United in SEND
Summer Newsletter
July 2026

SUMMER TRANSITION

As we approach the end of the school year, many children experience a mixture of excitement and uncertainty. For children with SEND, changes in routine, new environments and different adults can understandably increase anxiety.

Please be reassured that transition planning is already well underway across our federation. Staff have been working together to ensure every child is well prepared for September.

🌟 **Transition is already underway!**

Children have already begun preparing for September through:

✔️ Visits to their new classroom

✔️ Meeting new teachers and support staff

✔️ Sharing information between current and new staff

✔️ Transition activities within school

✔️ Enhanced transition visits for pupils moving to secondary school where needed

These opportunities help build familiarity, confidence and reduce uncertainty before the new school year begins.

💭 **Helping Your Child Feel Ready**

It is completely normal for children to feel worried about change.

You can help by:

🌼 Acknowledging their worries without trying to immediately fix them.

📅 Talking positively about September whilst answering questions honestly.

📖 Looking through transition books, photographs or social stories together.

🎒 Encouraging independence with small daily tasks such as organising belongings or choosing clothes.

💬 Reminding them that there will always be adults ready to help.

🌙 **Supporting Routine During the Summer**

Many children with SEND benefit from predictable routines, even during the holidays. A consistent structure can support emotional regulation and make the return to school much smoother.

Consider:

☀️ Keeping regular waking and meal times where possible

🌙 Maintaining a consistent bedtime routine

📅 Using simple visual calendars or countdowns

⏰ Gradually returning to school routines during the final week of the holidays

Remember, routines do not need to be rigid, they simply provide children with a reassuring sense of predictability.

☀️ Making the Most of the Summer

Summer is an opportunity to relax, recharge and enjoy time together. Children don't need busy schedules every day many benefit most from calm, low pressure experiences.

Free & Low Cost Ideas:

🌳 Explore Devon's country parks
🏖️ Visit local beaches
📚 Join the Devon Libraries Summer Reading Challenge
🚶 Woodland walks and nature trails
🎨 Arts and crafts at home
🍓 Picnics in the park
🚲 Cycling or scooting
🎲 Board games and family games
🎵 Music, dancing and sensory play

🌈 What's On Across Devon?

There are lots of fantastic opportunities available across Devon to help families enjoy the summer holidays together. Many activities are free or low cost, with some specifically designed for children and young people with SEND.

🌟 Devon SEND Local Offer – Things to Do

Browse a wide range of inclusive activities, clubs, events and support available for children and young people with SEND across Devon.

Search for Things to Do – Devon SEND Local Offer https://www.devon.gov.uk/children-families-education/send-local-offer/support-for-parents/search-for-things-to-do

🎉 SEND Family Fun Days & Basecamp Days

Devon County Council offers SEND Family Fun Days and Basecamp Days throughout the year, giving families the opportunity to enjoy accessible activities, meet other families and explore new experiences in a supportive environment.

https://www.devon.gov.uk/children-families-education/send-local-offer/support-for-parents/search-for-things-to-do/send-family-fun-days-and-basecamp-days

🍎 Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

If your child is eligible, the HAF Programme provides free holiday clubs with enriching activities and nutritious meals during the school holidays. Places are available across Devon.

These programmes are regularly updated over the summer, so it's worth checking back for new activities and events.

https://www.devon.gov.uk/children-families-education/child-family-support/family-support/haf-programme/information-for-parents/

❤️ Looking After Emotional Wellbeing

Transitions can sometimes increase worries during the holidays.

If your child is experiencing anxiety or low mood, support is available over the summer.

Families can self-refer to the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) without needing to wait until school reopens.

Seeking support early can help children feel more confident and settled before September.

🌻 Wishing all of our families a safe, restful and enjoyable summer.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September!