

St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School
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Friday 6th February 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Children, Worcestershire Education Awards

It is with great pride that I can share with you that St Matthias has received 7 nominations for this year's Worcestershire Education Awards. The Worcestershire Education Awards is in it's eighth year and shines a spotlight on those who continue to make a difference in the field of education. There are 13 categories in total and the Worcestershire Awards received over 250 nominations so we were delighted to have been nominated within 6 of these categories.

Our school was nominated for 'Primary School of the Year, including our Nursery' for the support provided to the children at St Matthias and for our inclusive approach. Mrs Cale and Mrs Pullen are nominated in the category of 'Early Years Education' award, this recognises the innovative approach and successful impact of the provision on young children. Lauren Joyce received a nomination for the 'Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo)' award for her impact on pupils with additional needs; Mrs James for her inspirational strategic leadership of finances showing her commitment to ensuring the children do not go without and the continuous improvements to the school within the category of 'School Business Manger of the Year,'. Mrs O'Connor in the nomination of 'Unsung Hero' for her work on our Trauma informed approach and always going that extra mile to support families at St Matthias and also myself for 'Headteacher of the Year' award. We were all so thrilled and proud of our school family and everyone who is part of our amazing school and team. We are also delighted that three of the nominations have gone through to being finalists at the awards ceremony on 26th March. Our school for 'Primary School of the Year' also Mrs Joyce and Mrs James. We wish them all the best at the awards ceremony and will let you know what happens on the night!



Midlands Air Ambulance Fundraising

As shared in last week's newsletter the School Council has taken the lead in raising money for The Midlands Air Ambulance Charity – an invaluable service in our local area. This year, the School Council are organising a '**Bake it Red Day**'. This event will take place on **Thursday 12th February**, after school. The School Council will provide every child (or family) with a **paper plate today**, to fill with either homemade or bought RED cakes or biscuits. The cakes will be sold after school on Thursday 12th February. All money raised will be donated to the Air Ambulance Charity. We had such an amazing turn out when we raised money for the RSPCA last year that we cannot wait to see what creative cakes we come up with for this charity!
 Thank you, THE SCHOOL COUNCIL



Half Term Food Vouchers

Families eligible for Free School Meals (not Universal UFSM) have been allocated the Edenred vouchers for this February half term. We will send the vouchers on Wednesday 11th February. Please check your 'junk' folder and if they have not arrived let us know before half term. There is an expiry date of approximately one month so please ensure you use them as we cannot re-issue any vouchers that have expired.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Beale

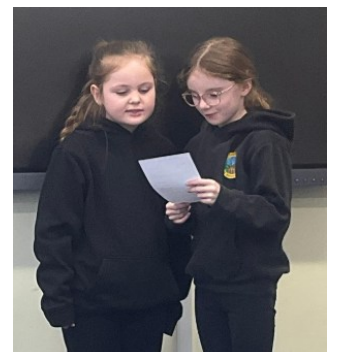
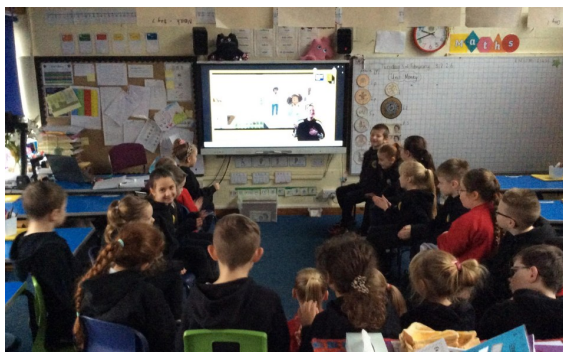
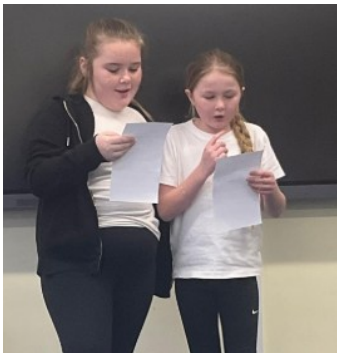
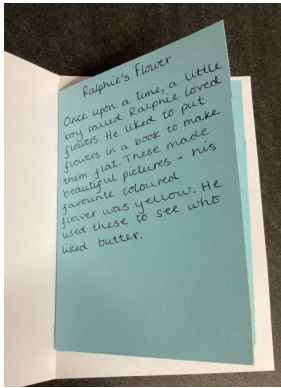
ASPIRE, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE

'Our school family values us all as unique individuals and children of God.
 We **aspire** to be the best version of ourselves; **believing** that through the gifts God has given us,
 we can make a positive contribution, flourish and **achieve** together
 to make a difference in our ever-changing world.'



