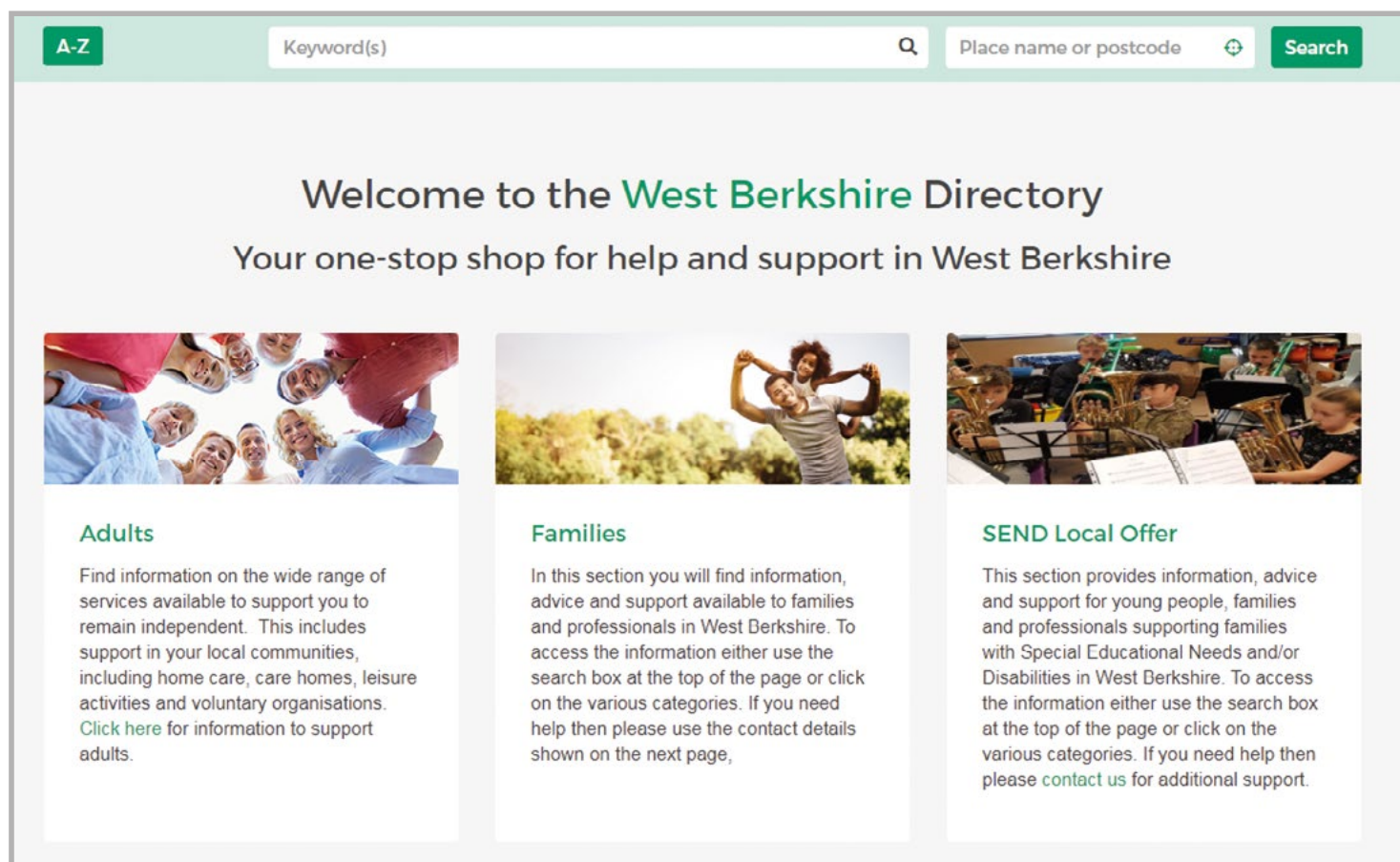


West Berkshire SEND Local Offer Newsletter Autumn 2019



WestBerkshire
C O U N C I L

West Berkshire Directory website



The screenshot shows the homepage of the West Berkshire Directory website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a green 'A-Z' button, a search bar labeled 'Keyword(s)' with a magnifying glass icon, a field for 'Place name or postcode' with a location pin icon, and a green 'Search' button. Below the navigation bar, the main heading reads 'Welcome to the West Berkshire Directory' in a large, bold, green font, followed by the subtitle 'Your one-stop shop for help and support in West Berkshire' in a smaller, bold, black font. The page is divided into three columns, each with a representative image and a text box. The first column, titled 'Adults' in green, features a photo of a group of diverse adults smiling and looking up. The text below explains that it provides information on services to support independence, including home care, care homes, leisure activities, and voluntary organizations, with a green link 'Click here' for support. The second column, titled 'Families' in green, shows a family of four (a man, a woman, and two children) playing outdoors in a park. The text states it offers information, advice, and support for families and professionals in West Berkshire, guiding users to use the search box or contact details on the next page. The third column, titled 'SEND Local Offer' in green, displays a photo of children in a classroom setting. The text provides information, advice, and support for young people, families, and professionals supporting children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, also guiding users to the search box or contact details.

What is the West Berkshire Directory?

The Directory is free, available online, and gives details of the wide range of information, advice and support that's available across West Berkshire for adults, families and children. It includes lists of useful phone numbers, email addresses and websites of local and national organisations.

The Directory is easy to use and gives anyone an important first point of contact for many support networks. There is a huge amount of advice and support out there along with so many organisations and community groups running events and activities in our area, the Directory gives people the first step towards accessing all this knowledge and all these networks.

There are around 2000 records that are continually being updated, which includes news, advice and guidance articles, training events, social activities and much more.

And it is different to the West Berkshire Council website because.....

