MONTEM ACADEMY
The Park Federation Academy Trust

Montem Newsletter

6th November 2026
Edition 19

Principal's Update

Welcome back! We hope you all enjoyed a lovely half term and had time to rest and recharge. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school, and we look forward to another busy half term of learning, activities and celebration.

As the days grow colder and the evenings get darker, please take extra care when travelling to and from school.

With the autumn weather settling in, please send children with warm coats and suitable clothing for outdoor activities, with names clearly marked on any items they might take off during the day.

Our Firework Spectacular on **Monday, 9th November** is fast approaching! We can't wait to bring our school community together for this special evening. If you haven't managed to buy your tickets yet, there will be a limited number available on the door. Card payments are preferred, thank you.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the fireworks!

Mrs Nel
Principal

What to do if your child is absent:

If your child is too ill to attend, please notify the school office by **8:30 am** on the first day of absence and each subsequent day, providing a clear reason.

Phone: **01753 528050 (Select Option 1)**
or
Email: **maattendance@theparkfederation.org**

Dates for your diary

9th November - **Fireworks Display**

13th November - **Mufti Day Child in Need & World Kindness Day:** Wear something that makes you happy or brings a smile to someone else's face.

26th November - **Pantomime** (Tickets available to purchase on ParentPay)

30th November - 11th December **Autumn Term Assessment**

14th December - **Sparkle & Shine Performance YR - Y2 @ 2pm**

15th December - **Sparkle & Shine Performance Y3 - Y6 @ 2pm**

16th December - **Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch**

18th December - **End of Term 2pm finish for children**

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this week is:

🥇 **1st place:**
99.5% 1 Sequoia

🥈 **2nd place:**
99.1% 4 Redwood

🥉 **3rd place:**
98.5% 6B Seqoia

Parent Meetings

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our recent parent meetings. It was a pleasure to share how well the children are settling into their new year groups and to celebrate their progress so far.

The meetings provided a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's current attainment, their targets based on current performance, and the next steps to support their learning.

If you were unable to attend, please contact your child's class teacher to arrange a convenient time to meet.

We greatly value the partnership between home and school. If you haven't already done so, please let the school office know of any changes to your personal information, including your address, telephone number, email address or emergency contact details. Keeping our records up to date helps us stay in touch and contact you promptly when needed.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child thrive.





Reception

In Reception we have had a productive and engaging week. Activities like threading colourful pasta encouraged their independence while strengthening fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and concentration. This creativity extended to our dive into Diwali traditions, where they made beautiful Diya lamps and used colored rice to design intricate Rangoli patterns. To improve their math skills, the children also used various loose parts to trace number outlines, enhancing number recognition and formation.

Throughout the week, they showed great pride and delighted in their achievements, demonstrating resilience and focus as they explored new materials and concepts.









Year 2 - Roald Dahl Museum Visit

This week, we visited the Roald Dahl Museum, where a giant chocolate-bar door that smelled like real chocolate made us feel as though we were stepping straight into one of his stories.

In the Boy Gallery, the children saw the yellow armchair where Dahl sat to write books such as Matilda and The BFG. They also spotted his pencils, his cosy blanket and, perhaps the biggest surprise of all, his old hip bone in a glass jar!

In the Story Centre, the children dressed up as characters such as Fantastic Mr Fox and Bruce Bogtrotter. They used magnetic screens to invent their own gobblefunk words and had great fun trying them out loud. A walk around the village was another highlight, giving the children a chance to spot some of the landmarks that inspired Dahl's stories.

It was a splendiferous day out, and we came back eager to read more of Dahl's books.











Year 5 - Royal Berkshire Fire Service Visit

On Wednesday 4th November, Year 5 had an unforgettable visit from the Royal Berkshire Fire Service! The children were thoroughly engaged throughout the day, exploring both the inside and outside of a real fire truck. From inspecting the winch and extra-long hose to checking out the ladders and specialised rescue tools, it was a truly thrilling hands-on experience.

After the tour, the firefighters gave an insightful talk detailing their daily responsibilities, the wide variety of jobs within the service, and essential tips on home safety. The day was such a success that several of our Year 5 pupils left feeling inspired to join the fire service in the future! What a fantastic day of learning and discovery.









