



Short Breaks Service



For Children with Disabilities

Newsletter w/c 27th February 2023

This newsletter contains events and updates from various services around Halton, as well as other general information which you may find useful. You can find out more information on the [Halton Local Offer page online](#) or contact the [Short Breaks Service for Children with Disabilities](#) team too.

Creative Coding workshop with Mako Create

The poster features a green background with a white outline of a Micro:Bits board on the left. The text is in white and black. At the top right, it says 'HALTON SHORT BREAKS'. The main title is 'CREATIVE CODING' in large letters, with 'on Micro:Bits' below it. The location is 'The Studio, Widnes', the date is 'Saturday 4.3.23', and the time is '10am - 12pm for ages 8-17'. At the bottom, there are logos for 'Mako Create', 'Halton Aiming High', and 'Halton Borough Council'.

Mako Create are holding their Creative Coding workshop on **Saturday 4th March 10am-12noon** at The Studio Widnes.

Open to young people with SEND aged 8-17 years old, the workshop allows them to get hands-on with Micro:Bits to create programmable electronic devices. This workshop is the perfect activity to discover and unleash creative coding talents!

[Click here to book your place.](#)

Family Forest School at The Children's Adventure Farm Trust (CAFT)

We are excited to be able to offer a pilot block of **4 FREE, FAMILY Forest School sessions on Saturdays** in our wonderful interactive woodlands area



Family Forest School @ CAFT

Morning session 10.00am-12.30pm

Afternoon session 1.00pm-3.30pm

March 4th Welcome to the Woodland (Let's explore)

March 11th Digging and Dens

March 18th Up up and Away ... Climbing and Ropes

March 25th Make Some Noise Big band day

What families say ...

'I would highly recommend this to any parent.'

Being able to attend the sessions as a family in a safe and inclusive environment is an invaluable experience'

Beginning March 4th

each session will include bush craft, creative activity, a physical challenge, campfire, a story and singing

To apply for a place please go to

[CAFT Family Forest School Application - March 2023 \(google.com\)](#)

You would need to be able to commit to coming for 4 consecutive Saturdays in March
Places are limited to ensure every family gets the full benefit of their Forest School experience,
we expect to be oversubscribed so will conduct a draw to allocate places

The Children's Adventure Farm Trust are excited to offer a pilot block of 4 free family forest school sessions on Saturdays. There are **4 sessions over 4 consecutive Saturdays 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March**, with sessions running morning 10am-12.30pm and afternoon 1pm-3.30pm. These sessions have amazing feedback from families who have previously attended and many families in Halton have benefitted from time spent at CAFT.

You need to be able to commit to come to all 4 sessions to apply – **[click here to complete the application form](#)**. CAFT expect to be oversubscribed so they will conduct a draw to allocate places.

Keep up to date with everything going on at CAFT by **[visiting their website here](#)** or **[check out their Facebook page!](#)**

Kops 'N' Kids soccer sessions at Brookvale



FREE
FOOTBALL SESSIONS WITH
ACTIVE SOCCER AT BROOKVALE

Monday Evenings:

4pm-5pm **GIRLS ONLY**

5pm-6pm **Mixed all welcome**

Players must be aged 8-16yrs

No booking required just turn up

For more information contact our team on **01928 712051**



Join the Kops'N'Kids on **Monday evenings at Brookvale Recreation Centre** for their football sessions with Active Soccer. 4pm-5pm is girls only, with the mixed session running from 5pm-6pm - no booking required! For more information call **01928 712051**.

Halton SEND Parent Carer Forum

HALTON SEND PARENT CARER'S FORUM



Halton SEND PARENT
Carer's Forum
Your voice counts



Parent Support and Advice Drop in Session

Date: Monday 6th March

Time: 3.30pm

Location: Lindfield CI, Moore, Warrington WA4 6UG



Do you have a child with SEN (Special Educational Need) or a disability (0-25 years) and feeling alone and don't know where to turn?

You are not alone come and have a chat and a coffee. You can even register as a forum member at the event.

Everything is in total confidence.

Here at Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum (HSPCF) we can Help, Support and Sign Post you to make your SEN journey easier and more manageable.

Our Parent Carer Forum is independent and the only one in Halton area. It is run by Parent, Carers, Professionals and Volunteers who all have extensive knowledge in this area and want to make changes in Halton for better services for the children and young people (0-25 years).

We are all here to engage with and support each other, this drop-in session is a chance for you to come have a chat, whether that's about any subject or just to chat to other parents alike who are on the same journey.