The Directory provides records, news articles of internal and external organisations and events. GP practices (via Social Prescribers) in the local area are working towards signposting patients towards the Directory and have a dedicated section on their website.

West Berkshire is fortunate to have a diverse range of support services available which are provided by all kinds of organisations, the voluntary sector and individuals.

We are rich in community based resources, the Directory brings together information on activities and opportunities which can enhance all aspects of our lives.

Why do we need one?

The Adults Social Care information Point (SCiP) went live in 2011, initially to meet obligations under the Transformation of the Adult Social Care agenda and latterly complied with the Care Act (2014) requirements. The Family Information Service (FIS) was part of a charity that was taken on by WBC in 2011 and the Local Offer was first established in 2014.

There is also a statutory duty for every authority to provide a Family Information Service & SEND Local Offer information site.

The Social Care information Point sat on a separate platform to the Family information service and SEND Local Offer sites. The 3 sites have now been incorporated into the one West Berkshire Directory.

Who is it aimed at?

Are you a parent worried about your child and needing someone to talk to? Or maybe you're caring for a friend or relative feeling isolated and want to know what sort of support is available in your community. Are you looking for a youth club for your child with autism?

For adults there is information about a range of resources in your community that can help you remain independent or feel less isolated. This includes information about leisure activities and local support groups which run events that could help you get out more and make new friends.

SEND Local Offer supports families with children and young people aged from 0-25, providing information on activities, education, health, travel and money matters. All these areas of the Directory have many records that provide a mine of valuable information.

These sections provide a wealth of information on childcare, Early Years Funding, leisure activities, support services and much more including a telephone line offering free help and advice for parents, parents-to-be, carers and professionals.

You can email directory@westberks.gov.uk or phone **01635 503100** for more help.

Who contributes?

The Local Authority has many entries of its own services in the Directory and many other entries which could be from any type of organisation or individual offering a service.