Anti-Bullying Workshops

Creating a safe, inclusive environment where every child feels valued is central to our school ethos. We were delighted to host our two-day Anti-Bullying Workshops delivered by OpenView Education.

Years 1 & 2 (Kind Voice, Kind Words): Through interactive performance, pupils learned how words impact feelings, how to show empathy, and how to ask trusted adults for help.

Years 3 & 4 (Your Voice, Your Choice): Explored different forms of bullying, safe bystander actions, personal boundaries, and making positive choices in the playground.

Year 5 (Your Voice, Your Choice): Deepened their understanding of peer pressure, digital citizenship, and respectful communication.

Year 6 (Break the Silence): Participated in focused class workshops on managing social dynamics, resolving conflict, reporting concerns, and building resilience for secondary school transition.





Late Collections

We would like to remind you that persistent late collections from school or after school clubs can incur a fine.

When we identify a persistent trend of late collections we will issue you with a warning letter, and if the late collections persist we will issue you a fine.

Please see below for the relevant information:

£5 charge for collection up to 30 minutes late.
£10 charge for collection over 30 minutes and up to an hour late.

We will always endeavour to work with you if you are having problems with pick up times and would appreciate some support, so do tell us if this is the case.

Late collections have a significant impact on children, their levels of self confidence and anxiety, and they always remain our top priority.

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MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones have become a huge part of young people's everyday lives, but new restrictions on their use in schools and proposed restrictions on social media are changing how children and young people can use them. This guide explores mobile phones, their use by young people, what the evidence tells us, the current and future legal position, and what parents and educators should do.

What are the risks?

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The relationship between smartphone and social media use and young people's mental health is complex, and evidence does not establish a simple cause-and-effect relationship. Some researchers and commentators, however, including Jonathan Haidt, author of The Anxious Generation, argue that increased smartphone and social media use may be contributing to poorer mental health and wellbeing among young people.

LEARNING AND ATTENTION

Mobile phones can distract pupils from learning and make it harder to maintain attention and concentration. Research suggests that learning and attention have improved in schools that already prohibited mobile phone use, particularly among pupils with lower prior attainment. Now that the DfE's guidance on mobile phones is statutory, schools should ensure that the whole-school community understands and follows their policy, while monitoring how effectively it is implemented.

HARMFUL CONTENT AND BULLYING

Mobile phones can be a means of extending peer conflict from the community into schools and from schools back into the community. They also provide easy access to harmful and inappropriate content, including content that is sexually explicit, promotes self-harm or eating disorders, or is violent in nature. Exposure to this content can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing, potentially increasing the support they require from schools, parents, and support services.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Ofcom research found that 13- to 14-year-olds spend an average of 4 hours 19 minutes online each day across smartphones, tablets, and computers. However, there is considerable variation between children, with some spending significantly more or less time online. Excessive screen time can contribute to disrupted sleep and fragmented attention, both of which can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing.

The current and upcoming rules

SCHOOL BANS

As of 1 September 2026, schools are expected to be phone-free environments by default, with any exceptions limited to specific circumstances. Schools can decide how best to implement this. For example, some may provide secure storage or collect phones at the beginning of the school day, while others may prohibit pupils from bringing them onto school premises altogether. Schools can also confiscate mobile phones in line with their behaviour policy, while searches for prohibited phones must follow the relevant legal requirements.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Schools should make reasonable adjustments where necessary for disabled pupils and may allow exceptions in other circumstances, including where mobile phone use is necessary to support a medical condition or an identified need. For example, a pupil with diabetes may use a continuous glucose monitor linked to their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar levels. Schools may also make adaptations where mobile phone use provides agreed support for pupils with SEND. Any exceptions should be clearly reflected in the school's policies and procedures.

