



Short Breaks for Disabled Children

Summer 2026 newsletter



London Borough
of Hounslow

FREE Summer holiday
Short Breaks inside!



Welcome

Welcome to the Summer newsletter! You will find inside a programme of activities taking place over the holiday which will be fun and enjoyable for your young person and the whole family.

Hope you all have a great holiday.

Jo Dawson – Short Breaks

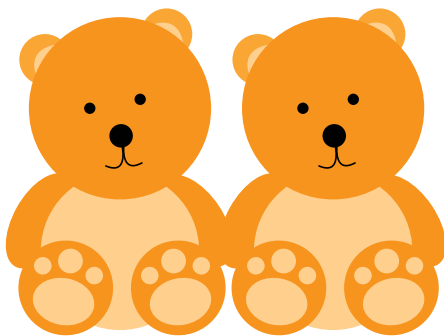
What is a Short Break?

Short breaks provide opportunities for disabled children and young people to spend time away from their primary carers. They aim to provide parents and carers a necessary and valuable break away from their caring responsibilities in order to recharge their batteries.

They enable disabled children and young people to have the chance to develop new friendships, take part in new experiences and to have fun doing positive activities like sports, music therapy, youth clubs and much more.

A short break may include a few hours, a day, evening, overnight stay, weekend or sometimes longer. It could take place in the family home, at another home or out in the wider community.

Hounslow Short Breaks team also endeavour to provide short breaks for the whole family in an environment that is sympathetic to the disabled child or young person, for example, theatre shows and cinema screenings.



For more information, please see our Short Breaks Statement on the Hounslow website – <https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/send-local-offer-social-care/send-local-offer-short-breaks>.

If you have any queries, please do call the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636.

Taxicards

This scheme allows London residents with a mobility impairment which prevents them from using buses or trains to travel in contracted licensed radio taxis – black cabs or private hire vehicles at subsidised rates. For further information visit



www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/taxicard

SUPPORT

If your child or young person needs help to access short breaks, support is available!



Please do call the **Short Breaks team** on **020 8583 3636**.

SHORT BREAKS BOOKING PROCEDURE – please read

This newsletter has been emailed to families on Wednesday 24 June and families will be able to book Short Breaks as from the week commencing 29 June. No bookings will take place before Tuesday 30 June.



If you have any questions or are unsure which pathway your child meets, please do not hesitate to contact the Short Breaks Team on 020 8583 3636. **Please note that we are unable to do any registrations during the booking period.**

Hounslow Parent Carers Forum

Hounslow Parent Carers Forum is part of a nationwide organisation that helps parent and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We are there to listen to you and try to support you to sign post where needed.

We also discuss common issues that parent/carers have with the local authority and other organisations in order to help improve services. All of us who work for the forum have children with SEND.

We offer Coffee & Chat Mornings and Afternoons, along with newsletters that provide updates and helpful information on SEN topics in the area. Additionally, we host a monthly forum where



representatives from the Council, other organisations, and charities come to discuss their services and answer your questions. Best way to keep up to date with what we have going on is to see our online diary on our website: www.hounslowpcf.co.uk

Dates for up-coming Forum meetings are as follows:

- Tuesday 14 July

Times: 10.15am-12.30am

Hounslow Youth Centre

Kingsley Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 1QA

Email: info@hounslowpcf.co.uk

Tel: 020 8570 4671



Unique Identifying Number (UIN)

If you have not already registered for your UIN, please do call the Short Breaks team on **020 8583 3636**. It is

important that you do this as you will need a UIN to book onto any of the Short Breaks programme. All our Short Breaks providers (Hounslow Play team, Brentford Sports, Richmond Music Trust, Watermans, Park Lane Stables, Lampton Leisure) will require the UIN as part of the booking process.

Please note that we are unable to do any registrations during booking days.



Useful websites for families of disabled children

Please find below several websites that offer help and support in various ways to families with disabled children:

<http://newlifecharity.co.uk/docs/care-services/Play-Therapy-Pods.shtml>

<https://www.disability-grants.org/grants-for-children.html>

<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>

SEND Local Offer

Advice, guidance and support for families with children and young people aged 0 - 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).



Scan here to visit our Local Offer website



Realising

Limitless

Futures



London Borough
of Hounslow

Visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/send-local-offer

Email thelocaloffer@hounslow.gov.uk

Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SEND IASS)

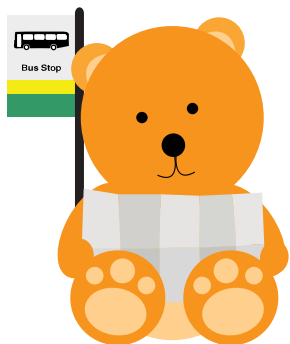
What is SEND IASS?

Under the Children and Families Act (2014) it is a legal requirement that all Local Authorities have a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS).

The Hounslow Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) provides this service for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in the borough.

This service is also offered directly to young people as well. While the service is funded by the London Borough of Hounslow (LBH), Hounslow SENDIASS works independently of the local authority.

Hounslow SENDIASS is free to use, impartial and confidential.

