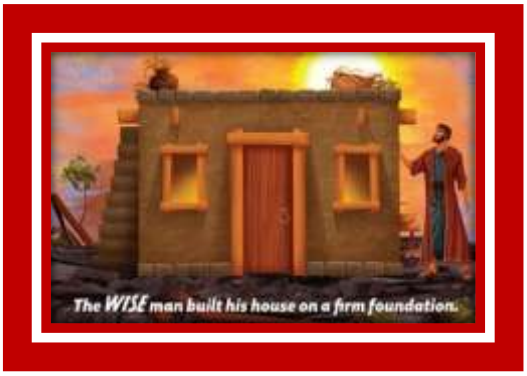
# NEWSLETTER

## 23rd January 2026




## Firm Foundations; Rooted in Love.

Rooted in love, we grow and learn together, supported by our firm foundations. We nurture and respect the individuals within our community, so that all can flourish and succeed, with aspirational hope.

***"Do everything in love"*** 1 Corinthians 16:14

All the children & staff have been busy this week taking part in lots of lovely lessons around the school!

Our Gardening Club have been making bird feeders & have today taken part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch – please see next week's Newsletter for pictures!

The RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch takes place between 23rd to 25th January 2026.

We always love to celebrate the activities the children get involved in outside of school.

If you are taking part as a family over the weekend then please send us some pictures to admin.christchurch@dcvst.org.

For details on how you can take part please follow this link:

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2026

**Have a wonderful weekend!**

# Latchingdon Pre-School

A Safe and Stimulating Environment

A warm and friendly Pre-School to learn and grow in

We encourage the development of independence, preparing to start school

Children move on to all schools in the local area

Secure outside learning area in use all year

Where lifelong friendships are made

Children's achievements are celebrated

Working with parents to support Well-Being

Ofsted rated as GOOD

15 & 30 Hour Funded Places Available

We take children from 2 to rising 5

Pop in and see us or give us a call about availability

**Tel: 07731 107725**

**Email: Latchingdonpreschool@yahoo.com**

**Website: www.latchingdonpreschool.co.uk**

# PE DAYS – Spring Term 1 2026

Please can children **come into school wearing their PE kits on the following days:**

EYFS – Thursday

Year 1 – Thursday & Friday

Year 2 – Thursday & Friday

Year 3 – Tuesday & Thursday

Year 4 – Thursday

Year 5 – Thursday

Year 6 - Monday & Thursday

**Children should come to school wearing their PE kits on these days.** If for any reason your child is unable to take part in their PE lessons, they should come to school wearing their normal School Uniform and bring a letter explaining why they are not participating. Please note all long hair **must** be tied back during PE lessons.

# Forest School – Spring Term 1 2026

For the first half of the Spring Term the children in **EYFS, Year 4 & Year 5** will be taking part in Forest School on the school grounds.

**The dates of Forest School are Tuesday 6th January 2026 to Tuesday 10th February 2026 (6 sessions).**

Please could all children in EYFS, Year 4 & Year 5 come to school every Tuesday wearing clothes/shoes suitable for taking part in Forest School.

**Please can the children wear clothing you do not mind getting muddy & that they are wearing long sleeves & long trousers to allow them to fully take part in all the activities.**

Please can the children in Years 4 & 5 bring a bag with their School Uniform in to change into after Forest School.

Thank you for your co-operation.

# Hot Chocolate Friday with Mrs Bishop

## w/e 9th January 2026

The following children have been on the gold star and randomly chosen to have Hot Chocolate with Mrs Bishop.

Rupert – Red Squirrels

Thea - Hedgehogs

Charlie – Foxes

Olivia - Badgers

Congratulations to you all!

## BADGERS

During PE this week Badgers class have been using their white boards to estimate how long it would take them to run laps around the school hall!

## Head of School Stickers

This week Mrs Hall has given Headteacher Stickers to the following children:

Sophie – Red Squirrels for independently writing a sentence all week during Drawing Club

Roman – Badgers for his brilliant Guided Reading work

Esme – Badgers for her excellent Guided Reading work

Lola – Badgers for her amazing Write to Impress work about the Lost Jungle City

## Lost Property

We will be keeping any items which we are unable to return to the children in a **Lost Property Basket** which is **located in the School Office Foyer.**

If your child/ren have lost any items then please have a look through the basket to see if you are able to locate.

Please remember to name items to assist with returning them to the children – thank you!

## Helping Hands Box

We are delighted that so many of our parents/carers are using our Helping Hands Box which is located in the school office foyer.

If you have any items in your cupboards which are in-date & you are able to spare then we would be very grateful for any top ups – please just add them to the box.