National Storytelling Week

We have been celebrating National Storytelling week this week with the theme 'Soundtrack your story.' Classes have been exploring storytelling through different genres and events through the National Literacy Trust. Mrs Maidens delivered a Worship on Monday to kick start the week and then individual classes have celebrated the power of sharing stories in different ways. We would love you to carry on this National event at home this weekend. The National Literacy Trust explains how stories teach us about the world; they allow us to step into someone else's shoes and feel empathy. They help us to relax and escape and they can help develop essential literacy skills. As the theme was 'Soundtrack Your Story', The National Literacy Trust shared how we can explore storytelling through sound, lyrics and rhythm. Everyone has their own musical story to tell, whether it is in the songs we love and the music we dance to, through British Sign Language and the rhythms we feel, the soundscapes of everyday life, or the sounds we hear in films and games. Music connects us to words. It helps us to express who we are and how we see the world!



Year 1 - Trip to Hartlebury Museum

Yesterday our Year 1 children explored 'Toys in the Past' through a hands on experience at Hartlebury Museum. It was a fantastic day and the children were absolutely brilliant, listening well, answering questions and taking care with the 'old' toys.

Our Castle Exploration

We began our visit by following the talking portraits around the castle building – the children were fascinated by the stories they told! We explored some magnificent rooms including:

The secret room – it was a little bit like walking through the wardrobe into Narnia! Inside, we found all of Emily's old toys and her journal. The children were captivated by this magical discovery and it really brought Emily's story to life. As we wandered through the castle, we had time to look carefully at the display cases containing old toys. The children watched a carousel spin and even had a go on a rocking horse – there were lots of smiles!

We visited:

- The old schoolroom – the children were amazed at how different it was from our classroom and the resources we have today! They couldn't believe how strict schools used to be.
- The dressing-up area – where we tried on clothes from the 1960s
- Homes from the past – seeing what kitchens, drawing rooms and everyday life looked like long ago
- The old kitchen and scullery – discovering how much harder it was to cook and clean without modern appliances
- A Victorian drawing room – learning about how wealthy families lived
- On Ancient Tracks – and we even found a mammoth's tusk!

The children were full of questions and observations throughout the afternoon, making wonderful connections between what they've been learning in class and what they saw at the castle.

In The Great Hall, we had a go at playing with old-fashioned toys. This was trickier than the children expected! They tried their hand at:

- Cup and ball, Yo-yo, Top with whip, Diablo

The Toy Museum- where we spent time with a wonderful museum guide who showed us toys from long ago. The children were amazed to discover: 1800s toys – dolls made from wood, and later dolls made from china with real hair. Wind-up mechanisms – exploring how wooden and metal toys worked. Wartime changes – learning that during World War 2, no metal toys were made because metal was needed to create weapons for the war effort. Modern developments – after the war, plastic was invented and toys powered by batteries became available. We created a timeline together and discussed how the materials used to make toys have changed over time. The children were particularly interested in comparing the toys from the past with the toys they play with today!



SEND Coffee Morning – Free Autism support webinar

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

Due to some technical difficulties in accessing the 'live' event each week we are running the sessions as a pre-recorded session. Therefore the scheduled programme has been adjusted to accommodate this. Please read the poster carefully and everyone is welcome to attend. We will continue to share the information on the newsletters as we attend each session.

SEND Coffee Mornings Free Webinars- Autism Support



I am very pleased to invite all **parents and carers of children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)** to a series of **free webinars** exploring different aspects of **autism** in children and young people delivered by **Autism West Midlands**. There are 7 webinars in total and each webinar will provide information, strategies and insights to support understanding and confidence when working with or caring for autistic individuals.



'Autism and Behaviour'
The next webinar will be held in school on:
Wednesday 25th February 2026 10am-12pm
(There will be no webinar in school next week)

Tea and coffee or a cold drink and sweet treats will be provided.

Additional webinars will be held in school each Wednesday morning covering the following areas:

- **Autism and the Teenage Brain Webinar – Wednesday 4th March 10am-12pm (Upper KS2)**
- **Supporting your Autistic Teen – Wednesday 11th March 10am-12pm (Upper KS2)**

Please note the webinar 'Navigating the System' – Wednesday 18th February 10am-12pm is half term week so please let me know if you would like to access this Webinar at home and I can send you the link.

Please speak to Mrs Joyce (SENCO) for further information or to register your interest.



