



Short Breaks for Disabled Children

February 2026 newsletter



London Borough
of Hounslow

FREE February half term holiday
Short Breaks inside!



Welcome

Welcome to the February half term newsletter! You will find inside a programme of activities taking place over the holiday which will be fun and enjoyable for your young person and the whole family.

Hope you all have a great holiday.

Jo Dawson and Collin Hazeley – Short Breaks

What is a Short Break?

Short breaks provide opportunities for disabled children and young people to spend time away from their primary carers. They aim to provide parents and carers a necessary and valuable break away from their caring responsibilities in order to recharge their batteries.

They enable disabled children and young people to have the chance to develop new friendships, take part in new experiences and to have fun doing positive activities like sports, music therapy, youth clubs and much more.

A short break may include a few hours, a day, evening, overnight stay, weekend or sometimes longer. It could take place in the family home, at another home or out in the wider community.

Hounslow Short Breaks team also endeavour to provide short breaks for the whole family in an environment that is sympathetic to the disabled child or young person, for example, theatre shows and cinema screenings.



For more information, please see our Short Breaks Statement on the Hounslow website – www.hounslow.gov.uk/shortbreaks under 'Downloads'.

If you have any queries, please do call the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636.

SHORT BREAKS BOOKING PROCEDURE – please read

This newsletter has been sent to families on Monday 19 January and families will be able to book Short Breaks as from the week commencing 26 January. No bookings will take place before Tuesday 27 January.

Tuesday 27 January	.....	Pathway	
Wednesday 28 January	.....	Pathway	
Thursday 29 January	.....	Pathways	
Friday 30 January	.....	Pathways	
Monday 2 February	.....	Pathways	
Tuesday 3 February	.....	Pathways	

If you have any questions or are unsure which pathway your child meets, please do not hesitate to contact the Short Breaks Team on 020 8583 3636. **Please note that we are unable to do any registrations during the booking period.**

Taxicards

This scheme allows London residents with a mobility impairment which prevents them from using buses or trains to travel in contracted licensed radio taxis – black cabs or private hire vehicles at subsidised rates. For further information visit

www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/taxicard



SUPPORT

If your child or young person needs help to access short breaks, support is available!



Please do call the **Short Breaks team** on **020 8583 3636**.

Hounslow Parent Carers Forum

Hounslow Parent Carers Forum is part of a nationwide organisation that helps parent and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We are there to listen to you and try to support you to sign post where needed.

We also discuss common issues that parent/carers have with the local authority and other organisations in order to help improve services. All of us who work for the forum have children with SEND.

We offer Coffee & Chat Mornings and Afternoons, along with newsletters that provide updates and helpful information on SEN topics in the area. Additionally, we host a monthly forum where representatives from the Council, other organisations, and charities come to discuss their services and answer your questions. Best way to keep up to date with what we have going on is to see our online diary on our website: www.hounslowpcf.co.uk



Dates for up-coming Forum meetings are as follows:

- Tuesday 20 January
- Tuesday 10 February
- Tuesday 17 March
- Tuesday 21 April

Times: 10.15am-12.30am

Hounslow Youth Centre

Kingsley Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 1QA

Email: info@hounslowpcf.co.uk

Tel: 020 8570 4671



Unique Identifying Number (UIN)

If you have not already registered for your UIN, please do call the Short Breaks team on **020 8583 3636**. It is



important that you do this as you will need a UIN to book onto any of the Short Breaks programme. All our Short Breaks providers (Hounslow Play team, Brentford Sports, Feltham Bees, Richmond Music Trust, Watermans, Griffin Park Learning Zone, Park Lane Stables) will require the UIN as part of the booking process.

Please note that we are unable to do any registrations during booking days.

Useful websites for families of disabled children

Please find below several websites that offer help and support in various ways to families with disabled children:

<http://newlifecharity.co.uk/docs/care-services/Play-Therapy-Pods.shtml>

<https://www.disability-grants.org/grants-for-children.html>

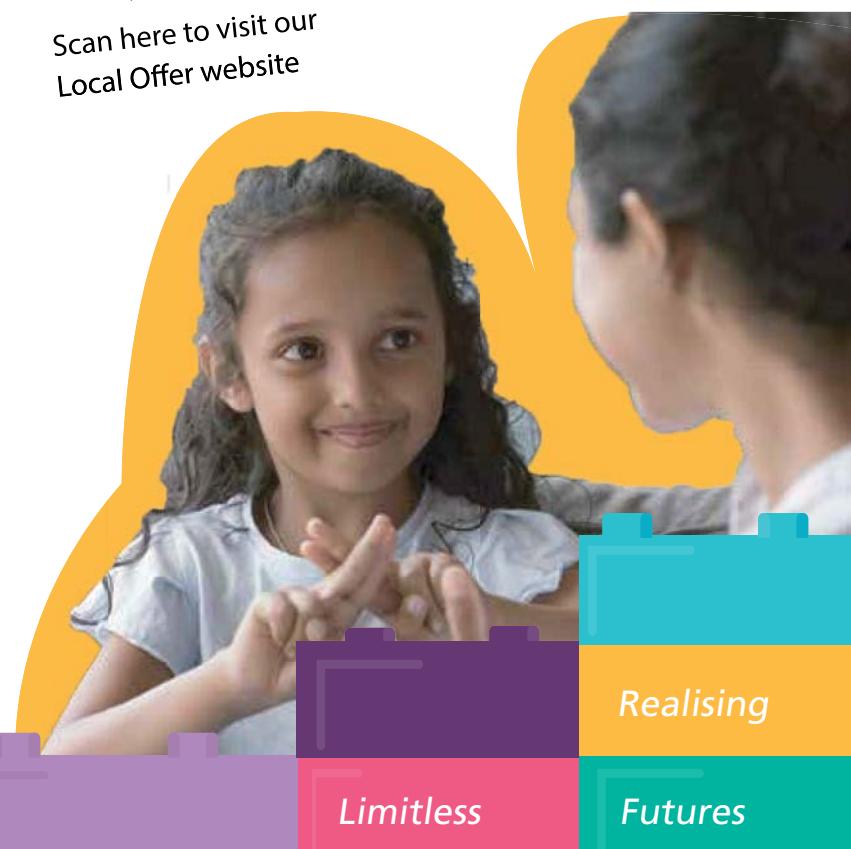
<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>

