Wandsworth schools and families

Headstart

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a ULEZ compliant vehicle?

You might be eligible for a £1,000 payment from Wandsworth Council.

For more information and to apply for the grant.



Scan the QR code or visit wandsworth.gov.uk/ulezfinancial-assistance-scheme



What's inside for Wandsworth families

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this month



Glowing success

The Glow awards celebrate the achievements of care-experienced young people.

The recent 2023 awards saw young people taking home trophies for achievements including academic success, great work ethic and progress in learning. Each winner received a trophy, a certificate and a gift voucher.

Afterwards they enjoyed a DJ, a 3D LED dancefloor, a 360° photobooth and a buffet.

New guidelines mean young people leaving council care in Wandsworth now get extra financial support plus other help such as regular health assessments and mental health support. Find out more about support on offer at

wandsworth.gov.uk/future-first-local-offer



A pilot scheme to give as many children as possible a healthy hot breakfast is to be extended until the end of this academic year.

Last March Wandsworth launched the scheme in twenty schools in partnership with the charity Magic Breakfast.

Now more than half of the children in the schools taking part in the pilot are enjoying breakfast – including traditional breakfast clubs, breakfast within classrooms before the start of lessons, and 'grab and go' breakfast on the way into school. More than 90 per cent of schools taking part in the pilot said that breakfast helped children's readiness to learn, and 82 per cent said it helped attendance and punctuality. All the schools agreed the scheme eased pressures on family finances.

The scheme will run until the end of July, and then a decision will be made on how it could continue in the future, including increasing the number of schools taking part.

Cabinet Member for Children Kate Stock went along to West Hill Primary School to see how the scheme is running.

Headteacher Richard Milsom, said: "The difference that it makes to the community is visible. People are going through hard times, and referrals to food banks are increasing. The breakfast club in partnership with Magic Breakfast, which runs daily, is providing the parents with some relief on what they have to fund themselves."



More people are now eligible for free swimming and junior gym sessions at local leisure and sports centres.

Previously people aged aged 16 and under on free school meals were eligible, but the scheme has been extended to young people aged 17-18 on free school meals.

If you are eligible, you can enjoy free off-peak adult gym and swim sessions (off-peak is before 5.30pm on weekdays and all day at weekends.)

You can also use the free junior gym, which is open to young people aged 11-15, and can make a free sports booking, such as squash courts, during off peak hours.

In addition, as well as leisure centres run by Places Leisure, the scheme has been extended to sports centres run by Enable.

Adults on Universal Credit and a range of other benefits, as well as asylum seekers, are also eligible for free gym and swim.

Kate Stock, Cabinet Member for Children, said: "We want to make sure the expense of joining a gym or enjoying a swim is not a barrier to keeping fit and active so If you're eligible then sign up for this offer.

"We also want to encourage families to see if they are eligible for free school meals. That will unlock this and other benefits and will help us make sure all children in Wandsworth get access to healthy food."

Visit placesleisure.org/free-wandsworthpremium-membership (leisure centres) enablelc.org/leisure/free-gym-membershipfor-wandsworth-residents (sports centres)

Other support available

You can find out about other support for families on our cost of living hub.

Visit wandsworth.gov.uk/hub

Free school uniforms. If you are in receipt of free school meals and you have a child moving into Reception or Year 7, you could get help with uniform costs. Email

voucher and holiday support@wandsworth.gov.uk

Vouchers, grants and allowances. Find out about Healthy Start Vouchers, maternity grants, free childcare and more in the 'Family and childcare' section of the hub.

Free school meals and help with food. Go to the 'Food' section of the hub to see more about free school meals and community groups offering food support.



Community Spaces. There are places all over the borough where you can keep warm, chat with your neighbours, take part in activities and enjoy a hot drink and food. Visit the 'Community Spaces' section of the hub.







School building excites and inspires

The redesign and refurbishment of Tooting's Burntwood School is a winner in this year's Architecture Today Awards for buildings that stand the test of time.

It means the school has now won four prestigious architectural awards – including a world-famous RIBA Stirling Prize.

Kate Stock, Wandsworth's Cabinet Member for Schools said: "The awards just keep on coming for this excellent school, which offers its pupils really superb facilities in a modern and high-tech learning environment."



