

KING'S PARK PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

Information Bulletin No 2025/26/294 26 March 2026



90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Last week we celebrated an incredible milestone – 90 years!

This event was commemorated by coming together at the Jethro Centre for a wonderful celebration service. We reflected on the rich history of the school and reminisced over the many generations that have been supported and inspired by King's Park.

Heartfelt memories were shared by previous Principal Mr Cassells, interviews with past pupils, a beautiful poem was shared by current Primary 7 pupils and joyful singing from our school choir, the itinerary was packed with meaningful moments that honoured both the past and the bright future we have ahead.

It was fantastic to see past and present staff and pupils, families and friends all gathered to celebrate such a momentous occasion.

A special thanks goes to The Lord Mayor, Alderman Stephen Moutray and the Mayoress, Our Chair of the Board of Governors Hilda Cunningham, past Principals Mr Cassells and Mr Shields, past pupil Ann McKeown (nee Lyness), the Jethro Centre, and Miss Brown, Mr Kirkland and the exceptional staff at King's Park for all their hard work and dedication to create such a memorable event.

Here's to the memories made, the friendships formed and the continued success for many more years to come!

Happy 90th Anniversary King's Park!



The children had a great time on our 90th celebration fun day. We would really like to thank Tesco Lurgan and Edel Foy, their Community Champion, for providing the children with crisps. Each child was provided with a bag of crisps each and they went down a treat!



SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED FOR EASTER FROM 30TH MARCH - 10TH APRIL INCLUSIVE.

SCHOOL WILL ALSO BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY 5TH JUNE (TransformED NI)

EARLY FINISH TIMES FOR FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2026

Please arrange to have your child/ren collected at these times:

Pupils with surnames from P-Z will finish at 12.15 pm

Pupils with surnames from A-H will finish at 12.25 pm

Pupils with surnames from I-O will finish at 12.35 pm

(If there are siblings with different surnames then the oldest pupil leaves first according to their surname and younger siblings may leave at the same time.)

* Nursery pupils will not leave in alphabetical order and may be collected between 11.55am and 12.10pm.

THIS IS A NON UNIFORM DAY and SCHOOL DINNERS WILL NOT BE SERVED.

NURSERY AND PRIMARY 1 APPLICATIONS

Anyone who has applied for a Nursery or Primary 1 place for their child should have received notification by post from the school of the outcome of their application on Monday 23rd March. Parent/Carers can also log on to the portal to see the outcome of their applications.

SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS

If you have cause to drive into the school grounds please be vigilant at all times.

IN THE INTERESTS OF HEALTH & SAFETY PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE INTO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS WHEN LEAVING OFF OR COLLECTING YOUR CHILD. Only blue badge holders or pass holders are permitted to drop off or pick up pupils within school grounds.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

GIRLS' HOCKEY

A terrific season from a very talented team of players!

The girls competed in the local league, NI Qualifying tournament and Mid Ulster tournament. Despite playing consistently well the girls achieved 3rd place in all competitions just narrowly missing the NI Qualifying after run ins.

They should be very proud of their efforts!



FOOTBALL

Well done to all the boys who represented the school in this year's Mid Ulster Spring Festival. Future stars!



CROSS-COUNTRY

The girls' team participated in the NI finals on Friday 27th February in Belfast. With a large field of 140 competitors, each having qualified through events in their respective areas, the girls knew it was going to be a challenge.

The King's Park girls were up for the challenge and many of them achieved personal best placings. Overall the girls, as a team, finished 6th place in Northern Ireland and with a number of the girls available for next year the future looks very bright for King's Park cross-country.



We would like to thank **Grangemount BioServices Ltd** for their sponsorship of the new cross-country vests and the base layers.

The racing vests look extremely smart, and the base layers are needed for the cold days.

Pictured alongside some of the P7 runners, Miss Brown and Mr Russell is Dr Mussen from Grangemount BioServices Ltd. Thank you for your kind sponsorship this year.

WORLD BOOK DAY

What a fantastic day celebrating our love of reading!

All classes took part in a variety of interactive activities, including book quizzes, a character hunt and a visit to Lurgan Library. One major highlight was our Mystery Bags, where each child brought in 2-4 special items as clues to represent a favourite or familiar story. It was great fun guessing the books behind each set of clues.