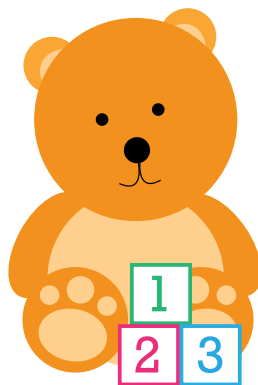


What we do

Hounslow SENDIASS provides independent and impartial advice based on the law and government guidance. We are able to:

- Meet with you virtually or in person to discuss your concerns or needs. Communication may also be by phone and email
- Explain how the SEND system works – for instance, accessing Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plans
- Assist you in you navigating the often-complex world of SEND
- Signpost you to appropriate local authority services, including the Local Offer
- Support you through dispute resolution and mediation processes with schools and the local authority

(NB. Where you request support at a meeting, this is subject to appropriateness, availability, and capacity)



What we don't do

Our aim is to empower young people, parents, and carers to take informed decisions around SEND for themselves. We don't however:

- Tell you what is best for you and your child
- Tell other professionals what to do
- Identify appropriate schools for your child
- Represent you at meetings, including mediation and tribunals
- Assist in the preparation of EHC or tribunal documentation
- Provide an administrative service for you, including contacting or arranging meetings for you with other professionals and form-filling
- Help with benefit claims, housing difficulties, Blue Badges etc

(NB. If your child has an EHC plan, your first contact should be your child's EHC caseworker)



You can help us by:

- Leaving a message when you phone as we do not respond to missed calls where no message has been left (We aim to respond to all enquires within 5 working days)
- Keep us updated on progress in relation to the resolution of your concerns or needs
- Let us know when your issues have been resolved

Data Protection

All the information that Hounslow SENDIASS gathers from you is securely stored electronically and separate to local authority departments. Information will only be shared with your permission. However, where there may a safeguarding concern Hounslow SENDIASS is obliged to share such concerns with appropriate professionals.

How to access our service

We are a self-refer service. Parents are able to access us directly. We are unable to take referrals from professionals.

If you would like our help, please telephone us on 020 8583 2607 or email us at sendiass@hounslow.gov.uk

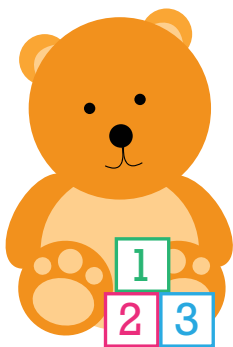
Disability Access Fund (DAF)

DAF is available to support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in their childcare setting. Childcare providers can receive £615 per year for every child who meets the eligibility criteria.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible children must be:

- aged 3 or 4 years old
- using a funded free early education and childcare place in a registered childcare setting
- in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)*



What can the funding be used for?

The funding is available to help childcare providers make reasonable adjustments at their setting to improve children's access to funded early education. It will be paid directly to the childcare provider and they will be able to decide how it should be spent. The funding cannot be used towards childcare fees.

Your child does not need to be using all of their funded early education and childcare hours for their childcare provider to be able to receive the full £615 of funding. Please speak to your childcare provider if you think your child may qualify.

Further information on DAF can be found on the Hounslow Local Offer through the following link: <https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/send-local-offer>

* Many parents miss out on this vital benefit - did you know that you don't have to wait for a condition to be diagnosed before you can claim DLA for your child? You can claim DLA so long as it is clear that there is some underlying condition - whether physical, mental or behavioural - as a result of which your child needs extra care or help in getting around. For more information, visit www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children.

Eligibility Criteria

You will see the table which describes the pathways of need overleaf, on pages 10-11. Below, we have explained how to assess your child's needs in relation to the pathways.

Step 1: Have a look at Band A and see where your child's disability sits in each pathway.

Step 2: Have a look at Bands B and C if they apply. Think about the four dimensions – Communication, Personal Care, Safety and Supervision, Behaviour and Social Integration. If your child meets one or more of the descriptions in either Band B and C, then they are likely to meet the respective pathway.

If you are unsure or if you see that they sit in multiple pathways, please do give the Short Breaks team a call and we will go through it with you on 020 8583 3636.

Things to think about:

Pathway 1: The child will most likely attend a mainstream school and can access most mainstream activities with minimal support.

Pathway 2: The child will either attend a mainstream school (with specialist support) or attend a specialist school and will need some additional support to access short breaks. They may have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Pathway 3: The child will most likely attend a specialist school and require specialist support to access short breaks. They will most likely have an Education, Health and Care Plan. They will most likely be known to the Social Work team for Children with Disabilities.

The pathway for the child or young person may change at different times throughout their lives as their needs may change.

Pathways of Need

	Dimension	Pathway 1 Level of Need	Pathway 2 Level of Need	Pathway 3 Level of Need
Band A	Mobility	Able to walk unassisted, but with difficulty or poor co-ordination.	Walks, but only with aids or assistance. May use a wheelchair sometimes.	Full time wheelchair user and/or Mobility severely restricted without special provision.
	Vision	Severe or profound problem with one eye. Less than half visual field loss. Able to function independently.	Able to read print with simple aids or assistance. Defect of at least half visual field. May be eligible for registration as partially sighted.	Unable to read large print without intensive educational assistance or sophisticated aids. Registered.
	Hearing	Severe or profound hearing loss in one ear. Hearing loss 20-40 dB	Hearing loss 41-70 dB	Hearing loss >71 dB
	Functioning and Learning ability	Overall functioning slightly below expected level for age. May have a mild or moderate learning disability	Overall functioning around half expected level for age. Has a moderate learning disability	Overall functions significantly below expected level for age. Have a severe learning disability or a moderate learning disability and diagnosed ASD.
	Health	Known health condition, which is under control but occasionally interferes with everyday activities in a minor way.	Health condition that limits normal activities, including self-care and personal hygiene, access to services. May interfere with opportunities for development or education.	Diagnosed health condition, which is severe and potentially life threatening, and results in frequent hospital admissions that limits accessing developmental or educational activities. May be in receipt of Continuing Care or palliative care from Health Services.