If you know of a local organisation or community group providing a service or activities for anyone living in West Berkshire, they can submit their entry into the Directory and will be responsible for maintaining its accuracy. The Directory is updated almost daily.

West Berkshire, a great place to live with great amenities, do you know what's on offer for you and your family?

The answers to all these questions, and more, are now available at the touch of a button in the West Berkshire Directory, which brings together a wealth of information in the Adults, Family Information Service and SEND Local Offer sections.

We are keen to raise the profile of the West Berkshire Directory with users and contributors.

You can find the Directory at

<https://directory.westberks.gov.uk>

The Disabled Children's Register

West Berkshire's Disabled Children Register (DCR) is a secure database which aims to capture information about all children and young people aged 0-25 years with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in West Berkshire. The information that you give us will be used anonymously to show the use of and demand for services in West Berkshire. We will use this information to help us to plan, monitor and develop appropriate facilities and services for disabled children and their families.

The DCR is managed by the West Berkshire Directory. Registering is voluntary but we would like to encourage as many of you as possible to register so that we can get as clear a picture as possible of the needs for services in West Berkshire.

To register you must complete a simple online form which will allow you to provide us with details of your child. We will be able to use your contact details to keep you up-to-date with developments in services and other relevant information for disabled children and young people.

Registering for the Disabled Children's Register

<https://directory.westberks.gov.uk/kb5/westberkshire/directory/dcr.page>



WOW+ Supported Internship Programme



Supported internships are work-based learning placements within employment settings. The skills gained will give you a greater chance of securing paid employment or an apprenticeship after you complete the programme.

Entry Requirements Summary

This programme is designed for young people with moderate learning difficulties or disabilities. You must be aged 18 - 24 with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and be eligible to work in the UK. Enthusiasm for the world of work, with employment being the main focus, is a must. Prior work experience is critical. Specific entry requirements are available with the application pack.



What are supported internships?

Our one year full time supported internship programme helps young people with additional support needs to move into employment; learning new skills in a supportive atmosphere. Throughout the programme students benefit from the support of an experienced Job Coach, specialising in helping those with additional support needs to undertake work placements with an employer. We will

identify the best employer to support your career ambitions as a part of vocational profiling. Most students continue working towards Maths and English qualifications and everyone will get the chance to do training courses that matters in the workplace and are valued by employers like First Aid and Health and Safety.



John's Journey

John is 19 and has been taking part in World of Work activities- he is currently on the WOW+ Supported Internship. John has completed extended work placements at Sainsburys, Tesco and is now placed at Donnington Valley. John works independently at Donnington Valley with support from his Job Coach when he needs it and help from his colleagues. John has developed the skills he needs to work in the restaurant at Donnington Valley from serving customers, preparing hot and cold drinks and clearing tables. John's Manager says 'Having John here has been brilliant, he is a hard worker and a valued member of our team'. John is hoping to get paid employment at Donnington Valley when he finishes WOW+.

If you have any questions prior to this evening please contact James Whybra on 01635 42976

Watermill Theatre

Over the summer holiday, in addition to our holiday courses that are inclusive and can be adapted for access needs, The Watermill Theatre ran specifically designed holiday courses for young people with additional needs. Our course, Story Adventures, welcomed young people of primary school age to explore an imaginary circus of their own creation. More Story Adventures are planned for the school holidays next year so keep your eyes peeled for those events! Young people of secondary school age attended Discover Kiss Me, Kate, learning about our summer musical and the Shakespeare play it features, before watching the show together. Here they are together with the Watermill cast at the end of the show!

Throughout the year The Watermill Theatre runs weekly groups and special events for young people and adults of all ages and abilities. Have a look at our Take Part pages on www.watermill.org.uk/take-part for information

about all our opportunities. Perhaps you or someone you know has a connection to autism? Maybe Ad Lib would be right for you! Or Duologue is our weekly group bringing together D/deaf and hearing people to create theatre.