Keeping more children with SEND local

Planning permission has been granted for the new Paddock Secondary School site.

Paddock is an Ofsted-rated 'Outstanding' school in Wandsworth for children with severe learning difficulties. Expansion onto a new site means that more children will benefit from being closer to friends and family as they learn in a purpose-built environment.

Building work will start in the coming months and the first students are expected on the new site in the 2025/26 academic year. We'll keep you updated on progress and check out the hoarding that will outline opportunities to join this thriving and expanding school.



Discovered! Creative Careers in Wandsworth

More than 60 young people, including students from Ark Bolingbroke Academy and South Thames College, took part in Discover! Creative Careers Week 2023.

Part of a national, industry-led initiative to build a skilled and inclusive talent pipeline into our world-leading creative industries, Wandsworth's Discover! Creative Careers Week featured talks, Q&A's and a Creative Careers Fair with Wandsworth's creative professionals across two inspiring days at Battersea Arts Centre and the Royal Academy of Dance. Find out about creative careers support from our arts team by emailing creativewandsworth@wandsworth.gov.uk

Time to

With professional help you are 4 times more likely to quit smoking for good

FREE support Find out more

Call: the 24 hour freephone on 0800 389 7921

email: stopsmoking.team@wandsworth.gov.uk

visit: wandsworth.gov.uk/stopsmoking or call the Stop Smoking London helpline

on 0300 123 1044

visit: stopsmokinglondon.com





More than 100 people gathered at the Wandsworth Civic Suite for the annual Foster Carers Reception, presenting awards to people who have had a real positive impact on the lives of Wandsworth's children and young people.

Avis Bent, who has devoted 40 years to caring for 80 young people, said: "Being a foster carer is one of the most rewarding things that I could've wished for."

Foster Carers play a life-changing role in the lives

of children and young people and provide them with a safe and caring place to call home. If you are interested in becoming a foster carer."

Visit **fostering.wandsworth.gov.uk** Email **fosteringrecruitment@wandsworth.gov.uk** Call **(020) 8871 6666**

You can also join an online information event on February 22 or March 28. Email or call to register.

Being a foster carer is one of the most rewarding things that I could've wished for.

Brush up digital skills for free

Parents can brush up their digital skills at free weekly Digital Drop-ins held at Battersea, Roehampton, and Tooting Libraries, along with monthly sessions at various Community Spaces across Wandsworth.

Bring your device or use one of theirs and receive one-to-one help.

You can also attend a range of beginner Digital Skills and Online Safety courses, including introductions to platforms like Vinted and Ebay. Power to Connect, supported by Wandsworth Council, aims to end digital poverty in Wandsworth. If you have unwanted laptops, tables or smartphones you can donate them to be recycled, refurbished and given to people in need in Wandsworth. Volunteers are also welcome

To find out more, or get full details of course:

Visit powertoconnect.co.uk
Call 07934 553192

Email hello@powertoconnect.co.uk





Meeting the School Food Standards

Ernest Bevin Academy has revolutionised the meals it serves to pupils.

Along with 44 other schools, Ernest Bevin is on the council's contract with new provider Harrison Catering Services. We went along to see what has changed.

Schools must make sure they meet standards set by the government, but some schools find it hard to remove or limit items that are popular and generate good revenue such as pastries, waffles, sausage or bacon baps and rolls.

But Ernest Bevin Academy proves compliance with the standards is possible and pupils and staff enjoy freshly made, tasty, seasonal and affordable food.

The council's new Wandsworth School Food Strategy says schools should provide high quality, fresh, healthy, sustainable and culturally inclusive foods.

Harrison cooks more than 95 per cent of its school food with fresh ingredients, and using sustainably sourced ingredients.

At Ernest Bevin favourite foods include Bombay chickpea & potato chapati roll, Dynamite chicken Po'Boy, chicken tikka chapati and freshly made soups

Jacqueline Mayhew, Ernest Bevin's Business Manager who oversees the food provision, said: "The boys and staff absolutely love the food! Since Harrison became our new catering provider in September 2023, the uptake of the meals amongst the staff has nearly doubled and we have seen an increase in food uptake from students as well. Harrisons ordering process means there is also less packaging waste which we are pleased about.

