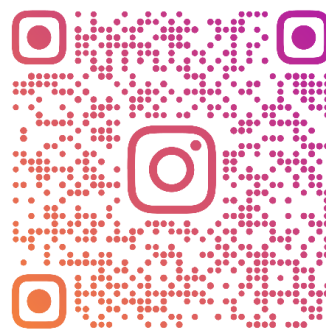




CYPSCWEXFORD

Wexford CYPSC Newsletter

04 September 2026

For information on services and supports for children, young people and families see [Wexford CYPSC](#)

For information on parenting supports and programmes, see [Wexford Parents Hub](#) or access on [Facebook](#)



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EVENTS & CAMPAIGNS

► You're Invited: End Child Poverty Week 2026

We are delighted to bring you details of this year's End Child Poverty Week, which takes place between **Wednesday 2 September – Wednesday 9 September**.

This event-packed week places a spotlight on child poverty to ensure it remains a political priority throughout budget negotiations. Events will focus on key thematic areas of child poverty, including income, child homelessness, child welfare and protection and the need for increased funding of essential services for children.

Child Right's Budgeting: Wednesday 2 September (Radisson Blue Royal Hotel, Dublin 8)

Our opening event takes place in-The Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Dublin 8. The event will focus on Child Rights Budgeting and ensuring that decision-making around Budget 2027 delivers the best outcomes for children, particularly those experiencing poverty.

Chair: Denise Charlton – Chief Executive, Community Foundation Ireland

Keynote Speakers:

- **Dr Sharon Lambert** – Senior Lecturer, School of Applied Psychology University College Cork
- **Professor Aoife Nolan** – President, Council of Europe European Committee of Social Rights

Speakers:

- **Elizabeth Canavan** – Assistant Secretary General of the Social Policy and Public Service Reform Division, Department of the Taoiseach
- **Dr Gráinne Collins** – Policy Analyst, National Economic and Social Council
- **Michelle Murphy** – Research and Policy Analyst, Social Justice Ireland
- **Niall Egan** – Assistant Secretary, Department of Social Protection
- **Tanya Ward** – Chief Executive, Children's Rights Alliance

Book your place! Registration is now open via [Eventbrite here](#).

Child Homelessness: Friday 4 September (Online, 10.30 am – 12.30pm)

This online event is focused on housing and homelessness. The housing crisis is a critical driver of the high child poverty levels we see in Ireland and with 5,620 children experiencing homelessness, we need to see investment in Budget 2027 to address the long-term impacts the crisis is having on children.

Chair: Fergal Landy – Chief Executive, the Family Resource Centre National Forum and Board Member, the Children’s Rights Alliance

Keynote Speaker:

- **Dr Tricia Keilthy** – Head of Policy, Ombudsman for Children’s Office

Speakers:

- **Niamh Allen** – Head of Advocacy and Research, Focus Ireland

- **Dr Fiona Cianci** – Consultant, Public Health Medicine (Child Health Public Health), Health Service Executive

- **Dr Elinor Jenkins** – Consultant Paediatrician, Community Child Health, The Laurels Clinic and The Lynn Clinic

- **Dr Naomi Feely** – Senior Research and Policy Manager, Children’s Rights Alliance

Book your place! Registration is now open via [Eventbrite here](#).

Child Refugees: Mon 7 September (Irish Architectural Archive, 10.30am – 1.30pm)

This year, End Child Poverty Week takes a closer look at the inadequacy of income supports for children and families experiencing the highest levels of poverty. This event highlights the experiences of children, young people and families in the International Protection system and the pressing need to increase the targeted income supports that could lift them out of poverty.

Chair: Koulla Yiasouma – Chair, Young Ireland Advisory Council and Chair, Board of Management of the Oberstown Children’s Detention Campus

Speakers will include:

- **John Lannon**– CEO, Doras

- **Louise Bayliss** – Head of Social Justice and Policy, Society of St Vincent de Paul

- **Lianne Murphy** – Senior Equality Officer, Children’s Rights Alliance

Book your place! Registration is now open via [Eventbrite here](#).

Child Protection and Welfare: Wednesday 9 September (KCYS Killarney, 11.00am – 1.30pm)

For the first time, we are bringing End Child Poverty Week to Kerry. Closing out the programme for the week, this in-person event will focus on child protection, welfare and alternative care and the need to protect and invest in core child protection and family support services that help some of the most vulnerable children in the State.

Chair: Julie Ahern – Director of Legal, Policy and Services, Children Rights Alliance

Keynote Speakers:

- **Kate Duggan** – Chief Executive Officer, Tusla – the Child and Family Agency
- **Dr Aisling Parkes** – Special Rapporteur on Child Protection and Senior Lecturer in Law at the School of Law, University College Cork

Speakers will include:

- **Denise Kirwan** – Partner, Child Law Department, Comyn Kelleher Tobin Solicitors, Cork
- **Thomas O’Driscoll** – Social Worker
- **Seamus Whitty** – CEO, KCYS
- **Sinéad Roe** – Intensive Family Support Co-Ordinator, KCYS

Book your place! Registration is now open via Eventbrite [here](#).