If you or someone in your family has a sensory sensitivity, autism, dementia, or finds it challenging to be in a conventional theatre environment, our Relaxed Performances are there to support you. For people with a visual impairment The Watermill also offers Audio Described performances with a free pre-show Touch Tour, and we have BSL sign integrated performances for Deaf audiences.

For more information about these or anything happening at The Watermill contact Lixi Chivas, Community Associate, on **01635 570918** or lixix@watermill.org.uk





Ad Lib

Weekly drama group for
young people with autism
spectrum conditions

What is Ad Lib?

All of our youth theatre activities at The Watermill are autism-friendly. Ad Lib is especially for young people **aged 9 to 16** who have autism spectrum conditions, their siblings, their friends and their friends-to-be.

Who is it for?

Whether you have a diagnosis of autism, are waiting for one, or are keen to play alongside someone who sees the world differently, you are welcome.

How will it work?

Using drama and theatre games, you'll build your communication and social skills, make new friends, and have plenty of fun.

Where and when will it happen?

Sessions are at Swings & Smiles in Thatcham on **Thursdays, 7pm until 8.30pm.**

What next?

For more information, including a Visual Story about Ad Lib, and to book your place, call Lixi on 01635 570918 or visit www.watermill.org.uk/ad_lib

The Watermill Theatre is generously supported by Arts Council England, and other committed sponsors

Duologue

A drama group for Deaf and hearing young people and adults



Duologue is a drama group with a difference, welcoming hearing and Deaf people...

You don't need to have any experience of hearing impairment, or any experience of performing, just an enthusiasm to create theatre with new people.

'Duologue': a conversation on stage between two

When and where?

All rehearsals will be Tuesdays, 7pm to 8.30pm at **Arlington Arts Centre**, Mary Hare, Newbury RG14 3BQ, during term time.

If you would struggle to get to Arlington Arts, contact Lixi to find out how we can help.

What next?

For lots more information and to book your place visit our webpage: www.watermill.org.uk/duologue

If you have any questions contact Lixi on 01635 570918 (voice), 07470 114826 (voice/text) or email lixi@watermill.org.uk

The Watermill Theatre is supported by Arts Council England and other committed sponsors.

Activity Leader

Part time approx. 10/12hrs a month. @ £10ph

We are a local Autism Support Charity looking for new staff to join our successful, friendly and welcoming team.

We run a variety of after school activities (Term Time Only) for autistic children/adults and their families during the week and are increasing our team to meet the needs of our members.

We are looking for someone who can:

- Support autistic children/young adults and their families
- Positively help our members to develop social skills and confidence
- Be a confident role model and participate in activities
- Be organised, punctual and have an empathetic understanding of people with autism.

The role will include:

- Helping at activities, ensuring members get the most out of the group
- Provide support to our activity leader, other staff and volunteers
- A strong awareness of safeguarding and health & safety during sessions
- Working within the Thatcham/Newbury area

Hours available are usually every Tuesday (3.30pm-5.30pm), one Wednesday a month (5.30pm-7.30pm) and possibly one Thursday/Friday (4.30pm-6.30pm) a month and occasional day's out*.

Ideally this would suit someone looking for a second income or sixth former.

*If you can only commit to some of these sessions then we would be happy to work out a rota to suit you and us.

For more information email: jayne@asdfamilyhelp.org or call 07733 601755.



Sunshine and Showers Group



Being the parent of a child with additional needs can be both rewarding and very hard work. Some days are full of sunshine, others you wait for the showers to pass.

Come on into the **CENTRAL FAMILY HUB THATCHAM** and talk with other parents about their own experiences and get information and support.



The next group meetings are on

Thursday Mornings

**21st Nov 19, 23rd Jan 20,
5th March 20, 7th May 20, 2nd July 20**

9.15-11.15am

Melissa Hutchings the Autism Advisor for Families, West Berkshire,

Please come along if you have any questions for Melissa around autism / pre assessment concerns and stay for a coffee and chat

For further information contact:

Melissa.hutchings@westberks.gov.uk

or Tel: 01635 503646

All parents who have children with additional needs are welcome, little ones are also welcome however please bring toys with you to keep them entertained as the centre no longer has toys available.