We also enjoyed paired reading, with older year groups swapping classrooms and visiting the younger children. The bigger pupils shared stories and listened to the younger ones read, creating lovely moments of encouragement and teamwork.

The children got creative by designing and colouring their own bookmarks, perfect for keeping their place in all the wonderful books they are reading. Some classes took part in an I-Spy Character activity, carefully searching for different storybook characters and counting how many they could find.

It was a brilliant day filled with imagination, creativity and a shared love of books.



THE WATER BUS



Primary 5 had a fantastic visit from Waterbus NI! The pupils took part in a fun and interactive session where they learned about important water topics such as the water cycle, water for health, where our water comes from and how we can conserve it.

The team brought the learning to life and had the pupils talking all about how important water is in our everyday lives.

A big thank you to Waterbus NI for such an enjoyable and informative visit!

KINDNESS AWARDS

Congratulations to our latest Kindness Award winners from Primary 1 to Primary 7!

These pupils have been chosen for a large variety of wonderful reasons and recognised for their caring attitudes, thoughtfulness towards others and positive behaviour in school! Well done to each and every one of you



P6 Kilbroney Trip

Our Primary 6 children are at Kilbroney this week. We know they will have a great time and can't wait to hear all about it! Watch out for photos in next month's bulletin.

WORLD OF OWLS

World of Owls visited Primary One, bringing 4 amazing owls to school.

The children were so excited to meet these beautiful owls up close and learn about how they live, what they eat and how they hunt. The children loved seeing their huge wings, fluffy feathers and those incredible eyes.

One of the owls is a movie star and has been in movies/shows such as Harry Potter, King Arthur and Game of Thrones.

It was a wonderful hands-on learning experience. A big thank you to Mike from World of Owls for an unforgettable visit and for helping us learn more about these magnificent birds.



Amazing Journey Production

At the beginning of this week we had a visit from 'The Amazing Journey Team.' Each year group experienced an interactive retelling of the Easter Story. The children also got to dress up and sample some food that would have been common in those times.

It was an exciting opportunity for the children to hear the Easter Story with actors dressed up as Bible characters.

Thank you to Jonny Omerod and his 'Amazing Journey Team' from Lurgan Baptist Church.



COMING UP

SCHOOL FETE / CRAFT FAIR



We plan to have a craft fair in our school canteen as part of our annual school fete on 4th June.

We are aware that there may be families connected to our school who have small businesses/craft stalls and may wish to have a stall at the event. The fee is £20 and we would also greatly appreciate it if