We all need to look out for each other & we really appreciate any contributions received.

Thank you to all those who have topped up our box your continued support is very much appreciated.

# Help Improve Children's Wellbeing – take part in the SHINE Survey

We have been asked to send the attached survey information to parents / carers of children in Reception and Year 6.

The survey will be to help understand the health and wellbeing of children in **Reception (4-5 years)** and **Year 6 (10-11 years)**.

The survey is open to parents and carers of children in these year groups and should take around 20 minutes to complete.

Shine Parent & Carer Survey

Thank you for your support!

**Email Subject**: Help improve children's wellbeing – take part in the SHINE Survey

**FAO/Recipients**: parents and carers of Reception and Year 6 children

Dear parents and carers,

We are pleased to invite you to take part in the **SHINE (Studying Happiness, self-Image and Nutrition and Eating in children) Parent & Carer Survey**. The survey will help us understand the health and wellbeing of children in **Reception (4-5 years)** and **Year 6 (10-11 years)**. The survey is open to parents and carers of children in these year groups.

The survey takes around **20 minutes** and can be completed **online (or on paper,** if preferred – see below). It includes questions about:

- Your child's mental wellbeing,
- You and your child's eating and physical activity habits,
- Your household and background.

By sharing your experiences, you will help us make changes at both local and national levels to support children's wellbeing.

As a thank you for taking part, you can enter a **prize draw** to win one of **four £50 shopping vouchers**, awarded to parents and carers in your local community.

The information you provide will only be used only for research purposes and will be kept completely confidential.

Click here to access the survey.

For more details, visit our website.

If you have any questions or want a paper version of the survey, contact the study team at shine@ucl.ac.uk.

Thank you for supporting this important research,

The SHINE Study Team

*SHINE is a collaboration between University College London, Durham University and Newcastle University.*

# Clothes Recycling

## Dear Supporter

School: CHRISTCHURCH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

is participating in the **Kids Just Recycle** textile recycling scheme which is a great way to raise additional funds for your school and also teach pupils about the importance of recycling to help keep our planet safe.

Please bring any of your pre-loved textiles listed below and donate them in the **Kids Just Recycle** outdoor clothing bin. We will then collect your **Kids Just Recycle** donations when the bin is full and weigh, sort, grade and redistribute your textiles giving them a second lease of life to less fortunate people who really need them.

KIDS JUST RECYCLE

Thank you!

Tel: 020 3903 9933 email: enquiries@kidsjustrecycle.co.uk

We can't wait to collect your textiles donations to help raise money for your school. Here's a reminder of what we can and can't accept.

We accept good quality, reusable:

We do not accept:

Nor do we accept items that are damaged by:

Many thanks and happy recycling!

# Hot Chocolate Friday with Mrs Bishop

## w/e 16th January 2026

The following children have been on the gold star and randomly chosen to have Hot Chocolate with Mrs Bishop.

Henry-John – Red Squirrels

Amelia - Hedgehogs

Rory – Foxes

James - Badgers

Congratulations to you all!

# The J9 Initiative

All of our teaching staff have attended J9 training sessions & therefore Christchurch C of E Primary School can help anyone suffering domestic abuse to obtain information to access a safe place where they can seek information and the use of a telephone.

If anyone needs to access this help then please come to the school office stating J9 and assistance will be provided.

# *Letters sent home / info on website for w/e 23rd January 2026*

The following letters have been sent out and/or put on the school website (under Key Information/ Information Hub/ Letters Home).

- NONE

# Reading Raffle

Reading is an important life skill. We want to reward and encourage children to read at home. Therefore, we have launched our Reading Raffle!

For your child to be entered into the Reading Raffle each week, your child needs to read **at least 4 out of 7 times a week**.

They need to have their **Reading Diaries signed and shown to their class teacher on a Friday morning**.

The raffle will run from Friday to Thursday each week

If your child has read **at least 4 out of 7 times**, then their name will be entered into the raffle.

A name will be picked at random from each class. The winner of each class will win a book! This raffle will be every week and we hope to see all children entering every week!

**Congratulations to this week's winners** – we hope you enjoy reading your new books!

George – Red Squirrels

Summer - Hedgehogs

Dolcie - Foxes

Bonnie – Badgers

## Attendance – w/e 23/1/26

The winning class for the week ending **23rd January 2026** is Foxes class.

| Year | Attendance % |
|---|---|
| R / 1(Red Squirrels) | 95.81% |
| 1 / 2 (Hedgehogs) | 84.19% |
| 3 / 4 (Foxes) | 97.12% |
| 5 / 6 (Badgers) | 95.8% |

Each Friday we hold a raffle for all pupils in school, on time all week. This week the raffle was drawn and the winning pupil was Amelia from Hedgehogs class.