ONLINE SAFETY ACT 2023 AND 2026 PROPOSALS

Platforms are required to protect children from harmful content and use age checks to prevent children from accessing pornography and certain other types of harmful content. In June 2026, the government announced that it intends to stop social media companies offering services to under-16s. These restrictions are expected to be introduced in spring 2027, but the precise scope and rules have not yet been confirmed.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

While there is ongoing debate about the relationship between smartphones, social media and young people's mental health, there are steps that parents and educators can take to help reduce the potential risks associated with their use:

1. Delay smartphones. Consider waiting until a child is 14 before giving them a smartphone. Where a child needs a device to contact family, a basic phone may be an alternative.
2. Delay social media. Consider delaying access to social media until the age of 16.
3. Support phone-free schools. Parents, pupils, and staff should understand and support the school's approach to mobile phones.
4. Encourage screen-free activities. Promote independent and outdoor play, alongside other activities that give children opportunities to socialise and spend time away from screens.

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25th September 2026
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Messaging your Child's Class Teacher

As we move from **ClassDojo to the Juniper App**, we have introduced a new way for parents and carers to communicate directly with their child's class teacher.

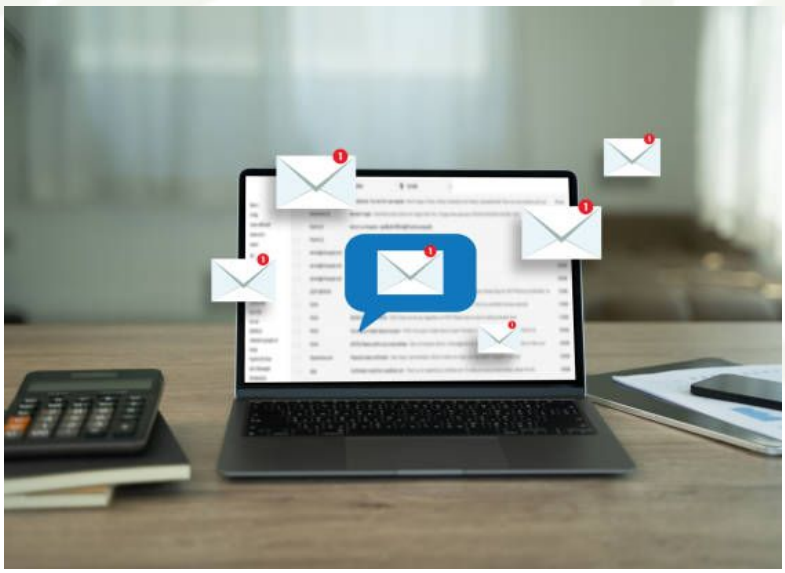
As the Juniper App does not provide a direct messaging facility between parents and class teachers, we have created **class email accounts**, which will be monitored by the class teachers. These can be used for non-urgent questions, information or messages relating to your child.

Teachers will aim to review and respond to messages **within 48 hours during school hours**.

For urgent matters, including **changes to end-of-day collection arrangements, absence or safeguarding concerns**, please contact the school office directly:

📧 **maoffice@theparkfederation.org**
📞 **01753 528050**

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we make the transition from ClassDojo to the Juniper App. We appreciate your support as we become familiar with our new communication systems.



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Class Emails



- **Nursery:** nurseryma@theparkfederation.org
- **Reception Cedar:** rcedarma@theparkfederation.org
- **Reception Sequoia:** rsequoiama@theparkfederation.org
- **Reception Oak:** roakma@theparkfederation.org
- **Reception Redwood:** rredwoodma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 1 Cedar:** 1cedarma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 1 Sequoia:** 1sequoiama@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 1 Oak:** 1oakma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 1 Redwood:** 1redwoodma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 2 Cedar:** 2cedarma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 2 Sequoia:** 2sequoiama@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 2 Oak:** 2oakma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 2 Redwood:** 2redwoodma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 3 Cedar:** 3cedarma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 3 Sequoia:** 3sequoiama@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 3 Oak:** 3oakma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 3 Redwood:** 3redwoodma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 4 Cedar:** 4cedarma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 4 Sequoia:** 4sequoiama@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 4 Redwood:** 4redwoodma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 4 Oak:** 4oakma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 6B Cedar:** 6bcedarma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 6B Sequoia:** 6bsequoiama@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 6B Oak:** 6boakma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 6B Redwood:** 6bredwoodma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 6 Cedar:** 6cedarma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 6 Sequoia:** 6sequoiama@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 6 Oak:** 6oakma@theparkfederation.org
- **Year 6 Redwood:** 6redwoodma@theparkfederation.org
- **Miss Steenkamp Art:** artma@theparkfederation.org
- **Mr Milstead/Mr Walters PE:** pema@theparkfederation.org
- **Mrs Southwick Music:** musicma@theparkfederation.org
- **Miss Bishop/Miss Jones Family Support:** familysupportma@theparkfederation.org