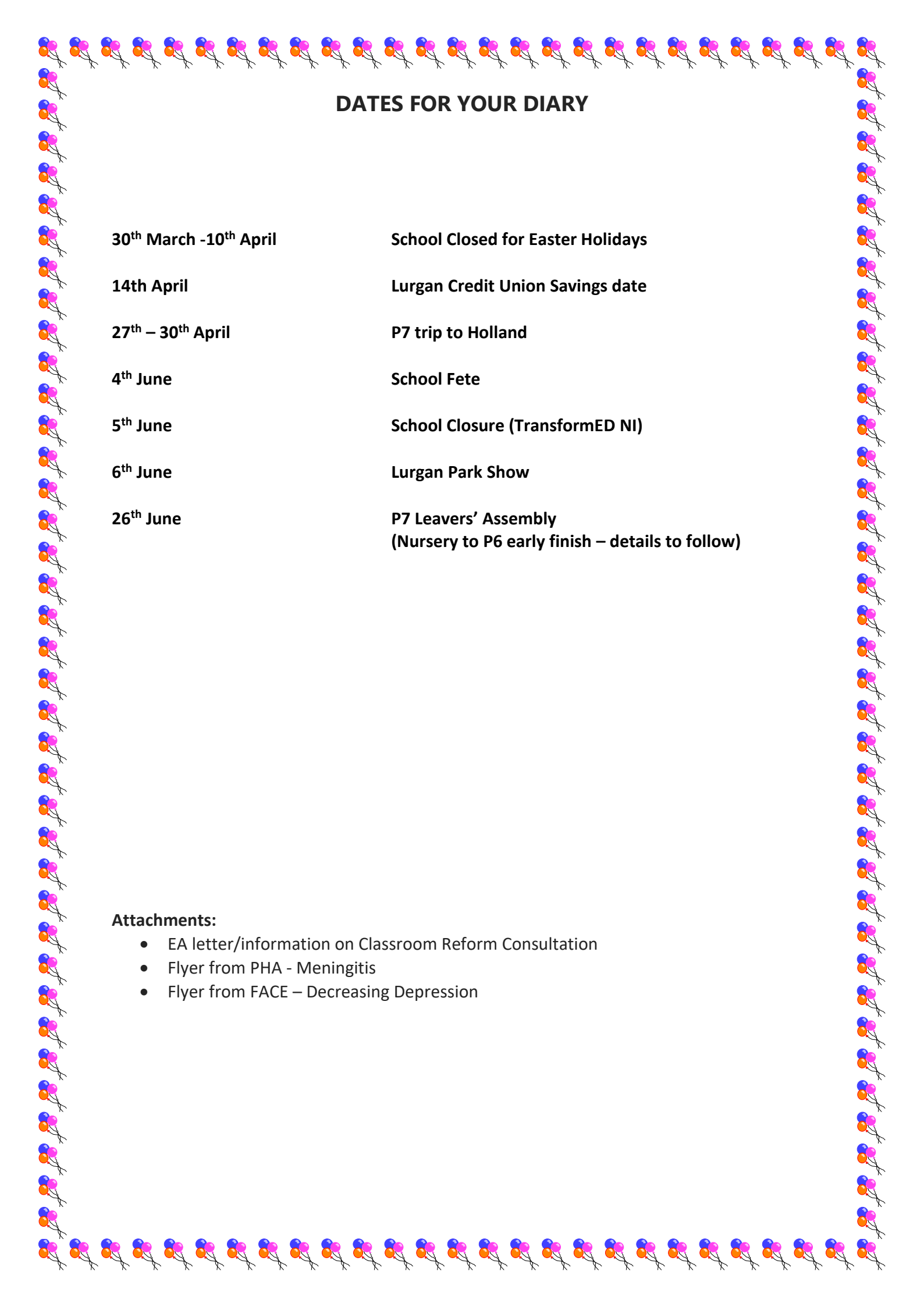
each stallholder would consider donating a small item as a prize in our raffle.

If you would like to apply for a place, please email kpcraftfair@gmail.com

Please note that our space is very limited and therefore we may not be able to offer a place to everyone who applies. When allocating places, we will aim to ensure a variety of stalls and avoid duplication of products as much as possible.

P7 Leavers' Assembly Date

The P7 Leavers' Assembly will be on Friday 26th June at 2.00 pm in the Jethro Centre.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30th March -10th April

School Closed for Easter Holidays

14th April

Lurgan Credit Union Savings date

27th – 30th April

P7 trip to Holland

4th June

School Fete

5th June

School Closure (TransformED NI)

6th June

Lurgan Park Show

26th June

**P7 Leavers' Assembly
(Nursery to P6 early finish – details to follow)**

Attachments:

- EA letter/information on Classroom Reform Consultation
- Flyer from PHA - Meningitis
- Flyer from FACE – Decreasing Depression

12th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Education Authority, in partnership with the Department of Education, is reforming the classroom support model for children and young people with statements of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The Enhanced Support Model is a long-term plan to improve how children with special educational needs are supported in the classroom. It aims to move away from a one-size-fits-all approach and give schools more flexibility to tailor support to your child's individual needs.

The planned classroom support changes are aimed at delivering the best possible outcomes for our children and young people and are part of the wider Department of Education's SEN Reform Agenda and Delivery Plan.

Public consultation on the Enhanced Support Model will take place from 24th March until 19th May. It will help shape the changes and give you the opportunity to have your say. This will be a phased improvement programme – and plans will evolve in the coming years with input from you, our parents and carers, your children, teachers and school leaders.

In the coming weeks, we will be inviting you to share your views through workshops, online sessions, and in-person conversations. Your voice will help us design a model that works for all our children and young people with a statement of SEND.

We understand you will have questions regarding this project therefore we have included some frequently asked questions and a media release which is due for publication this afternoon. We will be back in touch in the coming weeks with further details regarding the consultation opportunities.

The Enhanced Support Model is about collaboration, flexibility, and giving every child and young person the chance to thrive. We look forward to speaking with you and working together to build something better for our children and young people so that they can reach their educational potential and have the best possible start for the future.