Parents' Evenings

Parents' evening will be held during the week of **16th March 2026**. Parent Consultations will run over three evenings and you will be allocated one out of the three evenings and a booking text will come out before the event. These meetings are an opportunity to discuss the progress and targets for your child, plus for SEND pupils to discuss SEND targets, interventions and provisions for your child.

The Parent Consultations will be face to face and will be held in the school hall. This will give you the opportunity to meet the teacher, find out how your child is getting on and ask any questions you might have. If you have any worries or concerns it is important that you do not leave them until Parents' Evening. You can raise any worries you have or questions via ClassDojo or ask for a telephone appointment if you wish.

Celebration Worship Awards

Every Friday we hold a ‘Celebration Worship’ to give out awards to our children to celebrate their achievements.

Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times): Ava Yr 4

Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside): Freddie Yr 1



Dignity



As a church school, every half term we concentrate on an important value for life.

Each half term we choose a special Value which we think about very carefully in our worship, our classrooms, in our playground and everywhere in school. We will focus on what they mean in our lives and in our relationships with each other.

Dignity



Our Value this half term is DIGNITY “Dignity — to behave in a composed or serious manner.”

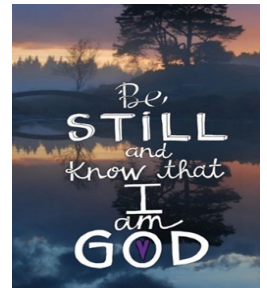
Matthew 19:14 “Let the children come to me for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

Peter 2:17 “Treat everyone you meet with dignity.”

Dalai Lama “Love for others and respect for their rights and **dignity**, no matter who or what they are: ultimately these are all we need. ”

Gandhi “The truest test of civilization, culture and **dignity** is character and not clothing.”

Teachers will be on the look out this half term for children who are really trying hard to show dignity in lessons and around school.

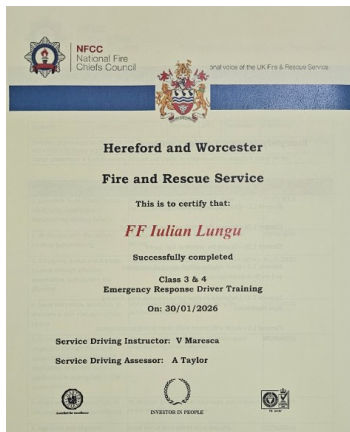
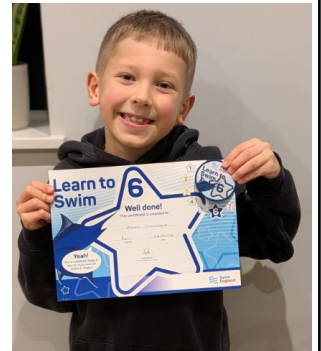


Let’s all be dignified in our lives especially through challenging times.

Outside Achievements

It was lovely to celebrate our outside achievements this week. We always enjoy hearing about all the different activities and achievements your children have completed as it will inspire others.

Bertie Y3 for achieving his Level 6 swimming award and badge. Bertie you are flourishing in your swimming lessons – I think this is a hat-trick for our newsletter this week! Amazing—keep up the great work!



Mr Lungu, our caretaker for successfully completing his class 3 & 4 Emergency Response Driver training within the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service. This means that Mr Lungu, who is also a relief fire fighter can drive the fire engines with blue lights to emergencies.

Congratulations this was an intense course and we are very proud of you!



NOTICEBOARD



REMINDERS

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

Bake it Red Day
Thursday 12th February

World Book Day
Friday 6th March
Information out soon.

Parent Evenings
16, 17th & 18th March
No activity clubs this week.

Activity Clubs end at Easter.

CLASS EVENTS

Yr 4 Footy Team (10 pupils)
Tuesday 24th February

Reception Eye Tests
Thursday 26th February

Year 6 Athletics Festival
Friday 27th February

Reception Dental Check
Wednesday 4th March

Year 3 Trip Lower Smite Farm
Thursday 5th March

Year 5/6 Hartlebury Castle Trip
Wednesday 11th March
Letter out soon.

Who to contact in school

MRS LEWIS Works Mon, Tue, Thu + Fri for:- Attendance issues, (reasons for absences if possible contact us **before 9.00am**), medical issues, to request forms, change of address, email or phone numbers, general enquires, urgent contact, to inform her of medical appointments, (inform her of other persons collecting from school preferably **before 1pm**). email admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk or phone 01684 574984

MRS JAMES Works Mon, Tue, Wed + (Thu am only) for finance matters :- Whizz Kids or Nursery bookings, paying any bills or invoices, trips, music lessons, purchasing PE kit etc . Please phone 01684 574984 and ask to be put through to her, or email finance@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk

CLASS TEACHER for:- classroom issues, learning or behaviour related, use ClassDojo. To request a telephone call from a teacher call 01684 574984 or email admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk to ask for an appointment.

