An early bulletin from SENDIASS for next week with it being half term. We wanted to share the bulletin early so families have the chance to access as much information as possible.

1. Despite lock down there are still plenty of fun activities for our families to take part in and also some lovely snacks and food being distributed. Click on the mobile link below to find out more (printer friendly version is available on request).

[Half Term Mobile Information](https://xd.adobe.com/view/529e636a-449f-4322-6e21-b2c773587037-24af/)

1. SENDIASS & MCT Virtual Zoom Coffee Mornings – Change in Frequency: the weekly virtual Zoom coffee mornings / evenings are planned until the middle of June for Parents / Carers of Young people in County Durham ages 0-25 with a disability or additional need. A member of the SENDIASS Team will be available to answer any questions.

Please follow relevant link below to register.

 Next morning one is Thursday 28th May [11am](calendar:T1:11am)-12.30pm

Then on alternative Thursday’s [11am](calendar:T1:11am)-12.30pm on 11th June, 25th June. Registration link works for every Thursday. Please register for everyone you wish to attend.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUoc-yqrT8jH9Yip0ac2512JahbkTv41pHf>

 Our next evening one Tuesday 2nd June [6pm](calendar:T1:6pm)-7.30pm. Then alternative Tuesday’s including the 16th June.

Registration link works for every Tuesday) . Please register for every one you wish to attend.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYoc-itrz4rH9z2jClhHw5-mjAA1X44Axy0>

 Any questions please email us at [info@mctdurham.co.uk](mailto:info@mctdurham.co.uk) or message us via our Facebook page. You are welcome to join and not use video. Audio only is fine.

1. The New Local Offer is designed to help you find the very best support for your child or young person (from birth to 25 years) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It is here to help you find information, advice and guidance about the types of services and support available to you. can be found at [Local Offer](http://www.durham.gov.uk/localoffer)

1. Durham County Council have also produce [A Parent’s Guide to SEND](http://www.durham.gov.uk/media/31276/Special-Educational-Needs-and-or-Disability-SEND-in-schools-A-guide-for-parents-and-carers/pdf/SENDparentsguide.pdf?m=637074512570530000) also available via the Local Offer

1. The INNERWORLD website HERE have some fantastic resources online to support and understand Emotional Wellbeing including children that have suffered trauma however the website is worth looking at for all children at this uncertain time.

1. Another lovely website supporting anxiety is Coping Skills for Kids found [HERE](https://copingskillsforkids.com/calming-anxiety/)

1. Family Lives is a charity with over three decades of experience helping parents to deal with the changes that are a constant part of family life. We know that many people play active roles in raising children, from dads and mums, grandparents, stepparents and non-resident parents. Our role is to support all of you to achieve the best relationship possible with the children that you care about, as well as supporting parenting professionals. We believe that happy children come from happy families and currently support families to improve the outcomes for over 1 million children each year. The Family Lives website is [HERE](https://www.familylives.org.uk/) or the free confidential help line for support is [0808 800 2222](tel:0808%20800%202222).

1. Changes to Children’s NHS Service During COVID 19: Laura Coulthard (Designated Clinical Officer - Named SEND contact for health) has provided a summary of changes to the children’s NHS services during Covid 19.

1.       Children's Speech and Language Therapy service stood down except for:

·         Urgent communication and voice disordered patients will be offered by telephone.

·         Urgent swallow assessments will be completed via a video or face to face appointment if required.

·         Swallow reviews will be done by telephone if possible or a video / face to face appointment if required.

·         All families will be contacted by the service about the clients ongoing management.

2.       If families highlight any concerns during contact please provide them with the generic Single Point of Access (SPA) phone number [01429 522 471](tel:01429%20522%20471). If you have any queries regarding Health professional involvement in supporting our children and young people with SEND then please contact Laura: E-mail: [laura.coulthard1@nhs.net](mailto:laura.coulthard1@nhs.net)

1. Books of the Week:

·         My brother Sammy; Is a book written from the perspective of the brother of a boy with autism. He talks through the things that Sammy cannot do and what he does instead. He then says he wishes his brother could do the same things as him. He talks about riding the bus, playing with his friends, and digging and building in the sand.

‘It’s a lovely book, it talks about Sammy having to go to a different school. Lovely for siblings figuring things out.’

·         The abilities and me; Set of books by Gemma Keir including: Autism, Congenital Heart Defects, 22q deletions, Type 1 diabetes and to be released this year Hydrocephalus, Tube feeding, Tracheostomy, Speech Delay ,Down Syndrome & ADHD. The link for the books can be [HERE](https://www.theabilitiesinme.com/)

1. The PARENT VOICE: Parent voice questionnaire - As schools, childcare settings and colleges start to prepare to slowly open their doors for more children, Education Durham want to make the return as stress free as possible. Parents and carers can complete a short survey to help them plan and identify how they can best support families. Find the survey [HERE](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BIQER23xIUuKVYrF1-chlkDSNCCe8rhInuYTghamhiJUNU1FMDVIV0JJUDc1OEhZWVVDN0hUM1k0Ty4u)

1. The Council for Disabled Children have produced some updated easy to read advice regarding the new rules on staying alert and safe during the Corona Virus Outbreak. Find the booklet   [HERE](https://www.easy-read-online.co.uk/media/53296/staying-alert-and-safe-easy-read_v1b.pdf)

Have a safe and happy Bank Holiday weekend and half term.