From: CCC Education
To: Cambs Schools News
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Cambridgeshire Schools Newsletter

Christmas HAF Programme: 21 - 31 December

The **Christmas HAF Programme** runs from 21 to 31 December 2026.

Pupils in receipt of Targeted Free School Meals (FSM) are automatically eligible. Families experiencing financial hardship may also be eligible for discretionary funding through a referral from your school or another professional.

Eligible children can access either a registered holiday scheme or a family experience for up to 16 funded hours, including a nutritious meal and a wide range of fun and enriching activities.

Eligibility vouchers will be issued to parents and carers of children receiving Targeted FSM on 9 November 2026 (by email/text). Schools will be emailed a link to apply for discretionary funding by 9 November 2026.
If you have any questions, please contact the HAF Team at **HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.**

DfE guidance on funding for books and reading materials for secondary schools

Guidance has been published on funding for books and reading materials as part of the National Year of Reading 2026.
The government is providing funding for secondary schools in England to purchase books and other reading materials to support reading enjoyment amongst their pupils.

This guidance is aimed at state-funded secondary schools in England. It sets out more information regarding this funding, including access, eligibility, timelines and further support.

Funding for books and reading materials for secondary schools

The annual inspection and maintenance of Physical Education facilities and equipment

From a safety perspective, and to prolong its economic life, the regular maintenance of all sports hall, trampolining, gymnasium, P.E. and fixed play equipment is essential.

All relevant equipment must serviced at least annually by properly trained and experienced engineers.

I have been asked by several schools to review their inspection reports, and on a number of occasions have been able to provide cost effective solutions. A recent report made a very expensive quote for repairs – by going straight to the manufacturer I was able to source the easily replaced part needed for just **£3**.

Please could schools notify us of details of their PE inspection arrangements using the link below, and send us copies of inspection reports for our records: **The annual inspection and maintenance of PE facilities and equipment form**

Ian Roberts – **pe.adviser@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**

PE and School Sport Premium Transition Grant

We are pleased to share with you the updated guidance for PE and sport premium for primary schools that was sent out last week by the Department of Education.

PE and sport premium for primary schools - GOV.UK

You will continue to receive PE and sport premium transitional funding based on the number of pupils you have in years 1 to 6. There is absolutely no carry over permitted next year so all funding must be spent and accounted for by July 31 2027.

For the year 2026 to 2027, the amounts payable will be:
• schools with 16 or fewer eligible pupils will receive **£390** per pupil
• schools with 17 or more eligible pupils will receive **£6240** and an additional payment of **£10** per pupil

More extensive guidance about the premium, and the conditions of grant is available here:
PE and School Sport Premium

If you have any questions about the PE and School Sport Premium, or indeed any aspect of PE then please do not hesitate to contact me. We should be your first port of call

Ian Roberts – **pe.adviser@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**

Join the Early Years SEND Team for Inclusive Practice Week: 12 to 16 October 2026

Practitioners, leaders and professionals working with young children 0-5 are invited to take part.
Throughout the week, a series of free **online sessions** designed to support and upskill practitioners working with children with SEND in the early years are being offered. Sessions will be delivered at **12.00pm, 3.30pm and 7.00pm** to maximise accessibility and enable as many practitioners as possible to attend.

These short, bite-sized sessions (30-45 minutes) will provide practical strategies, current information and signposting to useful resources on a range of topics related to inclusive practice.

Sessions include:
• Presentations from our health partners, including:
o Community Paediatrics
o Speech and Language Therapy
o Dietetics
o Children's Occupational Therapy
o Physiotherapy Services
• Sessions from Pinpoint and SENDIASS will explore ways to support families and strengthen parent partnerships.
• A presentation from a PhD researcher, sharing recent research links between language development profiles and emerging signs of neurodivergence in the early years
• Sessions delivered by the Early Years Service, covering topics such as:
o Inclusive practice in Reception
o Understanding behaviours and interactions
o How therapeutic play approaches can support inclusion
o Risk assessments for children with SEND

The Team hopes you will join them for this exciting week of learning, collaboration and professional development.

Please follow the link below to view the programme and book your place(s): **Early Years and school readiness service bookings**

Free CPD for secondary school teachers from the Arts Theatre Cambridge



This free CPD will combine textual work with a discussion about the lasting influence of ancient tragedy on theatre and literature today, with plenty of time to share ideas with fellow teachers.

Ancient Tragedy CPD, with Dr Rosanna Omitowoju and free tickets to *Ion* by Euripides
Wed 14 Oct 2026, 5.30 to 7.30pm

Spaces are limited so booking is essential. For further information please contact **Anna@artstheatre.co.uk**

Starting Reception

Guidance and resources for practitioners and families, to support children with the skills to practice when starting Reception.

New skills take time to learn. Practising at home will help children move into school more easily and confidently. Why not explore our free partner-facing **Starting Reception webpage**, with a range of resources and guidance, that focus on supporting families with the skills children need to practice, for starting reception, divided into 4 key areas, supporting skills for:
1. Growing Independence
2. Building Relationships and Communicating
3. Physical Development
4. Healthy Routines

Explore our **Supporting home learning webpages**, to learn about initiatives, support,

training and resources.