SEND Local Offer

Advice, guidance and support for families with children and young people aged 0 - 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).



Scan here to visit our Local Offer website



London Borough
of Hounslow

Visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/send-local-offer
Email thelocaloffer@hounslow.gov.uk

Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SEND IASS)

What is SEND IASS?

Under the Children and Families Act (2014) it is a legal requirement that all Local Authorities have a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS).

The Hounslow Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) provides this service for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in the borough.

This service is also offered directly to young people as well. While the service is funded by the London Borough of Hounslow (LBH), Hounslow SENDIASS works independently of the local authority.

Hounslow SENDIASS is free to use, impartial and confidential.



What we do

Hounslow SENDIASS provides independent and impartial advice based on the law and government guidance. We are able to:

- Meet with you virtually or in person to discuss your concerns or needs. Communication may also be by phone and email
- Explain how the SEND system works – for instance, accessing Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plans
- Assist you in navigating the often-complex world of SEND
- Signpost you to appropriate local authority services, including the Local Offer
- Support you through dispute resolution and mediation processes with schools and the local authority

(NB. Where you request support at a meeting, this is subject to appropriateness, availability, and capacity)



What we don't do

Our aim is to empower young people, parents, and carers to take informed decisions around SEND for themselves. We don't however:

- Tell you what is best for you and your child
- Tell other professionals what to do
- Identify appropriate schools for your child
- Represent you at meetings, including mediation and tribunals
- Assist in the preparation of EHC or tribunal documentation
- Provide an administrative service for you, including contacting or arranging meetings for you with other professionals and form-filling
- Help with benefit claims, housing difficulties, Blue Badges etc

(NB. If your child has an EHC plan, your first contact should be your child's EHC caseworker)



You can help us by:

- Leaving a message when you phone as we do not respond to missed calls where no message has been left (We aim to respond to all enquiries within 5 working days)
- Keep us updated on progress in relation to the resolution of your concerns or needs
- Let us know when your issues have been resolved

Data Protection

All the information that Hounslow SENDIASS gathers from you is securely stored electronically and separate to local authority departments. Information will only be shared with your permission. However, where there may be a safeguarding concern Hounslow SENDIASS is obliged to share such concerns with appropriate professionals.

How to access our service

We are a self-refer service. Parents are able to access us directly. We are unable to take referrals from professionals.

If you would like our help, please telephone us on 020 8583 2607 or email us at sendiass@hounslow.gov.uk

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

DAF is available to support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in their childcare setting. Childcare providers can receive £615 per year for every child who meets the eligibility criteria.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible children must be:

- aged 3 or 4 years old
- using a funded free early education and childcare place in a registered childcare setting
- in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)*



What can the funding be used for?

The funding is available to help childcare providers make reasonable adjustments at their setting to improve children's access to funded early education. It will be paid directly to the childcare provider and they will be able to decide how it should be spent. The funding cannot be used towards childcare fees.

Your child does not need to be using all of their funded early education and childcare hours for their childcare provider to be able to receive the full £615 of funding. Please speak to your childcare provider if you think your child may qualify.

Further information on DAF can be found on the Hounslow Local Offer through the following link: <https://beta.hounslow.gov.uk/send-local-offer>

Eligibility Criteria

You will see the table which describes the pathways of need overleaf, on pages 10-11. Below, we have explained how to assess your child's needs in relation to the pathways.

Step 1: Have a look at Band A and see where your child's disability sits in each pathway.

Step 2: Have a look at Bands B and C if they apply. Think about the four dimensions – Communication, Personal Care, Safety and Supervision, Behaviour and Social Integration. If your child meets one or more of the descriptions in either Band B and C, then they are likely to meet the respective pathway.

If you are unsure or if you see that they sit in multiple pathways, please do give the Short Breaks team a call and we will go through it with you on 020 8583 3636.

Things to think about:

Pathway 1: The child will most likely attend a mainstream school and can access most mainstream activities with minimal support.

Pathway 2: The child will either attend a mainstream school (with specialist support) or attend a specialist school and will need some additional support to access short breaks. They may have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Pathway 3: The child will most likely attend a specialist school and require specialist support to access short breaks. They will most likely have an Education, Health and Care Plan. They will most likely be known to the Social Work team for Children with Disabilities.

