

From: [CCC Education](#)
To: [Cambs Schools News](#)
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Cambridgeshire Schools Newsletter

Summer HAF programme - bookings open!



The Summer Holiday HAF Programme is open for bookings. Pupils in receipt of benefits-related FSM can attend a registered holiday scheme for up to 64 fully funded hours which includes a daily meal and a range of enriching experiences.

Eligibility vouchers were issued to parents/carers via email or text on 8 June 2026. School offices and headteachers were emailed a parent letter on 2 June 2026 to share with eligible families.

Please use this [poster](#) to help promote the programme within your school

If you need to request a booking code for the [additional eligibility criteria](#), please [click here](#)

If you have any questions, please contact: HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

School Based Nursery programme: apply now

Would your community benefit from new early years places? Would your school be interested in managing a new early years setting? If you answered yes to both questions, we would love to hear from you.

The Department for Education is inviting local authorities to submit proposals for new and expanded provision over the next three years. Projects must cost less than £1 million (new build) or £500,000 (refurbishment). Proposals are not expected to be at an advanced stage.

Previous applicants are eligible to apply.

For further information/to register your interest, please email earlyyears.service@cambridgeshire.gov.uk with the subject line SBN Phase 3.

Be Water Smart - new water safety campaign

Cambridgeshire County Council's (CCC) Public Health Service, Physical Education Advisory Service and Communications Team has developed a new campaign to support families to enjoy water safely this summer.

Designed to equip parents with important lifesaving knowledge, the 'Be water smart' campaign aims to raise awareness of open water, and the simple, proactive steps parents can take to ensure children have the right skills and knowledge they need to stay safe around water.

How to use this toolkit

This toolkit contains a range of key messages that can be used by schools to promote our water safety campaign.

The toolkit is available here: [Be Water Smart](#)

Ian Roberts

(Lead Adviser - Physical Education and School Sport)

Important - Asbestos in sand short survey

Further to the safety alert sent out in May ([CCC Asbestos in sand safety alert](#)), CCC Health and Safety Team is keen to establish which schools or establishments did have or still have the recalled substances on site, so that further support and help can be offered where required. Therefore, it would be really helpful if you would fill in the following short questionnaire by **Friday 12 June**, please.

[Asbestos in play sand survey form](#)

Any issues with the form, please contact the Health and Safety Team (health.andsafetyteam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) and they will be happy to help.

Please direct any asbestos or sand enquiries to [Property Compliance Team](#)

Woodland Creation Project



Cambridgeshire County Council is requesting your help in promoting its Woodland Creation project. The project, led by Cambridgeshire County Council and funded by the Forestry Commission, aims to increase tree and woodland canopy cover and expand hedgerows across the county, to open up potential opportunities, such as agroforestry.

The project delivers a wide range of benefits including climate resilience, carbon storage, flood management, improved biodiversity, cleaner air and better public health, and directly aligns with the council's ambition for a green and sustainable Cambridgeshire, helping to expand and better connect woodland and hedgerow networks across the county and to restore nature.

This campaign also links closely with the council's 'Nature Recovery – From the Ground Up' project, which supports local communities to develop their own Community Nature

Recovery Plans, helping people identify and deliver nature recovery projects that matter most to them, while informed by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The Council is now inviting **expressions of interest** from community and parish groups, landowners and farmers with land of 0.5 hectares or more that may be suitable for tree planting, woodland creation, hedgerow improvement or wider nature recovery initiatives.

Priority will be given to:

- Lower-grade agricultural land
- Sites next to existing habitats such as woodland, wetlands or meadows
- Land that can help connect ecological networks across Cambridgeshire.

Those interested are encouraged to complete the secure online form by **30 June 2026** for the 2026/27 planting season.

Further information about the offers to support the delivery of these woodlands will be available over the next couple of months. Visit [Woodland Creation](#) on the council website for more information and to register interest.

Young views wanted in Fenland 50 consultation



Fenland District Council has relaunched its Fenland 50 Local Plan consultation – and wants to hear from children, young people, parents and school communities across the district.

The new Local Plan will shape Fenland's future up to 2050, influencing everything from where new homes are built to how green spaces are protected, how people travel, and where future jobs and services are located.

This early scoping stage is all about understanding what matters most to local people. Schools are encouraged to share the link with families so everyone has a chance to share their views.

Take part at: [Fenland 50 scoping consultation](#)

The consultation is open until 6pm on **Monday 29 June 2026**.

Read to the Beat in your local library this summer!



For the 2026 Summer Reading Challenge, Read to the Beat, the Reading Agency has partnered with Universal Music Group to help reach even more young people and show them that stories and songs share the same power to inspire. [Summer Reading Challenge | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Please look out for an email from your local library with further information and an offer to deliver a promotional assembly in your school. Or I can connect you with your local library if you would like to invite them in: louise.aldridge@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

New youth group in St Ives



A new youth group has been formed in St Ives, for people aged 13 to 17 (not in full-time education) who are neurodivergent. Young people are encouraged to go along and join Rebuild, Share, Connect - a group created by young people, for young people.

The group will meet on Fridays, from 1-3pm in the Burleigh Hill Community Centre on Constable Road, and the session will involve socialising, taking part in activities, and developing practical skills to support group members in different ways to that of mainstream education.

This is a free group run by St Ives Town Council's Youth Engagement Participation Coordinator, Charlotte (she/her), so if you have any questions, please email her at youth@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk. The group is also looking for volunteer support, so please contact Charlotte if you are interested in supporting the young people of St Ives.