For any queries related to the event or the event registration, please contact us at events@childrensrights.ie

End Child Poverty Week 2026 is now in its fifth year and places a spotlight on child poverty to ensure it remains a political priority throughout budget negotiations. For more information about the events and to book your place, visit the event page [here](#).

We look forward to seeing you!

#EndChildPovertyWeek

► Wexford Town Library Events



September Events



Summer Stars Party: Magic Show with Waffles the Wonderful - Saturday, September 12-1pm and 2-3pm

Calling all Summer Stars! Join us at Wexford Library for a special celebration to mark the end of your Summer Stars reading adventure.

Children are invited to collect their Summer Stars certificate, celebrate their reading achievements, and enjoy a fantastic magic show with Waffles the Wonderful.

Get ready for an afternoon of laughter, surprises, and participation as Waffles performs her goofy and fun magic tricks. Marvel at her mind-reading bear, cheer on brave parents during hilarious rope tricks, and help make things magically appear and disappear! With interactive dance games and plenty of audience participation, there's fun for everyone.

Book for 12pm: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4575438>

Book for 2pm: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4575439>



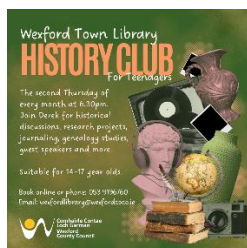
Tabletop Roleplaying Club: Dungeons & Dragons - September 8 - 6.30pm-8.30pm.

Suitable for ages 13-17

Are you ready to embark on an epic adventure? 🎲 🐉 Well then, join us at Wexford Library for tabletop role-playing gaming and unleash your imagination!

Don't worry if you're new to the game. Our library is the perfect place to start your journey. Our sessions are run by seasoned players and they are eager to guide you through the exciting process of character creation and rule mechanics. They'll make sure you're equipped with everything you need to start your heroic escapades!

Book: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4577860>



History Club for Teenagers - Thursday, September 10 - 6.30-7.30pm. Suitable for ages 14-17

Join Derek on the second Thursday of every month at 6.30pm for historical discussions, research projects, journaling, genealogy studies, guest speakers and more

Book: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4497291>



Story Soup Workshop - Friday, September 11 - 3.30pm-4.30pm. Suitable for ages 6-12

Join us for a playful, creativity-filled workshop for families with children aged 6–12.

We'll begin with a reading of Story Soup by Nila Aye and Abie Longstaff, then work together to “brew” an unexpected group story—created entirely from everyone's ideas! Staff will sketch all of the suggestions on a flipchart as the story comes to life.

Families will then be invited to make their own mini “story soup” using the blank booklets provided, supporting early reading, writing, and numeracy in a fun, imaginative way.

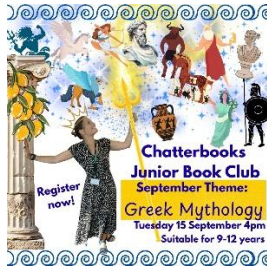
Come stir up some creativity and cook up a story of your own!

Book: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4518638>

Teen Comics Club - September 24 - 6.30-7.30pm. Suitable for ages 13-15

Join us in Wexford library on the last Thursday of the month for our teen comic book club, where stories come off the page! Each month we'll dive into a new graphic novel - from superhero sagas and fantasy adventures to slice of life tales and manga masterpieces!

Book: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4577415>



The Chatterbooks Children's Book Club - Tuesday, September 15 - 4-5pm. Suitable for ages 9-12

After a sunny summer holiday, the Chatterbooks Book Club is back! Come along and enjoy a chat about all things books - we'll even do some arts and crafts too!

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday 15th September at 4pm and our theme for September is Greek Mythology.

Our book club is relaxed and easy going. We discuss the book at the start of the meeting, then have a chat about other books we've read or movies we've seen, then finish up with some fun arts and crafts based on that month's book. It's always great fun and we're happy to welcome new members

Book: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4578697>



Dance Workshop for Children with Vivian Brodie Hayes - September 19 - 11.30am-12.30pm

Join dance artist Vivian Brodie Hayes for a fun and creative dance workshop for children aged 6-8 and their parents or guardians. Through movement, music, games and imagination, we'll explore different ways of using our bodies, expressing ourselves and dancing together.

No dance experience is needed - just come ready to move, play and have fun! Parents and guardians will stay with their children throughout the workshop and are warmly encouraged to join in.

Book: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4582852>



**Sea Creatures Themed Storytime and Arts and Crafts - September 25 - 3-4pm.
Suitable for ages 5-7**

Dive into an ocean of creativity! Join us for a sea creatures themed story and arts and crafts adventure. Perfect for young artists who love the sea! Suitable for ages 5-7 years.

Book: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4582857>



Seal Rescue Ireland Marine Roadshow - September 26 - 12pm-1pm

We're thrilled to celebrate SDG week and National Public Libraries Open Day by welcoming Seal Rescue Ireland for an interactive and insightful talk about seals and marine conservation at Wexford Library.

Join us for an inspiring talk about seals, the threats that they face and what we can do to protect seals and the marine environment. Learn as they share an exciting presentation showcasing Ireland's Native Seal Species and the journey seal pups take at SRI to recover back into the wild!