"At the beginning, we were worried that the boys would miss the pastries but we were delighted with how popular the freshly made mid-morning snacks became. The items just seem to fly off the shelf."

The school is now considering applying for the bronze Healthy Schools award and is already thinking about compositing fruit and vegetable peels from the kitchen and using their outdoor space to grow food.









More school streets in the pipeline

More schools are to get a School Street as early results show they successfully reduce traffic by school gates and encourage families to try active travel for their school run.

School Streets close the roads outside schools to traffic during pickup and drop-off time. The aim is to encourage safer and healthier travel to and from schools and help improve air quality. The council is working with nine schools on potential schemes:

All Saints' CE Primary,
Belleville Primary
(Meteor site),
Belleville Primary (Northcote site),
Brandlehow Primary,
Oasis Academy,
Heathmere Primary,
Hornsby House School,
St Joseph's Primary
and Swaffield Primary.

Consultations are due to start shortly and, if supported, there could be possible trials in April.



Weaving Out Waste will see Year 4 and 5 pupils from up to 40 primary schools working with artist Caroline Lauvetz.

project and exhibition.

They'll create an art exhibition exploring the impact of textile waste on the planet, displayed in a public venue in Wandsworth. Each class will create a piece to hang in the exhibition.

It follows a similar project last year, Single Use Planet, which saw a spectacular piece of collaborative art put up in Southside Shopping Centre.

The inspiration for Weaving Out Waste is drawn from Wandsworth's rich history of textile manufacturing along the Wandle River. Each pupil will practice weaving techniques on Wandsworth-sourced reclaimed fabrics to create their individual and unique piece of cloth. They will then be joined together to create a 'river'.

The exhibition will open in the Spring. Keep an eye on the council website for details.







Going green



Schools are being upgraded to make them greener.

The first thing being done is the installation of LED lights at all council-run schools because this will have a quick impact. The aim is to eventually help schools save up to 50 per cent on their energy bills and reduce their carbon footprint by as much as 70 per cent.

Later phases are likely to include better insulation, heat pumps and solar panels. As well as council-funded projects, schools are carrying out their own projects, like tree planting and rain collection.

It's all part of Wandsworth pledge to becoming a net zero borough by 2043. You can see everything being done at

wandsworth.gov.uk/climate-change



Performing poetry



Talented young poets from schools all over the borough took part in the 2023 Word of Mouth performance poetry competition.

Word of Mouth is a chance for Key Stage 2 pupils to explore poetry and perform their favourites to an audience at the town hall.

The solo performance winners were Honeywell School in Battersea, with Our Lady Queen of Victories, Putney and Fircroft, Tooting taking second and third place.

Group winners were Our Lady Queen of Victories, St Mary's Battersea Second and Alderbrook School Balham third.

The judges were poet and performer Joshua Seigal and Louise Pendry, artistic director at Bounce Theatre.

Get support at Family Hub

Families from all over Battersea have visited the new family hub at Yvonne Carr Children's Centre since it opened last September.

As well as fun things to do, you can get information and advice all under one roof right on your doorstep, including housing queries, parenting sessions, lifelong learning courses and advice on health and wellbeing. We're planning more hubs and we want to make sure we are giving parents the services and information they need and that it is as accessible as possible.

If you've visited Yvonne Carr and would like to give us feedback on what's on offer there, email

csdcommunications@wandsworth.gov.uk







Alex wows the crowds

Young musicians from Ark Putney Academy and winner of the 2023 Wandsworth Junior Young Musician of the Year award Alex Huang entertained the audience at November's Wandsworth Civic Awards.

The Young Musician awards are organised by Wandsworth Music, which works with schools and other organisations to give young people a chance to learn and enjoy music. Find out more about its work at wandsworthmusic.co.uk.





New library for Wandsworth

Wandsworth town has a brand-new library, including a dedicated children's library. There is also a big collection of fiction titles for teenagers.

The library has plenty of space for people who want somewhere quiet to study, and you can access the internet free of charge, as well as newspapers, magazines and periodicals.

Find out more, including activities like rhyme times, reading groups and craft sessions at

better.org.uk/wandsworth-town-library







Children from 29 Wandsworth schools enjoyed a taste of poetry with Joseph Coelho, the national Waterstones Children's Laureate who grew up in Roehampton.

