

SEND NEWS SPLASH

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The power of assistive technology



The British Assistive Technology Association (BATA) are providing free resources to schools in the form of three short films spanning 20 minutes each.

Each 'Power of Assistive Technology' film is designed to raise awareness and to aid educators and those interested in supporting children with assistive technology the opportunity to reflect on their own internal systems and attitudes that might be contributing to additional barriers to inclusion.

Each of the three films provide an optional worksheet to be completed. They may be completed in a team setting such as a team meeting or training, or can be filled out individually to support personal reflection. You do not have to use the worksheets themselves but they are a guide to support your discussions.

You will also receive additional resource packs which include recommendations from BATA about how better to increase the effective use of assistive technology in schools and more widely, as well as other information which may be beneficial to you.

To receive a resource pack please email AdvisoryTeachers@swindon.gov.uk.



National Writing Day 2024



National writing day is on Wednesday 19th June, and marks the annual celebration for writing. This day aims to inspire everyone to try out writing for fun, and explore ways to make their writing creative. The National Literacy Trust have a great website with some fantastic resources, information and activities to help get our nation engaged with writing.

Did you know that fewer than 3 in 10 children and young people aged 8-18 say they like to write in their free time, but more than half of children and young people enjoy writing in schools, which is an improvement from last year?

So why is writing so important? Did you know that we use writing everyday to talk to our friends on WhatsApp or text, record homework, and write emails so we need to be confident in this skill to be able to do the things we want to do, and need to do every day.

Let's get inspired by writing as it helps us be creative, and supports our mental well-being. It's a good tool to use to express our thoughts and feelings and supports communication. There are lots of reasons to want to write creatively, mindfully and also socially.

[National Writing Day 2024](#) | [National Literacy Trust](#) | [National Literacy Trust](#) have everything you need to feel motivated to join in on Wednesday 19th June and be an author for the day. (This link also signposts you to current research about writing.)

Why not get involved?



Call the SEND Service on 01793 464641. Lines are open Monday to Thursday 8am-5pm and 8am-4:30pm on Friday.



Alternatively, you can email SENDSERVICE@swindon.gov.uk.



For more information, please [visit the Meet the SEND Service page](#) on the Local Offer.

[Please subscribe to the Local Offer YouTube channel here](#)



[CONTACT THE LOCAL OFFER ON LOCALOFFER@SWINDON.GOV.UK](mailto:LOCALOFFER@SWINDON.GOV.UK)

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