* Many parents miss out on this vital benefit - did you know that you don't have to wait for a condition to be diagnosed before you can claim DLA for your child? You can claim DLA so long as it is clear that there is some underlying condition - whether physical, mental or behavioural - as a result of which your child needs extra care or help in getting around. For more information, visit www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children.

The pathway for the child or young person may change at different times throughout their lives as their needs may change.

Pathways of Need

	Dimension	Pathway 1 Level of Need	Pathway 2 Level of Need	Pathway 3 Level of Need
Band A	Mobility	Able to walk unassisted, but with difficulty or poor co-ordination.	Walks, but only with aids or assistance. May use a wheelchair sometimes.	Full time wheelchair user and/or Mobility severely restricted without special provision.
	Vision	Severe or profound problem with one eye. Less than half visual field loss. Able to function independently.	Able to read print with simple aids or assistance. Defect of at least half visual field. May be eligible for registration as partially sighted.	Unable to read large print without intensive educational assistance or sophisticated aids. Registered.
	Hearing	Severe or profound hearing loss in one ear. Hearing loss 20-40 dB	Hearing loss 41-70 dB	Hearing loss >71 dB
	Functioning and Learning ability	Overall functioning slightly below expected level for age. May have a mild or moderate learning disability	Overall functioning around half expected level for age. Has a moderate learning disability	Overall functions significantly below expected level for age. Have a severe learning disability or a moderate learning disability and diagnosed ASD.
	Health	Known health condition, which is under control but occasionally interferes with everyday activities in a minor way.	Health condition that limits normal activities, including self-care and personal hygiene, access to services. May interfere with opportunities for development or education.	Diagnosed health condition, which is severe and potentially life threatening, and results in frequent hospital admissions that limits accessing developmental or educational activities. May be in receipt of Continuing Care or palliative care from Health Services.

IMPACT OF DISABILITY

	Communication	Delayed language development only.	Delayed/ disorganised verbal communication causing difficulty. Speech supplemented by alternate communication method.	Uses communication other than words, e.g. symbols, makaton, BSL.
	Personal care	Child requires minimal support beyond that of their peers with everyday care needs; this will include toileting, washing and dressing.	Child requires practical support beyond that of their peers with everyday care needs; this will include toileting, washing and dressing.	Child requires assistance beyond that of their peers with all everyday care needs; this will include toileting, washing and dressing and can be problematic and need skilled intervention.
	Safety and Supervision	Requires occasional supervision beyond that expected for their age. Poor sense of danger or risk of excitability.	Needs supervision to perform daily activities significantly greater than that expected for developmental age. Limited perception of danger to self or others.	Needs constant supervision during the day and night. Would place themselves or others at risk without supervision.
	Behaviour and Social Integration	Some mild, transient or frequent behaviour difficulties. Able to use local non-specialist universal services. Able to sustain limited peer relationships and social integration with support. Child requires support to access services.	Behaviour problems severe or frequent enough to require some specialist advice or provision. Significant support required to achieve social integration. Only able to sustain peer relationships with support. Child requires services to prevent or alleviate stress in the family.	Long-term behaviour difficulties make it difficult for the child to function appropriately most of the time, and maybe of risk to the child or carers without special provision. Dependence upon carer for social integration. Limited awareness of impact of behaviour upon others. Services required to prevent high risk of accommodation for the child.

Children and young people should meet at least one of the dimensions in Band A and one from Band B to meet the criteria for that pathway. To discuss your child's pathway, please call the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636.

February 2026 half term activities



Key to services

Throughout the following pages, we have used symbols to help abbreviate information about the Pathway, referral route, age and level of supervision for individual services.

The symbols are as follows:

Pathways



The Pathway, will always be 1, 2 or 3 or a combination.

Referral route



Self referral



Referral by professional

The referral route is either via self referral or referral by a professional who knows the child/young person, e.g. social worker, teacher, health professional.

Age

5–18

Age is simply given as a range of numbers.

Supervision



Parent supervision required



No supervision required

These symbols indicate whether supervision is required or if a child can attend a service on their own. Both symbols may appear if you need to speak to the provider about this.

We're Going Digital

FYI, from April 2026 (Easter holidays and going forward), we will no longer be producing paper copies of the newsletter - this makes sense to do now. The newsletters cost a lot to print and post each year and, as a local authority, we are always looking at ways to spend more wisely. In our recent survey, most families now have access to the internet and can access the newsletter digitally. We will email directly to families registered with us and publicise on the Hounslow website and Local Offer.



In order to book a place at any of the Watermans activities, you will need a promo code as well as your child's UIN, which will be emailed to you by the Short Breaks team before the bookings open.



FAR, FAR AWAY – with the AURORA ORCHESTRA

Monday 16 February 2026

at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm
(about 50 minutes long)



All performances are the same, so just book whichever time is convenient for you

The show will be at the Endeavour Theatre, West Thames College, London Road, Isleworth, London TW7 4HS.

Far, Far Away shows are immersive, storytelling concerts for young children and their families.