You'll discover fascinating facts about Ireland's seal population, the challenges they face, and gain practical sustainability tips to help protect marine life and their ecosystems.

Seal Rescue Ireland is a charity dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick, injured, or orphaned seals. As the only Seal Rescue in the Republic of Ireland they have a big responsibility covering a whopping 3100 km of coastline.

Book: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4582883>



Baby Tummy Time, every second Friday - 11.00am-11.45am.

Join us for a Baby Tummy Time session in Wexford Library.

According to the HSE, Tummy time helps to strengthen baby's head, neck, and back muscles. Your baby can begin tummy time as a newborn and continue to do it throughout their first year.

We will provide books for babies and there will also be books on parenting available to borrow. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and babies.

Regular Events



Rhyme Time, every Wednesday, 11.00am-11:30am. Suitable for children aged 0-3

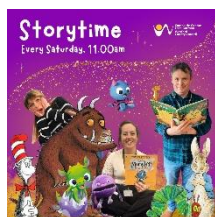
These fun, free and interactive Rhyme Time sessions are perfect for babies and toddlers. Children should be supervised at all times when visiting Wexford Library. **No booking required.**



Lego Free Play, every Saturday from 11am-3.00pm. Suitable for children aged 5+

LEGO Freeplay tables available in Wexford Library on our Children's floor area from 11.30am to 3pm. LEGO will be made available for children and families to build their very own designs. Get Creative! This session is suitable for ages 5yrs +.

No Booking Required. Please note that children must be supervised at all times.



Storytime, every Saturday - 11.00am-11.30am

Join us in Wexford Library every Saturday at 11.00am for lots of Storytime fun!

Suitable for 4 - 7 year olds. **No booking required.**

► Bunclody Library Events



Summer Stars Celebration Day - Nutty Scientists: Loony Gas Show for ages 7 to 12 years, Saturday 5th September, 2.30 to 3.30pm

Join us for our Summer Stars Celebration Day by joining the Nutty Scientists for a fun science-centred show. What if I told you that there is one element that can set your hand on fire, change your voice from a chipmunk to Darth Vader, or create a great fountain of liquid nitrogen? Would you believe that it's all due to gas?! Our explosively fun show will demonstrate how gases can cause all of these loony effects and many more!! **Booking essential.** Please book for the child only. Book online at wexfordcoco.libcal.com or telephone **053 9375466**.



Rhymetime for ages 0 to 5 years - every Wednesday at 11.15am

Join us for Rhymetime every Wednesday when we will have lots of fun nursery rhymes and stories suitable for babies and toddlers followed by a Duplo play session. **No booking required.**

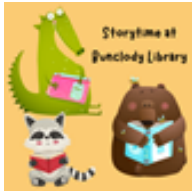


Sensory Friendly Hour

Every Saturday from 4.00 to 5.00pm, sensory friendly hour is observed in Bunclody Library. We encourage you to come along and relax in the calm environment of the library. **No booking required.** All welcome!

Sensory Basket

A sensory basket containing various sensory toys/books available for children to use while visiting the library. Just ask at the desk.



Saturday Storytime for ages 3 to 7 years - Celebrating Reading! Summer Stars Celebration Day, Saturday 5th September, 11.00 to 11.40am

As part of our Summer Stars Celebration Day, today's Saturday storytime will celebrate our amazing young readers. Join us for some fun stories for ages 3 to 7 years. **No need to book** – all welcome!

► **Enniscorthy Library Events**



Interactive Story Time at Enniscorthy Library

Join us in Enniscorthy Library every Saturday at 11am for our Interactive Story Time! Perfect for 3-5 years old but fun for everyone!

All welcome and no booking required.

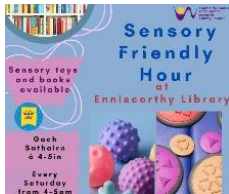


LEGO Free Play at Enniscorthy Library - every Saturday 11.30am-5pm.

Enniscorthy Library invites you and your family to join us for a session of LEGO Free Play, LEGO will be made available for children and families to build their very own designs. This session is suitable for ages 5+.

Please note we're closed for lunch from 1pm-2pm.

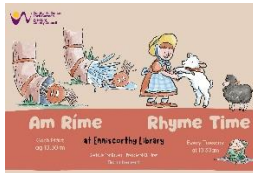
No Booking Required



Sensory Friendly Hour at Enniscorthy Library - Every Saturday from 4-5pm

Sensory Friendly Hour will be observed in Enniscorthy Library.

We encourage you to come along and relax in the calm environment of the library. **No booking required.** All welcome!



Baby and Toddler Rhyme Time at Enniscorthy Library - every Tuesday at 10.30am

Join us in Enniscorthy Library for songs, stories and rhymes!

Perfect for up to 3 years old but fun for everyone!

Through rhymes children naturally learn essential skills for communicating such as turn-taking and joining in.

All welcome and no booking required.

