



LLS News

17/10/2025



Dear families

On Thursday 23rd October we will be supporting The Guide Dogs Puppy Appeal by wearing something bright, just like the hi-vis flash on a guide dog's harness, If you would like to make a donation please go to

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/linden-lodge-school-5>

Friday 24th October is an INSET Day. School will finish at 3.45pm on Thursday. The school will reopen at 9.50am on Monday 3rd November.

Have a lovely weekend.

Events and dates to remember

Autumn Term

Dates



**Thursday 23rd
October 2025**

Wear something bright, just like the hi-vis flash on a guide dog's harness, for The Guide Dog Puppy Appeal.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/linden-lodge-school-5>

**Friday 24th October
2025**

Inset day 3 (no pupils)

Monday 27th October

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**Friday 31st October
2025**

Half-Term Holiday

**Thursday 18th
December 2025**

Last day for pupils

Friday 19th December
Planning & Preparation
Day
(no pupils)

Star of the Week

Naseebah for teaching us about Uganda in our English lesson.

Halima for following instructions and using her creative talents when making a mud hut from clay, while learning about Black History

Beibei for showing confidence in the pool and swimming like a mermaid.

Aviyah for working hard on her therapy programs and keeping great balance on the peanut ball.

Alejandro for working hard on the Innowalk, Motomed and his bench sitting this week!



Learning@Linden

Secondary Department

Piano class have really enjoyed engaging in our sensory story, 'Desmond'. We have been using our senses to explore a range of props. Our clear favourites were definitely the school bus 'horn' and the bell to wake Desmond up!



Piano class have been working hard on their therapy programmes. Here's a snapshot of what we have been doing!



Therapy News

October is AAC Awareness month - The SaLT team would like to raise awareness of AAC, highlighting a range of communication methods, and celebrating those who benefit from it



AAC Awareness Month

October is Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) awareness month. Here is some information from the Speech and Language Therapy team.

AAC encompasses different methods of communication that we use to express ourselves. This may include gesture, facial expressions, eye-gaze, signing, and devices (e.g. battery powered and paper based tools). The awareness month highlights and celebrates the use of AAC across settings. It is important to acknowledge communication is multi-faceted, and does not just include oral speech.

Commonly used devices and methods:

- Photos or widget symbols
- Communication booklets/ boards
- Signing (e.g. BSL, Sign Supported English)
- Tablets with AAC applications
- Eye Gaze technology
- Voice Output Communication Aids (VOCAs)



Speech and Language Therapist's role

- Assess an individual's needs for appropriate AAC for communication
- Train the individual, family, carers, and key staff members to use the AAC system
- Customise and personalise the AAC system (not 'one-size fits all')
- On-going monitoring and support in the long term

Top Tips when using AAC:

- Become familiar with the individual's system
- Collaborate with the MDT
- Model language using AAC, provide communicative opportunities
- Ensure AAC is easily accessible
- Incorporate accessories for best access (e.g. cases, stands, mounts, switches).
- Encourage (not force) AAC system use
- Presume potential - allow for and demonstrate further development of current and new skills and abilities.

FAQs

- 'Is AAC only for children?' No, AAC can be used by individuals of all ages, including adults with neurodegenerative conditions like ALS.
- 'How long does it take someone to learn how to use their AAC device?' Learning AAC varies for each individual and depends on a number of factors. The individual's SaLT may be able to provide more insights; however, it is impossible to determine a definitive timeline.
- 'Will using AAC prevent my child from learning how to speak?' Studies have actually shown that using AAC can actually enhance speech and language development.
- 'Is using AAC really complicated?' Many AAC systems are easy to learn, and there's support available to help with more advanced tools when needed.

Educational Psychologist sessions for parents and carers

Our Educational Psychologist, Dr Jeremy Chian, is offering sessions for parents and carers. The sessions will take place either by telephone, online or in person. The support offered is for thinking about things related to psychology, e.g., child's anxiety/worries, parental anxiety/worries, supporting difficult behaviours at home, eating, sleeping, thinking about school/EHCPs and any support an EP can provide.

The sessions will take place on the following dates and times:

7 November – 12:00-12.45pm, 12.45-1.30pm, and 2.00-2:45pm

14 November – 9:00-9.45am. 9.45-10.30am, 10.30-11.15am, 11.15-12pm. 12-12.45pm. 1.15-2.00pm and 2.00-2:45pm

28 November - 9:00-9.45am. 9.45-10.30am, 10.30-11.15am, 11.15-12pm. 12-12.45pm. 1.15-2.00pm and 2.00-2:45pm

Sessions are available on a first come, first served basis. Please email jnolan@lindenlodge.org.uk to book a session. You will receive an email to confirm the booking date & time. If your preferred session is not available we will contact you with an alternative time.