These joyful concerts by the Aurora Orchestra combine live instrumental music with storytelling and a playful, multi-sensory approach, giving young children a captivating introduction to classical music. The shows tell a magical story specifically written for young children, interwoven with music by one particular composer. Mahler and the Mountain Adventure is their latest show.

See that mountain over there? We're going to climb it – would you like to join us? Join the Aurora musicians on a journey up the hill. Nothing's going to stop us climbing that mountain: not even a misty fog or a



mountain goat will stand in our way!

We'll paddle in the stream, explore echoes across the valley and meet some friends along the way.

The Far, Far Away concerts are specially created for 0-5 year olds, but will be enjoyed by many older children, too.

Audiences sit on the floor, up close to the musicians and the storyteller. There are also chairs available for the grown-ups and anyone not comfortable sitting on the floor. The show is completely suitable for wheelchair users, too.

The show is very relaxed and audiences are invited to move around, sing and join in with the storytelling if they would like to.

Please book online at: <https://watermans.ticketsolve.com/shows/873660986/events>



February 2026 half term activities

SHORT BREAKS FILM CLUB

Come and see the best recent films in the Short Breaks Film Club!

The film screenings will be at the Endeavour Theatre,
West Thames College, London Road, Isleworth, London TW7 4HS.

PETER & THE WOLF (U) 32 minutes

Thursday 19 February at 10am
(finishes at 10.35)



An animation of the great, classic story and music, Peter & The Wolf won an Oscar for Best Short Film. Set in a cold forest, the young boy Peter tries to save all the animals from the bad wolf – the beautifully animated affectionate pet duck, the grumpy cat, the injured crow are all involved in the adventure. When Peter finally catches the wolf, he shuts it in a cage and takes it into the town to show off his bravery. However, when he sees the wolf's sad eyes, he lets it out of the cage and it races back into the forest.

This short film captures happiness and sadness, and is both dramatic and funny.

Described as 'thrillingly beautiful' (Sunday Times) and an 'Oscar' award winner.



It is good for ages 5-15; the wolf may be scary for younger children.

Peter & the Wolf is a short film, just 32 minutes long. It is available to all Short Breaks families but it is particularly suitable for children attending a film for the first time, those who have not yet been to many films, or who are not comfortable sitting through a full-length film.

Please book online at: <https://watermans.ticketsolve.com/shows/873660988/events>



GABBY'S DOLLHOUSE: THE MOVIE (U) (1 hour, 38 minutes)

Thursday 19 February 2026 at 11.15am
(finishes at 12.55pm)



Gabby and Grandma Gigi's road trip takes an unexpected turn when Gabby's prized dollhouse ends up with eccentric cat lady Vera.

Based on the global smash streaming series, this is the first ever film adventure bringing all the adorable cat characters that live inside Gabby's dollhouse to the big screen. In the new film, Gabby heads out on a road trip with her Grandma Gigi to the urban wonderland of Cat Francisco. But when Gabby's dollhouse, her most prized possession, ends up in the hands of an eccentric cat lady named Vera, Gabby sets off on an adventure through the real world to get the Gabby Cats back together and save the dollhouse before it's too late.

This film has a gentle, comforting pace for young audiences, and is generally suitable for those aged 3 - 8.

Please book online at: <https://watermans.ticketsolve.com/shows/873660990/events>



THE BAD GUYS 2 (PG) (1 hour, 44 minutes)

Thursday 19 February 2026 at 2.00 pm
(finishes at 3.45 pm)



Who's badder than The Bad Guys? The Bad Girls. In this new action-comedy about a crackerjack criminal crew of animal outlaws, The Bad Guys are struggling to find trust and acceptance in their newly minted lives as Good Guys. But then they are pulled out of retirement and forced to do 'one last job' by an all-female squad of criminals.

PG rated films are for age 8+, but the film is action-packed with cartoon-style violence, explosions and martial-arts style fights and is often recommended for ages 10+.

Please book online at: <https://watermans.ticketsolve.com/shows/873660991/events>



February 2026 half term activities



THE GREAT BIG BUG SHOW! - with SIMON MOLE & GECKO

Friday 20 February at 11.30 am or 2pm

Both performances are exactly the same, so just come to whichever time is most convenient for you. The show lasts about 50 minutes.



Which beetle has a blaster on its bottom? Which minibeast is barely the size of a full stop? Which eight-legged hunter has fangs as big as a cheetah's claws?

Join poet Simon Mole and musician Gecko for a family show full of poems, raps and songs all about your favourite bugs (and some you haven't heard of yet!).



This gently interactive show with live music and original songs invites us to explore the secret world beneath our feet. Brilliantly beautiful, delightfully disgusting and wonderfully weird, the show is an inspiration to appreciate the smaller creatures in our world.

The Great Big Bug Show is inspired by the new book, *A First Book of Bugs*, written by acclaimed children's poet, Simon Mole. The songs are provided by musician, Gecko, who has performed at Glastonbury, Latitude and with Ed Sheeran. The show comes to Short Breaks fresh from the National History Museum and the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

The show is best for ages 4 – 11 years.

Please book online at: <https://watermans.ticketsolve.com/shows/873660987/events>



4 up to 18



THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU – with SCARLET OAK THEATRE

Saturday 7 March - 2 performances at 11.00 am and 2.00 pm



The theatre show will be at the Endeavour Theatre, West Thames College, London Road, Isleworth, London TW7 4HS.