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity school assembly offer



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity is offering Cambridgeshire schools an age-appropriate assembly to help pupils understand kindness, compassion and how hospices support local families during difficult times.

Delivered in a gentle and sensitive way, the assembly helps children learn about the importance of community support and the difference fundraising can make to local people receiving hospice care. Schools can then take part in the festive #TeamArthur Rudolph Run, a fun sponsored activity held within school grounds on a date of the school's choice in the lead up to the end of term. Every participating pupil will receive a pair of reindeer antlers, helping schools bring some festive cheer while raising vital money for local hospice care.

Funds raised will support the charity to raise over £14 million needed and help to secure the future of nine specialist hospice beds currently funded only until March 2027.

To find out more or sign up, please contact Sarah at cf@arhc.org.uk

Free health and safety training for LA maintained schools

The following courses which have been added to CCC's Learning Management System (Thingji) are delivered via Teams and are at no cost to LA maintained schools and schools which have an SLA with the Health and Safety Team. If you or your colleagues do not have a log in to Thingji ([Thingji login](#)), please contact the [Health and Safety Team](#).

Health and Safety for Site Staff – 11 June 10-12

COSHH Awareness – 9 July 2pm – 3pm

Physical Education Premium Headlines

The government has unveiled a significant new investment in physical education (PE), school sport, and physical activity, signaling a major shift in national policy.

What's changing for schools?

For many years, the PE and Sport Premium has provided ringfenced funding directly to primary schools, enabling school led improvements. However, the government's new direction signals a clear shift towards a more connected, partnership-led model.

Further details are here: [The Future of PE Funding](#)

As we receive more information, we will share it with schools, and please be assured that we will continue to support and advise schools and settings. Please continue to make us your first port of call for all things related to curriculum PE.

Ian Roberts

(Lead Adviser - Physical Education and School Sport)

Physical Education CPD Brochure 2026/27

The Cambridgeshire PE Advisory Service is a high quality provider of support and training for schools and teachers in this vital area of the curriculum.

We are really excited to launch our Professional learning portfolio for 2026-27.

New Developments for 2026/27:

Inspiring leadership in PE programme - A series of online primary PE workshops to support subject leaders to develop high quality PE

Primary School Gymnastics - Covering the Basics - This workshop is an essential course for ECTs and inexperienced primary school teachers

Full details and download are here: [Cambridgeshire Physical Education Courses and Workshops](#)

Ian Roberts (Lead Adviser - Physical Education and School Sport)

ReadingWise online literacy programme EAL support



ReadingWise, the online literacy programme used by schools to improve reading outcomes, has recently added a number of home languages to support EAL communities.

To date, languages include Urdu, Farsi, Polish, Vietnamese and many more. With over 1.7 million EAL children in schools in England, and 9% of Scottish pupils being EAL, effectively

supporting these learners in schools is really important to help achieve brilliant reading outcomes.

You can find out more in this blogpost: <https://readingwise.com/blog/eal-support-languages>

New Meaning Foundation Open Day - 26 June 2026



New Meaning Foundation is hosting an open day for all schools, professionals and referring organisations. The day will provide an opportunity to look at the Foundation's facilities, ask questions and network, as well as seeing the progress of the Foundation's learners and see what a learning day looks like at NMF.

Time: 9:00 to 15:00

Location: Studio, Waterbeach Barracks Sports Hall and Studio, CB25 9PA

Special guests from Cambridgeshire County Council:

Michael Bateman— Assistant Director, Inclusion

Sarah Callaghan— Service Director for Education

Chris Bush— Service Director for Strategy and Commissioning (Adults, Health & Commissioning Directorate)

[New Meaning Foundation website](#)

Please register your interest by using the link below:

[New Meaning Foundation Open Day Registration Form](#)

For more information contact otonye.richard-koko@newmeaningfoundation.org

Training and events

Training provider: CCC

[Leading Religious Education in the Primary School](#)

For Primary teachers,– 1st July 2025 , 15:30 – 17:00, via Teams, Cost LA Schools £29 and all others £39

[Religious Education Network meeting](#)

Thursday 2nd July 26 – 4.00pm – 5.00pm in Room 7 Sunley House, Papworth or Ely Cathedral Centre, Palace Green, Ely, CB74EW
Free to all teachers of RE.

[GCSE CPD at the University of Cambridge](#)

22nd June 26 – 9.00am – 3.30pm at the schools of Muslim studies, Free . A series of CDP sessions looking at aspects of the GCSE RE syllabus for both Islam and Christianity.

[Burwell House autumn residential course availability](#)

14 - 16 Sept, 21 - 23 Sept, 5 - 7 Oct, 23 - 25 Nov

Cambridgeshire Music

Primary Music Network meeting

Join us for a discussion on assessment and music technology in the primary classroom.
Monday 22nd June. 16:00-17:00 on Microsoft Teams. For your FREE place please contact simonl.randall@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to sign up.

Training provider: Science Learning East

Science Teacher Conference – Narrowing the Attainment Gap

For Primary and Secondary teachers. Monday 06th July, 09.00 – 16.00. Venue: Astra Zeneca Discovery Centre, Cambridge. £50

Training provider: diamond Education and Professional Learning

Quick links

[SEND Information Hub \(Local Offer\)](#)

[SEND OAP toolkits - Learn Together](#)

[Cambridgeshire Learn Together](#)

[Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

[Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Teaching School Hub](#)

[Early Years, Childcare, and School Readiness Service](#)

[Knowledge Hub](#)

[Cambridgeshire Schools Newsletter – Learn Together](#)

[Grafham Water Centre](#)

[Burwell House](#)

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