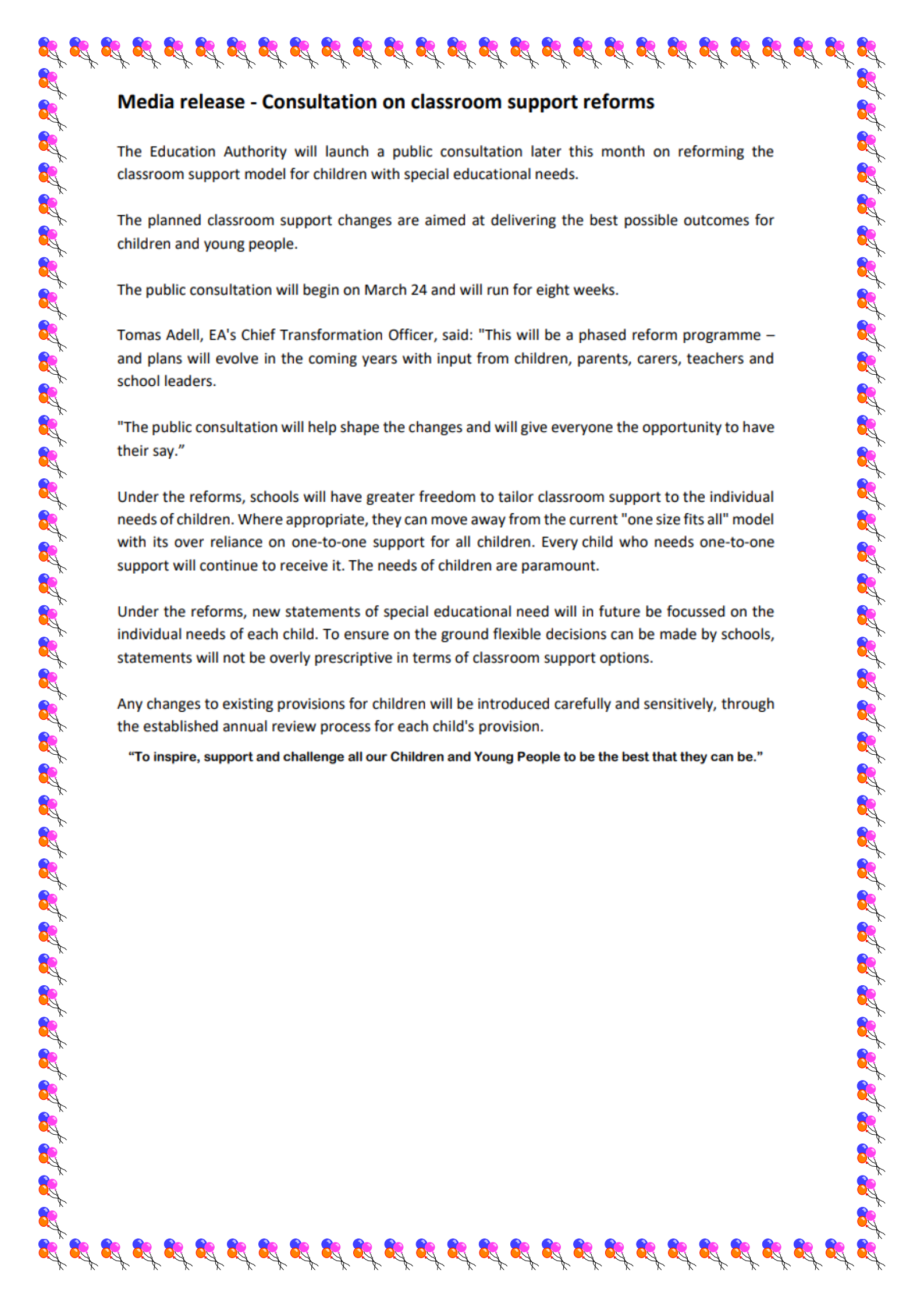
Yours sincerely,



Tomas Adell

Chief Transformation Officer – SEN

Email: SENDTransformation@eani.org.uk



Media release - Consultation on classroom support reforms

The Education Authority will launch a public consultation later this month on reforming the classroom support model for children with special educational needs.

The planned classroom support changes are aimed at delivering the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

The public consultation will begin on March 24 and will run for eight weeks.

