the different parts of a sentence. This helps children build sentences step by step and really understand how they fit together.

With Colourful Semantics, each part of a sentence has its own colour. For example, the action (the doing word) is always yellow, the subject (who the sentence is about) is always orange. When children see the colours, it helps them remember what each part means and where it goes in the sentence. It helps all children construct sentences correctly.

This approach makes it much easier for children to:

- Understand word order
- See how sentences are built
- Break down tricky sentences
- Put together meaningful, well-structured sentences

Colourful Semantics focuses on the meaning of words by breaking a sentence into smaller chunks and colour coding each part. Once the sentence is colour coded, children can clearly see how each piece works and how the whole sentence makes sense.



Some children take part in **Fine Motor Skills Interventions**. These are for children who need a bit of extra practice with using the small muscles in their hands and fingers. These muscles help with lots of everyday school tasks like writing, drawing, cutting with scissors, doing up buttons, and using tools or equipment.

The sessions are fun and practical, and they include activities such as:

- Using tweezers to pick up small objects
- Threading beads or laces
- Cutting shapes with scissors
- Building with small construction toys
- Drawing, colouring, or tracing
- Playdough exercises to strengthen hand muscles
- Handwriting practice in short, focused bursts

The aim of the intervention is to help children build strength, control, and coordination in their hands so that writing and other fine-motor tasks become easier and less tiring.

Children often enjoy these sessions because they feel like games, and they get to see their skills improve over time—which really helps boost confidence.



Specialist Interventions Commissioned by School



Sally Evans, from Oyster Interventions, works on a 1:1 and small group basis with children. She offers compassionate play therapy to help

children express themselves and navigate their emotions. Sally also works with children offering a lunch-time craft club.



Sally is also going to be working with parents alongside their children offering workshops during the Summer Term.

Child & Parent Play Therapy Workshop

Join us for relaxed, welcoming sessions designed to help you connect with your child through play.

Our workshops offer:

- Simple, fun play activities you can try at home
- Support for your child's emotional and social development
- Practical ideas to build confidence in everyday parenting
- Space for conversation, connection, and shared enjoyment

What to expect:

A warm, friendly environment where you and your child can explore play together, learn new strategies, and enjoy quality time.

This forms part of our Early Help offer

Tuesdays 2:00pm-2:55pm

Please note: Places are limited. Contact the school office to express your interest.

Starting Summer term 2026



Sessions will be run by Sally Evans, Founder of Oyster Interventions. Qualified Play therapist



BeDazzle

Lisa from BeDazzle comes into school every Friday. She supports children with their well-being, mental health, behaviour and motivation, in an attempt to ensure every young person fulfils their potential to BeDazzle!

Lisa works with children in small groups in forest school, facilitating an outdoor craft club and gardening.



Georgina Roycroft, works 1:1 and in small groups with children using art to support emotional literacy and educational development. She also offers a 'Think Bricks' weekly therapeutic intervention using Lego to support communication and emotional regulation.



What's on in Telford



PODS SENSORY SESSIONS

from £3 per person

0-6 Mondays
7-11 Wednesdays
Mixed Fridays

SCAN ME

PODS SENSORY SESSIONS



PODS is a parent carer/peer led charity with staff and volunteers who have the relevant 'real life' experience to support families who have a child with a disability or additional need (aged 0 - 25 years).



Telford & Wrekin Cooperative Council | Protect, care and invest to create a better borough | Telford and Wrekin FAMILY HUBS

CHERRY BLOSSOM DROP IN

Last Monday of the month (term time only), 11.30am-1pm at Cherry Blossom Family Hub, PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford, TF2 9TU

- Advice and signposting
- Information on parenting/courses
- Support and guidance around accessing local community activities
- Family Hubs information

For further information, support and



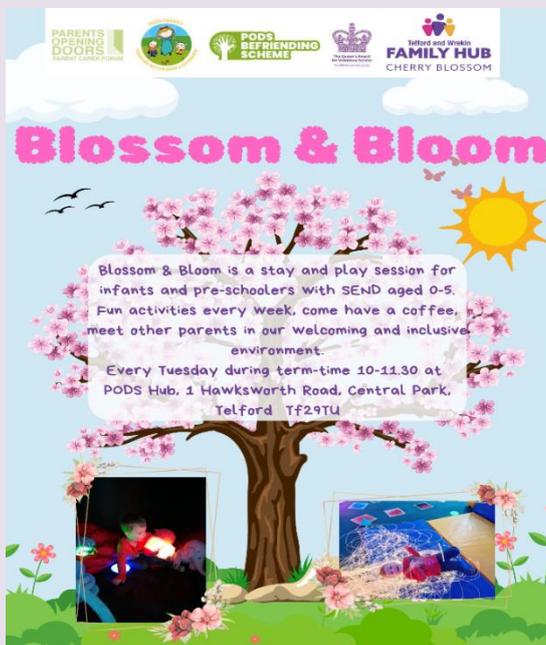
advice see:

www.podstelford.org

For further details you can contact PODS on 01952 458047

"Challenges at home" sessions for families who have a child o NeuroDiversity (Autism, ADHD, etc) assessment pathway or undergoing diagnosis. Open to 0-18 years from mainstream and special schools. For families to discuss home/life concerns and seek information and advice from Educational Psychologist team around emotional, behaviour, social, anxieties, routines, etc. We use these sessions to support families to find solutions together and share experiences and offer mutual support in a safe and supportive place.