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New Communication App

Juniper Education Parent App is our main platform for sharing information with you. **ClassDojo will no longer be used.**

Please sign up as soon as possible so you do not miss important updates and information about your child. You should have already received an email invitation with instructions on how to register.

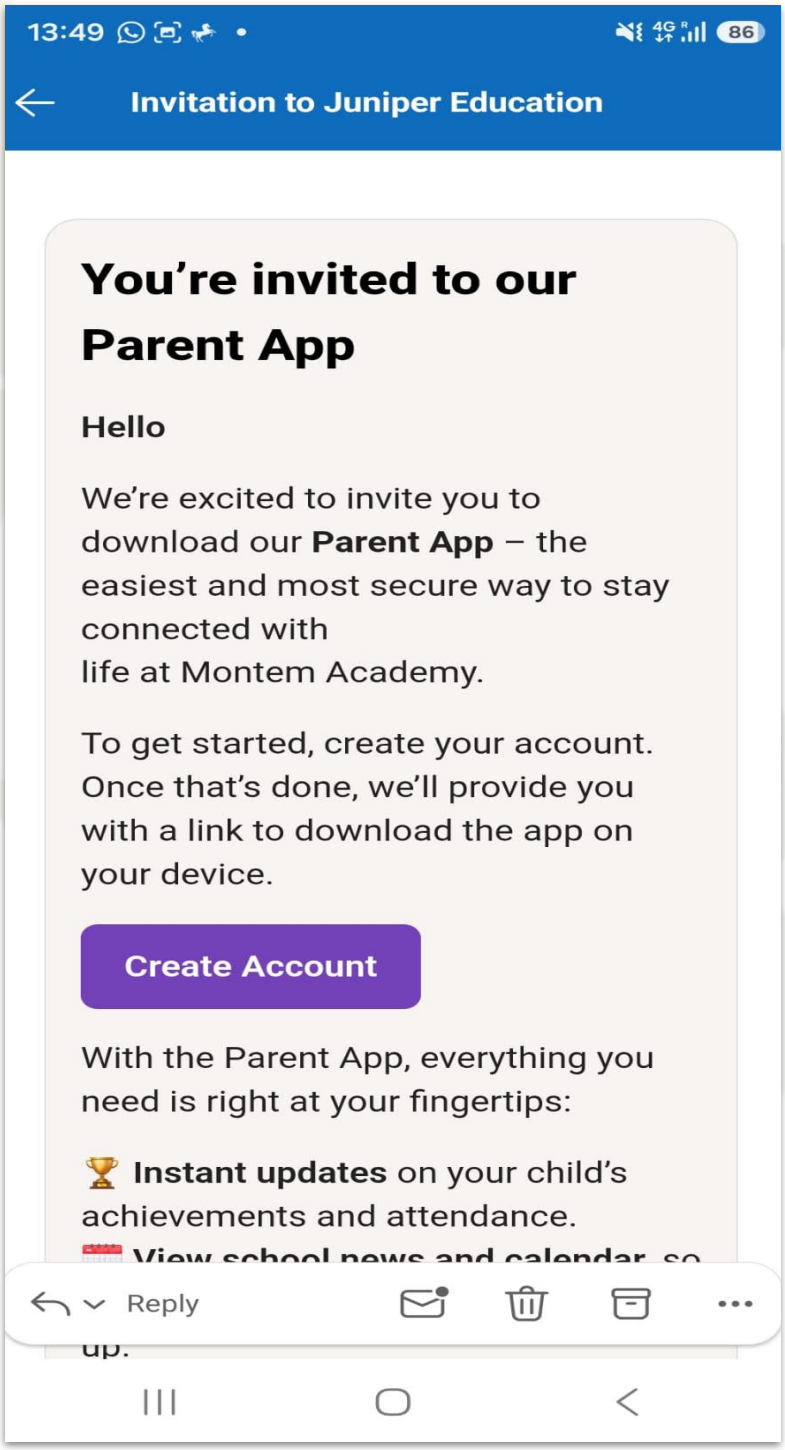
Here is a screenshot of the email to look out for. Please check your **junk or spam folder** if you cannot find it.