MRS BEALE Headteacher for:- urgent personal/private matters
head@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk

BLACK PEPPER LUNCHES for:- booking your child's meals every half term

(so 6 times per year), visit their website

<https://www.blackpepperlunches.com/BP-default.php>

Child Line - 0800 1111

Male Domestic Abuse 24 hour Helpline 0800 014 9082

Women's Aid 24hr Helpline 0800 980 3331

School Nurse - 01684 612668

Family Front Door - 01905 822666 to request help/report a concern of a child.

The Family Hub for parenting support and advice ([click here](#))

Parent Online Safety Information ([click here](#))

Malvern Hills Housing support ([click here](#))

Report Scam Emails - forward them to report@phishing.gov.uk

TERM DATES & HOLIDAYS

SPRING TERM

HALF TERM BREAK

Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd February

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

at 8.40am Monday 23rd February 2026

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE

at 3.15pm Friday 27th March 2026 for Easter

SUMMER TERM

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

at 8.40am Monday 13th April 2026

MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 4th May 2026

HALF TERM BREAK

Saturday 23rd May to Monday 1st June

Staff Training

Monday 1st June 2026 - School Closed

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

at 8.40am Tuesday 2nd June 2026

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE

at 3.15pm Friday 17th July 2026.

Dealing with Ice, Snow & Prolonged Winter Weather

If the weather is very frosty or snowy, the caretaker and I will assess whether the access to school is safe enough for adults and children to use the usual entrances and whether the playgrounds are safe enough to cross. Worcestershire County Council have circulated their recommendations which were discussed and agreed at a recent Governors' Meeting.

It is recommended, for best effect, to salt our school front entrance only prior to freezing conditions. We will close all other access routes on bottom playgrounds and all children will enter by the main entrance. All adults and children are asked to be extra careful to avoid slipping and be aware that the entrance will be congested and everyone needs to help each other by not rushing and making sure they wait in a sensible way. I'm sure that you will all be patient and kind to each other.

Please note we are not allowed to clear pavements or roads so you need to take extra care.

We will text all staff and parents at about 8.15am if we are going to close the gates by the church path.



Mentor Link-advert



Children's charity Mentor Link are looking to recruit new Volunteer Mentors, who can spare 1-2 hours a week to help children with social and emotional issues, who may be struggling with engaging in education and attending school, suffering with anxiety, low self-esteem, friendship or relationship issues, and need a listening ear to help make a difference!

If you feel you can help at a different school to the one your child attends, please contact Mentor Link on 01299 822336 or email enquiries@mentorlink.org.uk

ATTENDANCE WINNER

76 amazing pupils had 100% in January. An extra 9 children had above 95%. So out of 162 pupils 85 attained our target. Well done to those children!



The £10 gift voucher prize winner for January 2026 is Isaac in Yr 4! Congratulations Isaac!

Don't forget...

- 1, at the end of every month all children with 100% have their names put into a hat and one lucky child wins a gift voucher.
- 2, at the end of every full term (ie. 3 times a year) all children with 100% have their names put into a hat and one lucky child wins a gift voucher.
- 3, at the end of every full year ALL children with 100% are rewarded with a gift voucher!



The table below shows class attendance statistics for this week the winning class certificate will be given out next Friday in the award assembly.



Attendance Statistics <u>This Week</u>	N	R	1	2	3	4	5/6	School
Number of Pupils who have been absent	7	3	3	9	4	4	4	34
Total Number of Sessions Missed	18	9	8	27	7	12	13	94
Class Percentage	89.3	94.3	95.3	90.7	96.3	95.2	96.0	93.96%

There are two sessions per day, am and pm. All children from Yrs R - 6 attend 10 sessions per week and Nursery children are expected to attend all of their booked sessions.