Tomas Adell, EA's Chief Transformation Officer, said: "This will be a phased reform programme – and plans will evolve in the coming years with input from children, parents, carers, teachers and school leaders.

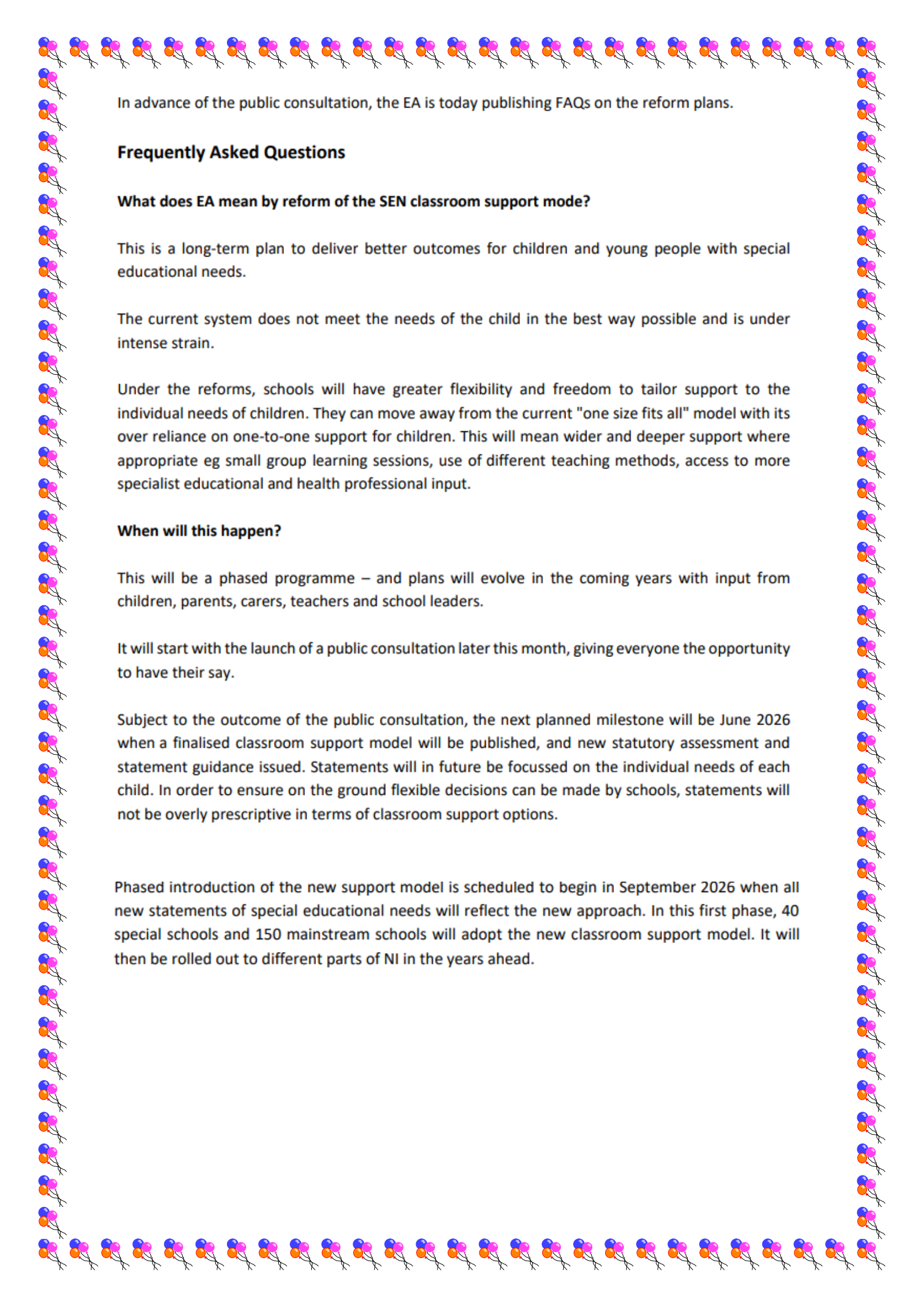
"The public consultation will help shape the changes and will give everyone the opportunity to have their say."

