



WEEK BEGINNING 2ND DECEMBER

Events this week:

Thursday 5 th December	Panathlo
	Y6 Mini mock in hall
	Choir singing at Bracknell Care Home
Friday 6 th December	9.00am Post residential assembly Y6 parents invited (please do not park in Church car park for this event)
	Christmas market

Looking forwards: (dates/times may be subject to change)

Monday 9 th December	SEND Coffee Afternoon for parents 2-3pm
Tuesday 10 th December	Panto at SHP Yrs 1, 2 & 3
Wednesday 11 th December	Panto at SHP Yrs 4, 5 & 6
Thursday 12 th December	EYFS Nativity (9.15am)
	Rocksteady Concert
Tuesday 17 th December	KS1 Nativity (9.15am) *
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas lunch
	KS1 Nativity (5.30pm) *
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas service in Church
Friday 20 th December	END OF TERM (1.30pm finish time)

- These events will have a limited capacity. A booking form will be sent shortly.

Don't forget you can see key events on the school website Calendar page

<https://www.stmichaelsesthampstead.com/diary/grid/2024/10/>

Message from Mrs Johnson:

Dear families of St Michael's,

Another jam-packed week of learning and laughing in our little purple school.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit of the reindeer on Tuesday and it feels as though Christmas is truly beginning, THANK YOU to the PTA for arranging this visit and to Mrs Vicary for sorting out the admin in school.

Year 5 enjoyed a busy trip to the British Museum on Wednesday and the children were buzzing with what they had found out – apparently the ancient Greeks had “a whole load of gods and goddesses”! Thank you to the parents who accompanied the class on the trip, your support is much appreciated.

In today's celebration assembly it was lovely to recognise those children in our school who have been going above and beyond in their learning. The common theme seemed to be about the effort the children are showing to improve their independence and get to grips with some tricky learning. Great resilience!

I look forward to seeing you at some of our upcoming Christmas events.

Best wishes
Caroline Johnson

Snacks

As the weather has turned colder, children with packed lunches are being required to eat these in the hall alongside their classmates having a cooked school dinner. As a result, some children in KS2 are having to wait longer to eat at lunchtime (only about 15 mins) and are telling us they feel really hungry. Please can you ensure that your child has a filling, nutritious snack at breaktime, enough to see them through between 10:30am and 1:00pm.

And just a reminder that we ask you to provide a healthy snack and lunch, crisps and chocolate do not keep them full for long. If you would like any help or suggestions for healthy snacks please see the links below:

[Lunch and snack ideas for back to school - BBC Food](#)
[Healthier snacks - Food facts - Healthier Families - NHS](#)

Vision Forum

I would like to thank the **2 parents** who attended the school vision forum on Thursday evening. Having had over 10-15 people register it was disappointing that so few of these were able to support on the day. My entire SLT were present as was a representative from the Diocese and governors, so the low turnout was a shame especially as a reminder email was sent a couple of days before. However, the group completed the exercise of looking at the needs and characteristics of our school and this will be fed into the school vision.



Head Teacher Award Winners

- Acorns - Jaxon, for working hard in his learning
- Year 1 - Ruva, for always following school expectations
- Year 2 - Xavier, for concentrating on producing great work
- Year 3 - Harrison, for aiming high in all of his learning this week
- Year 4 - Louis, for aiming high, pushing himself by working independently all week
- Year 5 - Gabriel, for showing fantastic interest and being fully engaged during the reindeer visit and our trip to The British Museum
- Year 6 - Josh, for his focus and absorption of new concepts