If your child is not in school, please remember to phone each morning before 9 am and leave a message **for safe guarding reasons we must have a reason.**

If you receive a text message, please contact the school to explain the absence. If we do not hear from you telephone calls will be made and if we are unable to contact you then a home visit may be appropriate.

**If you child arrives late then please could an adult accompany them into the office to sign them in. Anyone arriving after the registers close (after half an hour) will be classed as an unauthorised absence unless we are aware of the reason in advance.**

Safeguarding requires the school to know why a child is not in school. Every child legally must attend school and parents/carers have a duty to notify the school.

Each week the Friday Assembly is led by members of Badgers Class. This week's leaders were Ralphie, Molly & Poppy.

**Well done to you all!**

## Stars of the Week – w/e 23/1/26

| Year | Name |
|---|---|
| R / 1(Red Squirrels) | Sophie |
| 1 / 2 (Hedgehogs) | Abdullah & Esme |
| 3 / 4 (Foxes) | Lexi & Logan-Jack |
| 5 / 6 (Badgers) | Harrison & Olivia |

## Good Manners – w/e 23/1/26

| Year | Name |
|---|---|
| R / 1(Red Squirrels) | Amily |
| 1 / 2 (Hedgehogs) | Paisley & Thea |
| 3 / 4 (Foxes) | Amelia & Rory |
| 5 / 6 (Badgers) | Matthew & Travis |

## Lunch Time Stars – w/e 23/1/26

Maggie – Foxes

Poppy - Badgers

## Reading Challenge – w/e 23/1/26

| Year Group | % of class who have read |
|---|---|
| R | 64% |
| Year 1 | 62% |
| Year 2 | 55% |
| Year 3 | 36% |
| Year 4 | 54% |
| Year 5 | 88% |
| Year 6 | 57% |

## Hot Chocolate Winners–w/e 23/1/26

| Year | Name |
|---|---|
| R / 1(Red Squirrels) | Tate |
| 1 / 2 (Hedgehogs) | Thomas |
| 3 / 4 (Foxes) | Amber |
| 5 / 6 (Badgers) | Elouise |

Mrs Bishop will be taking the Hot Chocolate winners on a Monday & their picture will be in the following week's Newsletter.

**Please see our website for full details of Dates to remember. Details of any events will be sent out nearer the time.**

**Please note that all events are for the children/staff only unless specified.**

# Academic Year 2025-2026

**February 2026**

2nd Feb 26 – 11.20am to 12.20pm – Year 6 Resilience Workshop
4th Feb 26 – 9.15am to 2.45pm – Year 5 Bikeability – details already supplied
6th Feb 26 – Wellbeing Day – Non-Uniform – details to follow
10th Feb 26 – Safer Internet Day
11th Feb 26 – 9.15am to 12.30pm – Year 5 Bikeability – details already supplied
11th Feb 26 – 1.30pm to 2.45pm – Year 4 Bikeability – details already supplied
11th Feb 26 – 3.15pm to 3.45pm – Parent Open Afternoon (to see art & DT in School Hall) – details to follow
12th Feb 26 – PTFA – Dress Down Day (dress as your future self) – details to follow
13th Feb 26 – NON-PUPIL DAY
16th to 20th Feb 26 – HALF TERM HOLIDAY
25th Feb 26 – Football Team @ Burnham Ramblers – details to follow

**March 2026**

2nd March 26 – 9.30am to 11.30am – Reception & Year 5 Road Safety – details to follow
3rd March 26 – Cross Country @ William de Ferrers – details to follow
5th March 26 – World Book Day – details to follow
18th March 26 – 9.15am to 9.50am – EYFS & KS1 – Easter Service @ Christ Church – details to follow
18th March to 25th March 26 – Scholastic Book Fair – details to follow
18th March 26 – 10.15am to 10.50am – KS2 – Easter Service @ Christ Church – details to follow
24th March 26 – Netball @ Ormiston – details to follow
27th March 26 – Wellbeing Day – Non-Uniform – details to follow
30th March to 10th April 26 – EASTER HOLIDAY

**April 2026**

13th April 26 – First Day of Summer Term
15th April 26 – Football Team @ Burnham Ramblers – details to follow
28th April 26 – Rounders @ William de Ferrers – details to follow

**May 2026**

4th May 26 – BANK HOLIDAY
22nd May 26 – Wellbeing Day – Non-Uniform – details to follow
25th May to 29th May 26 – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