Sign up to training here: **Booking and reservations for Early Years Childcare and School Readiness Service** (Select the 'Home Learning Environment' tab) or reach out to **Philippa** to learn more.

Collaborative Climate Action - free CPD event for Cambridgeshire education settings

For Cambridgeshire school leaders, sustainability leads, teachers, governors, site/estates colleagues, business managers and trust/federation staff. **Monday 14 December 2026** 9.00-4.00. Stephen Perse Foundation Sixth Form, Bateman St, Cambridge CB2 1NA. Free.

New guidance from government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on keeping children safe around banned breed dogs

From 1 November 2026, owners of banned breed dogs must ensure that any child under 12 is not left in close contact with their dog in a private place, such as a home or garden, without appropriate adult supervision.

The guidance below provides information to help owners of banned breed dogs understand the new legal requirement relating to children under 12 and appropriate adult supervision. It also includes examples of steps all dog owners may wish to consider in order to reduce the risk of unsupervised contact between children and dogs in the home.

Keeping children safe around banned breed dogs in the home

Training and events

Training provider: CCC

SIS - Leading English – Core training offer tab
For English subject leaders. – Tuesday 13 October 2026 9.30am until 12pm Hunts FA. Or Thursday 15 October 2026 1.30pm until 4.00pm. Online. No charge for up to two people from schools that have purchased Element 2 of the Primary Offer £78 per person for Cambridgeshire LA maintained schools £88 per person for out of county, Cambridgeshire academy and independent schools

SIS - Leading Maths – Core training offer tab
For maths subject leaders. – Tuesday 13 October 2026 1.30pm until 4.00pm Hunts FA. Or Thursday 15 October 2026 1.30pm until 4.00pm. Online. No charge for up to two people from schools that have purchased Element 2 of the Primary Offer £78 per person for Cambridgeshire LA maintained schools £88 per person for out of county, Cambridgeshire academy and independent schools

SIS – Unpicking the End of KS2 teacher assessment framework for writing – English tab
For Year 6 teachers and English subject leaders. Session 2 of 4 – Focus on dialogue. Tuesday 20 October 2026 3.45pm until 5.15pm online. £65 per school for LA schools and £75 per school for Cambridgeshire academies, out of county schools or independent schools.

Making sense of assessment in Physical Education

Audience: This course is ideal for Primary, Special and Secondary School teachers who teach Physical Education.
15/10/2026, 1.30pm-3.30pm Online.
£54 Cambridgeshire LA schools **£60** Cambridgeshire Academies & Non-Cambs Schools

The Cambridgeshire Physical Education Hub (Network)
This **Free** termly network is ideal for Primary, Special and Secondary School teachers who teach Physical Education**.**
21/10/26, 09/02/27, 27/05/27 - 1.30pm - 3.30pm (online)
Free to all schools and settings in Cambridgeshire

Physical Education for ECTs and inexperienced teachers
Audience: This course is for ECTs,and those teachers returning to the profession in the primary phase who want to deliver high quality PE. EYFS, KS1 & KS2.
5/11/26, 9.30am – 3.30pm – Papworth Village Hall.
£140 for Cambs maintained schools, £162 for Cambs Academies and all non-Cambs schools (£270 (LA) or £300 Non-LA) if booked 'en bloc'.

Developing RSE In Primary & Special Schools
8th October 2026, 1.30pm-3.30pm Online
£40 for Cambs Subscribers to the PSHE Wellbeing Subscription, £55 for Peterborough and all other schools
Audience: PSHE leaders, senior leaders and governors

RSE Short webinars: Sexism and Misogyny
13th October 2026 (Primary Schools) 3.45pm-4.45pm. Online
15th October 2026 (Secondary/Special Schools) 3.45pm-4.45pm. Online
Cambridgeshire Schools can attend for free. Schools from Peterborough and other counties may also attend. Cost £40 for Licence holders of the Primary Personal Development Programme, £55 for non-licence holders
Audience: Primary and Special leaders, PSHE leaders, classroom teachers, support staff or governors

Delivering Statutory Safeguarding Requirements in the PSHE Curriculum in Primary & Special Schools
22nd October 2026 1.30pm-3pm. Online
Cost: £40 for subscribing schools, £55 for no-subscribing schools
Audience: PSHE leads, Designated safeguarding leads

Formative Assessment in Reception
For Reception teachers, early years leaders and senior leaders with EYFS leadership.
Wednesday 4th November 2026, 15.45 – 17.00, Online. Free.

Strong Start – Communication, Language and high-quality interactions
Reception teachers and those with EYFS leadership responsibility. Wednesday 21st October 2026, 15.45 – 17.00, Online. Members £9 and Non-members £15.

Strong Start – Personal, Social and Emotional development
Reception teachers and those with EYFS leadership responsibility. Wednesday 11th November 2026, 15.45 – 17.00, Online. Members £9 and Non-members £15.

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 Togethe r
Grafham Water Centre
Burwell House

Keeping in touch...

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