If you need support setting up the app, please speak to our **Digital Lead, Mr Clottey**, who will be happy to help.

Contacting Your Child's Teacher

You will be able to contact your child's class teacher using a dedicated **class email address**.






Montem Academy
£5 per person
Under 2s free
Fireworks Display
9th November 2026 - doors open at 4.30pm
Fireworks at 5.30pm

NURSERY & RECEPTION OPEN EVENING







- Tuesday 5th October 2026
  Tuesday 16th October 2026
  Tuesday 2nd December 2026
  Tuesday 11th January 2027

- A guided tour of the whole school
  4.00pm-4.30pm
  4.15pm-4.45pm
  4.30pm-5.00pm

- There will be no parking available on site



Our Parenting Offer

Support & assistance for:



- Baby Bank
- Food Bank
- Financial Applications
- Admissions Applications
- FSM applications
- Targeted Early Help
- SEND support
- MHST Referrals
- SEBDOS Referrals
- Talking Therapies / Hestia Referrals
- Weekly Coffee Mornings

Support
Advice
Guidance

Please contact the school office

01753 528 050

or email

familysupportma@theparkfederation.org

and ask to speak with

Mrs Devine, Mrs Bishop or Miss Jones

You are not alone

MONTEM ACADEMY
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Dear Parents/Carers,

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE!

We are excited to share with you that there is a new upcoming launch of Parenting Programmes that will begin within Slough's to help parents and carers develop practical tools and skills to support family life.

The first programme which is named 'Parenting Puzzle' will begin on Tuesday 3rd November 2026 and is a 5 week course.

The sessions cover topics such as positive discipline, encouraging positive behaviour, setting boundaries, child-led play and building stronger relationships.

If you require support with completing the referral form, please feel free to reach out to the Family Support Team, via the Family Support Email and we will be more than happy to help!



Please contact the school office

01753 528 050

or email

familysupportma@theparkfederation.org

and ask to speak with

Mrs Devine, Mrs Bishop or Miss Jones

You are not alone

MONTEM ACADEMY
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Montem Newsletter

Local Offer

Here for our families

What's On

Support • Activities • Advice • Community

A stronger tomorrow together

What's on

Best Start Family Hub
Chalvey Grove

Sep-Dec 2026

Monday

HCRG Development Reviews
Appointment only **8.45am-3pm**

Sport in Mind
Mum and Baby (under 12mths) Movement and Gentle exercise
10-11am More information click here:
Sport in Mind - Mum & Baby East Berkshire Timetable - July 2026

Cippenham Baptist Church
Bumps to Babies
Elmshott Lane, SL1 5QS
10.15-11.30am All welcome
Expectant parents to 2 years

Slough Best Start Family Hubs
Let's Get Moving
Walkers to Pre-schoolers
Upton Lea Community Centre, SL2 5JW
1.30-2.15pm Term-time only
Starts Monday 14 September.
No need to book, just turn up.

Slough Best Start Family Hubs
Infant Massage Course
14 Sep, 21 Sep, 28 Sep, 5 Oct, 12 Oct
1-2.30pm Costs apply.
For more information email:
family.hubs@slough.gov.uk

Tuesday

Slough Best Start Family Hubs
Cost of Living Drop-in
22 Sep, 27 Oct, 24 Nov **9-11.30am**

Slough Best Start Family Hubs
Feeding and Weaning Support Drop-in
9-11.30am 6 Oct, 3 Nov, 1 Dec

Slough Best Start Family Hubs
Parenting Puzzle
9.15-11.15am 3, 10, 17 and 24 Nov, 1 Dec
To book please email family.hubs@slough.gov.uk

Slough Best Start Family Hubs
Play and Learn Crawlers to Walkers
Booking required see below **9.30-11am**