The Zoo That Comes To You follows the efforts of two wildlife enthusiasts who provide respite, care or a temporary home to those in need. They now have a sanctuary full of animals, however, no-one has come to visit their zoo. So everybody - animals and humans alike - have decided it is time to get out, see the world, and bring the zoo, to you!

Come and meet this eclectic group of charming yet cheeky animals, as they discuss



their life experiences and the challenges they face. These chatty animals have a lot of stories to tell and want to inspire people of all ages to take action, because they know small actions can make a big difference in the world.

Featuring puppetry, live music and playful characters, Scarlet Oak Theatre welcomes you to join the conversation about animal conservation.

The show and its story are best for ages 5+, but younger children are welcome.

'A brilliantly fun conversation about conservation, told through puppetry, that entertains, educates and empowers its young audience' (Everything Theatre)

Please book online: <https://watermans.ticketsolve.com/shows/873660989/events>



5 up to 18



February 2026 half term activities



SHORT BREAKS FILM CLUB

The films will be at the Endeavour Theatre, West Thames College, London Road, Isleworth, London TW7 4HS.

THE RED BALLOON (U) 34 minutes

Saturday 14 March at 10am (finishes at 10.35)



The Red Balloon is a much-loved story about a young boy who goes on a series of adventures with a red balloon that he finds in the street. Although the film has almost no dialogue, it's so packed with character and emotion that you'll be drawn in by it anyway!

The story follows the adventures of a young Parisian boy named Pascal, who discovers a red balloon one morning, and soon finds that it has a will of its own! Together, the two set off through the streets of Paris. This charming short film won an Oscar and is often said to be 'the greatest short film ever made'.

'Beautiful to look at and impossible to forget, this is a truly brilliant example of everything that children's film can be' (Into Film)

It is good for ages 5-15.

The Red Balloon is a short film, just 34 minutes long. It is available to all Short Breaks families but it is particularly suitable for children attending a film for the first time, those who have not yet been to many films, or who are not comfortable sitting through a full-length film.

Please book online at: <https://watermans.ticketsolve.com/shows/873660992/events>



LILO & STITCH (PG) (1 hour, 48 minutes)

Saturday 14 March 2026 at 11.15am (finishes at 1.05pm)



Disney's chaotic, fluffy, blue alien Stitch and his human pal Lilo are back!

A live-action reimagining of Disney's original classic, Lilo & Stitch is the wildly funny and touching story of a lonely Hawaiian girl and a fugitive alien.

Stitch, an extra-terrestrial entity, comes to Earth after escaping prison, where he tries to impersonate a dog. Things take a turn when a lonely Hawaiian girl, Lilo, adopts him from an animal shelter and he helps mend her broken family - but not without wreaking hilarious havoc on the Hawaiian Islands.

Best for ages 8+, but ok for some 6-8 year olds with parental guidance

Please book online at: <https://watermans.ticketsolve.com/shows/873660993/events>



KARATE KID : LEGENDS (12A) (1 hour, 34 minutes)

Saturday 14 March 2026 at 2.15pm (finishes at 3.50pm)



Karate Kid: Legends unites the iconic martial arts masters of one of the most beloved film franchises of all time to tell a completely new story full of action and heart.

When kung fu prodigy Li Fong relocates to New York City with his mother and starts a new school, he finds solace in a new friendship with a classmate and her father. But his newfound peace is short-lived after he attracts unwanted attention from a formidable local karate champion. Driven by a desire to defend himself, Li embarks



on a journey to enter the ultimate karate competition. Guided by the wisdom of his kung fu teacher, Mr. Han (Jackie Chan), and the legendary Karate Kid, Daniel LaRusso (Ralph Macchio), Li merges their unique styles to prepare for an epic martial arts showdown.

Best for tweens & teens; minimum age 10+ with parental guidance

Please book online at: <https://watermans.ticketsolve.com/shows/873660994/events>



HOW TO BOOK FOR WATERMANS

Please book separately for each activity. You will need your child's UIN and the Watermans promo code (emailed by Short Breaks) for each activity.

Please remember to book 1 ticket for each person attending the film screening or theatre show.

Please don't book extra tickets that you may not need, as this means that other people will not be able to attend.

If you need further information about the activities, or support with the online booking process on our website, please email us at info@watermans.org.uk and one of the Watermans team will respond as soon as possible.

February 2026 half term activities



Access & facilities at West Thames College



The address is **West Thames College, London Road, Isleworth, London TW7 4HS**.

The College is close to the corner of London Road (the A315) and Spring Grove Road (next door to Isleworth Fire Station).

The Theatre is inside the main College building. It can be accessed through the main entrance at the front of the building on London Road, or at the rear of the building from the car park.

Different levels of the building are accessible by lift. There are toilets, including accessible toilets.

The Theatre has wheelchair spaces and the building is fully accessible to wheelchair users.

There is a large car park which is accessed from Harvard Road, which runs along the side of the College. From the car park, use the entrance at the rear of the College building.

On public transport, the College is 5 minutes walk from Isleworth train station.

Buses 117, 235, 237, E8 and H37 stop outside the College.

When arriving by public transport, use the main entrance at the front of the College building.