Under the reforms, schools will have greater freedom to tailor classroom support to the individual needs of children. Where appropriate, they can move away from the current "one size fits all" model with its over reliance on one-to-one support for all children. Every child who needs one-to-one support will continue to receive it. The needs of children are paramount.

Under the reforms, new statements of special educational need will in future be focussed on the individual needs of each child. To ensure on the ground flexible decisions can be made by schools, statements will not be overly prescriptive in terms of classroom support options.

Any changes to existing provisions for children will be introduced carefully and sensitively, through the established annual review process for each child's provision.

"To inspire, support and challenge all our Children and Young People to be the best that they can be."



In advance of the public consultation, the EA is today publishing FAQs on the reform plans.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does EA mean by reform of the SEN classroom support mode?

This is a long-term plan to deliver better outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs.

The current system does not meet the needs of the child in the best way possible and is under intense strain.

Under the reforms, schools will have greater flexibility and freedom to tailor support to the individual needs of children. They can move away from the current "one size fits all" model with its over reliance on one-to-one support for children. This will mean wider and deeper support where appropriate eg small group learning sessions, use of different teaching methods, access to more specialist educational and health professional input.

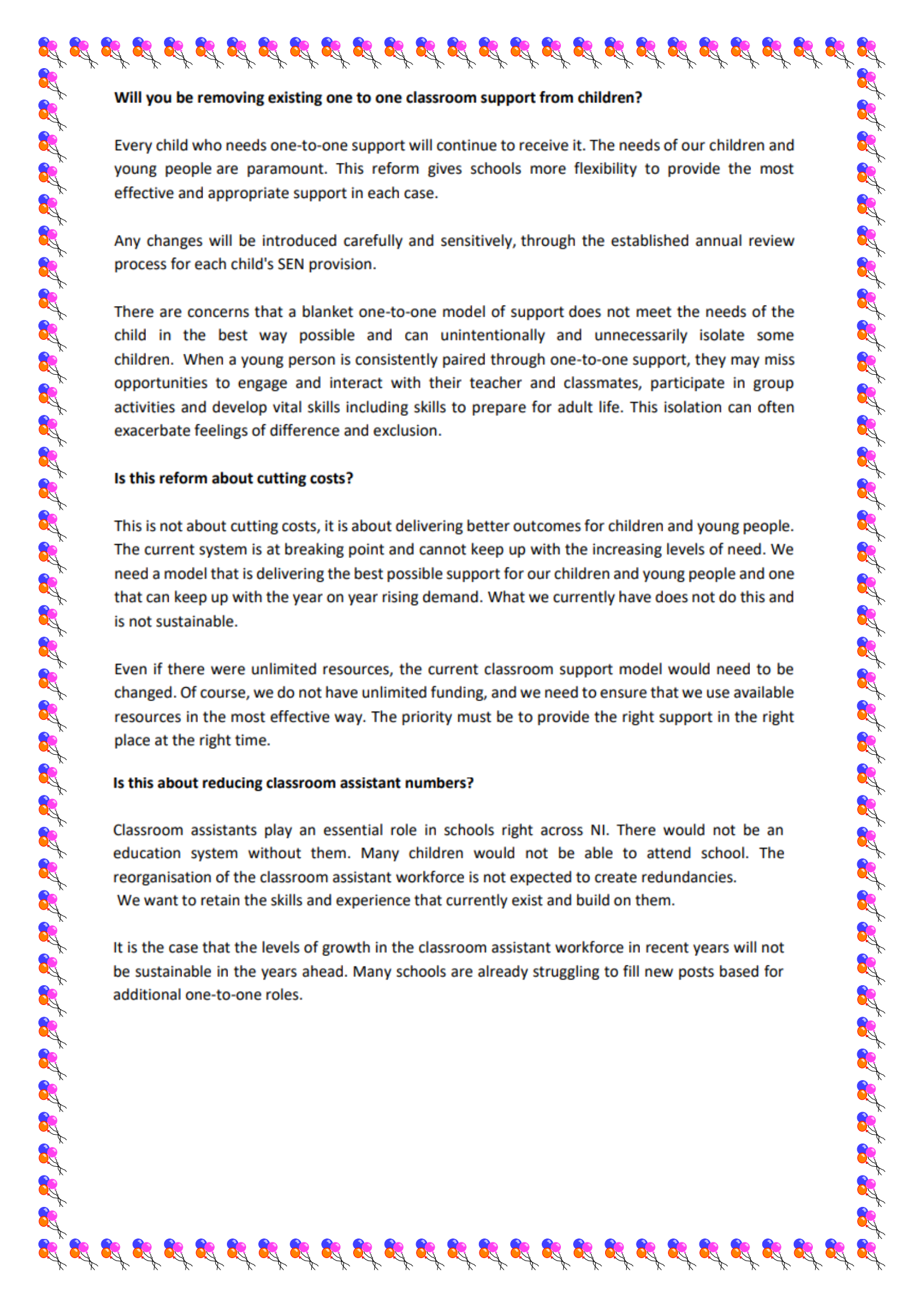
When will this happen?