Slough SEND Information, Advice and Support Service - Chat to SENDIASS
8 Sep, 13 Oct, 10 Nov, 8 Dec **9.30am-3pm**
To book an appointment email: sendiass@slough.gov.uk

Slough Best Start Family Hubs
Volunteer Information Session
Drop-in **10-11.30am** 15 Sep, 17 Nov

Frimley Health Antenatal and Postnatal Pelvic Health
Appointment only **11.30am-2.30pm**

HCRG 0-19 Health Drop-in at Cippenham Nursery
St Andrew's Way, SL1 5NL **1.30-3.30pm**
4th Tuesday of the month. No appointment needed

Slough Library Service
Storytime at Cippenham Library
Elmshott Lane, SL1 5RB **2-2.30pm**
No booking required

Frimley Health Antenatal Classes
Part 1: 3rd Tuesday of the month **2-4pm**
Contact your midwife for more info

Slough Best Start Family Hubs and HCRG Postnatal Session
Part 2: Baby and You **2-4pm**
4th Tuesday of the month. To book email:
hcrg.sloughchildandfamilywellbeing@nhs.net

Wednesday

NHS Getting Help Team
Invitation only **9am-5pm**

Trinity Tots
106 Windsor Road, SL1 2JA
Baby and Toddler Group - £2 per family
10.15-11.45am Term-time only

Slough Library Service
Storytime at The Curve
William Street, SL1 1XY **10.30-11am**
Followed by Duplo time **11-11.30am**
No booking required

Slough CLASS Adult learning
Various locations and times.
Please see our Facebook page or visit
www.slough.gov.uk/adult-learning

Best Start Family Hub
Chalvey Grove
Chalvey Grove, SL1 2TE
(Chalvey)
Tel: 01753 574387
family.hubs@slough.gov.uk

Early Years Provision 8am to 6pm all year. Contact the hub for more information.

Thursday

HCRG Development Reviews
Appointment only **8.45am-3pm**

Slough Best Start Family Hubs
Play and Learn Terrific Two's
9.30-11am Invitation only
5 Nov, 12 Nov, 19 Nov, 26 Nov

Slough Best Start Family Hubs
2-year-old Funding Information Session
Invite only **9.30-11am** 3 Dec

NHS Breastfeeding support
Appointment only **9.30am-1.30pm**

Slough Library Service
Storytime at Cippenham Library
11-11.30am Elmshott Lane, SL1 5RB
No booking required

Homestart
29 Church Street, SL1 1PL
Baby and Me **11am-12.30pm**
To book call 01753 572958

Frimley Health
Perinatal Mental Health Support
Invitation only **1-2.30pm**

Friday

NHS Getting Help Team
Invitation only **9am-1pm**

Slough Best Start Family Hubs
Play and Learn Crawlers to Preschoolers
Booking required see below **9.30-11am**
No session 6 Nov

HCRG 0 to 19 Health Drop-in
9.30-11.30am 3rd Friday of the month

Slough Best Start Family Hubs
First Aid for Parents
(of non mobile babies) **1-3pm** 6 Nov
To book email family.hubs@slough.gov.uk

Slough Best Start Family Hubs
Play and Learn Bumps to Crawlers
1.30-2.30pm Booking required see below

HCRG HENRY workshops
3rd Friday of the month
For more information email
Hcrg.sloughchildandfamilywellbeing@nhs.net