(Don't worry if you can come to this session, as we will be holding more, to suit all members.

You can always email us with any support you may require at info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk



Halton Send parent Carers Forum

WWW.Haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk




Telephone Contact: 07784240161

Email : info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk



Join the team at Halton Parent Carers Forum for their support and advice drop-in session on **Monday 6th March 3.30pm at Moore Primary school**. This drop-in session is a chance for you to come have a chat, whether that's about any subject or just to chat to other parents alike who are on the same journey. Don't worry if you can't make this session there are others coming up during March – [check out the website here](#) for more details, or [visit their section on the Halton Local Offer here](#) which also has details of the next set of Zoom meetings with professionals.

West Bank Youth Hub with Activ EE



Active^{e2}
Engagement & Education CIC

HALTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

WEST BANK YOUTH HUB

FOR WEST BANK YOUNG PEOPLE

**TUESDAY'S
4.30PM TO 7.30PM**

AGES 8 TO 18 YR OLDS

**UNIT 4
QUEENSWAY TRADING ESTATE
WATERLOO RD
W8 0FD**

OUR FACILITIES:

- FREE WIFI**
- ARTS & CRAFTS**
- CHILL OUT, COMPUTERS**
- POOL, TABLE TENNIS**
- SAFE SPACE & MORE**

FREE

All staff are DBS checked
Limited spaces available

0151-420-5605 ACTIV.EECIC@GMAIL.COM WWW.ACTIVEECIC.ORG

Activ Engagement and Education run the free West Bank Youth Hub **every Tuesday 4.30pm to 7.30pm** for 8-18 year olds. Spaces are limited so call 0151 420 5605 or email active.eecic@gmail.com for more information and to book you place.

Energy Bills Support Scheme for customers on prepayment meters



The banner features logos for the UK Government, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, and Metro Mayor Liverpool City Region. A 'Help for Households' badge is in the top right. The main title 'Energy Bills Support Scheme' is in a yellow box. Below it, the text reads: 'Attention prepayment meter customers! Make sure you receive your government discount vouchers to help you pay your energy bills.' An illustration of a hand holding a green key to a yellow prepayment meter is on the right.

Do you top up your energy prepayment meter at a shop or Post Office?

Yes? You should be receiving discount vouchers from your electricity supplier.

There are 6 vouchers. You will get one a month from October 2022 to March 2023.

Check your **post**, **emails** (including spam or junk) and your **text messages**.

A voucher will be in an envelope (like the one below), an email from your energy supplier (with instructions and a barcode) or a text from your energy supplier with a code.



Locate your vouchers and follow the guidance to get your discount. You will need to take your vouchers to either a **Post Office** or **PayPoint** shop.

Vouchers expire after 90 days. If a voucher is missing or expired, call your electricity supplier for a replacement. All vouchers expire by 30 June 2023 at the latest.

Act now. This is money you are owed from the government. You don't need to pay it back. The total you are due this winter is £400.

Beware of scams. Do not click on a link asking you to enter bank details or your personal information.

Alternatively, you may receive the discount via a **Special Action Message** when you top up. If you are not sure, ring your supplier or call Citizens Advice or a debt advice centre.

If you know people who pay for their energy in this way, check they have received and used their vouchers.

Are you on a prepayment meter for your gas or electric? Make sure you don't miss out on the Energy Bills Support Scheme – [check out the information from the Liverpool City Region here](#) to make sure you get the money you are entitled to.

Contact for families with disabled children



The team at Contact understand that life with a disabled child often brings unique challenges, and their helpline team can help you feel more confident and informed about tackling those challenges. They can give you advice, information and support about any concern or question you might have, including education, benefits and finances, childcare, social care, medical information and more.

There are 3 ways to get in contact...

- Call their **free helpline on 0808 808 3555**. They're open Monday-Friday, 9.30am-5pm
- Email – [**helpline@contact.org.uk**](mailto:helpline@contact.org.uk)
- Direct message the team [**on Facebook here**](#).

This newsletter provides general information and resources, though not all of it will be relevant to everyone included in the mailing list. If there is some specific information you would like to see more of, or information from a certain service please let me know and I will try to include next time. If you do not wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please let me know.

[**Julie.Pennington@halton.gov.uk**](mailto:Julie.Pennington@halton.gov.uk)

Short Breaks Service for Children with Disabilities Halton Borough Council

Tel: 0151 511 6560

Email: [**AimingHigh.forDisabledChildren@halton.gov.uk**](mailto:AimingHigh.forDisabledChildren@halton.gov.uk)