Community
Sports
Trust

Brentford Sports

Multi Sports sessions
(including sports such as football, badminton, table tennis, basketball, dodgeball, and adapted sports such as boccia and indoor curling)



Wednesday 18 February and Friday 20 February (10am to 2pm)

Springwest Academy

(indoor sports hall)
Browells Lane, Feltham TW13 7EF

For more information or to book a space, please contact Chris Tribe on shortbreaks@brentfordfccst.com



Gymnastics sessions
(including some basic gymnastics activities, tailored to the ability of each child, delivered by our qualified gymnastics coaches)

Tuesday 17 February

1-1.45pm Ages: 5-7yrs
2-2.45pm Ages: 8-10yrs
3-3.45pm Ages: 8-10yrs

Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub (indoor sports hall), Popes Lane, W3 8LQ

For more information or to book a space, please contact Chris Tribe on shortbreaks@brentfordfccst.com



Programmes specifically for deaf and hard of hearing children

Brentford FCCST will be delivering a number of exciting activities for Deaf children and their families during the February half-term.

For further details or to book a space for an activity, please contact Ben Lampert on blampert@brentfordfccst.com or 07842 479295 (Text only).



Young Leaders programme

Once a term, Brentford FC CST delivers a Young Leaders course for Short Breaks participants aged 13–17 years.

These courses will give the young people a chance to develop a range of skills including leadership, teamwork, planning, communication and public speaking, with the aim of building up confidence and self-esteem.

The programme will consist of small group workshops, where the young people will complete a short AQA course focusing on a particular topic. Everyone who completes the course will receive an AQA certificate!

The next course will be starting at the end of February.

For more information, please contact Chris Tribe on shortbreaks@brentfordfccst.com



February 2026 half term activities

Feltham Bees Football/ Craft Camp

Springwest Academy

Browells Lane, Feltham TW13 7EF



Feltham Bees will be running a Soccer/Arts + Crafts Camp in the half-term holiday:

Tuesday 17 February – Thursday 19 February (10am–3pm)

All budding Harry Kane's are welcome - football coaching will be undertaken by FA qualified staff. Alongside the soccer camp, Feltham Bees are also running an Arts & Crafts session.

Young people should bring a packed lunch and a drink/s.

Please note this session is for the young person registered with Short Breaks. Siblings are not able to attend.

For more information or to book a space, please contact Lynn Keppel on 07956 671354 or Dean Heffer on 07825 212715.



Horse Riding – Park Lane Stables

Families can book one session

Come and meet the horses at Park Lane Stables for a session that will give the young people a chance to meet the horses, learn about grooming the animals and a chance to have a ride. There are 3 young people in each session. Please note that there is a weight limit of 12 stones.

Sessions during the holidays are:

Monday 16 February
2pm-3pm & 3pm-4pm

Tuesday 17 February
11am-12pm, 12pm-1pm,
2-3pm, 3-4pm

Wednesday 18 February
9-10am, 10-11am,
11am-12pm, 12pm-1pm

Thursday 19 February
11am-12pm & 12pm-1pm

Please note the new address for the horse riding sessions:

Park Lane Stables

Park Lane, Teddington TW11 0HY

Please note closed shoes/boots should be worn – sandals are not safe footwear for horse riding or being in the stables. This includes parent/carers as well as the young people.

To book a place, please call Short Breaks on 020 8583 3636 or email shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk.



Lampton Leisure – Swimming Lessons

Hanworth Airparks

Uxbridge Road, Hanworth TW13 5EG

Tuesday 17 and Friday 20 February

Available time slots: 1.15pm-2pm and 2.15pm-3pm

Heston Pools & Fitness

New Heston Road, Hounslow TW5 0LW

Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 February

Available time slots: 1.15pm-2pm and 2.15pm-3pm

Isleworth Leisure Centre

Twickenham Road, Isleworth, TW7 7DJ

Wednesday 18 February

Available time slots: 1.15pm -2pm and 2.15pm-3.00pm

Please note there is a very high demand for the lessons - the team will aim to offer more than one lesson (if that is indicated), but please understand this may not be possible.

Please note all swimming lesson timings include a 30 minute lesson for each child, followed by 15 minutes of fun free time supervised by the instructors.

To register your interest in the swimming lessons, please email the pool that you would like to attend on the following email addresses:

Hanworth: Diana Bala
Diana.Bala@lamptongroup.co.uk

Heston: Emry Ben Youssef
EmryBen.Youssef@lamptongroup.co.uk

Isleworth: Alexandra Kister
Alexandra.Kister@lamptongroup.co.uk

- **Pathway 3** families should register their interest by **Friday 30 January**
- **Pathway 2** families should register their interest by **Tuesday 3 February** and
- **Pathway 1** families by **Friday 6 February**.

You will be put on a wait list and after the closing date for your pathway, you will then be directly contacted by Lampton Leisure to book the lessons in.