Professionals and other Services / Organisations are also welcome to join us

Venue: Central Family Hub, Park Lane Building Thatcham RG18 3PG

Tel: 01635 865318



Sunshine and Showers Group



Being the parent of a child with additional needs can be both rewarding and very hard work. Some days are full of sunshine, others you wait for the showers to pass.

Come on into the **Downsway Primary Hub (Tilehurst)** and talk with other parents about their own experiences and get information and support.



The next group meetings are on

Thursday Mornings

16th Jan 20, 2nd April 20, 18th June 20

9.15-11.15am

Melissa Hutchings the Autism Advisor for Families, West Berkshire,

Please come along if you have any questions for Melissa around autism / pre assessment concerns and stay for a coffee and chat

For further information contact:

Melissa.hutchings@westberks.gov.uk

or **Melissa Hutchings** Tel: 01635 503646

All parents who have children with additional needs are welcome, little ones are also welcome however please bring toys with you to keep them entertained as the centre no longer has toys available.

Professionals and other Services / Organisations are also welcome to join us

Venue: Downsway Primary School Hub, Warbreck Drive, Tilehurst, Berks RG31 6FE



Parent Workshops for SEND Families and those waiting for an ASD assessment.

Being run in partnership with

17th October 2019 - Understanding and supporting your young person with Anxiety



6th Feb 20 – Understanding and Supporting Self–Regulation Skills in Young People

30th April 20 – Understanding Behaviour and how best to support our young people with a Therapeutic approach.

11th June 20 – Sensory Processing Difficulties – What does it mean and how can we help.

Time: 9.45am to 12noon **Venue:** Mencap Centre, Enbourne Rd, Newbury

All workshops are run by Melissa Hutchings – Autism Advisor for Families

Please contact Admin to book a place on: 01635 503646

Or email Learning Support Team

LearningSupportTeam@westberks.gov.uk



Autism Workshop: Supporting Communication and using Visual Aids

Date: 21st January 2020



Venue: Thatcham Baptist Church

9.45am -2.15 pm

Please bring your lunch

This workshop focuses on having an awareness of the different learning and communication styles within our young people and why visual tools are used & made to meet the individual needs of our young person, no matter what their age. We hope to give you more ideas around improving communication in home, school and out and about in the community to support independence.

Presenter:

Melissa Hutchings

Lesley Botchway

**Please contact Admin to book a place on: 01635 503646 or
Email LearningSupportTeam@westberks.gov.uk**



Autism: Sensory Processing Difficulties

Date: 11th March 2020



Venue: Thatcham Baptist Church



9.45am – 2.15pm

Please bring your lunch



This workshop focuses on understanding Sensory Processing and how it can affect our children with Autism. Giving parents ideas and strategies which will hopefully support children access the stressful environments they face.

**Presenters:
Melissa Hutchings
Lesley Botchway**

**Please contact Admin to book a place on: 01635 503646 or
Email LearningSupportTeam@westberks.gov.uk**



Mindfulness Workshop

Date: 8th July 2020

Venue: Shaw House

9.45am – 2.15pm

Please bring your lunch



Would you like to find a way to reduce stress for yourself and your child on the spectrum? Would you like to find a new way of doing something together calmly?

This workshop will explain what mindfulness is and give a brief background, as well as some practical input. It will offer resources and an opportunity to try out some mindful activities.