This will be a phased programme – and plans will evolve in the coming years with input from children, parents, carers, teachers and school leaders.

It will start with the launch of a public consultation later this month, giving everyone the opportunity to have their say.

Subject to the outcome of the public consultation, the next planned milestone will be June 2026 when a finalised classroom support model will be published, and new statutory assessment and statement guidance issued. Statements will in future be focussed on the individual needs of each child. In order to ensure on the ground flexible decisions can be made by schools, statements will not be overly prescriptive in terms of classroom support options.

Phased introduction of the new support model is scheduled to begin in September 2026 when all new statements of special educational needs will reflect the new approach. In this first phase, 40 special schools and 150 mainstream schools will adopt the new classroom support model. It will then be rolled out to different parts of NI in the years ahead.



Will you be removing existing one to one classroom support from children?

Every child who needs one-to-one support will continue to receive it. The needs of our children and young people are paramount. This reform gives schools more flexibility to provide the most effective and appropriate support in each case.

Any changes will be introduced carefully and sensitively, through the established annual review process for each child's SEN provision.

There are concerns that a blanket one-to-one model of support does not meet the needs of the child in the best way possible and can unintentionally and unnecessarily isolate some children. When a young person is consistently paired through one-to-one support, they may miss opportunities to engage and interact with their teacher and classmates, participate in group activities and develop vital skills including skills to prepare for adult life. This isolation can often exacerbate feelings of difference and exclusion.

Is this reform about cutting costs?

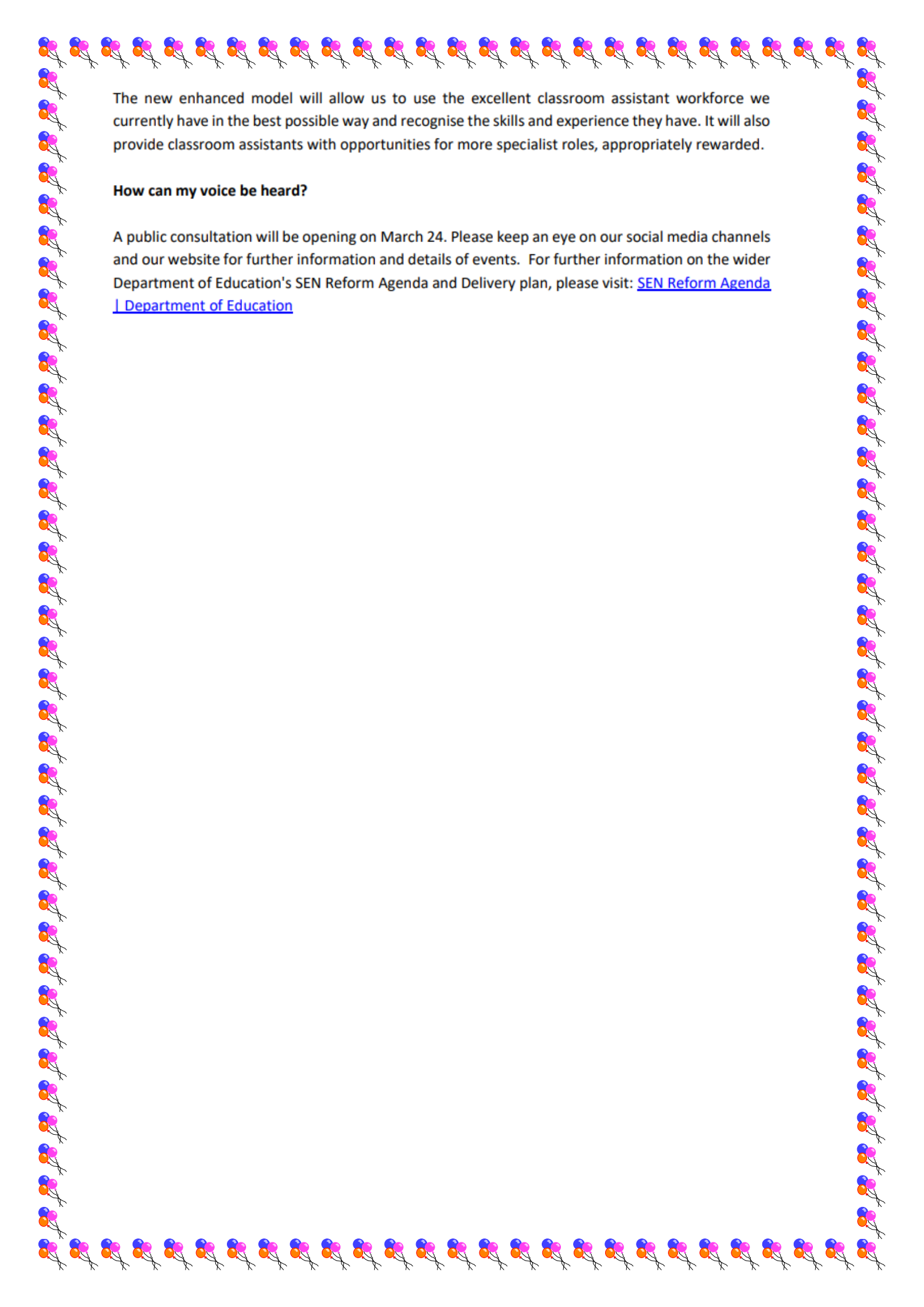
This is not about cutting costs, it is about delivering better outcomes for children and young people. The current system is at breaking point and cannot keep up with the increasing levels of need. We need a model that is delivering the best possible support for our children and young people and one that can keep up with the year on year rising demand. What we currently have does not do this and is not sustainable.