February 2026 half term activities

Redlees and Reflections Play Centres

February Half Term Drop-In Sessions

Redlees and Reflections play centres will be open over February half term for drop-in sessions as below:

	Redlees	Reflections
Monday 16 February	9.30am-12.30pm	1pm-4pm
Tuesday 17 February	9.30am-12.30pm	1pm-4pm
Wednesday 18 February	9.30am-12.30pm	1pm-4pm
Thursday 19 February	9.30am-12.30pm	1pm-4pm
Friday 20 February	9.30am-12.30pm	1pm-4pm

Families **do not** need to book the sessions at Redlees and Reflections - these are drop-in sessions. **Please bring your child's UIN with you.**



Sunday Sessions Drop-In – 10am to 2pm

Families **do not** need to book the sessions at Redlees and Reflections on a Sunday - these are drop-in sessions. **Please bring your child's UIN with you.**

See below dates for the Sunday sessions at the Redlees and Reflections play centres up to the end of March 2026:

January 2026

25 January	Redlees
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February 2026

1 February	Reflections
8 February	Redlees
15 February	Reflections
22 February	Redlees

March 2026

1 March	Reflections
8 March	Redlees
15 March	Reflections
22 March	Redlees
29 March	Reflections

For those that are new to Short Breaks, Redlees and Reflections are two play centres in the borough that have been adapted for children with disabilities with adapted play equipment, sensory rooms etc.

Both venues are safe and secure. Family groups are welcome.

Please note that Play team staff have the right to refuse entry should numbers within the centres reach their capacity.

Redlees Play Centre



Located in Worton Road, Isleworth, TW7 7DW (the play centre is in the corner of the Redlees Park car park (accessed via Worton Road) which is next to the outdoor courts.

Look for a purple sign with 'Redlees Play Centre' – there is secure access so you will need to buzz the staff to let you in.

Reflections Play Centre



c/o Hounslow Urban Farm, Faggs Road, Feltham TW14 0LZ – the centre is next door to the entrance of the Urban Farm.

If you have any queries, please call 020 8583 3636 or email shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk



Exciting Opportunities for Young People at Our Barn Community!

Are you a parent or carer of a young person (16-35) with additional needs, autism or learning disabilities? Looking for a safe, inclusive space where they can make friends, develop skills, and have fun?



Join Our Barn Community in Hounslow!

- A welcoming, supportive environment
- Fun activities – games, social events, creative projects & more!
- Skill-building to boost confidence & independence
- A chance to connect with others in the community

Where? Our Barn Community

When? Weekly sessions – get in touch for details!

Find out more: www.ourbarn.org.uk or www.communitycomet.co.uk to hear our youth voice.

Give your young person a place to thrive!

Contact us today to find out more!

David Roughan - Youth Leader

Our Barn Youth Club

Redlees Play Centre
every Sunday, 3pm-6pm
for 16-25 year olds,
funded by Short Breaks.

What 3 Words:

monkey.excuse.badge

07484 326108

www.ourbarn.org.uk

www.communitycomet.co.uk

February 2026 half term activities

NO NEED TO BOOK!

You will need to bring your child's UIN with you and book in with us when you get to the leisure centre before you go into the pool.

Depending on how many families come along, we may have to manage how many are in the pool at any one time so please bear with us and the Lampton Leisure team on the day.

Family Swim – Drop-In Session

Exclusive Short Breaks swimming sessions at Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre have been arranged for:

Wednesday 18 February

Time: 9–11.30am

Please note that all children must be supervised in the pool – Lampton Leisure's Pool Admissions Policy is a ratio of one adult to two children under the age of 8. If you are bringing more than two children under the age of 8, there must be two adults in the pool with them.



Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre

658 Chiswick High Road, Brentford TW8 0H

To find out more information please ring the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636 or e-mail: shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk.



Pool Party – Drop In Session

Come and join us for a dip and a dance! A pool party has been organised for:

Friday 20 February

Time: 5-7pm

Please note that all children must be supervised in the pool – Brentford's Pool Admissions Policy is a ratio of one adult to two children under the age of 8. If you are bringing more than two children under the age of 8, there must be two adults in the pool with them

Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre

658 Chiswick High Road, Brentford TW8 0H

To find out more information please ring the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636 or e-mail: shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk



Hounslow Parent Carers Forum
Supporting parent carers of children & young people (0–25) with SEND

Our Services

Expert Talks & Guest Speakers



A Safe & Supportive Space

- To talk openly about challenges
- Share experiences with no judgement
- Connect with people who understand
- Get guidance from professionals

Help us improve local services
Make your voice heard

Professionals

Want to stay updated on our events, speakers & forums?
Sign up at: hounslowpcf.co.uk/professionals-sign-up/

Schools

Would you like someone from our team to visit your school or coffee morning? Email at info@hounslowpcf.co.uk

Recommended Resource

Social Story Templates - A free tool that helps children understand routines, prepare for new situations and improve their communication
www.socialstorytemplates.com

Coffee & Chat Mornings



Join us in a relaxed, supportive environment & meet other parent carers

Join here

<https://hounslowpcf.co.uk/member/>



Chaitan Shah
Chair



Jennie Tweedy
Vice Chair



Joy Wilson
Administrator

Services Throughout The Year

Music Therapy – Richmond Music Trust



Richmond Music Trust are offering a slightly adjusted programme to children and families offering both direct contact music therapy sessions and online sessions.

Our online music therapy programme during the summer has been very popular and we have received some lovely feedback from families, which showed clearly that music therapy via video link can really work well for some children. Therapists and parents have been amazed about how effective children can engage in online music therapy accessing one to one and group sessions. As we are still unable to use our usual premises at the Hub, we have decided to offer a mixed programme offering both **online sessions** as well as **direct contact** sessions.