If you are attending with another family member, you only need to book one place.



PARENTS OPENING DOORS | PODS BEMENDING SCHEME | Telford and Wrekin FAMILY HUB CHERRY BLOSSOM

Blossom & Bloom

Blossom & Bloom is a stay and play session for infants and pre-schoolers with SEND aged 0-5. Fun activities every Week, come have a coffee, meet other parents in our welcoming and inclusive environment.

Every Tuesday during term-time 10-11.30 at PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, Telford TF29TU

Area 51 are offering weekly SEND sessions at the popular trampoline park. Music will be lowered, and lights dimmed to ensure children are not over stimulated.

Tuesday/Wednesday 6pm - 7pm, 1hr session only £9 1 carer free entrance (must be over 18 years old) <https://area51.co.uk/activities-classes/sen-sessions/>



AFC TELFORD UNITED FOUNDATION
PAN-DISABILITY FOOTBALL

YOU CAN BE PART OF AFC TELFORD UNITED

PAN-DISABILITY FOOTBALL

FIND OUT MORE:
foundation@afctu.co.uk

- ✓ FULLY QUALIFIED COACHES
- ✓ ABILITY COUNTS LEAGUE
- ✓ MAKE NEW FRIENDS

PAN-DISABILITY FOOTBALL FOR U-16S AND OVER-16S WITH AFC TELFORD UNITED FOUNDATION

EVERY FRIDAY 5PM TO 6PM (U16S) 7PM TO 8PM (OVER 16S) | AFC TELFORD UNITED GOAL ZONE, TF1 2TU | JUST £4 PER WEEK FIRST SESSION FREE!

Jungleland soft play centre offers an exclusive family session for children of any age with special educational needs/disabilities. Siblings are welcome to join as well.



Saturday mornings 8-9:30am with reduced admission £2.99 per child and £2.50 per adult

<https://www.junglelandtelford.com/>

[disabilities-special-needs/](https://www.junglelandtelford.com/disabilities-special-needs/)



Telford Ice Rink soft play offers SEND soft play sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

The ice rink offers SEND skating session on Fridays at 5pm - 6pm.



[Inclusive facilities - Telford Ice Rink](#)

Telford and Wrekin offer an inclusive leisure programme for all pupils with SEND and their families. Activities include swimming, Ice skating, Snowboarding and skiing sessions and family fun sessions.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Inclusive leisure SEND programme						
Telford & Wrekin Council						
Abraham Darby Sports and Leisure Centre						
3.30pm / 5.30pm / 6pm	4pm	3.30pm		3.30pm	11am	10am
SEND Swim4Life Lessons	SEND Swim4Life Lessons	SEND Swim4Life Lessons		SEND Swim4Life Lessons	SEND Swim4Life Lessons	SEND Swim4Life Lessons
					6pm-7pm	12.15-1.15pm
					Ican2 swim session	Family Disability Swim
Oakengates Leisure Centre						
6pm-6.30pm						
SEND Swim4Life Lessons						
Telford Ice Rink						
				5pm-6pm		
				SEND Skate		
Telford Soft Play @ Telford Ice Rink						
4pm-5.30pm		5pm-6:30pm		10am-11.30am		10am-11.30am
Junior SEND Session		SEND Session		SEND Session		SEND Session
6pm-8pm						
Senior SEND Session						
Telford Snowboard and Ski Centre						
		4.30pm-5.30pm				
		My Options Ski and Tubing session				
Wellington Civic and Leisure Centre						
					12noon	5pm
					SEND Swim4Life Lessons	Wrekin Special Swimming Club SEND Session





Community Support



'Ability Counts' Football



There's never been a better time to get involved and play disability football. Opportunities for players with a disability to access football at various levels have grown incredibly over the past few years.

Some children are enthusiastic players who like nothing more than a kick about with their friends/peers and enjoy the social aspect of this participation. Others may have ambitions to develop as a player and to potentially play for teams and clubs. The good news is that the systems are in place for children to access football at the level that meets their needs and aspirations.

Shropshire FA support a number of FA 'Ability Counts' Football club sessions. These clubs have shown a commitment to providing opportunities for children to take part in coaching and in some cases competitive football competing in the FA Counties Ability Counts League.