IMPACT OF DISABILITY

Band B	Communication	Delayed language development only.	Delayed/ disorganised verbal communication causing difficulty. Speech supplemented by alternate communication method.	Uses communication other than words, e.g. symbols, makaton, BSL.
	Personal care	Child requires minimal support beyond that of their peers with everyday care needs; this will include toileting, washing and dressing.	Child requires practical support beyond that of their peers with everyday care needs; this will include toileting, washing and dressing.	Child requires assistance beyond that of their peers with all everyday care needs; this will include toileting, washing and dressing and can be problematic and need skilled intervention.
	Safety and Supervision	Requires occasional supervision beyond that expected for their age. Poor sense of danger or risk of excitability.	Needs supervision to perform daily activities significantly greater than that expected for developmental age. Limited perception of danger to self or others.	Needs constant supervision during the day and night. Would place themselves or others at risk without supervision.
	Behaviour and Social Integration	Some mild, transient or frequent behaviour difficulties. Able to use local non-specialist universal services. Able to sustain limited peer relationships and social integration with support. Child requires support to access services.	Behaviour problems severe or frequent enough to require some specialist advice or provision. Significant support required to achieve social integration. Only able to sustain peer relationships with support. Child requires services to prevent or alleviate stress in the family.	Long-term behaviour difficulties make it difficult for the child to function appropriately most of the time, and maybe of risk to the child or carers without special provision. Dependence upon carer for social integration. Limited awareness of impact of behaviour upon others. Services required to prevent high risk of accommodation for the child.

Children and young people should meet at least one of the dimensions in Band A and one from Band B to meet the criteria for that pathway. To discuss your child's pathway, please call the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636.

Summer 2026 activities

Key to services

Throughout the following pages, we have used symbols to help abbreviate information about the Pathway, referral route, age and level of supervision for individual services.

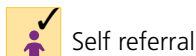
The symbols are as follows:

Pathways



The Pathway, will always be 1, 2 or 3 or a combination.

Referral route



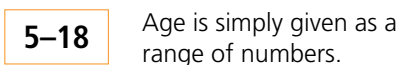
Self referral



Referral by professional

The referral route is either via self referral or referral by a professional who knows the child/young person, e.g. social worker, teacher, health professional.

Age



Age is simply given as a range of numbers.

Supervision



Parent supervision required



No supervision required

These symbols indicate whether supervision is required or if a child can attend a service on their own. Both symbols may appear if you need to speak to the provider about this.

Trip To Littlehampton

Thursday 30 July and Thursday 20 August

Families can book one trip.



We're going to the seaside! A long sandy beach awaits you with the usual charms of a British seaside town – cafes, restaurants, a small fun fair awaits you! Come and join us for a day at Littlehampton. The whole family are welcome to join us. Coaches will arrive at 9am in front of Isleworth Leisure Centre, 146 Twickenham Road, Isleworth TW7 7DJ and leave at 9.15 am. Coaches will leave from Littlehampton at 4pm. All coaches will have toilet facilities.

We will also have the School Transport minibuses available for wheelchair users and their families.

Please remember the child or young person remains the responsibility of the parent/carer at all times.

Further details of the day will be sent to you a week before the trip.

To book, please call the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636 or email shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk.



Trip to Beale Park

Thursday 6 and Thursday 27 August

Families can book one trip.

Discover Beale Park Wildlife Park and Gardens – Beale Park is the place to be with fun, adventure, animals, gardens, play and activities on the banks of the picturesque River Thames – a great day out for all ages near Pangbourne in Berkshire. For more information, visit www.bealepark.org.uk.

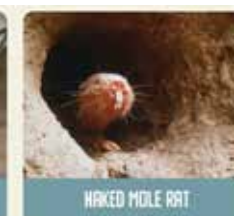
The whole family are welcome to join us; Short Breaks will cover the cost of the disabled child/ren in the family. A carer per child registered with Short Breaks in the family will also have free entry. Prices for the rest of the family as follows:

Other adults and children: £15.50

This is a reduced group rate and these tickets can be bought on the day on arrival at Beale Park.

Children 2 years and under will go in free.

Admission includes a free ride on the wheelchair-accessible train, as well as access to the zoo, gardens, indoor soft play, splash pool, go-kart track, bouncy pillow, and multiple playgrounds.



Coaches will leave from in front of Isleworth Leisure Centre, 146 Twickenham Road, Isleworth TW7 7DJ at 9.15am and will leave Beale Park at 4.00 pm.

Further details of the day will be sent to you a week before the trip.

To book, please call the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636 or email shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk.

Please remember the child or young person remains the responsibility of the parent/carer at all times.

In the event of extreme heat, trips may be subject to cancellation.

Summer 2026 activities

In order to book a place at any of the Watermans activities, you will need a promo code as well as your child's UIN, which will be emailed to you by the Short Breaks team before the bookings open.

Come on over to the Summer Garden Party!

Saturday 1 August, 1 – 4pm

In the Garden at Redlees Play Centre, Worton Rd, Isleworth TW7 6DW

Come on over to Redlees and join the Short Breaks Summer Garden Party!

Play games, have fun and explore the garden.

Look out for The Slinkies as we let them loose in the garden! The Slinkies are loaded with fun as they twist, stretch and curl up to six metres high. The performance unfolds in short, comic encounters, gentle audience interactions and endless mischief.

Play along on the giant garden chime bars with a live musician. This multi-player, musical installation will bring everyone together into a fun and spontaneous music making experience.

And doodle all day on the Giant Chalkboard! Everyone can scribble, doodle & create on this interactive art space. Just step right on, pick up your chalk and get creative! Even though the chalk's dust-free and washable, just remember to 'dress for mess'!!

And it's a party so ... there may be some cake!

Suitable for all ages

Please book online:

<https://watermans.ticketsolve.com/shows/873665332/events>



SHORT BREAKS FILM CLUB



OUTDOOR FILMS IN THE REDLEES GARDEN

The Short Breaks Summer Film Club goes outdoors! Come and see two of the best recent family films, and a delightful short film, in the Redlees garden! Bring snacks and a picnic blanket and sit on the grass. Chairs will be available for those who need them.