Online Music Therapy Programme on Saturdays

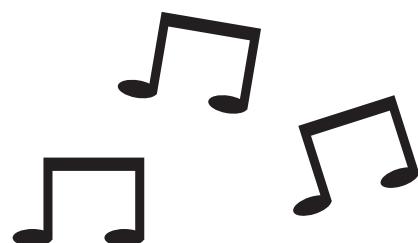
Sessions will be a little different but our therapist Sara Cole will create a fun and child-centred experience including shared musical activities, singing and games. These sessions will be uniquely tailored to your child's needs, choices and ability. We have vacancies for weekly one to one sessions and vacancies in weekly small group session.

Sessions will need to be attended jointly with a parent, carer or sibling so that your child is supported to maintain engagement. If you have musical instruments at home these can be used and the therapists will also provide you with ideas of how to use household items for sound production.

This programme is open to children from Pathway 2 & 3. We accept referrals from those that would like to try out this mode of engagement or continue on from the summer programme.

How does it work?

All you need is a computer (PC or MAC), tablet or Ipad and a reasonably stable internet connection. You will need to install the free Zoom application and we will send you all the info of how to do this. If you need any help, Joanna Dawson from Hounslow Short Breaks or Andreas Rosenboom from Richmond Music Trust are available to help if required.



Direct Contact Music Therapy Sessions on Saturdays at Richmond Music Trust, Twickenham, TW2 6RB

The Trust also offers sessions from their premises in Twickenham, TW2 6RB and therapist Muhamad Badry will be offering sessions on Saturdays between 10 and 4pm. We will adhere to social distancing and have a variety of measures in place to assure Covid Safety.

How do I enrol?

Please contact us if you wish your child to access the music therapy programme, by emailing: musictherapy@richmondmusictrust.org.uk

Please let us know if you wish to access the online or the direct contact option.



Services Throughout The Year

Heathrow Gymnastics Club – Play Gym

This service is only available to children registered with Short Breaks up to the age of 7 and up to 130cm in height on pathways 2 and 3.



You can use this service throughout the year, not just in the holidays!

Please note that on arrival parents are required to fill in a registration sheet which will ask for basic information about their disabled child, including their disability and UIN number. Short Breaks will only pay for the disabled child – any siblings or friends will need to be paid for by the parent/carer.

The play gym sessions are open to children on pathway 2 and 3 up to 7 years old or 130cm (4 feet, 2 inches). Brothers and sisters are welcome to attend but will need to be paid for by the family. Session times below.

There is no need to book the sessions but arrive promptly to make sure you can access the session.

Heathrow Gymnastics Club, Green Lane, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW4 6DH

To find out more information, please ring the Short Breaks team: 020 8583 3636 or email shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk



Monday - Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10am – 11am	9.30am – 10.30am	Closed
11am – 12pm	10.30am – 11.30pm	
12pm – 1pm		
1pm – 2pm		
2pm – 3pm		
3pm – 4pm		

Congratulations...

If you have any good news stories, let Short Breaks know and we will publish it in future newsletters.

Please call us on 020 8583 3636.



Childminding – 24 Hours Free Childminding Service

Childcare and Early Years

Translate page

Prefer to talk to someone about your childcare options? We now offer bookable appointment if you can't find what you are looking for on these pages or just prefer to speak to someone, [you can book one of these sessions below](#).

- Online group session (Microsoft Teams). These take place the first Wednesday of every month from 10 to 11am.
- A face to face appointment at your local Family Hub.
- One to one online session (Microsoft Teams) every Friday between 10am and 1pm.

Search for Ofsted registered childcare

Help and support with your childcare costs

Information and advice on childcare

Childcare for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Find out about the different careers within Early Years (Open in New Window)

The Short Breaks Service will pay for an introductory 24 hours childminding free. This is an opportunity for you and the childminder to start building a long-term supportive relationship for your child.

A registered childminder is a person who looks after children in the childminder's own home.

Registered childminders are found on the Hounslow Family Services Directory at www.hounslow.gov.uk/childcare. Select the search for childminders button and choose your area. You will see a list of childminders and will need to click on each name to see their full profile.

Some childminders may have listed specific experience they have in caring for children with a particular special need/disability. From this information, it's advisable you then contact the childminder to see if they can accommodate your child's individual

needs along with the hours and days you are looking for.

Once you have found someone who meets your needs, call the Short Breaks team who will organise payment of the first 24 hours directly with the childminder. It will then be down to you to continue any ongoing payments with the childminder for further care.

- Your family/child must be registered with Short Breaks to use this service
- Your child must meet level of need pathway 2 or 3
- Once the 24 hours introductory offer is over, it is your responsibility to continue paying for the service.

For more information or to discuss organising your childminding, please call the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636.





**Should you require this Newsletter
in a format other than English please
contact the Short Breaks team on
020 8583 3636 or email:
shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk**

**Children with Disabilities Social
Work Team, Safeguarding and
Specialist Services**

London Borough of Hounslow
Hounslow House, 7 Bath Road,
Hounslow TW3 3EB
Telephone: 020 8583 3636

www.hounslow.gov.uk

January 2025