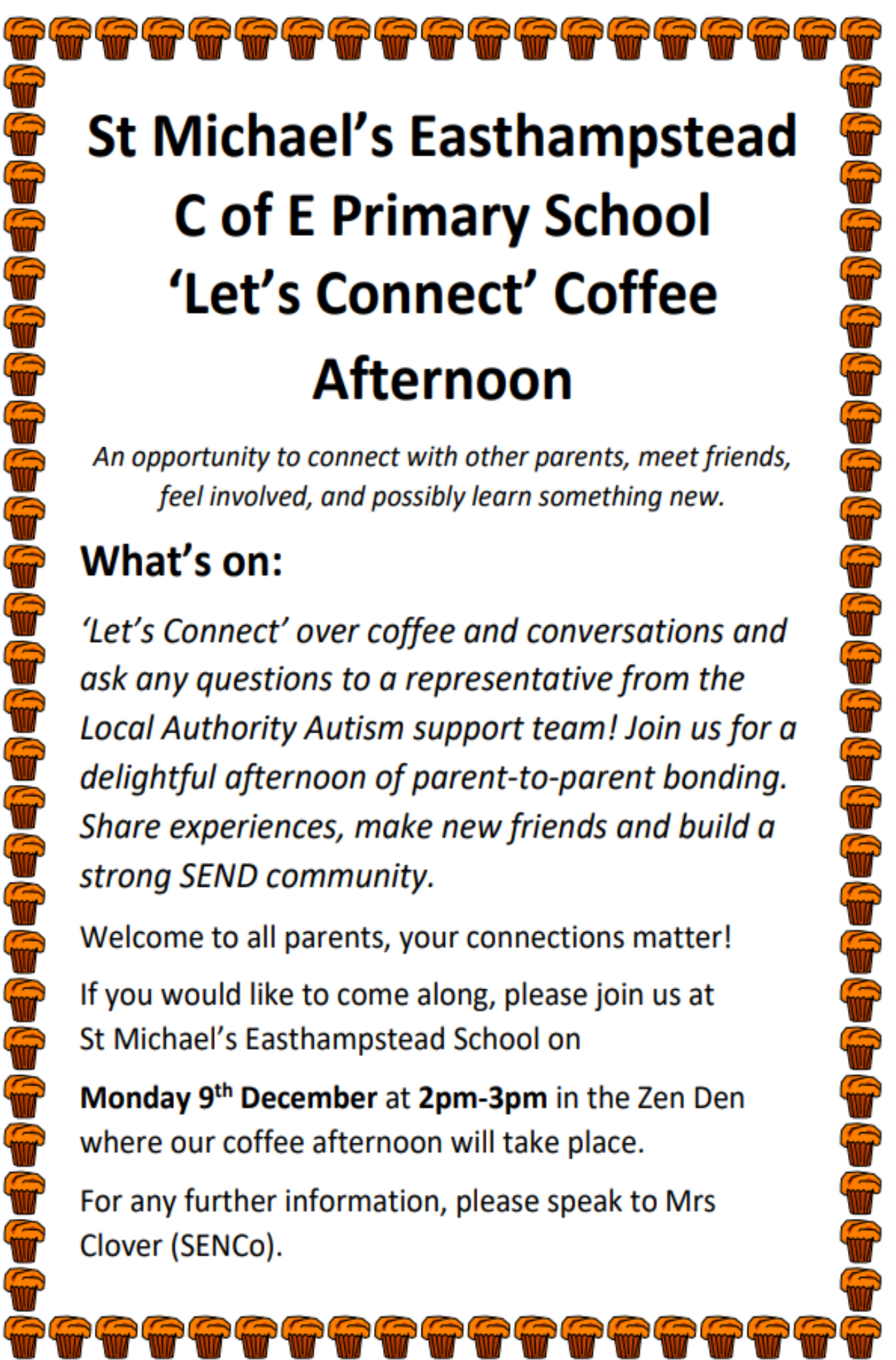
ADVENT

As a school, this Advent we will be using the Church of England resource "Follow the Star: Calm and Bright" for our worship each week.

Below is a link to a beautiful Advent Calendar which can be used at home along the same theme. Each day, open a window to reveal a family activity for you to try.

[Advent Calendar | The Church of England](#) Daily advent calendar

Don't forget our Christmas Posada. If you wish to host Mary & Joseph, please drop us a message on secretary@stmicheast.co.uk



St Michael's Easthampstead C of E Primary School 'Let's Connect' Coffee Afternoon

*An opportunity to connect with other parents, meet friends,
feel involved, and possibly learn something new.*

What's on:

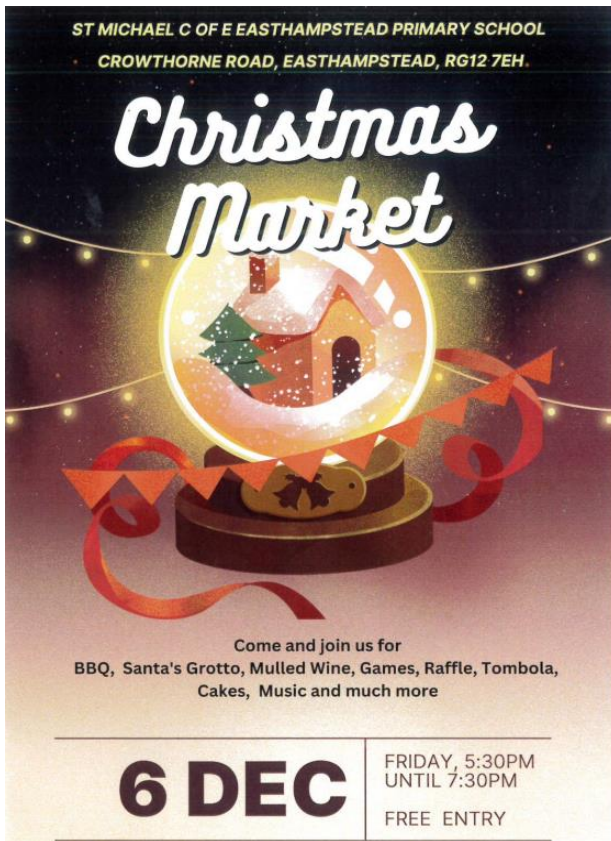
*'Let's Connect' over coffee and conversations and
ask any questions to a representative from the
Local Authority Autism support team! Join us for a
delightful afternoon of parent-to-parent bonding.
Share experiences, make new friends and build a
strong SEND community.*

Welcome to all parents, your connections matter!

If you would like to come along, please join us at
St Michael's Easthampstead School on

Monday 9th December at 2pm-3pm in the Zen Den
where our coffee afternoon will take place.

For any further information, please speak to Mrs
Clover (SENCo).



Thank you for all the contributions we have received for the Christmas market so far!

Thursday 5th December we are collecting cakes and on Friday 6th December, bottles for the adult tombola. Please do not let the children carry these.

Friday is a Non Uniform day.





What is Thrive@StMichaels?

Every Wednesday 3-3:45pm in St Michael's Parish Centre (during the school term) we welcome any member of the Easthampstead community to donate, collect, share and reuse items so that all may thrive. **Come and have a browse and refreshments.**

We will have tables for children's coats & shoes, St Michael's uniforms, toys, books and long-life food items. Please make sure all donations are in good condition and clean.

Thank you to those who have already donated.

Want to find out more? Think you can help? Speak to Helen, Sally or Revd Gareth.



Special events taking place in December.

December 11th - Thrive will be open from 2.30pm for parents to come and have a look for Christmas Presents without their children. Normal opening after school for the kids to have a rummage and a biscuit (or two).

December 18th - Our final Thrive of 2024 will include LIVE MUSIC, MINCE PIES AND CHOCOLATE CAKES. There may even be some sweets! **We welcome the whole community to join us.**

20/11/24

Dear Parent / Carer,

We have received an update from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that the investigation into the contamination of mustard products with peanuts has now closed.

The FSA statement can be found [here](#).

As a precaution during the investigation, Dolce applied the mustard allergen to all pupils with a peanut allergy ticked on SchoolGrid, on 30th September. Although the investigation is now closed, we will not be removing the mustard allergen from your child's account. This action can only be taken by the parent if they feel confident in doing so.

We want to reassure you that none of Dolce's products were affected.

The FSA still continues to advise anyone with a peanut allergy to avoid products listed in the [allergy alerts](#). For further details, please visit the FSA's website.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Customer Care.

Yours Faithfully,
Dolce Customer Care



Online Safety Newsletter

Dec 2024

Talkie AI App

This app is rated as 17+ by the App store and 12+ by Google Play.

Talkie is an AI chatbot app. Users can use the app to create and interact with AI characters.

You should also be aware that this app includes in app purchases ranging from £4.99 - £49.99.

Talkie does offer a Teenager Mode; however, the content still may not be appropriate for your child. Bark reviews this app here, and recommend that your child should not be using this app:

<https://www.bark.us/app-reviews/apps/talkie-app-review>

Tips to help you talk about cyberbullying

Internet Matters have collated their tips to help you talk about cyberbullying with your child based on different age categories. The information is divided into four sections:

1. Before you start the conversation
2. Things to talk to them about such as how to deal with cyberbullying
3. What to do next
4. Where to get further help

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/cyberbullying/cyberbullying-conversation-starter-guide>

New Technology

With Christmas nearly here and with some children receiving new technology or related games, here is a quick reminder of the importance of setting up appropriate parental controls.