Presenters:
Lesley Botchway
Melissa Hutchings

**Please contact Admin to book a place on: 01635 503646 or
Email LearningSupportTeam@westberks.gov.uk**



AUTISM BERKSHIRE WEST BERKS

Autism Berkshire provides:

- Home visit service for families whose children are diagnosed with autism or on the waiting list to be assessed
- Helpline Mon to Fri mornings 10-1pm
- Drop in advice every Tuesday/support group every 2nd Tuesday in our Reading office (term time)
- Monthly Drop in at Swings & Smiles Thatcham, 1st Friday of the month 9.30-11am
- NAS Seminars for parents & carers
- Benefits service to help claim DLA, Carer's Allowance, PIP and Universal Credit
- Lego Club in Woolhampton
- Up to date website, Facebook and Twitter



Talking sense about autism.

**Drop in
Tuesdays
10.30 to
12.30 term
time**

**Benefits
service,
including
help with
DLA & PIP**

**40
Caversham
Road
RG1 7EB**

**Helpline
01189
594 594
10am to
1pm**

AUTISM WORKSHOPS



Talking sense about autism.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE

Meeting Sensory Needs
October 23

Managing Anger
November 13

Emotional Self-Regulation
December 4

WHEN

All workshops are on
Wednesdays from
10am to 2.30pm

Places are FREE of charge

PRACTICAL ADVICE
ABOUT AUTISM FOR
PARENTS & CARERS
LIVING IN WEST
BERKSHIRE

LOCATION

Thatcham Baptist Church
1 Wheelers Green Way
(off Station Road)
RG19 4YF

FULL DETAILS AND BOOKINGS

[autismberkshire.org.uk/
workshops-parents-carers](http://autismberkshire.org.uk/workshops-parents-carers)

ENQUIRIES

Phone: 01189 594 594
Email: admin@autismberkshire.org.uk

VENUE INFO

thatchambaptist.org.uk
Phone: 01635 867054

Supported by the Berkshire West
NHS Clinical Commissioning Group



Berkshire West
Clinical Commissioning Group

November at Swings & Smiles

All sessions must be booked in advance by calling **01635 285170** or emailing **office@swingsandsmiles.co.uk**.

If it's your first time visiting or if you're unsure about which sessions are right for you, get in touch and we'll be happy to discuss this with you.

November				Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	1st November Trip to Earth Trust Centre 12-3pm - £3 per child, email becky@swingsandsmiles.co.uk for more info	2nd November Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family Crafternoon 1-3pm - Over 10s, £5 per family	3rd November Relaxed Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family
4th November Musical Club 3.30-5.30pm - Over 8s, £50 per term	5th November Family Play 3.30-5.30pm-£5 per family	6th November Community Session 9.30-11am - £2.50 per family Reading Minis 11am-12pm - email kelliie@swingsandsmiles.co.uk for more info LEGO Club 3.30-5.30pm - £5 per family	7th November Cooking Club 3.30-5.30pm - £50 per term Oasis and Spectrum - Email sara@swingsandsmiles.co.uk for more info	8th November Coffee Morning 9.30-11am - Free Interactive Family Play 3-6pm - £5 per family SIBSupport 6.30-8.30pm - Year 6 and over, Free	9th November Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family	10th November Relaxed Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family
11th November Musical Club 3.30-5.30pm - Over 8s, £50 per term	12th November Mini Morning 10-11.30am - Under 5s, Free Family Play 3.30-5.30pm-£5 per family	13th November Community Session 9.30-11am - £2.50 per family Reading Minis 11am-12pm	14th November Cooking Club 3.30-5.30pm - £50 per term Oasis and Spectrum - Email sara@swingsandsmiles.co.uk for more info	15th November Interactive Family Play 3-6pm - £5 per family	16th November SIBSupport 9.30-11am and 11-12.30pm - Over 5s, Free	17th November Relaxed Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family
18th November Musical Club 3.30-5.30pm - Over 8s, £50 per term	19th November Family Play 3.30-5.30pm-£5 per family Health and Wellbeing Group 7-9.30pm	20th November Community Session 9.30-11am - £2.50 per family Reading Minis 11am-12pm LEGO Club 3.30-5.30pm - £5 per family	21st November Cooking Club 3.30-5.30pm - £50 per term Oasis and Spectrum - Email sara@swingsandsmiles.co.uk for more info	22nd November Interactive Family Play 3-6pm - £5 per family	23rd November Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family Let's Bake 1-3pm - £5 per family	24th November Relaxed Family Play with Hartbeeps 10am-12pm - £5 per family
25th November Musical Club 3.30-5.30pm - Over 8s, £50 per term	26th November Mini Morning 10-11.30am - Under 5s, Free Family Play 3.30-5.30pm-£5 per family	27th November Community Session 9.30-11am - £2.50 per family Reading Minis 11am-12pm	28th November Cooking Club 3.30-5.30pm - £50 per term Oasis and Spectrum - Email sara@swingsandsmiles.co.uk for more info	29th November Relaxed Family Play 10am-12pm-£5 per family Interactive Family Play 3-6pm - £5 per family	30th November Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family Relaxed Family Play with Music 12.30-3.30pm - £5 per family	



