



**Bankside
School**

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The Rhydd (on B4211 Road), Hanley
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Website: www.banksideschool.co.uk

Newsletter: 9th January 2026

Visible Consistency, Visible Kindness

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. As we begin a new term, I want to wish every family a happy, healthy, and positive New Year. We're looking forward to the months ahead and to working in partnership with you to ensure a successful start for all our pupils.

The coming weeks are filled with exciting opportunities that will enrich pupils' learning and wellbeing. Our *This Girl Can* sporting events will be taking place shortly, offering a fantastic chance for pupils to build confidence, try new activities, and celebrate the joy of being active. These events are always a highlight, and we're delighted to be expanding participation this year.

We also have several offsite trips planned across different year groups, designed to broaden horizons and bring curriculum learning to life. Further details will be shared with you soon, and we appreciate your continued support in helping pupils make the most of these experiences.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing encouragement and partnership. We're excited for the term ahead and all the opportunities it will bring for our young people.

Important Dates

- **SENDIASS Autism & Me Workshop – Thursday 29th January – 1.00 – 3.00pm**
- **February Half Term – Monday 16th – Friday 20th**

Just as a reminder we are a **NO NUT** School, we have a number of pupils who have allergies, this includes for some pupils, coconut allergy, please be mindful of pupils using sprays or body lotions as they can be sensitive to this.

Word of the Week

As a school we continue to follow our 'Word Aware' focus. Each week we pick a word and explore it's meaning to extend vocabulary and to develop understanding of more complex words.

Spring term's first week, our Word of the week will be '**Commitment**'

Autism & Me Workshop

Worcestershire SENDIASS are coming onsite to offer an interactive workshop to parents and carers. This workshop will take place on: **Thursday 29th January 2026 – 1:00-3:00pm**

Every young person with autism experiences the world in their own unique way. This **free interactive workshop** will provide parents and carers with first-hand insights from young people with autism, helping to build understanding and develop strategies for support.

Who is it for? This session is for parents and carers of young people with SEND, particularly those with autism, who want to understand their perspective and improve communication and support.

What to Expect:

- Insights from young people with autism on their experiences, challenges, and strengths.
- Strategies for supporting communication, sensory needs, and emotional wellbeing.
- A deeper understanding of behaviours and what they might mean for your child.
- A chance to ask questions and explore useful resources.

Session Details: This is a **two-hour interactive workshop** featuring real-life experiences and practical discussions.

If you would like to book onto the workshop please click on the below link.

[SENDIASS - Autism & Me \(for parent/carers\)](#)

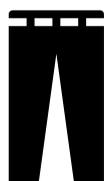


**SEND
Information,
Advice and
Support Service**

Herefordshire & Worcestershire

Spare Clothes

Please remind pupils to bring a spare change of clothes with them when participating in PE and outdoor activities. We will be able to store individual spare kits in school if pupils would prefer to bring one to leave here rather than each week. If you are having a clear out, please feel free to send any old sports clothes, coats, trainers etc into school as donations that we can loan out.



Are you a family member of an autistic person? Join us for one of our reflective sessions to come together with other families.

These are free online events where you can share your experiences and connect with others who 'get it'.

Just some of the things guests have said they've enjoyed about past sessions:

- ✓ Listening to others
- ✓ Feeling part of a community
- ✓ The sense of not being judged
- ✓ Feeling positive and motivated

This month, we're exploring topics such as working with crisis teams, building autism and ADHD pride and supporting identity development in adolescence.

Book your place: <https://orlo.uk/RMCUw>

Autism Central is delivered by Anna Freud and commissioned by NHS England Workforce, Training and Education #AutismAcceptance



Kindness Club

Well done to members of the Kindness Club that took part in a lunchtime litter pick this week. Students came up with suggestions before we went on our Christmas break; thank you Betty for your idea!



Careers Visit Request



We are excited to invite you to participate in a special learning opportunity for our students. As part of our ongoing effort to help our young people learn about the world around them and explore future possibilities, PSHE lessons in the new year will all have a careers focus.

We would be delighted if you would consider coming in to speak with our students about your job, career path and the skills you use in your work. Hearing from a variety of adults about different professions helps students build awareness of the many opportunities available to them and inspires them to think about their own interests and goals.

If you are willing to take part in any way, please contact **Dominique Childs via email:** dominique.childs@banksidecollege.co.uk . We will work with you to schedule a convenient time to visit Bankside. Your presentation can be brief (10 to 15 minutes) and may include a simple explanation of what you do, tools or materials you use, or a story about what inspired you to choose your career. If you are unable to come into school but would still like to take part, a one-page profile or an overview of your career would be valuable to students.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support our students' learning. We greatly appreciate your involvement and look forward to welcoming many of you to Bankside School in the new year.