Games/Consoles

- Check age ratings: look at the PEGI rating of any new games.
- Remember, PEGI rates the gameplay so whilst it is important to review age ratings, you must also check to see if it has any communication elements.
- If a game does allow your child to communicate with others, then adjust or disable the settings as appropriate to your child.
- On the device itself, set up applicable controls such as restricting spending limits and managing who they can communicate with. Follow the links below to find out how to set up Parental Controls for some devices here:

Xbox: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>

PSS: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>

Nintendo Switch: <https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html>

Tablets/Smart phones

Set up parental controls on the device to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Furthermore, remember to check any apps your child requests to check that they are suitable for their age. Follow the links below to find out more:

iPhones/iPad: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>

Android Device: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>

Why is it important?

Parental controls are important to help provide a safer experience for your child by reducing/preventing access to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, communication with strangers and restricting purchases.

Further information

You can find out more about parental controls here:

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/parental-controls/>



Roblox

You may have seen the recent investigation about Roblox by Hindenburg, which highlights very worrying concerns about the content that can be seen on Roblox, even when users have listed their age as under 13. You can read the full report here: <https://hindenburgresearch.com/roblox/>

What is Roblox?

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players can either create games or play games that other users have created. It is free to download (however subscription options and in game/app purchases are available) and can be played across numerous devices. **A lot of the content is user generated, which may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play.** If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing and set up appropriate parental controls.

PEGI rate Roblox with a Parental Guidance label, this is because it is difficult to rate due to the huge level of user generated content.

What should I be aware of?

Game content – as mentioned, users create games so the content/themes may not be appropriate for your child.

Chat Facility - Players can chat to each other. You can turn communication off completely or add restrictions, such as only communicate with friends.

Virtual Currency - Players can buy Robux (their virtual currency) to buy in-game upgrades or accessories.

Age Categories

This article discusses the difference in accounts based on age (under age 13 and aged 13 – 17):

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428367965460-What-happens-as-I-get-older-on-Roblox>

Roblox accounts with Parental privileges - NEW

Roblox have just launched a new system to manage your child's experience on Roblox through 'Roblox accounts with parent privileges.' The new format allows you to view and update parental controls from your own device. Controls include setting content restrictions, managing screen time and setting a spending limit. You can find out more here:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428248050068-Parental-Controls-FAQ>

Content Labels - NEW

Roblox have begun labeling experiences based on the type of content rather than by age. You can set limits on which content labels are accessible in parental controls. The labels are Minimal, Mild, Moderate and Restricted. You can find descriptions of each here:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview>

How do I report abuse and block users?

This article outlines the different reporting facilities:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203312410-How-to-Report-Rule-Violations>

What else can I do?

Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and as always, remind your child that if anything is worrying them then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

Positively online

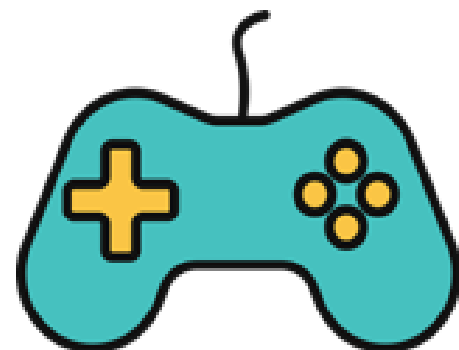
The NSPCC have published six tips to help you improve your family's online wellbeing. They also provide you with a guide on how to talk to your child about what they are doing online as well as a quiz that you can play together. You can find out more here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-wellbeing/positively-online/>

The 'Add Everyone' Explicit WhatsApp Group

The INEQE Safeguarding group have issued an alert regarding a WhatsApp group known as 'Add Everyone.' Find out more here:

<https://ineqe.com/2024/10/31/safeguarding-alert-add-everyone-whatsapp-group/>



Supporting Your Children Workshops

To book a space please email your full name to Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

These sessions are universal (not specific for SEND) and for adults supporting **not** the children themselves so **please arrange childcare if needed**

Each course is a **standalone 2-hour session** - please be aware that spaces are offered on a **first come first served basis** and parents should not just turn up.

Once you have completed an enrolment form your space will be confirmed

Please only book onto the sessions if you are going to be able to attend to avoid other parents missing out on the opportunity to have a place or let me know if you can no longer attend.

Helping children to overcome anxious thoughts and worries.