THE MAGIC FARAWAY TREE (U)

Saturday 15 August 2026 at 11am (finishes at 12.50pm)



Best for ages 6-11s, but the film has broader appeal for younger & older children

A modern family relocates to the countryside where the children discover a magical tree with eccentric residents. They're transported to fantastical lands, rekindling their family bond through adventures.

The film, adapted and modernised from Enid Blyton's Faraway Tree books, is about a huge enchanted tree whose branches are a canopy of magical wonder. The result is a thoroughly likable and sweet-natured family fantasy film with acres of innocent jollity and eccentric quirkiness.

The film is described as being heartfelt, visually beautiful and a lovely watch. It captures the simple joy of imagination and leaves you wanting to step outside, wander into the trees, and quietly say 'I believe in magic.'

Please book online at:

<https://watermans.ticketsolve.com/shows/873665357/events>



THE SNAIL & THE WHALE (U)

Saturday 15 August 2026 at 2pm (finishes at 2.30pm)



A beautiful tale of an unlikely friendship, a tour of the world and a heroic rescue.

A tiny, restless sea snail who dreams of seeing the world hitches a ride on the tail of a massive humpback whale. Together, they embark on a globetrotting adventure across vast, colourful oceans - until an unexpected accident leaves the whale beached on a shore, forcing the little snail to go and find help and become a hero.

The film is widely regarded as a small, poetic masterpiece that holds the attention of toddlers while remaining highly enjoyable for adults.

The Snail & The Whale is a short film, just 27 minutes long. It is available to all Short Breaks families but it is particularly suitable for children attending a film for the first time, those who have not yet been to many films, or who are not comfortable sitting through a full-length film. Please book online at:

<https://watermans.ticketsolve.com/shows/873665360/events>



Summer 2026 activities



HOPPERS (PG)

**Saturday 15 August 2026 at 3pm
(finishes at 4.45pm)**

Mabel, an animal-loving college student, lives with her grandma and has learned the importance of loving nature, particularly the peaceful woodland glade near their house. So when the evil Mayor Jerry says he intends to destroy this glade to make way for a motorway, Mabel realises that the only way to stop him is to repopulate the glade with the beavers and other animals who have mysteriously vanished.



Mabel must somehow make contact with the animals, to persuade them that it is in their best interest to do what she wants them to do. She transfers her mind into a life-like robotic beaver to communicate with the animals, defeat the evil developer and save their habitat from destruction.

The film 'zaps along very entertainingly' (Guardian) but is also 'funny, thoughtful, sweet, making for a heartfelt paean to nature, and beavers in particular' (Empire).

The film has some intense action, peril, including some scary images of a forest fire, and fighting scenes. It is suitable for ages 8-9+, not younger. It is good for tweens and teens.

Please book online at:

<https://watermans.ticketsolve.com/shows/873665361/events>



ACCESS & FACILITIES

**Redlees Play Centre :
1 August & 15 August**

The Summer Garden Party and the Outdoor Films both take place at Redlees Play Centre.



The address is: Worton Rd, Isleworth, TW7 6DW.

For the entrance to the Play Centre, turn into the entrance off Worton Road, then turn left into the car parking area. You can park in this area.

There is a locked/controlled gate at the end of this part of the car park – this is the pedestrian entrance into the Play Centre and into the Garden.

Buses 618 and H20 stop on Worton Road, by the entrance to Redlees (stop: Clock Tower Industrial Estate).

Other buses, 267, 481 and H22, stop on Twickenham Road, at the junction with Worton Road (stop: Worton Road). This is 5-10 minutes walk to the entrance gate to Redlees Play Centre.

Redlees Play Centre is fully wheelchair accessible.

There are accessible toilet facilities inside the Play Centre.



Community Sports Trust

Brentford Sports

Multi-Sports (Badminton, Table Tennis, Boccia, Dodgeball, Basketball & Football)

DROP-IN SESSIONS – NO NEED TO BOOK!

These are drop-in sessions - you will need to bring your child's UIN and pathway with you and book in with us when you get to the sports hall.



Springwest Academy (sports hall),
Browells Lane, Feltham, TW13 7EF

Friday 31 July (10am to 2pm)

Friday 7 August (10am to 2pm)

Friday 28 August (10am to 2pm)

For more information, please contact Chris Tribe on shortbreaks@brentfordfcst.com



Cycling for Fun

Lampton Park (meeting point – 'Lampton Park Cycling Hub' storage containers, located just inside Lampton Park, by the Bulstrode Avenue entrance, TW3 3AA)

Brentford FC CST, in partnership with the London Bike Hub, will be delivering cycling sessions designed to help Short Breaks children increase their confidence and develop their skills on their bikes. Details as follows:

Wednesday 29 July

12 – 12.45pm, 12.45 – 1.30pm - Beginners (requiring 1-1 support)

1.30 – 2.15pm, 2.15 – 3pm - Intermediates (already know how to cycle)

Please note:

- Participants must bring their own bikes with them; there are no bikes available at the venue.
- Parents of beginners, please remove the pedals from your child's bike before you arrive at the session.

For more information or to book a space, please contact Chris Tribe on shortbreaks@brentfordfcst.com



Summer 2026 activities



Community Sports Trust



Outdoor Kayaking (Katacanoe boats)

Brentford Lock/Canal (meeting place - 8 Bradshaw Yard, Brentford, TW8 8GH)

Wednesday 29 July (4 – 6pm)

Thursday 30 July (4 - 6pm)

Wednesday 5 August (4 – 6pm)

Thursday 6 August (4 - 6pm)

Wednesday 12 August (4 – 6pm)

Thursday 13 August (4 - 6pm)

Wednesday 19 August (4 – 6pm)

Thursday 20 August (4 - 6pm)

Wednesday 26 August (4 – 6pm)

Thursday 27 August (4 – 6pm)

Please note:

- Families will initially be allocated spaces at one session each (if spaces are still available nearer the time, we can offer spaces at extra sessions)
- Families can book one or two spaces per session. If you wish to book two spaces, this must include the Short Breaks participant, plus a family member aged 7 or over.
- At the time of booking, please indicate whether you would like to book one or two spaces.