Even if there were unlimited resources, the current classroom support model would need to be changed. Of course, we do not have unlimited funding, and we need to ensure that we use available resources in the most effective way. The priority must be to provide the right support in the right place at the right time.

Is this about reducing classroom assistant numbers?

Classroom assistants play an essential role in schools right across NI. There would not be an education system without them. Many children would not be able to attend school. The reorganisation of the classroom assistant workforce is not expected to create redundancies. We want to retain the skills and experience that currently exist and build on them.

It is the case that the levels of growth in the classroom assistant workforce in recent years will not be sustainable in the years ahead. Many schools are already struggling to fill new posts based for additional one-to-one roles.

A decorative border of colorful balloons (blue, orange, and pink) with black strings, arranged in a rectangular frame around the text.

The new enhanced model will allow us to use the excellent classroom assistant workforce we currently have in the best possible way and recognise the skills and experience they have. It will also provide classroom assistants with opportunities for more specialist roles, appropriately rewarded.

How can my voice be heard?

A public consultation will be opening on March 24. Please keep an eye on our social media channels and our website for further information and details of events. For further information on the wider Department of Education's SEN Reform Agenda and Delivery plan, please visit: [SEN Reform Agenda](#)
[| Department of Education](#)

Meningitis - know the symptoms

Symptoms of meningitis develop suddenly and can include:



Fever (over 37.5C)



Vomiting



Headache /Stiffness



Confusion



Rash



Dislike of
bright lights



Fatigue



Seizures (fits)

If you become worried about yourself, your child, or a friend, particularly if symptoms are getting worse, seek medical help urgently.

MenACWY vaccine



Pupils in year 11 and 12, are offered the MenACWY vaccine in school. The vaccine helps protect young people against four different causes of meningitis and septicaemia: meningococcal groups A, C, W and Y disease. If you're aged 25 or under, at university and haven't yet had the MenACWY vaccination, you should ask your GP for the vaccine.

There are other types of meningitis that there are no vaccines against, so it is important to still watch out for the signs and symptoms.

www.pha.site/meningitis-nidirect

HSC Public Health
Agency



FREE online talk by

Jane Keyworth

FACE family Advice Lead Facilitator

Decreasing Depression

23rd April 7-8pm



Book online

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Parents - Live Talks page