A 2-hour session looking at:

- What happens when children become anxious?
- Impact current events have had on children's mental health.
- Techniques for helping children deal with their fears / worries.



Tuesday 14th January 2025 (15 spaces)

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Monday 27th January 2025 (16 spaces)

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Managing Behaviour in a Positive Way

A 2-hour session looking at:

- Gain insight into your parenting style / relationship with your child.
- Learn or revisit positive ways of managing behaviour!
- Strategies to deal with unacceptable behaviours.



Thursday 5th December 2024 (9 spaces)

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Thursday 23rd January 2025 (14 spaces)

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Monday 10th February 2025 (16 spaces)

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Supporting Children to get a Healthy Night's Sleep

A 2-hour session looking at:

- The different sleep issues facing our families.
- Tips on how to get a good night's sleep.
- Help children develop good sleeping habits.



Thursday 13th February 2025 (16 spaces)

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Parenting pre / early-teens in a Positive Way (aged 10 – 13)

A 2-hour session looking at:

- Gain insight into the impact of your parenting style!
- Positive techniques for managing older children's behaviour.
- Boosting your relationship and communication with your child.



Tuesday 28th January 2025 (16 spaces)

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

9.30 – 11.30 am

Encouraging Resilience – Keep Calm and Bounce Back

A 2-hour session looking at:

- How to build your child's natural resilience.
- Encouraging your child's positive social skills.
- Encouraging children out of their comfort zone and not to give up.



Tuesday 21st January 2025 (16 spaces)

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Wednesday 2nd February 2025 (16 spaces)

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Supporting a smooth transition from Year R to Year 1 and beyond (not school specific)



A 2-hour session looking at:

- What's involved in transition from reception to year 1.
- The best ways to support the transition.
- Boosting your child's resilience to cope with the change

Tuesday 11th February 2025 (15 spaces)

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

Thursday 27th February 2025 (16 spaces)

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

6.30 – 8.30 pm

Reducing Sibling Rivalry

A 2-hour session looking at:

- Encouraging a more harmonious sibling relationship
- Learn / revisit techniques for children to cope with being a sibling.
- Boosting children's emotional literacy



Monday 3rd March 2025 (16 spaces)

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

6.30 – 8.30 pm

Single Parent, Separated and Blended families – supporting children to cope with different family dynamics.

A 2-hour session looking at:

- Different family dynamics and how they can work.
- Parental conflict resolutions
- Being the best parent that you can be for your child



Wednesday 12th February 2025 (16 spaces)

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

6.30 – 8.30 pm

Supporting a smooth secondary school Transition (Yr 5/6 parents)

A 2-hour session looking at:

- What the transition involves
- The positives and concerns of transitioning to a new setting
- Boosting your child's ability to have a smooth transition



Monday 10th March 2025 (16 spaces)

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

6.30 – 8.30 pm

If there are no suitable dates, please let me know so that I can add you to the waiting list for future sessions

Time Out for Parents - Handling Anger in the Family



If you have children aged 5 to 16, then Time Out for Parents - Handling Anger in the Family is for you.

Over 4 sessions, you'll increase your skills and confidence as a parent and discover practical tools to help you and your children deal with the ordinary, everyday anger that all families experience.

The Sessions	
Session 1	Managing our Anger - Part 1
Session 2	Managing our Anger - Part 2
Session 3	Helping Children Manage Anger - Part 1
Session 4	Helping Children Manage Anger - Part 2



Please scan the QR code to request a place on this course.



BEGINS THIS FRIDAY!

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07.12.24 18:30

TO CLAIM, SIMPLY EMAIL [TICKETS@BEESICEHOCKEY.COM](mailto:tickets@beesicehockey.com) WITH THE SUBJECT 'TICKETS FOR SCHOOLS'. YOUR EMAIL MUST INCLUDE THE NUMBER OF TICKETS YOU WOULD LIKE TO CLAIM (MAXIMUM OF 4 TICKETS). YOUR REQUEST MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CLUB BY 23:59 ON TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2024. PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT CLAIMED FREE TICKETS THROUGH THIS INITIATIVE PREVIOUSLY. SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE A RESERVATION FOR THEIR FREE TICKETS VIA EMAIL BY 23:59 ON THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2024. RESERVATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE GAME OR THE SEATS WILL BE RELEASED FOR GENERAL SALE. A RESERVATION MUST BE COMPLETED TO RECEIVE YOUR E-TICKETS FOR THE GAME!



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