► Gorey Library Events

September Events at Gorey Library:

One-off Adult Events for September:



Bicycle Maintenance Workshop:

Saturday. September 19th at 2:30pm



Board Games and Jigsaw Swap:

Friday 18th of September to Saturday September 26th



Plucky Ladies Talk with Gráinne Doran :

Thursday, September 17th at 7:00pm



Whist Workshops:

Starting Tuesday, 1st September at 11:00am



Culture Night at Gorey Library:

Friday, September 25th from 6:00pm



Tea and Teach Banking Apps for Over 55's:

Starting Monday 28th September at 12:00pm

Children's One-Off Events for September:



Nature Explorers Craft Session:

Monday, September 21st at 3:30pm

All Ages Welcome



Fantastic Mr. Fox Workshop:

Saturday 12th September at 2:30pm

Age 6-10



Children's Chess Workshop:

Saturday, September 19th at 11:00am

Ages 8-14



Paper Recycling Workshop:

Wednesday, September 23rd at 3:30pm

Age 8-12

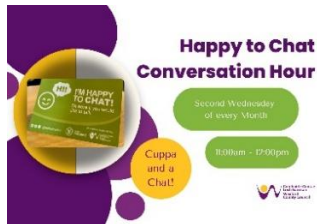
Regular Adult Events



Lifting the Lid Public Piano: First Monday of the Month at 2:30pm



Ciorcal Comhrá: First Tuesday of the Month at 7:00pm
AND NEW: Second Tuesday of the Month at 2:00pm



Happy to Chat Coffee Morning: Second Monday of the Month at 11:00am



La Leche League Breastfeeding Support: Second Wednesday of the Month at 10:30am



Gorey Library Film Club: Second Thursday of the Month at 2:30pm



Scrabble Club: Every Tuesday at 7:00pm



Knitting Circle: Every Friday at 11:00am



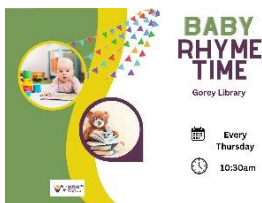
Wordsmiths Writing Group: Every Friday at 2:00pm

Regular Children's Events:



Children's Storytime: Every Tuesday at 11:00am

Age: 3-5

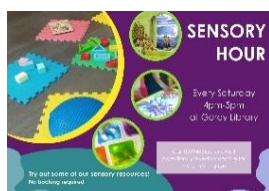


Baby Rhyme Time: Every Thursday at 10:30am

Age: 0-3

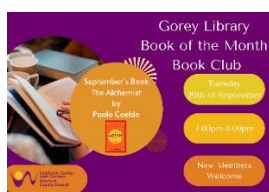


LEGO Freeplay: Every Saturday at 10:30am



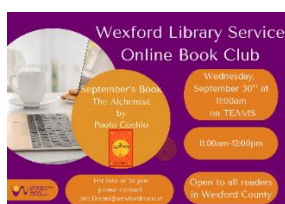
Sensory Hour: Every Saturday at 4:00pm

Adult Book Clubs and Reading Circles:



Book of the Month Book Club:

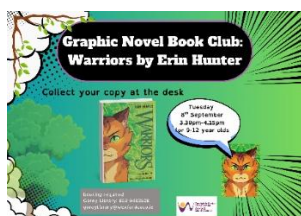
Last Tuesday of the Month at 7:00pm



Wexford Library Service Online Book Club:

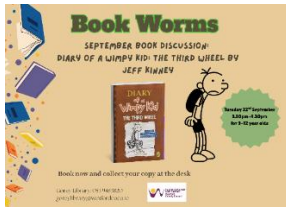
Last Wednesday of the Month at 11:00am

Children's Book Clubs and Discussion Groups:



Graphic Novel Book Discussion: Second Tuesday of the Month at 4:00pm

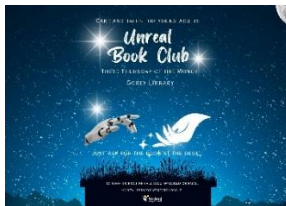
Age: 9-12



Book Worm Book Circle:

Last Tuesday of the Month at 4:00pm

Age: 9-12



YA Unreal Book Club:

Third Thursday of the Month at 4:30pm

Age:12-15

► Gorey Family Resource Centre September Newsletter



GOREY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



✉ info@goreyfrc.ie ☎ 053 948 9017 [f@goreyfrc](https://www.facebook.com/goreyfrc) [i@goreyfrc](https://www.instagram.com/goreyfrc)

We are delighted to announce that our website is now fully operational with a new design, to access the latest resources, news, and updates visit: www.goreyfamilyresourcecentre.ie

"September is summer's quiet goodbye, and
autumn's gentle hello."

COURSES

🧘 Tai Chi

Mondays | 2.30pm–3.30pm

Starting 21st September | 4 weeks

A gentle 4-week course designed to help improve balance, flexibility and wellbeing. Tai Chi is a wonderful way to relax, move your body and take some time for yourself. Funded by Wexford County Council.

As part of our Wellness Wednesdays:

🧘 Chair Yoga

Thursdays | 2.30pm–3.30pm

Starting 10th September | 5 weeks

A gentle and accessible course using seated and supported yoga movements to help improve flexibility, strength, balance and relaxation. A lovely way to support your wellbeing, meet others and take some time for yourself. Funded by Wexford County Council.

🌿 Sound, Healing & Self-Care

Wednesdays | 6pm–8pm

Starting 16th September | 6 weeks

A relaxing and nurturing 6-week self-care course, offering time to pause, unwind and focus on your own wellbeing through sound, healing and self-care practices.

Come along, take some time for yourself, learn new ways to relax and connect with others in a warm and welcoming environment. Funded through WWETB.

September

REFLECTIONS

September is a time of new beginnings, fresh routines and new opportunities. As our summer days slowly give way to autumn, we're looking forward to welcoming everyone back and introducing our new courses and activities. Whether you're looking to learn something new, meet people or simply make a little time for yourself, we hope there's something here for you.

COURSES

🧵 Learn to Sew

Mondays | 9.30am–11.30am

Starting 7th September | 4 weeks

A course for complete beginners! Come along, meet new people and learn some new sewing skills in a relaxed and friendly environment. Funded through WWETB

🎵 Learn to Sing

Thursdays | 9.30am–11.30am

Starting 17th September | 6 weeks

A fun and welcoming course open to everyone. Come along, make new friends and learn to express yourself through the joy of singing. Funded through WWETB

🌿 Intermediate Willow Making

Thursdays | 9.30am–11.30am

Starting 17th September | 6 weeks

For those who have completed our Beginners Willow Making course and would like to further enhance and develop the skills they have learned.

Funded through WWETB

💄 Make Up & Beauty Course (Fully Booked)

Thursdays | 9.30am – 11.30am

Starting 17th September | 6 weeks

Learn all about skincare, beauty and applying make-up, with practical tips and techniques to help you feel confident and look your best.

Funded through WWETB

OUTREACH SERVICES IN THE CENTRE

Wexford Women's Refuge – There is help for women and children who are experiencing domestic abuse. | Appointments in Gorey FRC ☎ 1800 220 44

Traveller Community Health Programme – Women's Group available on Wednesday's 10am – 12pm | For more information contact Laura ☎ 053 915 5800

Perinatal Mental Health Midwife – If you're looking for support with mental health difficulty during pregnancy or after the birth of your baby | Referrals to Jenny can be arranged through your healthcare provider.

Family Carers Ireland – Available this month 24th September from 11am – 1pm | Drop in for a chat in a safe space for advice and support – Jason from Family Carers Ireland is available to advise with any entitlements or adaptations.

Alzheimer Society – Tuesdays 10am – 12pm & 2pm – 4pm | For more details contact Charlene ☎ 087 3976290 or 053 948 5988

Wexford Volunteer Service – If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity in Wexford come along and speak with Yana on Mondays from 9am to 4pm | Contact Yana on ☎ 087 2593650 or yana@volunteerwexford.ie

ManUp – Empowering Men's Mental Health. A relaxed, no pressure space where men can show up as they are, no judgement, no expectations, just real conversations & support. | Call Dean on ☎ 089 404 1986 to find out more.

If you know anyone who could benefit from our outreach services, please feel free to share this information with them.

RIVERCHAPEL COMMUNITY COMPLEX COURSES

Our **Willow Making** course starts at Riverchapel Community Complex on Monday 7th September for 6 weeks. As spaces are limited registration is required for all courses.

For more info please contact Pamela on 0539489017 or pamelag@oreyfr.ie

These courses in Riverchapel are for the residents of Riverchapel, Courtown and Adramine

EVENTS

Marie Keating Foundation will be in the centre on **16th September from 10am to 12.30pm** for a talk on cancer prevention and screening. To book a space please contact us

GROUPS

Men's Club: 2.30pm – 4pm Thursdays
Starting 3rd September

A great opportunity to meet up, enjoy good company and connect with others in a relaxed and friendly setting.

Ukrainian Women's Group: 10am – 12pm Thursdays
Starting 3rd September

A welcoming space for Ukrainian women to connect, make friends, share experiences and enjoy time together.

Friday Women's: 10am – 12pm Fridays
Starting 4th September

Come along for friendship, connection, conversation, activities and a chance to enjoy time together in a welcoming environment.

For info email reception@goreyfr.ie

SUPPORT SERVICES

LOW-COST COUNSELLING SERVICE

For more information please contact 053 9489017 or counselling@goreyfr.ie

PRINTING AND PHOTOCOPYING

Services available 11am – 12pm Tuesdays

DROP IN

Drop in appointments available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2.30pm – 4pm.



Family Resource Centre
National Forum
Healthy, Wealthy, Resilient

Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance 2026

A once-off, means-tested payment to help eligible families with the cost of school clothing and footwear.

€160 for each eligible child aged 12 to 17	€285 for each eligible child aged 12 to 22
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These amounts are in addition to the maximum of €1,000 per child for school clothing and footwear in previous years.

Applications close **30 September 2026**

Check your eligibility and find out how to apply: www.gov.ie/backtoschool

The quickest way to apply is online through MyWelfare: www.mywelfare.ie

WOMEN'S HEALTH

We are committed to supporting women's health and wellbeing by providing free period products in the centre. These are available for anyone who needs them and can be accessed discreetly at any time during opening hours.

WEBINARS/TRAINING

► Barnardos Training Schedule is now LIVE!



Train with us

15th September 7pm -9pm	Creating Connections with Parents... Working Better Together
22nd September 7pm -9pm	Promoting the social & emotional well-being of babies, toddlers and young children
29th September 7pm -9pm	Understanding Young Children's Behaviour in Early Learning and Care
6th October 7pm -9pm	Implementing a Key Person Approach
13th October 7-9pm	Building Trauma Awareness in Early Learning and Care



We have just launched our FREE early years practice development webinars which are now live [for booking on our website.](#)

► HSE Talking Health & Wellbeing Podcast Returns



We're back! After a short summer break, the [HSE Talking Health & Wellbeing Podcast](#) returns with a new season of conversations focused on supporting health and wellbeing across all stages of life. In our first episode back, host Fergal Fox is joined by Dr Abigail Collins to discuss starting primary school and supporting children and families through the back-to-school transition. The conversation explores common concerns, including managing anxiety and separation worries, while also offering practical advice on preparing for school, from uniforms and lunchboxes to establishing healthy routines. Dr Collins also discusses important health topics including vaccinations, good hygiene habits and when children should stay home when unwell. As families prepare for this important milestone, listeners will hear lots of practical guidance, reassurance and helpful resources.

We are delighted to be back and are pleased to introduce a new feature for this season - this episode has been video recorded and is available to watch on our [YouTube channel](#) as well as listen to, with selected future episodes also being filmed to make our content even more accessible to audiences. We look forward to bringing you more conversations in the weeks ahead on topics including school health, mental wellbeing, Pride, leadership in healthcare and much more. To get in touch with the podcast please email Healthandwellbeing.communications@hse.ie

► Webinar Launch; Arts and Health in Older Persons Services: Guidance Documents



You are invited to join Minister Murnane O'Connor for the launch of Arts and Health in Older Persons Services: Guidance Documents. These resources will support staff in residential and day care services for older persons to plan and deliver creativity and arts programmes. They include practical advice on how to use person-centred creativity to support the daily routines of residents, contribute to the goals of individual care plans, and make a service feel more like a home.

The launch will be of particular interest to managers, activity co-ordinators, and care staff working in residential and day care services who are interested in developing arts activities in their settings, and connecting with arts and cultural opportunities in their communities. It will also be of interest to artists and arts organisations supporting arts programming in Older Persons Services.

These guidance documents have been developed by Réalta, the national resource organisation for arts and health, on behalf of the National Creative Arts and Health Group which is an ongoing partnership between the Department of Health, through the Healthy Ireland programme; the Creative Ireland programme at the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport; the Health Service Executive; and the Arts Council.

To attend, please [register here](#).

► Age Friendly AI Workshops in Wexford Town Library...coming soon!



Age Friendly AI Workshop

 **Monday 14 September**
2.00pm – 3.30pm

 **Wexford Town Library**

**Wexford Town Library in
partnership with Age Action**

 Comhairle Contae
Loch Garman
Wexford
County Council



 **Skills
For Life**
Grow the skills you need at your local library

 **Age Friendly
IRELAND**

 **Age-Action**
Age Equality

Are you curious about Artificial Intelligence (AI) but not sure where to start?

Join us for this friendly, interactive workshop designed specifically for older adults who want to understand and make the most of AI in everyday life.

Age Friendly AI Workshop - Wexford Town Library in partnership with Age Action.

Monday 14th September at 2.00pm-3.30pm.

This free, friendly and interactive AI workshop will take place in Wexford Town Library on Monday 14th September at 2-pm-3.30pm. The workshop is designed to help participants build confidence in using AI technologies safely and effectively.

The workshop will be delivered in partnership with Age Action, and we are planning to repeat monthly, thus allowing as many people as possible to benefit from this information and learning.

Please share with as many people as you can.

Participants will learn:

- What AI is and where we encounter it in daily life
- How to use AI tools such as ChatGPT by asking useful questions
- Practical ways AI can help, including writing emails, planning activities, finding information, and learning new skills
- How to stay safe online, including understanding scams, privacy concerns, and misinformation
- How to make AI work for you, with opportunities to explore real-life uses tailored to your own interests and needs

By the end of the workshop, participants will have a greater understanding of AI, increased confidence in using AI tools, and practical ideas for how AI can support them in everyday life, from checking the weather and organising appointments to spotting scams and creating personalised exercise plans.

[Book here](#)

LITERACY

► Five free online lunchtime talks to mark International Literacy Day 2026



You are warmly invited to join us this September for Literacy in Real Life

- a series of **five free online lunchtime talks** to mark **International Literacy Day 2026**.

The sessions will explore different areas of literacy and share practical experiences and ideas from across communities in Ireland.

Please see below for the full programme. You can choose the sessions that interest you and join as many as you like.

Please find the registration links below:

Webinar 2: <https://tinyurl.com/y96rwhite>

Webinar 3: <https://tinyurl.com/2s4ayc6r>

Webinar 4:

https://eu01.z.antigena.com/l/3lrVxbZi3ggE_3xMK~uhjqzXD9g7qFLXAAsqDtm-qstZ73VGOINohL_Hz-

[VeEpJ_Vx56Gyl8nYdCmlx1Cwwlq6vsUkj9IkBZWUYiFo02_xrmKakb3Kw2HrI95P9ml60PBdUmAHupsf5btsbAHVhiKaIBijrDr6JENyM6tSXXvdpHA9MXBPcGMlnJ5xq2ji2c](https://eu01.z.antigena.com/l/3lrVxbZi3ggE_3xMK~uhjqzXD9g7qFLXAAsqDtm-qstZ73VGOINohL_Hz-VeEpJ_Vx56Gyl8nYdCmlx1Cwwlq6vsUkj9IkBZWUYiFo02_xrmKakb3Kw2HrI95P9ml60PBdUmAHupsf5btsbAHVhiKaIBijrDr6JENyM6tSXXvdpHA9MXBPcGMlnJ5xq2ji2c)

Webinar 5: <https://tinyurl.com/bdz8hmk2>

Literacy in real life – stories and voices across communities

Join us for a series of free online lunchtime talks to celebrate International Literacy Day 2026. Scan the QR codes or click the links to register for the sessions you would like to attend.

Webinar 1	Webinar 2	Webinar 3	Webinar 4	Webinar 5
Literacy Awareness Literacy beyond reading and writing	Health Literacy Navigating health with confidence	Workplace Literacy Building skills for work	Digital Literacy Navigating the digital world	Learner Voices Real stories from learners
3 September 1-2pm	10 September 1-2pm	17 September 1-2pm	24 September 1-2pm	1 October 1-2pm
				
https://tinyurl.com/4z9dfu8	https://tinyurl.com/y96rwhite	https://tinyurl.com/2s4ayc6r	https://tinyurl.com/ymcs2k5h	https://tinyurl.com/bdz8hmk2



Adult
Literacy
for Life

SOLAS

An tArdchúir Oideachais
Léarnamh agus Seolaimh
Uachtair Éireann agus
Ardchúir Éireann



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhiúil ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-fundad by
the European Union



etbi
Education Training
Institute
Health Ireland
Health and Wellbeing
Institute

Webinar 2

Health Literacy

Navigating health
with confidence

10 September
1-2pm



<https://tinyurl.com/y96rwhite>

**From Literacy
Champion to Health
Literacy Advocate:
Applying literacy
awareness in practice**

**Suzanne Nolan, Regional
Roma Health Lead, HSE Social
Inclusion Dublin & South East**

Suzanne Nolan will discuss how becoming a Literacy Champion deepened her understanding of literacy as a social and health issue. Drawing on her work with Roma communities, she will explore how literacy awareness can shape communication, engagement and service delivery, supporting people to better access, understand and use health information.

**Nothing About Us
Without Us: Co-
Designing Community
Health Education That
Actually Work**

**Hannah Gross, Assistant
Professor in Physical Activity
Behaviour Change, School
of Health and Human
Performance, DCU**

Traditional health education often fails because it is designed for a community, rather than with them. For people with unmet literacy needs, off-the-shelf health programs can feel disconnected and irrelevant. In this session, we'll explore how to flip the script.

**Promoting Positive Traveller
Mental Health, Wellbeing,
through the power of Cultural
Understanding & Cultural
Training/Educational initiatives**

**Doreen-HSE Traveller Mental Health
Service Coordinator, Kathleen-Traveller
Primary Health Care Coordinator
Blancherstown Traveller Project**

This talk is designed to provide the audience with an opportunity to learn more about Traveller mental health and the overall health and wellbeing of Travellers through the lens of lived experience, cultural understanding and community knowledge.

Webinar 3

Workplace Literacy

Building skills for work

17 September

1-2pm



<https://tinyurl.com/2s4ayc6r>

Let's Talk about Literacy

Join this webinar on Essential Skills for the Workplace and learn more about how employers and educators can support workforces. Find out about how you can become a literacy champion in your workplace.

Did you know?

- ▶ 1 in 6 people in the workplace in Ireland has literacy needs
- ▶ 1 in 5 people have numeracy needs?

Delivered by:

▶ Angela Boyle Shafer from the National Programme Office for Adult Literacy for Life. Angela has worked in the Programme Office since January 2025. Her role is to drive supports for workplace literacy under the priorities of the ALL Strategy.

Webinar 4

Digital Literacy

Navigating the digital world

24 September

1-2pm



<https://tinyurl.com/ymcs2k5h>

DigiLit @ Your Library: Building Digital Confidence Through Community Partnership

Geraldine Colgan, Senior Executive Librarian with Wicklow County Council Library Service

This presentation will explore how Wicklow County Council Library Service and Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) collaborated to deliver DigiLit @ Your Library, a digital literacy initiative funded through the Adult Literacy for Life Collaboration and Innovation Fund.

Delivering Digital Literacy Classes

Tracey Kierans and Tessa Mulligan, IT Tutors, Cavan and Monaghan ETB

They will discuss how local ALL Collaboration and Innovation Fund (CIF) projects have helped CMETB and partners to deliver introductory digital skills training. Tracey and Tessa will talk about what they delivered on these programmes, and how they delivered it. This information highlights what people want from digital literacy programmes.

Financial Literacy in your community

Mary Mitchell, Adult Educator, Dublin College, Blanchardstown

Are you interested in supporting financial literacy in your community? Join us for a short online presentation where we share our journey from community engagement to developing strong partnerships with organisations including MABS, financial institutions, Revenue, the HSE, and the Decision Support Service.

Webinar 5

Learner Voices

Real stories
from learners



1 October



1-2pm



<https://tinyurl.com/bdz8hmk2>

It's Never Too Late

Pam Noonan, Literacy
Ambassador, Limerick
and Clare ETB

Pam left school at a young age and returned to education later in life, completing her Junior Certificate at 71. She will share her journey and show that it is never too late to take that next step in education.

Taking the First Step

Brian O'Donnell, Literacy
Ambassador, Kilkenny
and Carlow ETB

Brian left school early and is now a passionate advocate for adult learners. He will talk about making that first step, "getting through the door", and finding the confidence to return to education.

Literacy, Work, and Progression

Anthony Magee, Literacy
Ambassador, Waterford
and Wexford ETB

Anthony will share his experience of returning to education and work, and how improving his literacy skills helped him build confidence, progress in his career and achieve a promotion.

► Have your say on the Adult Literacy for Life Strategy



The Government is doing a **mid-term review of the ten-year Adult Literacy for Life Strategy 2021-2031**.

This is an opportunity for you and your colleagues to share your views on how the strategy is being implemented. It is important that the Government hears from the community and voluntary sector. [Read more about the strategy.](#)

Government consultation

We are now halfway through the 10 year Adult Literacy for Life Strategy. SOLAS, Ireland's Further Education and Training authority, has hired independent consultants Three Sixty Insights to review the strategy.

Survey

Three Sixty Insights are running a survey. **The survey closes on 18 September.**

You do not have to answer all the questions. You can give your general view on how the strategy is going in question 6.

Service users and Learners

If you have service users or learners that you could participate in this survey please do not hesitate to share this opportunity with them. You can also support them to complete the survey.

[Do the survey](#)

Focus groups

Sign up for one of the focus group taking place throughout September. You do not have to do the survey to take part in a focus group.

[Sign up for a focus group](#)

Contact info@threesixtyinsights.ie if you have any questions

You can make a difference

If you share your views with Three Sixty Insights, you will help to

- improve the ALL strategy and its implementation over the next five years.
- show Government the importance of adult literacy, and
- make sure the review is informed by organisations and real-world experience of working with communities affected by literacy needs.

► Family Literacy Community of Practice



Family Literacy Community of Practice

Collaboration

In 2025, Adult Literacy for Life (ALL), SETU and NALA collaborated under the guidance and direction of Dr Lána McCarthy, SETU, to develop a Family Literacy Community of Practice (FL CoP). The FL CoP continues to grow and develop, meeting four times per year under the chair of Adult Literacy for Life (ALL), connecting practitioners and researchers from Ireland and internationally.

Who can attend?

The Family Literacy Community of Practice is open to all, family literacy practitioners and educators, HSCLs, teachers, community organisations – anyone who has an interest in Family Literacy

Topic

Everyday talk matters

Supporting practitioners to empower parents to support oral language development in the home.

Presenters

- **SMILE Project** (Supporting Multilingual and Intercultural Learning in the Early Years) Limerick with Dr Hadjar Hammadi and Dr Aoife Gallagher
- **Learning to Talk** HSE Speech and Language Therapists and ABC Start Right, Limerick with Suzanne Reilly, Senior SLT
- **Me & you Storytime** ABC Start Right, Bedford Row Family Support Project, and Limerick Prison with Tom Costelloe, Senior SLT

Next session

Wednesday 30 September 2026

1.15pm to 2.15pm

via Teams

Contact:

Helen Walsh, Family Literacy Lead
helen.walsh@solas.ie

Register here



RESOURCES & INFORMATION

► Resource: Community and inclusion interactive calendar



Let's talk about community and inclusion this September.

[You can access the calendar here.](#)

Find your local ETB Service

Let's talk about community and inclusion this September

Click on the link in each date to access resources.

This free resource brings together a wide range of practical tools, learning resources, learner stories, videos, courses and community initiatives that support inclusion, participation and lifelong learning.

The calendar highlights resources developed by and for diverse communities, including people with disabilities, neurodivergent learners, Traveller and Roma communities, migrant communities, older adults and many others. It also includes materials on accessible information, plain language, Universal Design for Learning, assistive technology, literacy-friendly practice and community participation.

Over the past year, I've had the privilege of coordinating this series of interactive literacy calendars. This community and inclusion calendar is the latest in our 2026 interactive calendar series and was developed through collaboration with colleagues and partner organisations across the Adult Literacy for Life network.

I would particularly like to thank the Regional Literacy Coordinators' working group members who contributed their expertise, ideas and resources throughout the project.

I hope you find it useful and discover new resources to support inclusion in your work, learning, and community.