'Ability Counts' Football Sessions at TCAT, Telford



Madeley Sports Football Club are running 'Ability Counts' football sessions for children at the TCAT Superdome in Wellington.



EVERY MONDAY

6.00pm - 7.00pm
6 - 11 year olds

7.00pm - 8.00pm
12 - 16 year olds

Boys and girls
All abilities
£3.00 per week
(first taster week free)

The 'Ability Counts' sessions are run by Noel Colley, Robert Coulman and Nicholas Handley. They are experienced FA registered coaches who are fully DBS checked and qualified in Safeguarding & First Aid.

If you would like any further information about these sessions, please contact Noel Colley: / colley.noel@gmail.com



SENDIASS Workshops

We offer a range of workshops and sessions that are aimed at providing parents/carers and young people with information in relation to SEND



Our workshops provide information on the following areas of SEND, as outlined within the SEND Code of Practice and the Law.

- SEN Support in schools
- How to request an Educational Health and Care Needs Assessment
- Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment Process
- Your rights of appeal process

Parents who have attended the sessions have increased their knowledge, understanding and confidence in SEND.

Parents comments:

"You offer an invaluable service to parents needing guidance and support—thanks again"

"The information has enabled me to feel more confident when I met with the school"

To book on a Workshop please phone or email

TELFORD SENDIASS 01952 457176

info@iass.org.uk

The Healthy Lifestyles Team are now booking telephone and video call appointments to support people to make sustainable changes for a healthy lifestyle.

The Team provides a free and confidential structured service to motivate, encourage and support local people to make changes to improve their health and wellbeing.

The service consists of six 1-2-1 sessions over a 12-week period supporting the areas of:

- Healthy eating
- Weight management
- Increasing physical activity and exercise
- Emotional health and wellbeing
- Lifestyle in pregnancy
- Family lifestyle

Smoking cessation (from aged 12+)

Residents of Telford & Wrekin

Referrals can be made in the following ways:

For our online contact form Visit: www.telford.gov.uk/healthylifestyles

Email: healthylifestyles@telford.gov.uk





Challenging Perceptions is a Telford based charity specialising in providing support for children and young people with mental health, learning disabilities, and neurodiversity needs.

www.cptelford.co.uk

Info@challengingperceptions.co.uk

[Facebook.com/challengingperceptionstelford](https://www.facebook.com/challengingperceptionstelford)



Do you know a young person with a disability living in Telford?

iCan2 members can access activities in Telford, specifically held for 0-17 year olds with a disability:

YOUTH CLUBS

CREATIVE ARTS

SPORTS & LEISURE

PASSES FOR LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Email shortbreaks@telford.gov.uk or scan the QR code above to request an application form.



Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough



DONNINGTON DROP IN



**Term time on Fridays 9.30-11.30am at
Donnington Community Hub,
St Matthews Road, Donnington TF2 7PR**

- Advice and signposting
- Information on parenting/courses
- Support and guidance around accessing local community activities
- Family Hubs information





Holiday Activities and Food for Telford and Wrekin Families.

Happy Healthy Active Holidays runs holiday clubs during the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays. There are funded spaces available to children in reception through to year 11 who receive benefit-related free school meals.

It won't cost anything to attend. Each club will have a range of fun activities such as sports, cooking, dance, music, arts and crafts, and a nutritious meal each day.

If you've previously registered for Happy Healthy Active Holidays, you won't need to register again - but if this is your first time taking part you can sign up through the website, register your child(s) details and book onto a whole variety of different sessions through the website. Don't miss out on your chance to book on! [Happy Healthy Active Holidays \(telford.gov.uk\)](http://HappyHealthyActiveHolidays(telford.gov.uk)) Once you have registered you will be notified when your eligibility has been confirmed, and you will be able to go ahead and book activities.



PODS HAPPY HEALTHY & ACTIVE HOLIDAY SCHEME

OPEN TO ALL AGED 0-25, INCLUDING SIBLINGS.
EACH ATTENDING CHILD WILL RECEIVE A FREE LUNCH.
ADULTS MUST ACCOMPANY THROUGHOUT.
PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK A PLACE.

Monday 30th March 10am -12 noon & 1-3 pm	Join us at PODS Hub for a fun Easter crafts session & Easter Egg Hunt, lunch included for child/ young person £4 per child/young person.
Wednesday 1st April 09 am-3.30 pm	Join us for a coach trip to Carding Mill Valley with the family, packed lunch included for the children/ young person. £6 per person.
Tuesday 7th April 10 am -1 pm	Meet us at Attingham Park, National Trust, lunch included for children/ young person. £5 per person.
Thursday 9th April 9 am-4pm	Join us for a coach trip to the Lower Drayton Farm with the family, packed lunch included for the child/ young person £6 per person