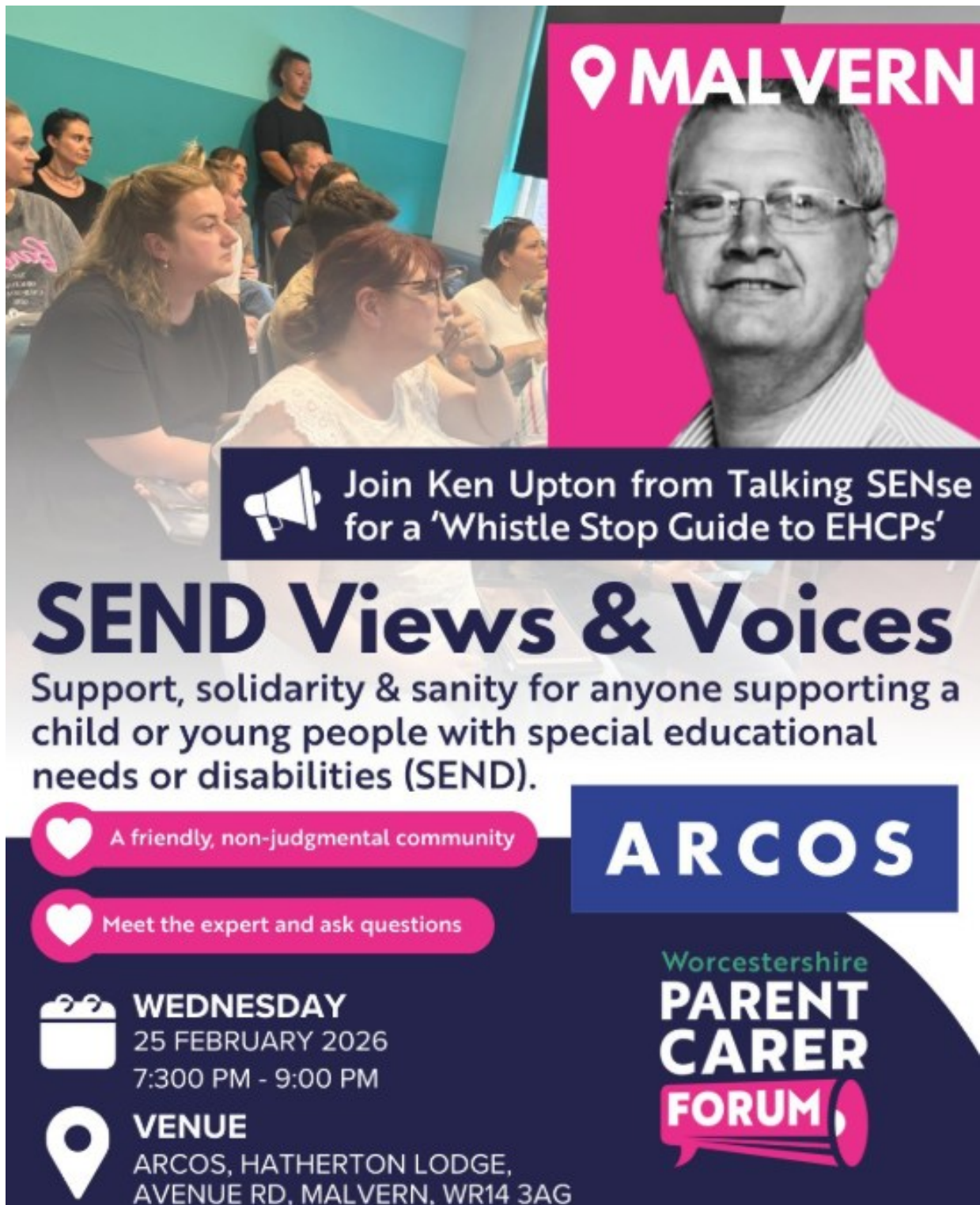
Congratulations to Year 3 for the best attendance this week. Excellent!

For Your Information

ARCOS, in collaboration with Worcestershire Parent Carer Forum would be pleased to invite you to a relaxed and friendly get-together aimed at offering support, solidarity and sanity for anyone caring for a child or young person with special educational needs or disabilities on Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7.30pm to 9.00pm at ARCOS, Hatherton Lodge, Avenue Road, Malvern WR14 3AG.

It's a welcoming, non-judgmental community where you can connect with others and meet an expert. This month, we're pleased to have Ken Upton from Talking SENse joining us for a quick and helpful chat about EHCPs (Education, Health and Care Plans) and giving us a 'Whistle Stop Guide' to them.

#sendsupport #neurodivergent #childrenwithdisabilities #children #autism #youngpeople
 #specialeducationalneeds #parents #carer #communitysupport #malvernhills #worcestershire
 Worcestershire Parent Carer Forum



MALVERN

Join Ken Upton from Talking SENse for a 'Whistle Stop Guide to EHCPs'

SEND Views & Voices

Support, solidarity & sanity for anyone supporting a child or young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

- A friendly, non-judgmental community
- Meet the expert and ask questions

WEDNESDAY
25 FEBRUARY 2026
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

VENUE
ARCOS, HATHERTON LODGE,
AVENUE RD, MALVERN, WR14 3AG

ARCOS

Worcestershire
PARENT CARER FORUM