swingsandsmiles.co.uk



December at Swings & Smiles

All sessions must be booked in advance by calling **01635 285170** or emailing **office@swingsandsmiles.co.uk**.

If it's your first time visiting or if you're unsure about which sessions are right for you, get in touch and we'll be happy to discuss this with you.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2nd December MUSIC CLUB 3.30-5.30pm - Over 8s, £50 per term	3rd December Family Play 3.30-5.30pm - £5 per family	4th December Community Session 9.30-11am - £2.50 per family Reading Minis 11am-12pm - email kellie@swingsandsmiles.co.uk for more info LEGO Club 3.30-5.30pm - £5 per family	5th December Cooking Club 3.30-5.30pm - £50 per term Oasis and Spectrum - Email sara@swingsandsmiles.co.uk for more info	6th December Christmas Coffee Morning 9.30-11am Please note there is no after school play session this week as we'll be at the Thatcham Xmas Lights Switch On	7th December Let's Bake Christmas 10am-12pm - £5 per family Christmas Crafternoon 1-3pm - £5 per family	1st December Relaxed Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family
9th December MUSIC CLUB 3.30-5.30pm - Over 8s, £50 per term	10th December Mini Morning 10-11.30am - Under 5s, Free Family Play 3.30-5.30pm - £5 per family	11th December Community Session 9.30-11am - £2.50 per family Reading Minis 11am-12pm	12th December Cooking Club 3.30-5.30pm - £50 per term Oasis and Spectrum - Email sara@swingsandsmiles.co.uk for more info	13th December Interactive Family Play 3-6pm - £5 per family	14th December SIBSupport Christmas Jumper Party 10am-12pm - Over 5s, Free Relaxed Family Play with Music 12.30-3.30pm - £5 per family	15th December Interactive Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family
16th December MUSIC CLUB 3.30-5.30pm - Over 8s, £50 per term	17th December Family Play 3.30-5.30pm - £5 per family Health and Wellbeing Group 7-9.30pm	18th December Community Session 9.30-11am - £2.50 per family Reading Minis 11am-12pm LEGO Club 3.30-5.30pm - £5 per family	19th December Cooking Club 3.30-5.30pm - £50 per term Oasis and Spectrum - Email sara@swingsandsmiles.co.uk for more info	20th December Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family	21st December Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family	22nd December Interactive Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family
23rd December Relaxed Family Play 11am-2pm - £5 per family	24th December Centre Closed	25th December Centre Closed	26th December Centre Closed	27th December Centre Closed	28th December Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family	29th December Relaxed Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family
30th December Interactive Family Play 11am-2pm - £5 per family	31st December Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family	1st January Centre Closed	2nd January Centre Closed	3rd January Interactive Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family	4th January Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family	5th January Relaxed Family Play 10am-12pm - £5 per family

Registered Charity Number 1120598



swingsandsmiles.co.uk