Noticeboard



Talk Autism is a forum for parents and carers of children, young people and adults with autism in Merton

Social Prescriber Merton - a local organisation supporting families

Date

Monday 20th October 2025, 10am – 12pm

Location

Church Road Children Centre
243 Church Road, Mitcham
CR4 3BH

Details

A social prescriber is a professional who connects individuals to community activities, groups, and services that enhance their health and welfare.

We will be joined by Kelly Walker, Head of Social Prescribing for Merton who will tell us about their services. This session is appropriate for parents of a child & young person with autism.

The session will include details about

- **Their Team:** 12 Social Prescribers across all 21 GP practices in Merton
- **How they help patients:** Explore social factors affecting their health and wellbeing, connect families with local services and community support
- **How to access their service:** Through your GP practice
- **The sessions they provide:** Up to 6 sessions, around 1 hour each
- Time and space to be listened to and find the right support

Kelly will also explain in more detail what social prescribers can support with, she will also provide more details on their services and talk through their leaflets

Book your place NOW!

Book your place at this free session by contacting Maria Solari, Talk Autism Manager:

Book on Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/4nFqbBH>
or Phone: 07709 715206





Learn about the different parenting programmes in Merton, from nursery, primary, and high school. Helping parent carers to prevent issues with, and to understand the development, behaviour, emotional wellbeing (and more) of their child or young person.

With Adam Warner (Strategic Leader of Evidence Based Practice, Early Years, Family Wellbeing and Early Help, Lifelong Learning and Families) and, Jessica Harraway (Development Manager, Early Years, Family Wellbeing and Early Help)

At this session, we will be covering the range of parenting programmes available in Merton for parent carers, before and during their children or young person's school age, some of which are support by schools in Merton.

To help parents give their children the best start in life, these programmes range from supporting all first-time parents, through to focussed support to help with language and communication, learning, emotional wellbeing, and behaviour. The programmes also provide support for families who have concerns around their child's and looking to prevent problems with development, behaviour or emotional wellbeing.

Address: Canons Leisure Centre, Madeira Road, Mitcham, CR4 4HD

Tuesday 21 October 2025, 10am to 12pm

In-person

Click the link to book your **FREE** spot at the in-person meeting:

<https://bit.ly/4hbAIAE>

Just select the number of tickets and then then enter your name and email.

Or simply contact the Kids First Admin, Tuhina:

kf.admin@mertonmencap.org.uk / 07929 670645

THESE SESSIONS ARE FOR PARENT CARERS ONLY

✓ For more information or to register with Kids First / Adults First and receive news of all our events, just ring 020 3963 0597 or email kf.admin@mertonmencap.org.uk.



Merton's Forum for Family Carers of
Adults with Learning Disabilities
and/or Autism, aged 18 and over.

All about Direct Payments and a small update on the PA (Personal Assistant) recruitment tool.

With Elaine Greenwood (Direct Payments Manager, Adult Social Care,
Integrated Care & Public Health for Merton)

Elaine Greenwood and colleagues will be explaining and updating us
on the Direct Payments Scheme, plus the progress so far on Merton's
PA recruitment tool, which aims to streamline and ease the process of
locating a PA for your cared for adult.

What are Direct Payments

If your cared for family member qualifies for support from social
services after completing a needs assessment, you can (if certain
criteria are met) choose to receive direct payments from the local
authority to directly buy the assessed services your loved one needs to
meet their needs. This is instead of receiving the services directly from
the council via a commissioned service.

Hear the latest news, ask your questions & raise any issues you may
be experiencing using Direct Payments.

and more. Don't miss this opportunity to hear the latest information
and ask your questions!

*Address: Leyton Road Centre, 21 Leyton Road, Colliers Wood,
SW19 1DJ*

Thursday 23 October 2025, 10am to 12pm

In-person

Click the link to book your FREE spot at the in-person meeting:

<https://bit.ly/43f3ogM>

Just select the number of tickets and then then enter your name and email.

Or book by contacting the Adults First Admin, Tuhina:

af.admin@mertonmencap.org.uk / 07929 670645

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