For more information or to book a space, please contact Chris Tribe on shortbreaks@brentfordfcst.com



Gymnastics sessions (basic gymnastics activities, delivered by our qualified gymnastics coaches)

Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub (indoor sports hall), Popes Lane, W3 8LQ

Tuesday 28 July 1 – 1.45pm Ages: 5-7yrs
 2 – 2.45pm Ages: 8-10yrs
 3 – 3.45pm Ages: 8-10yrs

Please note:

- There is strict guidance from British Gymnastics relating to people with Down's Syndrome taking part in gymnastics activities. The guidance states that people with Down's Syndrome must have had an Atlanto-Axial Instability (A-AI) screening before they can take part in any gymnastics activities.
- Proof of an A-AI screening must be provided at the time of booking (for example, a letter from the participant's GP).
- Participants with Down's Syndrome who have not provided proof of an A-AI screening will not be permitted to take part.

For more information or to book a space, please contact Chris Tribe on shortbreaks@brentfordfcst.com



Summer 2026 activities

Programmes specifically for deaf and hard of hearing children

Brentford FCCST will be running a number of exciting new programmes for deaf children and their families during the summer holidays, including Day Trips and Sports Activities. Activities and trips will be confirmed nearer the time.

For further details, please contact Ben Lampert on blampert@brentfordfccst.com or 07842 479295 (Text only).



Summer Sports Party

Lampton School Sports Centre and Grounds, Lampton Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4EP

Tuesday 18 August 12pm – 3pm

A fantastic Summer Sports Party for all Short Breaks families to celebrate all that is good about Paralympic Sport, and fun physical activity.

The day is for the whole family and will include a range of sports activities including Athletics, Boccia, Polybat, Football, Indoor Curling, Dodgeball, Tennis, Table Tennis and Badminton... to name a few!

We are also hoping to have the Brentford mascot helping on the day! Medals and scorecards will be handed out to everyone who takes part!

To book your family places, please contact Chris Tribe on shortbreaks@brentfordfccst.com



Young Journalists Club 2026

Join us this summer at the Brentford FCCST Community Stadium Hub. We will be running a number of fun and engaging sessions around the themes of Journalism and Media. The Club will allow participants the opportunity to develop skills such as interviewing, writing, photography & camera skills along with taking part in sports and cooking. Participants will then create a young people's newsletter, with the BFCCST Graphic Designer, which will be distributed to all Short Breaks families across Hounslow.

The Young Journalists Club takes place 1-4pm on the following dates -

July – 28/29

August – 4/5, 11/12, 18/19

Brentford FC Community Sports Trust

1A Thomas Layton Way, Underwood House, Brentford, TW8 0SB

For bookings and further information please email:

Zhane - zferguson@brentfordfccst.com or the BFCST Education Team - Education@brentfordfccst.com



Decisions R Us

Bid for up to £250 for a short break or activity!!

Please note that applications to Decisions R Us can be made every other financial year. So, for example if you apply in this financial year, ie. from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, you will have to wait until after 1 April 2028 to apply again. If you have any queries, please call on the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636.

Last year young people in Hounslow were given the opportunity to apply for funding for their own 'personalised' short break activity. These included horse riding, swimming lessons, gymnastic classes, even rock climbing...

Once again, funds have been allocated to young people on pathway 1 and 2, aged 5 up to 18, living in Hounslow who are looking for help with a short break or activity. This can include equipment that will help them access a short break! Young people and parent/carers on their behalf can bid for up to £250 to fund their own short breaks.

The activity needs to be positive and enjoyable, that gets the young person out and about in the community, hopefully developing a hobby or a skill. We are very flexible in what can be applied for as each child has their own interests but there are some no-nos:

- No electronic equipment including laptops, mobiles, gaming consoles
- No furniture or household items
- The only holiday that could be funded would be one for the young person themselves such as a PGL holiday or a residential with a youth club.
- No Merlin annual passes

The application form is available from the Short Breaks team or from the downloadable documents at <https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/send-local-offer-social-care/send-local-offer-short-breaks>

which ideally the young person will then need to complete (where possible) or with help from an adult. Young people can attach a picture, film, photo or other media to the application form if required to express or support their idea.

Applications will be then presented to the Decisions R Us Panel who will make a decision about each application.



Decisions R Us Panel Date

16 September 2026 – deadline for applications Friday 11 September

13 January 2027 – deadline for applications Friday 8 January

If you have any queries, please call the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636.



Summer 2026 activities



The Arts Centre Hounslow Summer Activities



The Arts Centre Hounslow is a community arts organisation based in the heart of Hounslow, providing creative

opportunities for children, young people and families throughout the year. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to experience the benefits of the arts, regardless of their background, experience or ability.

This summer, we are delighted to offer a range of activities for children and young people registered with the Short Breaks programme. From performance camps and creative drama sessions to outdoor theatre and family events, our activities are designed to be welcoming, inclusive and enjoyable for all.

Through drama, music, movement, storytelling and creative play, young people will have opportunities to build confidence, develop communication and social skills, express themselves creatively and make new friends in a supportive environment. Our experienced team encourages participants to engage in a way that feels comfortable for them, celebrating individuality and ensuring that every young person can take part and enjoy the experience.

We look forward to welcoming you to Hounslow Arts Centre this summer.

Create, Play & Perform

Wednesday 22 July, Wednesday 29 July, Wednesday 12 August and Wednesday 19 August
2.30pm – 5.30pm

Join Hounslow Arts Centre for an afternoon of creativity, imagination and fun.

