Good afternoon all,

Bookings for the **October Half Term SEND Short Breaks** will go live at **12pm (midday) on Monday 28th September 2026.**

Sessions will be available to purchase on Eequ (link below):
https://eequ.org/brightonandhovecitycouncilsendshortbreakandschoolactivitiesprogramme

Specialist and Targeted SEND Short Breaks:

The providers who will be delivering Specialist SEND Short Breaks during October half term are Activ8, Angling4Education and Brighton Swimming School.

Providers who will be delivering Targeted SEND Short Breaks during October half term are Activ8, DSDT, Brighton Community Kitchen, Parable Dance and Angling4Education.

Amaze will also be running their Family Fun Day during the October half term.

All activities can be found here:
https://eequ.org/brightonandhovecitycouncilsendshortbreakandschoolactivitiesprogramme

If your child or young person requires 2:1 support to access SEND Short Breaks sessions, please contact Short.Breaks@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

SEND Short Breaks Bookings:

Bookings will go live at **midday** on **Monday 28th September 2026** and close at **midday on Monday 5th October 2026**. Please book your tickets within this time to be considered for a space. Providers will consider all pending bookings and the waitlist and confirm October Half Term sessions by **Friday 9th October 2026**.

Any spaces which haven't been filled during the booking window will re-open on **Friday 9th October 2026.**

Please don't be disheartened if you see the Short Breaks session you require is full – to be considered for a place it is essential that you join the waitlist before midday on Monday 5th October 2026. The waitlist will capture the sessions you would like for each provider. This means that if a space becomes available, the provider knows the dates you require and has your child's details.

Please note, tickets are not confirmed at the point of booking – allocations will be confirmed via email.

IMPORTANT: If you no longer require a SEND Short Breaks session that you've been allocated, please cancel it through your Eequ account. You can also find cancellation links in your original booking confirmation email from Eequ. Cancellations made before the session start time will receive a full refund, and your place can then be offered to another young person on the waitlist.

If you would like to be considered for last-minute availability on the day of a session, please visit: **https://eequ.org/brightonandhovecitycouncilsendshortbreakandschoolactivitiesprogramme** and join the waitlist for the session you're interested in.

Using Direct Payments to Fund Short Breaks Holiday Activities: If you wish to use Direct Payments to fund Short Breaks holiday activities, please ensure that this is within your child's assessed package of support. Families may choose to use either their agreed holiday support allocation for Short Breaks activities or their Personal Assistant (PA) hours during school holidays. However, both cannot be used if doing so would exceed the level of support that has been assessed and agreed for your child.

Please also note that where Direct Payments have been approved at Resource Panel, they cannot be used until all required paperwork has been completed. This includes setting up the Direct Payments account and signing the Letter of Agreement. Until these steps have been completed, there is no active Direct Payments account in place and Direct Payments cannot be used to pay for Short Breaks holiday activities.

In addition, if your child has not had an assessment by Children's Services and Direct Payments have not been formally agreed, you should not select the Direct Payments funding option when booking holiday activities. Where Direct Payments are not in place, families will be responsible for meeting the full cost of the activity themselves. If you are unsure whether you have an active Direct Payments package or how much support has been agreed, please contact your allocated worker before making a booking.

Additional Opportunities:

In 2025, we introduced a **Community Board** of local activity providers who support children and young people with SEND. We are continuing to work with a range of providers offering 1:1 support or family fun sessions, and all can be paid for using your Direct Payments. To pay using your Direct Payments, please ask the provider to share an invoice with the Children's Direct Payments team (Childrens.DirectPayments@brighton-hove.gov.uk) for the session, and we will process this from your Direct Payments account.

The providers listed below offer school holiday activities, but please note they **have not undergone quality assurance checks by Brighton & Hove City Council**. We recommend contacting the provider directly to find out more.

Provider:	**Contact:**
Ripples Swim School Bespoke 1:1 swimming lessons in a private pool in Ovingdean. £32 for 30 minutes, weekday mornings.	For bookings, please contact Rachel Perry: 07585 197070 Or email: **info.ripplesswimschool@gmail.com**
Cherish (for young people aged 16+)	Please see **attached** leaflet for information on eligibility and how to apply for sessions.

Brighton Swimming School – please see outline of the offer below: During the holidays, and in addition to the SEND Short Breaks swimming sessions, we run 1:1 intensive swimming lessons, which can be booked as 3-, 4-, or 5-day courses. Each session is 30 minutes long and taught by one of our swim teachers. **Prices are:** • 3 days – £77.99 • 4 days – £103.99 • 5 days – £129.99 These lessons have become very popular with children with SEN, partly because we limit the number of 1:1s in the pool at any one time (maximum of 8). This helps keep the environment much calmer and quieter than a typical public pool. We also take time to speak with parents or carers before the lessons to find out what works best for the child in terms of structure, and to learn about their interests. This helps us make the sessions as enjoyable and effective as possible. Due to the age and design of the building, we do have limited wheelchair access and unfortunately, no hoist is available.	Please contact admin@brightonswimmingschool.com or call 01273 434400 (option1) to enquire.