Best wishes,

Dominique Childs
Lead PSHE



Chip Shop Review

The latest review from the Swag Chip Boys is in. This week we have been to Mother Hubbard's Famous Fish and Chips in Worcester.

1. Chip Quality & Crunch/soft ratio

The chips got mixed reviews from the group. Some thought they were 'pretty good', others 'kinda bad'. They were on the chunky side which meant there weren't many crispy ones so it might be a matter of preference.

2. Fish (or Main) Deliciousness

We had a variety of mains again, including a pie, chicken nuggets, jumbo sausage, battered sausage, fish and kebab. The quality was decent across the board, and most were cooked fresh.

3. Atmosphere & Local Charm

The diner had plenty of seating- great for winter. It was also next to a canal which had frozen over which meant we could pass the time while we waited for our food trying to break the ice! We were given complimentary lollies and coffees for the big order which was a nice touch.

4. Sauce & Sides Satisfaction

All tastes of dinks were catered for (including Dr Pepper and Rio which can be hard to find!). The pie and chips came with gravy which was a good thickness and nice and hot.

5. Value for Money & Portion Pride

One of us ordered the 'Super-jumbo Fish and Chips', which was definitely jumbo! They didn't get the seasoning quite right in our opinion- could have used a bit more salt but this was available for us to add.

Overall- 7/10



ONLY £1



THE MONDAY NIGHT CLUB

DISCO DRINK HAVE FUN!
DANCE SOCIALISE

Every Monday 7pm - 9.30pm

▶ #MNclub ◀

at The Royal Porcelain Works
Severn St, Worcester WR1 2NE

www.TheMondayNightClub.org.uk
E-mail: Laura@TheMondayNightClub.org.uk
Tel: 07973 788 029



THE MONDAY NIGHT CLUB

 Monday nite club  @mondayniteclub1

Reg. charity number 1180646



ABOUT US

WHAT IS IT?

A social club for adults with learning disabilities and / or autism. We organise inclusive fun activities and social events.

WHEN IS IT?

Mondays - Disco at Henry Sandon Hall, Royal Porcelain Works, Worcester, 7pm - 9.30pm.
Wednesday Sports Club at Christopher Whitehead Language College, St Johns, Worcester, 6pm - 7.30pm.
Football on Thursdays at St Johns Sports Centre, Worcester, 5pm - 6pm.
MNC Saturday Kitchen, at various places, 11am - 2.30pm. Check our website.
We have other special events and day trips throughout the year.

WHO ARE WE?

The Club was founded in 2011 by Laura Gill, who has learning disabilities and autism herself, so that she could meet her friends and have some fun.

DO WE PROVIDE SUPPORT?

No, we don't provide support. We regard our members as people out enjoying their lives. If you need support to enjoy our activities please bring staff, friends or family with you.



Scan to go to our website and find out more

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer! Come and help out on Monday nights.

Organise a fund-raising event. We can help you!

Create a Facebook Fundraiser for a special occasion.

Sponsor our football team. As little as £10 a month can make a big difference to us.

Donate as you shop online. Find us on Easyfundraising.org.uk

Or donate by visiting our website www.themondaynightclub.org.uk

CONTACT DETAILS:

Reg. charity no. 1180646

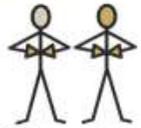
t: 07973 788029

e: helen@themondaynightclub.org.uk

Contact address: The Lodge, Dingle Road, Leigh, Worcester WR6 5JX



The Monday Nite Club



We want to



connect with



children and young people



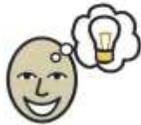
with



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)



to gain



their opinions,



views and feedback



on the



services

they use!

If you are someone, or know of someone who would love to take part in projects such as redesigning this leaflet or helping design a logo, contribute to a SEND newsletter or be part of a SEND forum to improve services in Worcestershire, please contact us on:



FIND OUT MORE



SENDco-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk



www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDcoproduction



YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT!



your voice

is



important



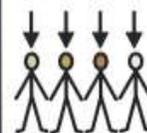
Chanika Benain

We are Co-production Officers for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) up to 25 years old.

We would love to have children and young people with additional needs working closely with SEND services, to help inform decisions.



Amy Knight



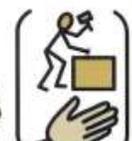
everyone



working together on an equal basis



to improve



services