Create, Play & Perform

is a relaxed drama club designed for young people who enjoy exploring stories, characters, music, movement and creative play in a supportive environment.



Across four sessions, participants will take part in drama games, storytelling, role play, music, movement, puppetry, costumes and imaginative play. Sessions are designed to encourage self-expression, build confidence and support young people to develop communication and social skills while having fun and making new friends.

Young people will be encouraged to participate in a way that feels comfortable for them, with activities adapted to suit a range of interests and abilities. There is no pressure to perform, and the focus is on enjoying the creative process together.

The final session will include an opportunity for families and carers to see and celebrate some of the work created throughout the programme.

Venue: **Arts Centre Hounslow**, First Floor, The Treaty Centre, High Street, Hounslow, TW3 1ES

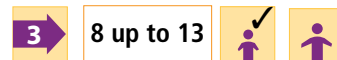
Book here:

22nd July: <https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/t-yzekgxa>

29th July: <https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/t-jxrljnj>

12th August: <https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/t-ldemxpv>

19th August: <https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/t-njmgrdz>



Acting, Singing and Dance: Pokémon Inspired Week

Monday 27 July – Thursday 30 July
10am – 2pm daily (lunch included)

Calling all Pokémon Trainers! Join us for four days of drama, singing, dance and creative activities inspired by the world of Pokémon. Young people will work together to create characters, learn songs and movement, take part in themed games and bring their favourite Pokémon adventures to life.

Participants will develop confidence, creativity and teamwork skills while making new friends and exploring the exciting world of performance. The week will culminate in a relaxed performance for family and friends, celebrating everything the group has created together.

Book here: <https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/t-oempvvl>



Show-in-a-Week: Superhero Academy

Monday 10 – Thursday 13 August
10am – 2pm daily (lunch included)



Could you be the next superhero to save the day? Join us for an action-packed week of drama, singing, dance and creative storytelling as we create our very own superhero adventure.

Participants will work together to develop characters, discover their superpowers and rehearse scenes, songs and movement inspired by the world of superheroes. Along the way, young people will build confidence, develop communication skills and learn the importance of teamwork and friendship.

The week will end with a relaxed performance for family and friends, showcasing the incredible work created during the week.

Book here: <https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/t-kdympma>



Summer 2026 activities



Musical Theatre: Under the Sea / How Far I'll Go

Monday 17 – Thursday 20 August
10am – 2pm daily (lunch included)

Set sail on a musical adventure beneath the waves! Inspired by much-loved ocean stories and island adventures, this four-day camp will explore singing, dancing, acting and creative play through an exciting Under the Sea theme.

Young people will learn songs, create characters, take part in themed activities and work together to bring a magical seaside adventure to life. The camp offers a fun opportunity to develop creativity, communication and performance skills in a supportive and welcoming environment.

The week will culminate in a relaxed performance for family and friends, giving participants the opportunity to celebrate everything they have achieved during the week.

Venue: **Arts Centre Hounslow**, First Floor, The Treaty Centre, High Street, Hounslow, TW3 1ES

Book here: <https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/t-vxmjqjd>

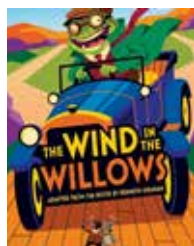


The Wind in the Willows Family Theatre Event & Summer Party

Monday 27 July 2026

3pm-7pm

Join us for a magical afternoon in the beautiful Walled Garden at Boston Manor Park for a special family theatre event and summer celebration.



Enjoy a relaxed outdoor performance of The Wind in the Willows, following the adventures of Mole, Ratty, Badger and the ever-adventurous Mr Toad in this heart-warming adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's beloved classic. Performed in the unique setting of the Walled Garden, this family-friendly production offers a wonderful opportunity to experience live theatre in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

This will be a relaxed performance, meaning audiences are free to move around, make

noise, leave and re-enter the performance space if needed, and enjoy the show in a way that feels comfortable for them. Outdoor theatre can also provide a more informal and accessible experience for those who may find traditional theatre environments challenging.

Following the performance, families are invited to stay for a Summer Party in the Garden, with food, games, creative activities and opportunities to socialise with other Short Breaks families in a relaxed outdoor setting.

The event is designed to be welcoming, accessible and enjoyable for the whole family.

Venue: **Walled Garden, Boston Manor Park**, Boston Manor Road, Brentford, TW8 9JU

Book here: <https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/t-plmxyxk>



Horse Riding – Park Lane Stables

Families can book one session

Come and meet the horses at Park Lane Stables for a session that will give the young people a chance to meet the horses, learn about grooming the animals and a chance to have a ride. There are 3 young people in each session. Please note that there is a weight limit of 12 stones.



Sessions during the holidays are:

Tuesday 21 July
2pm-3pm, 3pm-4pm

Wednesday 22 July
11am-12pm, 12pm-1pm

Friday 24 July
11am-12pm, 12pm-1pm, 2pm-3pm, 3pm-4pm

Sunday 26 July
2pm-3pm, 3pm-4pm

Monday 3 August
9am-10am, 10am-11am, 11am-12pm, 12pm-1pm, 2pm-3pm, 3pm-4pm

Tuesday 4 August
1.30pm-2.30pm, 2.30pm-3.30pm

Saturday 8 August
1pm-2pm, 2pm-3pm

Sunday 9 August
1pm-2pm, 2pm-3pm

Monday 10 August

9am-10am, 10am-11am, 11am-12pm, 12pm-1pm, 2pm-3pm, 3pm-4pm

Tuesday 11 August
2pm-3pm, 3pm-4pm

Saturday 15 August
1pm-2pm, 2pm-3pm

Sunday 16 August
1pm-2pm, 2pm-3pm

Tuesday 18 August
11am-12pm, 12pm-1pm, 2pm-3pm, 3pm-4pm

Wednesday 19 August
9am-10am, 10am-11am, 11am-12pm, 12pm-1pm

Monday 22 August
1pm-2pm, 2pm-3pm

Tuesday 23 August
10am-11am, 11am-12pm, 1pm-2pm, 2pm-3pm

Please note the new address for the horse riding sessions:

Park Lane Stables

Park Lane, Teddington TW11 0HY

Please note closed shoes/boots should be worn – sandals are not safe footwear for horse riding or being in the stables. This includes parent/carers as well as the young people.

To book a place, please call Short Breaks on 020 8583 3636 or email shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk.



Summer 2026 activities

Lampton Leisure – Swimming Lessons

Hanworth Airparks

Uxbridge Road, Hanworth TW13 5EG

21, 24, 28, 31 July;

4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28 August

Available time slots: 1.15pm-2pm and 2.15pm-3pm

Heston Pools & Fitness

New Heston Road, Hounslow TW5 0LW

22, 23, 29, 30 July;

5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 August

Available time slots: 1.15pm-2pm and 2.15pm-3pm

Isleworth Leisure Centre

Twickenham Road, Isleworth, TW7 7DJ

22, 29 July;

5, 12, 19, 26 August

Available time slots: 1.15pm -2pm and 2.15pm-3pm



Please note there is a very high demand for the lessons - the team will aim to offer more than one lesson (if that is indicated), but please understand this may not be possible.

Please note all swimming lesson timings include a 30 minute lesson for each child, followed by 15 minutes of fun free time supervised by the instructors.

To register your interest in the swimming lessons, please email the pool that you would like to attend on the following email addresses:

Hanworth: Emyr Ben Youssef
EmyrBen.Youssef@lamptongroup.co.uk

Heston: Alexandra Kister
Alexandra.Kister@lamptongroup.co.uk

Isleworth Amine Chelli
Amine.Chelli@lamptongroup.co.uk

- **Pathway 3** families should register their interest by **Friday 3 July**
- **Pathway 2** families should register their interest by **Tuesday 7 July** and
- **Pathway 1** families by **Friday 10 July**.

You will be put on a wait list and after the closing date for your pathway, you will then be directly contacted by Lampton Leisure to book the lessons in.



Redlees and Reflections Play Centres

Sunday Sessions Drop-In – 10am to 2pm

Families **do not** need to book the sessions at Redlees and Reflections on a Sunday - these are drop-in sessions. **Please bring your child's UIN with you.**

See (right) dates for the Sunday sessions at the Redlees and Reflections play centres up to the end of October 2026.



For those that are new to Short Breaks, Redlees and Reflections are two play centres in the borough that have been adapted for children with disabilities with adapted play equipment, sensory rooms etc.

Both venues are safe and secure. Family groups are welcome.

Please note that Play team staff have the right to refuse entry should numbers within the centres reach their capacity.

Redlees Play Centre

Located in Worton Road, Isleworth, TW7 7DW (the play centre is in the corner of the Redlees Park car park (accessed via Worton Road) which is next to the outdoor courts.

Look for a purple sign with 'Redlees Play Centre' – there is secure access so you will need to buzz the staff to let you in.

Reflections Play Centre

c/o Hounslow Urban Farm, Faggs Road, Feltham TW14 0LZ – the centre is next door to the entrance of the Urban Farm.

June 2026	
21 June	Reflections
28 June	Redlees

July 2026	
5 July	Reflections
12 July	Redlees
19 July	Reflections
26 July	Redlees

August 2026	
2 August	Reflections
9 August	Redlees
16 August	Reflections
23 August	Redlees
30 August	Closed (Late August Bank Holiday Closure)

September 2026	
6 September	Redlees
13 September	Reflections
20 September	Redlees
27 September	Reflections

October 2026	
4 October	Redlees
11 October	Reflections
18 October	Redlees
25 October	Reflections

If you have any queries, please call 020 8583 3636 or email shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk



Summer 2026 activities



Hounslow Short Breaks – Summer Session

SportWorks' Short Breaks Programme gives children and young people the chance to enjoy fun, safe, and enriching activities, while giving parents and carers valuable time to rest and recharge.

Sessions are flexible and tailored to each child's individual needs, interests, and abilities, and are delivered by trained, caring staff who focus on building confidence, independence, and social skills in a supportive environment.

What They'll Be Doing

Throughout the day, children and young people take part in a varied, inclusive programme of activities designed to be fun for everyone. This includes sports and active games, arts and crafts, music, and sensory and play-based activities, with plenty of chances to make friends, try something new, and burn off energy. Activities are adapted to suit each child's interests and abilities, and the day is balanced between lively, energetic fun and calmer, relaxed time — so every child can enjoy the session at their own pace.

Dates

July: 28 and 29

August: 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27

Time: 10am – 3pm

Springwest Academy

Dance Studio 2, Tudor Park
Bromwells Lane, Feltham, TW13 7EF
(parking and toilets on site)

Support Options

Places are available with 1:1 support (one staff member per child) or 1:2 support (one staff member per two children), so the right level of support can be matched to each child.

What to Bring

A packed lunch, snacks, and drinks. For everyone's safety, please ensure no nut products (including peanut butter) are included.

How to Book

Book online at bookwhen.com/sportworkslondon

Questions? Contact Raf on 07538 898266 or email rafiu@sportworksltd.co.uk

Places are limited — early booking is recommended.



Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre – NO NEED TO BOOK!

You will need to bring your child's UIN with you and book in with us when you get to the leisure centre before you go into the pool.

Depending on how many families come along, we may have to manage how many are in the pool at any one time so please bear with us and the Lampton Leisure team on the day.