1:1 Swimming Lessons at Freedom Leisure We're pleased to be working with the team at the **Prince Regent's Leisure Centre Swimming Pool** to offer 1:1 swimming lessons, with hoist access to the pool available. Private bookings can also be made at the Prince Regent's Leisure Centre. Prices and more information below: • 1:1 lesson: £31.10 • 5 x 1:1 lessons for £145.50 *Please note, bookings are subject to availability. A parent carer or responsible adult may need to accompany the child or young person in the pool.* We're pleased to be working with the team at the **King Alfred Leisure Centre Swimming Pool** to offer 1:1 swimming lessons. Please note, this pool does not have a hoist.	*If your child or young person requires a hoist to access the pool, please contact Short.Breaks@brighton-hove.gov.uk as subsidised 1:1 sessions can be facilitated at the Prince Regent Leisure Centre.* If you are interested in booking a session, please contact Karen Rutter (Swim School Manager) **karen.rutter@freedom-leisure.co.uk**
Withdean Climbing Wall Withdean Freedom Leisure offer 1:1 climbing sessions. They offer a 10% discount for children and young people with SEND, which means a 1-hour session is £70.20, and a 30-minute session is £35.55.	Please contact the climbing wall manager, Clem (**clem.simms@high-sports.co.uk**) to make a booking.

The climbing wall is accessible children who require a hoist. Supportive climbing systems and adaptive equipment are available, and experienced staff tailor each session to the child's individual needs, working closely with parent carers to ensure a safe and positive experience.	
HAF Sessions If your young person is eligible for free school meals, you can book free HAF sessions. Some HAF providers offer SEN Support, and some have capacity for young people to attend with their own PA (DBS required).	Please visit: **https://eequ.org/brightonhovehaf** and use the 'contact mentor' button to speak directly with providers. Please contact **Short.Breaks@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk and HAF@brighton-hove.gov.uk** if you have questions about eligibility.
Liberation Art Gallery Liberation Art Gallery is based in the North Laines. During the summer, they will be running 1.5 Hour small group art workshops (max 6) over 4 weeks. Workshops are clay, expressive painting and mosaic and grouped by age. Additional details: • Parents can supervise and stay on-site during the workshops. This is a child-focused workshop, so parents would not be involved in the making process, but can remain in the gallery for supportive supervision • While the session is scheduled for 1.5 hours,	Email: **info@liberationartgallery.com** to enquire. Please include: • your details • your child's name • workshops interested in • amount of weeks to be booked in

we understand that every child is different, so if they feel ready to finish after around an hour, that's absolutely fine. We're happy to follow the child's pace and take guidance from both them and their parent or guardian to ensure the experience feels comfortable and enjoyable throughout.	
Uncommon Minds Online camps & Clubs for neurodivergent t(w)eens	Please email: **hello@uncommonminds.co.uk** for more information, or head to **https://www.bemoreuncommon.com/camps** to book sessions.
Harvey's House – Private swimming pool hire. Please see below: We are offering our heated indoor swimming pool for private hire family swims. We have noodles, toys, and floatation devices for your use as well as 6 individual changing rooms and a poolside shower. We built this pool specifically for SEN families and families with children 7 years and under. The pool isn't much fun for older children due to the size. We are unable to accommodate pool parties, there is a swimming pool in Patcham called 'Ridgeside Pool', who may be able to help you with this request.	Please contact **info@harveyshouse.co.uk** to book.

There is mood lighting and connect via Bluetooth for music to enhance your experience.	
Ferring Country Centre Please contact Short.Breaks@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk to enquire about your young person attending Ferring Country Centre with their own PA.	
Mainstream and Ofsted Registered School Holiday Clubs Ofsted-registered and mainstream school holiday clubs can apply for Inclusion Funding to support with the cost of providing 1:1 support.	

We continue to meet with PaCC to review parent carer feedback about the Short Breaks and Community Activities offer. PaCC continue to feedback the community's concern around the lack of Specialist sessions for children and young people with high support needs. BHCC recognise and acknowledge these concerns. They are being actively considered as part of our ongoing oversight and quality assurance of the Short Breaks and Community Activities offer.

If you have a question about an activity or provider, please use the 'Contact Mentor' function on the providers' Eequ listing (click here).

Please do not hesitate to reach out via email if you have any other questions, comments or concerns about SEND Short Breaks and Community Activities provision in the summer holidays (Short.Breaks@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk). If you'd like to receive these emails directly, please contact Short.Breaks@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk to give you permission to be contacted.

Kind Regards,

Katie

Katie Rowe | **Strategic Commissioner**
Families, Children and Wellbeing Services | Brighton & Hove City Council
Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove BN3 4AH

Pronouns: she / her

Brighton & Hove SEND Short Breaks
Short breaks are leisure or social activities in the school holidays that support children and young people with SEND. They give children the opportunity to have fun, learn new skills and socialise while parents or carers take a break from caring.

Click here to view our Brighton and Hove SEND Short Breaks Offer and book tickets for upcoming sessions.
If you have any questions or feedback, please get in touch: Short.Breaks@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk

To find information around support and services for children and young people with SEN or a disability in Brighton and Hove, please access our SEND Local Offer.

Our customer promise to you

Visit us online at:








