



Newsletter

10th July 2026



Dear Parents and Carers of Greenleas School,

The end of year celebrations have continued this week with both our Year 4 Leavers' Performances at Kestrel Way on Monday 6th and Derwent Road on Tuesday 7th July. We enjoyed a good old Lambeth Walk singalong at the end of the show, despite the hot temperature of the hall.

My final lunch of the Summer term - and the academic year - was with Key Stage 1 children at Derwent Road. Albie, Mabel, Ettie, Vanessa, Sinali, Orla, Poppy and I collected our lunches from the kitchen and ate them in the hall which was surprisingly cool despite the temperatures outside. Our main topic of conversation was how fantastic it was that we could go in the paddling pool so much because of the hot weather, and if we could angle the slide from the play set so it dropped us into the water. We all agreed it was tricky to get to sleep in the heat though.

On Thursday, children at Kestrel Way enjoyed their Summer Bonanza to round off the year. The Bouncy Castles were inflated, the ice cream van was parked up on the playground and Miss Jones was a dead shot with the hose. All the children enjoyed a thoroughly good soaking and a chance to let off steam.

Today it is Derwent Road's turn for some end of term celebrations with the end of year Leavers' Disco. We have taken the decision to move this outside due to the high temperatures, with all the usual disco activities taking place in the fresh"er" air.

Many thanks to our PTAs and staff volunteers at both sites for making these and other events a possibility, they are hugely appreciated by the children, and the funds raised are hugely appreciated by the school.

Our pieces of writing this week are from Ethan and Harry from Year 2 at Kestrel Way and Derwent Road.

With best wishes for the weekend – I am looking forward to singing with my combined choir at the Carnival on Saturday at 1pm. Do come along and watch/listen if you are in the area.

Rebecca Clarke,
Head Teacher

Greenleas' Value of the Month for July is...

Enthusiasm

A feeling of energetic interest in a subject or activity and an eagerness to be involved in it.

To help deepen our children's understanding of our value of **enthusiasm** this month, here are some questions you could discuss with your children at home: What does enthusiasm look like? What are you enthusiastic about? How does being enthusiastic help your learning?

Star of the Week

Derwent Road:
Emilie



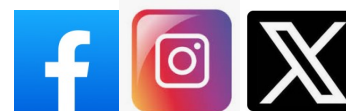
Tidy Tortoise

Kestrel Way:

Goldfinches

Derwent Road:

Eagles



Safeguarding Matters

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to have an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RATING
7+

Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended 'sandbox' game of building and exploration still has over 140 million players who happily return to play it at least once every month. Minecraft has also been utilised for much more than just entertainment: it's sometimes used in schools to teach children coding, and it's also employed as a tool for computer-aided design, which is another valuable skill. Encouraging creativity and problem solving, Minecraft has plenty to offer gamers of all ages, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public network (called a server) lets your child potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to role-playing – encouraging direct player interaction. Anyone can join public servers and connecting to one is relatively simple. Public server IP addresses (and therefore someone's location) are easy to find with search engines.

SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's nothing too unfearful in the game. However, some of the 'baddies' that can be encountered might prove a little too scary for very young players. In the game, certain enemies come out at night and are accompanied by audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may unsettle young ones.

GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creation. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying: it intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional extra purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription (requiring regular payments) that lets users run a multiplayer server to play with their friends. Most games consoles also need an active subscription to enable online play – so online gaming can quickly become an expensive hobby.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and the outcome (when a child has built something new, for instance) can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

Advice for Parents & Carers

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lot of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate Minecraft videos to share with your children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself, and how your child plays it.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting 'Creative' or 'Peaceful' mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of annoying zombies or creepers damaging your build.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for your child to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the necessary joining details. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – to ban someone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while your child is playing Minecraft, so reminding them to take regular breaks is essential. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone needs to have contact with a stranger online. Talking to your child about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan in place for dealing with any hostile or difficult strangers. Ensure that your child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online, and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

Meet Our Expert

Claire Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawd!) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawd! Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

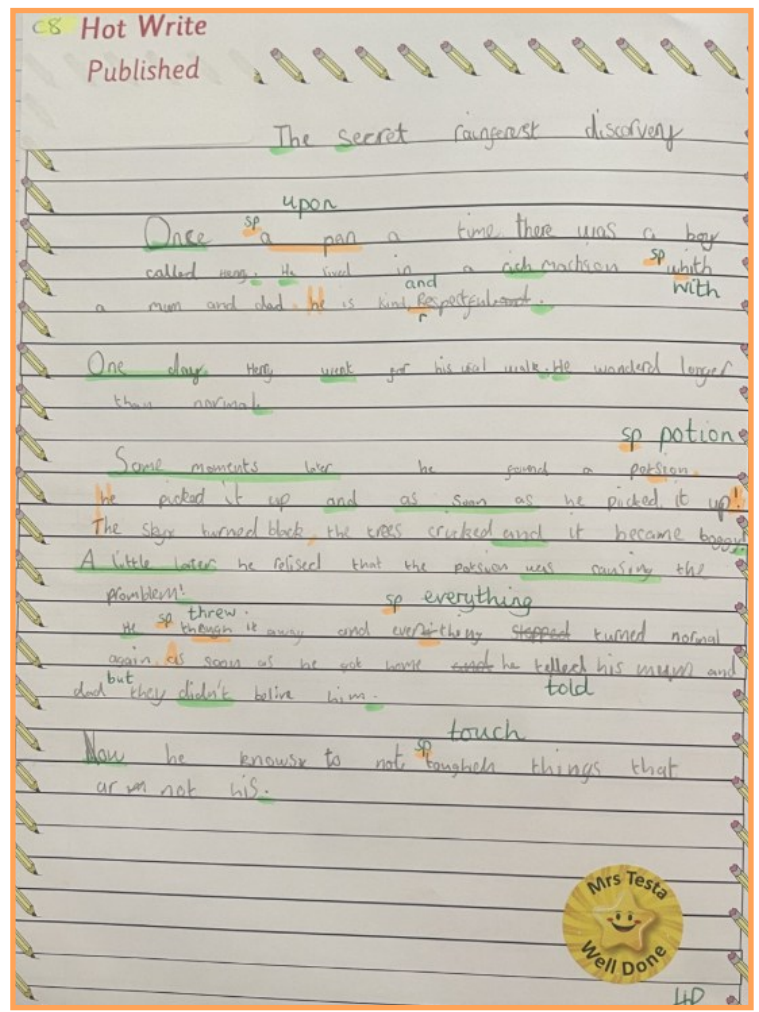
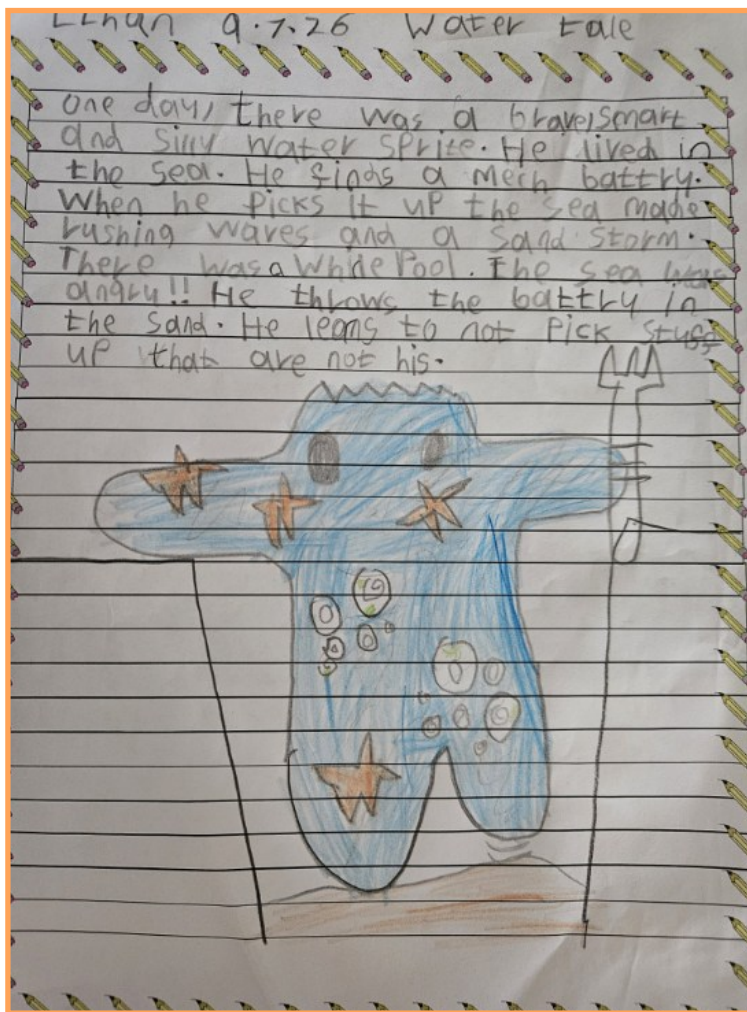
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natoronlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 29.08.2022

If you wish to report any safeguarding concerns, please contact the below staff members in the first instance:

	Designated Safeguarding Lead: Rebecca Clarke Kestrel/Derwent	Derwent Road: Sarah Horne	Derwent Road: Bindia Sexton	Derwent Road/Kestrel Way: Alexia Cook	Kestrel Way: Amanada Wallace	Dorothy Smith Safeguarding Governor
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Caterina at Derwent Road has been selected for the Bedfordshire Football Association (FA) U10 Girls Football Academy. She beat competition from over 60 other girls, across two trial nights to make the squad. She showed great passion and determination to make it. The Beds FA U10s Academy is part of the England FA's talent pathway and will be a great step for her development as a player. She can't wait to represent Greenleas one last time at the Southcott Tournament this weekend.



SAFETY IN THE SUN

As we enjoy the warmer weather, it is timely to remind everyone about protecting your child against the harmful effects of the sun.

Please apply sunscreen at home—there are several brands available that last for the whole day. Any sunscreen sent in to school will be returned as it will not be applied here. Please also provide a named water bottle so your child can stay hydrated.

Provide a named, brimmed hat or cap to protect against heatstroke, and to offer shade to the face and eyes. This is preferable to sunglasses. On hot and sunny days, children without hats will not be allowed to play out in direct sunlight, so please ensure your child has a hat in school. This is also important for PE.

Named sunglasses may be worn, offering UV protection, but not fashion sunglasses. These should be named and are the responsibility of the child. They must be removed for PE unless they are prescription sunglasses or worn for medical reasons. Children may be asked to remove their sunglasses if deemed appropriate for health and safety reasons by a member of staff.

Where possible, please can you avoid sunscreen products with nuts/nut oils. This may be labelled as prunus amygdalus dulcis (sweet almond).



Session 1:
Mini Tennis
Age 4-11 years
12-2pm
£60 for 5 day week

Session 2:
Yellow Ball
Age 12-18 years
2-5pm
£90 for 5 day week

SUMMER TENNIS CAMP 2026

Linslade Tennis Club
www.linslade-tennis-club.co.uk

Week 1
3rd - 7th AUGUST

Week 2
10th - 14th AUGUST

Week 3
17th - 21st AUGUST

10% Discount AVAILABLE for SIBLINGS and Members

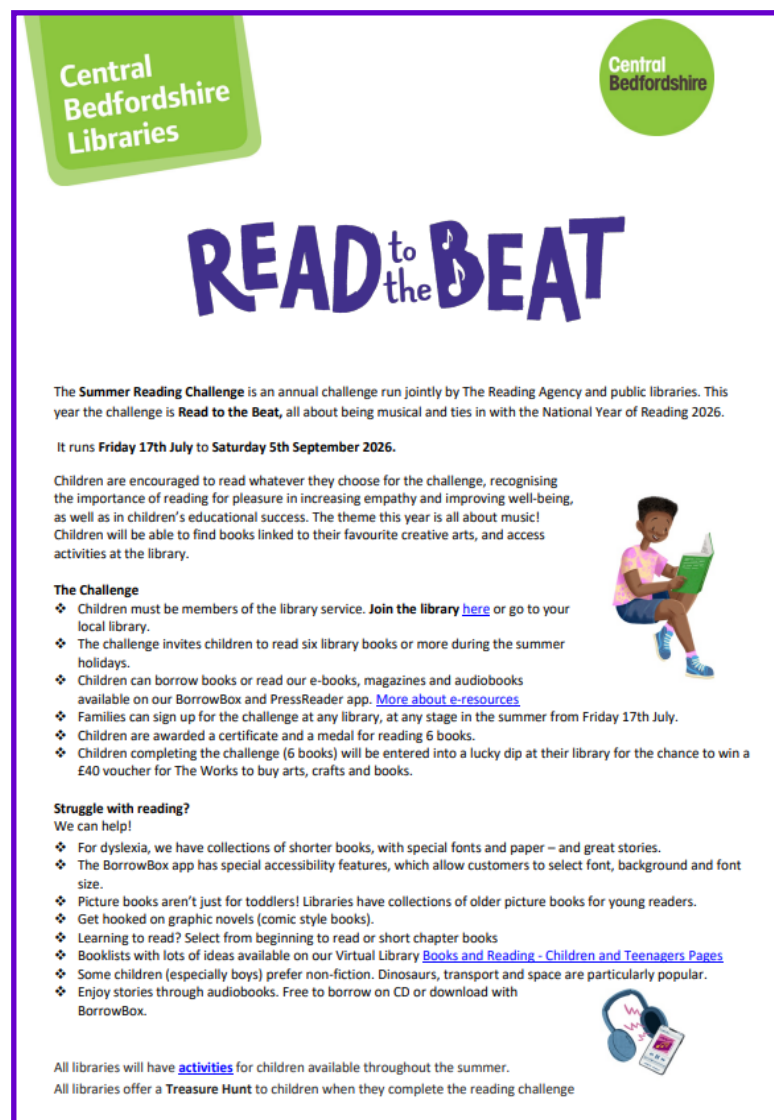
Includes:

- Fun Tennis Games
- Tennis Coaching Drills
- LTA qualified coaches
- Tuck Shop available
- Age 4-18 years old
- All abilities welcome

To book visit:
www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/linsladedtennisclub/Coaching/Camps

Linslade Tennis Club
Mentmore Road, LU7 2NY

For more information contact Head Coach Sara Bamford 07561-571578



Central Bedfordshire Libraries

READ to the BEAT

The **Summer Reading Challenge** is an annual challenge run jointly by The Reading Agency and public libraries. This year the challenge is **Read to the Beat**, all about being musical and ties in with the National Year of Reading 2026.

It runs **Friday 17th July to Saturday 5th September 2026**.

Children are encouraged to read whatever they choose for the challenge, recognising the importance of reading for pleasure in increasing empathy and improving well-being, as well as in children's educational success. The theme this year is all about music! Children will be able to find books linked to their favourite creative arts, and access activities at the library.

The Challenge

- ❖ Children must be members of the library service. **Join the library** [here](#) or go to your local library.
- ❖ The challenge invites children to read six library books or more during the summer holidays.
- ❖ Children can borrow books or read our e-books, magazines and audiobooks available on our BorrowBox and PressReader app. [More about e-resources](#)
- ❖ Families can sign up for the challenge at any library, at any stage in the summer from Friday 17th July.
- ❖ Children are awarded a certificate and a medal for reading 6 books.
- ❖ Children completing the challenge (6 books) will be entered into a lucky dip at their library for the chance to win a £40 voucher for The Works to buy arts, crafts and books.

Struggle with reading?
We can help!

- ❖ For dyslexia, we have collections of shorter books, with special fonts and paper – and great stories.
- ❖ The BorrowBox app has special accessibility features, which allow customers to select font, background and font size.
- ❖ Picture books aren't just for toddlers! Libraries have collections of older picture books for young readers.
- ❖ Get hooked on graphic novels (comic style books).
- ❖ Learning to read? Select from beginning to read or short chapter books
- ❖ Booklists with lots of ideas available on our Virtual Library [Books and Reading - Children and Teenagers Pages](#)
- ❖ Some children (especially boys) prefer non-fiction. Dinosaurs, transport and space are particularly popular.
- ❖ Enjoy stories through audiobooks. Free to borrow on CD or download with BorrowBox.

All libraries will have [activities](#) for children available throughout the summer.
All libraries offer a **Treasure Hunt** to children when they complete the reading challenge



Bonjour!

July 2026

Would you like to give your child a head start in a Foreign language?

Research shows that learning a new language at a young age is effective. It also improves children's cognitive ability, which has a positive impact on other areas of the curriculum.

As a qualified teacher and native speaker, I am delighted to run the after school French club at Greenleas Lower School, Derwent Road.

In these small 30-minute classes, pupils enjoy learning the language and much more through stories, songs, games and role-plays.



Next term, classes will run from **7th September through to 30th November 2026 (12 weeks).**

Classes are **£5.90** a week and the children are required to have an activity book that comes with a media app. The book lasts at least one full school year.

I send regular emails to tell you what we have been doing in class and what the children could practise at home.

If you would like your child to join, please register them online using:
www.clubenrolment.com/ABLaughton - select Greenleas Lower School Derwent Road

When making payment, please put your child's name and GR as a reference.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or visit www.lejolierronde.co.uk if you would like any further information or if you have any questions.

I leave you with two of my favourite quotes:

- To have another language is to possess another soul - Charlemagne
- Knowledge of languages is the doorway to wisdom - Roger Bacon

Merci beaucoup,

Aurélien Laughton

Email: ab.laughton@gmail.com

READ to the BEAT

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- Get hooked on graphic novels (comic style books).
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- Booklists with lots of ideas available on our [Virtual Library](#).
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**Ceramics, Collage,
Painting,
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Model-Making and
much more!**

**Improves fine
motor skills,
creativity,
confidence and
practical problem
solving**

**Lots of support
and
encouragement
from our friendly
professional tutors**

**GREENLEAS SCHOOL
KESTREL WAY
ART CLUB!**

**A friendly club where children make, build and
create wonderful artwork to take home and
treasure.**

Wednesdays 3:30 – 4:30pm

16th September – 21st October 2026 (6 sessions)

Open to children in Years 2 – 4

£52.50 – including all materials

Bookings open Friday 10th July at 7pm.

Please visit: www.bookwhen.com/loveartandcraft

LOVE ART & CRAFT

Follow us on Facebook
and Instagram.

www.facebook.com/loveartandcraft.education

Instagram
[@loveartandcrafteducation](https://www.instagram.com/loveartandcrafteducation)

Phone: 07967332068

www.loveartandcraft.co.uk



**Ceramics, Collage,
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**GREENLEAS SCHOOL
DERWENT ROAD
ART CLUB!**

**A friendly club where children make, build and
create wonderful artwork to take home and
treasure.**

Tuesdays 3:30 – 4:30pm

15th September – 20th October 2026 (6 sessions)

Open to children in Years 2 – 4

£52.50 – including all materials

Bookings open Friday 10th July at 7pm.

Please visit: www.bookwhen.com/loveartandcraft

LOVE ART & CRAFT

Follow us on Facebook
and Instagram.

www.facebook.com/loveartandcraft.education

Instagram
[@loveartandcrafteducation](https://www.instagram.com/loveartandcrafteducation)

Phone: 07967332068

www.loveartandcraft.co.uk



[Click here to complete the Children's Commissioner's National Survey](#)



Leighton-Linslade Town Council

NEWSLETTER

www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk/council_events/

Market Event for Families

every Tuesday in the holiday

Come to the Market every Tuesday morning in August for FREE crafts, activities, face paint and balloons.

When: Tuesdays 10am - 1pm
Dates: 4 Aug | 11 Aug | 18 Aug | 25 Aug
Location: High Street, Leighton Buzzard



Canal Festival!

Saturday 25th July

Join us at Tiddenfoot Waterside Park for Canal Festival!

music
food
crafts
forest school
canal boats



When: 11am - 5pm

What's On in August

Parson's Close Rec

Yoga 9.45am and Tai Chi 2pm on the bandstand - every Saturday.



Guided Curiosity Spotter Trail Walk



Date: Thursday 30th July
Time: 10am (duration 40mins)
Meet: Market Cross

There's a new Curiosity Spotter trail, for children who love a time-travel adventure. Join this free, guided walk and discover some unusual objects from the past.



Leighton-Linslade

CURIOSITY SPOTTER



Central Bedfordshire Council
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Central Bedfordshire



Helpful Support Links for Families

- The Integrated Front Door (IFD) – Provides resources and support for families ensuring they have access to the right services - [0300 300 8585](tel:03003008585)
- Children's Centres - The centre staff can offer support and advise on breast feeding, parenting, choosing childcare, FREE 2-year funded pre-school places, introducing solid food, toilet training, oral health, training/education, home safety, food parcels plus much more.
[Flitwick Children's Centre 0300 300 8111](tel:03003008111)
[Leighton Buzzard Children's Centre 0300 300 8880](tel:03003008880)
- Local Offer - If you have a child or young person with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), then think of the Local Offer as all of the services and support available to them and you as a parent or carer. Our Local Offer website contains information about education, health and care services, voluntary agencies, leisure activities and support groups
[Central Bedfordshire SEND Local Offer](#)
- Family Information Directory - The role of our service is to help families get the most out of the information and services available in the community and online. You can use our comprehensive Family Information Directory to find services, support groups, activities, events and more.
[Family Information Directory](#)
- Domestic Abuse – If you are a survivor or current victim of domestic abuse, or are worried about your behaviour there are a number of support service available to you. Children's Centres can also offer support.
[Home | Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership](#)
- CAMHS - Is a multi-agency specialist mental health service for children and young people with complex, severe or persistent emotional, behavioural or developmental needs. They provide assessment and treatment for children and young adults up to the age of 18.
[North Bedfordshire - 01234 893301](tel:01234893301) [North Bedfordshire CAMHS](#)
[South Bedfordshire - 01525 638613](tel:01525638613) [CAMHS \(South Bedfordshire & Luton\)](#)