Family Swim – Drop-In Session

Exclusive Short Breaks swimming sessions at Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre have been arranged for:

Wednesday 22 and 29 July;
5, 12, 19, 26 August

Time: 9–11.30am

Please note that all children must be supervised in the pool – Brentford's Pool Admissions Policy is a ratio of one adult to two children under the age of 8. If you are bringing more than two children under the age of 8, there must be two adults in the pool with them.

Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre

658 Chiswick High Road, Brentford
TW8 0HJ

To find out more information please ring the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636 or e-mail: shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk.



Pool Party – Drop In Session

Come and join us for a dip and a dance! A pool party has been organised for:

Friday 24 July and Friday
28 August

Time: 5-7pm

Please note that all children must be supervised in the pool – Brentford's Pool Admissions Policy is a ratio of one adult to two children under the age of 8. If you are bringing more than two children under the age of 8, there must be two adults in

the pool with them

Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre

658 Chiswick High Road, Brentford
TW8 0HJ

To find out more information please ring the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636 or e-mail: shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk



Services Throughout The Year

Music Therapy – Richmond Music Trust



Richmond Music Trust are offering a slightly adjusted programme to children and families offering both direct contact music therapy sessions and online sessions.

Our online music therapy programme during the summer has been very popular and we have received some lovely feedback from families, which showed clearly that music therapy via video link can really work well for some children. Therapists and parents have been amazed about how effective children can engage in online music therapy accessing one to one and group sessions. As we are still unable to use our usual premises at the Hub, we have decided to offer a mixed programme offering both **online sessions** as well as **direct contact** sessions.

Online Music Therapy Programme on Saturdays

Sessions will be a little different but our therapist Sara Cole will create a fun and child-centred experience including shared musical activities, singing and games. These sessions will be uniquely tailored to your child's needs, choices and ability. We have vacancies for weekly one to one sessions and vacancies in weekly small group session.

Sessions will need to be attended jointly with a parent, carer or sibling so that your child is supported to maintain engagement. If you have musical instruments at home these can be used and the therapists will also provide you with ideas of how to use household items for sound production.

This programme is open to children from Pathway 2 & 3. We accept referrals from those that would like to try out this mode of engagement or continue on from the summer programme.

How does it work?

All you need is a computer (PC or MAC), tablet or Ipad and a reasonably stable internet connection. You will need to install the free Zoom application and we will send you all the info of how to do this. **If you need any help, Joanna Dawson from Hounslow Short Breaks or Andreas Rosenboom from Richmond Music Trust are available to help if required.**



Direct Contact Music Therapy Sessions on Saturdays at Richmond Music Trust, Twickenham, TW2 6RB

The Trust also offers sessions from their premises in Twickenham, TW2 6RB and therapist Muhamad Badry will be offering sessions on Saturdays between 10 and 4pm. We will adhere to social distancing and have a variety of measures in place to assure Covid Safety.

How do I enrol?

Please contact us if you wish your child to access the music therapy programme, by emailing: musictherapy@richmondmusictrust.org.uk

Please let us know if you wish to access the online or the direct contact option.



Services Throughout The Year

Heathrow Gymnastics Club – Play Gym

This service is only available to children registered with Short Breaks up to the age of 7 and up to 130cm in height on pathways 2 and 3.



The play gym sessions are open to children on pathway 2 and 3 up to 7 years old or 130cm (4 feet, 2 inches). Brothers and sisters are welcome to attend but will need to be paid for by the family. Session times below.

There is no need to book the sessions but arrive promptly to make sure you can access the session.

Heathrow Gymnastics Club, Green Lane, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW4 6DH

To find out more information, please ring the Short Breaks team: **020 8583 3636** or email shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk



You can use this service throughout the year, not just in the holidays!

Please note that on arrival parents are required to fill in a registration sheet which will be asked for basic information about their disabled child, including their disability and UIN number. Short Breaks will only pay for the disabled child – any siblings or friends will need to be paid for by the parent/carer.

Monday - Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10am – 11am	9.30am – 10.30am	Closed
11am – 12pm	10.30am – 11.30pm	
12pm – 1pm		
1pm – 2pm		
2pm – 3pm		
3pm – 4pm		

Congratulations...

If you have any good news stories, let Short Breaks know and we will publish it in future newsletters.

Please call us on **020 8583 3636**.



Childminding – 24 Hours Free Childminding Service



The Short Breaks Service will pay for an introductory 24 hours childminding free. This is an opportunity for you and the childminder to start building a long-term supportive relationship for your child.

A registered childminder is a person who looks after children in the childminder's own home.

Registered childminders are found on the Hounslow Family Services Directory at www.hounslow.gov.uk/childcare. Select the search for childminders button and choose your area. You will see a list of childminders and will need to click on each name to see their full profile.

Some childminders may have listed specific experience they have in caring for children with a particular special need/disability. From this information, it's advisable you then contact the childminder to see if they can accommodate your child's individual

needs along with the hours and days you are looking for.

Once you have found someone who meets your needs, call the Short Breaks team who will organise payment of the first 24 hours directly with the childminder. It will then be down to you to continue any ongoing payments with the childminder for further care.

- Your family/child must be registered with Short Breaks to use this service
- Your child must meet level of need pathway 2 or 3
- Once the 24 hours introductory offer is over, it is your responsibility to continue paying for the service.

For more information or to discuss organising your childminding, please call the Short Breaks team on **020 8583 3636**.





**Should you require this Newsletter
in a format other than English please
contact the Short Breaks team on
020 8583 3636 or email:
shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk**

**Children with Disabilities Social
Work Team, Safeguarding and
Specialist Services**

London Borough of Hounslow
Hounslow House, 7 Bath Road,
Hounslow TW3 3EB
Telephone: 020 8583 3636

www.hounslow.gov.uk