

Merton's Forum for Parents of Children and Young People with Disabilities or Special Needs

Free Kids First Summer Term Events for 2020

Thursday 14 May, 10.30am to 12.30pm Staying safe online

with Fiona Buckle and Melanie Kew from Cricket Green School

Children, young people & adults with additional needs can spend many hours of their day online.

Often this can be their only social outlet.

Practical advice to keep your son, daughter or family member safe online & to use technology in a safe & positive way..

Joint session with Adults First/Talk Autism

Friday 22 May, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Meet Councillor Eleanor Stringer, Merton's Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education

In order to ensure greater accountability & improve decision-making for children's services while coronavirus is affecting the community, the Leader of Merton Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis, has appointed a new Cabinet Member for Children's Services & Education. Hear more about this role & an update on plans for children & young people with SEND in Merton.

Joint session with Talk Autism

Tuesday 2 June, 10.30am to 12.30pm

High Needs Funding for children & young people with SEND

with Tom Procter, Head of Contracts & School Organisation, Children's Schools & Families Department, Merton Council

In Merton & across the country there has been a significant increase in demand for specialist placements for children with SEND. Find out the latest on Merton's future plans to improve specialist provision in the borough, including expanding Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) primary provision and ASD provision.

Friday 19 June, 10am to 1pm

Special Needs & Puberty, Ready or Not, Here it Comes!

with Mark Brown, Special Help 4 Special Needs

Explore the issues faced by children & teenagers with special needs, & discuss ways of supporting your child through the changes of adolescence & growing up, including . . .

How to prepare your child for body changes in puberty, How to explain what is "appropriate" behaviour, Dealing with your child's safety & vulnerability

Practical approaches to anger management

Joint session with Talk Autism

Thursday 25 June, 10am to 12pm SEND Update

with Karla Finikin, Head of the SEN & Disabilities Integrated Service (SENDIS)

An opportunity to hear an update on SEND issues & asks your questions!

Thursday 9 July 10 am to 12 pm

SEN Support in mainstream schools

with Zach Esdaile, Solicitor

For parents of SEN children in mainstream schools without an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP).

Find out more about the support that schools should offer pupils with SEN at this information session with solicitor, Zach Esdaile.

June/July (date to be arranged), 10.30am to 12.30pm

Preparation for Adulthood & Transition planning

with Karla Finikin, Head of SEN & Disabilities Integrated Service (SENDIS) & Carmen Gardier, Merton's Head of Integrated Learning Disability Services

Following their session in March, Karla & Carmen are returning to give another update about the work that is happening within SENDIS & Adult Social Care regarding Preparation for Adulthood & Transition planning.

Due to the current situation we are organising our events as Webinars.

To attend a webinar you will need Internet access and a PC/Laptop/Tablet/Smart Phone.

More information on how to attend a webinar will be attached to all future event invitations.

Tel: 020 3963 0597

email: <u>kf.admin@mertonmencap.org.uk</u> website: <u>www.mertonmencap.org.uk/kidsfirst.htm</u>