Joseph returned to his roots to share his tips on how to start writing poetry and being creative with words in a visit to his former primary schools and ARK Putney Academy.

More than 1,000 Year 4 pupils and teachers gathered at Wandsworth town hall's Civic Suite to take part in poetry performances and workshops with Joseph and took the opportunity to ask him questions about his favourite book, when he first became a poet and what inspires his writing.

The following day he gave a performance to Year 7 students before being joined by Year 4 students from 10 different primary schools for interactive poetry sessions.

He said: "It has been a privilege to return to Wandsworth this week and get the opportunity to connect hundreds of children to poetry and writing – inspiring them to express themselves in new creative ways."



BOOK an CHECKED CHECKED CHECKED FEEL GREAT HEALTH CHECKED at a local pharmacy

Aged 40-74? A quick and free NHS Health Check can help reduce your risk of common, serious illnesses like stroke, dementia and diabetes.



NHS Health Checks are now available at MORE pharmacies across the borough, in addition to GP surgeries. Find out if you're eligible and where you can get an NHS Health Check in your area.







National award for talented young pianist

13-year-old Chapman Shum from Wandsworth has been named the 2024 Sense Young Person of the Year.

The Sense Awards recognise the outstanding achievements of people with complex disabilities and the people who support them.

Born in Hong Kong, Chapman encountered unique challenges due to a rare, unidentified genetic condition that left him blind and with speech and learning difficulties, along with symptoms of autism.

Despite these formidable challenges,

Chapman is an exceptionally talented pianist and has played at venues across the country, including two recitals at the Westminster Music Library and an appearance on BBC Breakfast.

Chapman said: "Because of a rare disease I was born blind and have a learning and speaking difficulties but I'm a good pianist."

Dad Chun said: "Despite the obstacles posed by his disability, Chapman refuses to let it define him or limit his potential."

Worried about a child?

Ofsted has praised the council's work protecting children from harm.

It says children at risk and their families receive the right level of support at the right time and that social workers take the feelings and wishes of children into account and treat parents with sensitivity.

Wandsworth's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub brings professionals together keep children safe. If you are a young person who is being abused, or if you are worried about a child at risk of harm or abuse, here is how you get in touch:

- Call (020) 8871 7899 (during office hours)
- Call (020) 8871 6000 (outside office hours)
- Email mash@wandsworth.gov.uk

Visit the town hall reception in Wandsworth High Street between 9.30am and 4.30pm. You can also call the NSPCA freephone child Protection Helpline on **0808 800 5000**

In an emergency call 999





Winter listings

This is just a taste of what's going on. For more activities visit wandsworth.gov.uk/fis

How to be listed Send details to: press@wandsworth.gov.uk

We cannot guarantee that your entry will be inserted. This is a free service. The information in this guide has been provided by the advertisers themselves. Wandsworth Council accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information or for any event not organised by the council.



Community Swim Programme

An affordable way for children aged 5-15 to learn and improve how to swim. Each term last 10 weeks and costs £80 for the first child and £75 for any siblings.

Burntwood School, Burntwood Lane

To find out more and book call 07850 098619 or email galleyne@enablelc.org



All Star Tennis

February 12-16

Holiday tennis camp for three-year-olds to teens

- Leaders Gardens
 Tooting Common
- King George's Park Wandsworth Common

allstartennis.co.uk • info@allstartennis.co.uk

Mix and Munch cooking classes

February 12-14

Holiday classes for six to 12 year olds and 12-15 year olds in Southfields and East Putney. After school classes also available.

mixandmunch.com, or email hello@mixandmunch.com



Libraries

Fun events, storytimes, workshops and crafts. better.org.uk/whats-on-in-wandsworths-libraries

Holiday clubs

February 12-16

- Energy Kidz Holiday Club, Sheringdale School, Wandsworth
 energy-kidz.co.uk/holiday-club/wandsworth-holiday-club-sheringdale-primary-school/
- Crazy Camps, Ernest Bevin College crazycamps.co.uk
- Super Camps, Putney High School supercamps.co.uk
- Gymfinity Wandsworth camp, Garratt Lane gymfinitykids.com
- AM Multi-Sports Camp, Floreat School amsportsacademy.co.uk

SEN Talk Half Term Club

February 12-15

For children and young people with special educational needs.