For further information about Family Hub services click here

www.slough.gov.uk
Slough Borough Council

Best Start Family Hubs Slough

Everyone to Excel Through Pride and Ambition



HENRY Autumn Timetable

Slough Child and Family Wellbeing

Health, Exercise, Nutrition for the Really Young

Venue	Date	Workshop	Description
Best Start Family Hub Chalvey Grove, SL1 2TE	18/09/2026 12.00-14.00	Introducing Solids (4-8 months)	Make mealtimes a joy! Introducing solid food alongside milk from 6 months.
Best Start Family Hub Penn Road, SL2 1PG	01/10/2026 11.00 – 13.00	Eating Well for Less (0-12 years)	Healthy Eating doesn't have to be expensive! Tips for simple and healthy low-cost meals.
Best Start Family Hub Romsey Close, SL3 8PE	14/10/2026 11.00-13.00	Let's Get Active (0-5 years)	Discover the benefits of activity for your child! Fun ways to get the whole family up and moving.
Best Start Family Hub Chalvey Grove, SL1 2TE	16/10/2026 12.00-14.00	Eating Well for Less (0-12 years)	Healthy Eating doesn't have to be expensive! Tips for simple and healthy low-cost meals.
Best Start Family Hub Romsey Close, SL3 8PE	11/11/2026 11.00-13.00	Eating Well for Less (0-12 years)	Healthy Eating doesn't have to be expensive! Tips for simple and healthy low-cost meals.
Best Start Family Hub Chalvey Grove, SL1 2TE	20/11/2026 12.00-14.00	Let's Get Active (0-5 years)	Discover the benefits of activity for your child! Fun ways to get the whole family up and moving.
Best Start Family Hub Penn Road, SL2 1PG	03/12/2026 11.00-13.00	Let's Get Active (0-5 years)	Discover the benefits of activity for your child! Fun ways to get the whole family up and moving.
Best Start Family Hub Romsey Close, SL3 8PE	09/12/2026 11.00-13.00	Introducing Solids (4 - 8 months)	Make mealtimes a joy! Introducing solid food alongside milk from 6 months.

Slough Child and Family Wellbeing Home - Slough Child and Family- Child Health Services
Refer a family here: HENRY workshop registration – Fill in form
Slough Best Start family Hubs Slough Information and Services Guide | Slough Best Start Family Hubs
HENRY About us | HENRY

Slough's Best Start Family Hubs

Infant feeding and weaning drop-in sessions



Drop-in to see the Family Hub Team for support and advice about breastfeeding, weaning, and providing a healthy diet for your family.

No need to book!

- **Best Start Family Hub Chalvey Grove**
  Montem Academy Primary School Grounds, Chalvey Grove, Slough SL1 2TE
  9.30-11.30am, Tues 6 Oct, 3 Nov, 1 Dec.
- **Best Start Family Hub Penn Road**
  Penn Road, Slough SL2 1PG
  9.30-11.30am, Wed 23 Sep, 21 Oct, 18 Nov, 16 Dec.
- **Best Start Family Hub Romsey Close**
  Marish Primary School, Romsey Close, Langley, Slough SL3 8PE
  9.30-11.30am, Mon 14 Sep, 12 Oct, 9 Nov, 14 Dec.

BEST START IN LIFE

www.slough.gov.uk
Slough Borough Council

Slough's Best Start Family Hubs

Cost of living support drop-in sessions



No need to book!

Drop-in to see the Family Hub Outreach Team for free, independent advice and guidance, to ensure your family are accessing all the financial support you are entitled to, and how to make the best use of other services available.

- **Best Start Family Hub Chalvey Grove**
  Montem Academy Primary School Grounds, Chalvey Grove, Slough SL1 2TE
  9-11.30am, Tues 22 Sept, 27 Oct, 24 Nov.
- **Best Start Family Hub Penn Road**
  Penn Road, Slough SL2 1PG
  2-4pm, Thurs 24 Sep, 22 Oct, 26 Nov.
- **Best Start Family Hub Romsey Close**
  Marish Primary School, Romsey Close, Langley, Slough SL3 8PE
  1-3pm, Fri 11 Sep, 9 Oct, 13 Nov.

BEST START IN LIFE

www.slough.gov.uk
Slough Borough Council

PARENT ONLINE SAFETY

What are the ABC of ONLINE SAFETY: Scan for more information

Activate



Activate parental controls

Use the controls and tools available from broadband providers, online platforms and apps to install safe search settings, block inappropriate content and prevent contact from strangers.

FIND A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Balance



Balance screen time

Agree a good balance for your children's screen time, taking education and leisure content into account. Encourage active screen time over passive and consider setting limits for the total hours spent online each day.

LEARN ABOUT BALANCE

Check



Check and chat

Check which apps your children use and the relevant age limits for each platform. And talk regularly about online safety and what they might come across so you can work together to manage any risks and keep online experiences positive.

GET ADVICE BY AGE

SLIDESMANIA.COM