Call (020) 7223 1694 Email info@sendtalk.org

Putney School of Art and Design

Half term classes for children.

psad.org.uk

Chelsea Soccer School

February 12-16

Half term courses are running in Battersea Park and Chestnut Grove School

Chelseasoccerschools.co.uk





The club provides free of charge martial arts training to under-18s and gives them the opportunity to compete at the highest level.

Recently the club won eight medals, including two golds, a the Youth and Junior National Qungda Championships.

Find out more at Cobraboxingclub.uk

Mondays at the ROSE

Parents with or without children are welcome at the ROSE community clubroom on Mondays for free social activities, after-school club and a free meal – no need to book, just come along.

Open to all from 10am to 6.30pm with activities if you want to take part:

Arts and crafts club from 10am to 12noon Board games from 12noon to 3pm

After-school club from 3pm to 6.30pm

Plus! Hot drinks and snacks all day and free hot meal available to everyone from 5pm.

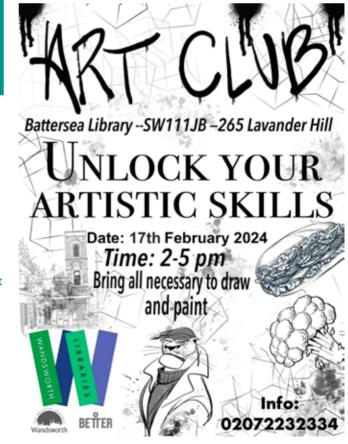
2 Ascalon Street, SW8 4AN

Group 64

February 14-16

Half term theatre holiday projects for 4-7 year olds and 7-11 year olds at the Putney Arts Theatre

g64.org.uk/holiday-projects





Get involved with WAF

We're searching for young Reviewers, Reporters and Producers aged 14-19 who live or study in Wandsworth.

Want to see theatre, dance, circus, exhibitions, spoken word performances and more - and get your reviews published? Or perhaps you want to try your hand at being a radio broadcaster, conducting interviews with artists and event organisers. You can also learn skills and tools to design your own event.

Visit wandsworthfringe.com/news-andopportunities/young-people-participationprojects

Stay & Play

February 15, 9.30am-11am

A welcoming space for parents and children to stay, play, and interact. Just turn up.

Battersea Park Library, 309 Battersea Park Road

Craft Club

February 17, 2pm-4pm

Interactive kids' craft workshop. Just turn up. Balham Library, 16 Ramsden Road

Childminder Briefing Session

March 5, 10am-noon April 9, 10am-noon

Interested in a career as a professional childminder? Find out what's involved and start the registration process.

The session will be at 7 Ram Street, Wandsworth. Just turn up.

Email childmindingservice@wandsworth.gov.uk or call (020) 8871 6223 for details.

Family Hubs Virtual Workshops

Fortnightly 1.30pm-2.30pm

Parents and carers can get helpful tips from a range of experts. Upcoming workshops are:

- February 19 Keeping your child's teeth healthy
- March 4 How to create a healthy sleep routine
- March 18 Introducing solids

Email Hannah.skaife@ richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk Call 07974 586467



about.

Schools

General information: wandsworth.gov.uk/schools

Admissions: wandsworth.gov.uk/admissions

Term dates: wandsworth.gov.uk/termdates

Find a school: wandsworth.gov.uk/schoolsAtoZ



Recycling

General information: wandsworth.gov.uk/recycling

What can I recycle?:

wandsworth.gov.uk/recyclefromhome



Arts, leisure and culture

Arts: wandsworth.gov.uk/arts

Events: wandsworth.gov.uk/events

Libraries: wandsworth.gov.uk/libraries

Leisure centres and sport: wandsworth.gov.uk/sport

Adult Education: wandsworthlifelonglearning.co.uk



Parks

General information: wandsworth.gov.uk/parks

Playgrounds and trim trails A-Z: wandsworth.gov.uk/playgroundsAtoZ



Parenting support, education, childcare, family activities, health, SEND local offer

wandsworth.gov.uk/fis



The Electoral Commission





For details about other ways to vote, including by post, visit wandsworth.gov.uk/vote



Find out more at the electoral commission.org.uk/voterID