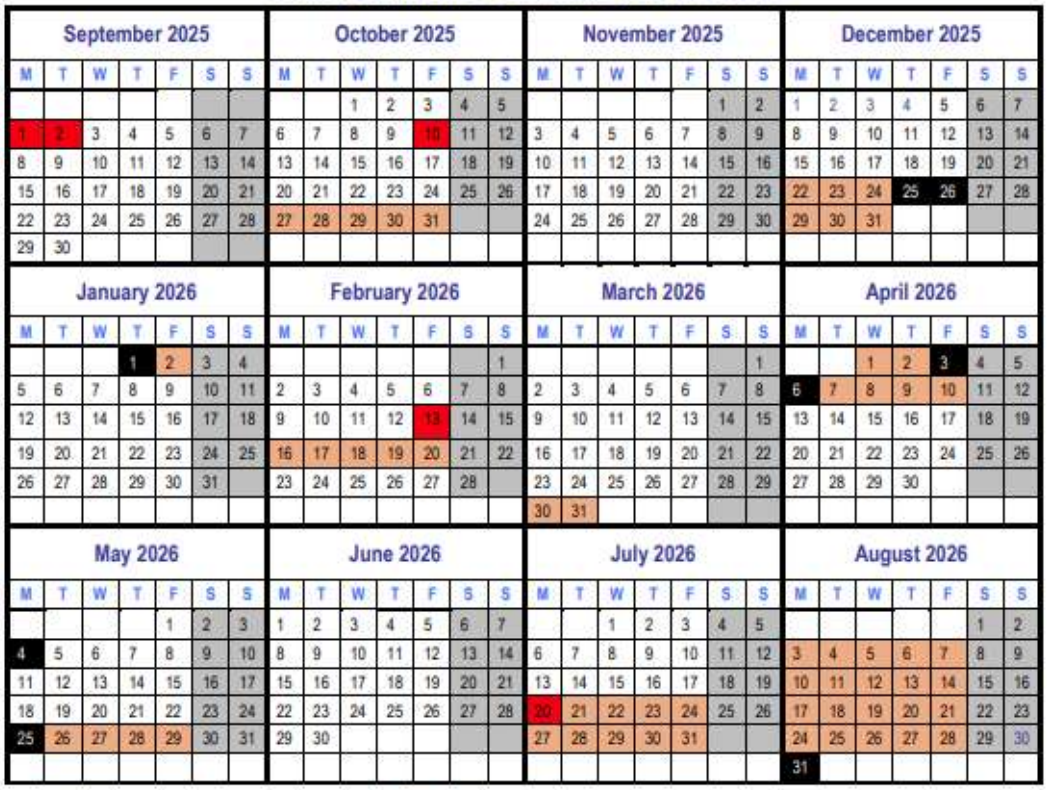
**July 2026**

10th July 26 – Wellbeing Day – Non-Uniform – details to follow
10th July 26 – PTFA 3.20pm to 4.20pm – Summer Festival – details to follow
16th July 26 – 10.30am – Year 6 Leavers Service @ Christ Church – details to follow
20th July 26 – NON-PUPIL DAY
21ST July 26 – SUMMER HOLIDAY

# PLEASE NOTE BELOW CHRISTCHURCH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

## Christchurch C of E Primary School

### School Term Dates - Academic Year 2025-2026




= Schooldays = School holidays = Bank holidays

= Weekends = Non-pupil days

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Autumn Term:** | Monday 1 September 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025<br>*Half Term 27 October – 31 October* | 75 days |
| **Spring Term:** | Monday 5 January 2026 – Friday 27 March 2026<br>*Half Term 16 February - 20 February* | 55 days |
| **Summer Term:** | Monday 13 April 2026 – Monday 20 July 2026<br>*Half Term 25 May – 29 May, and May Bank Holiday - 4 May* | 65 days |
| | | 195 days |

**Please note:**
**The above dates may vary for individual schools, especially Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies.**
**You are strongly advised to check with your child's school before making any holiday or other commitments.**

# KEGS Prospective Student Tours for Year 5 Boys

King Edward VI Grammar School

Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3SX
Tel: (01245) 353510
E-mail: office@kegs.org.uk
Website: www.kegs.org.uk

Headteacher: Ms N Wilson MA MA IPCSL

Monday, 19 January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Prospective Student Tours – March 2026**

We are pleased to let you know that we are holding a series of open day events at KEGS in March 2026 for Year 5 boys, together with ONE parent or carer. These are for boys who are interested in a place at KEGS, and who will be starting secondary school in September 2027.

The sessions are:
**Monday 9 March - 13:30 or 14:05**
**Tuesday 10 March – NO TOURS ON THIS DAY**
**Wednesday 11 March - 9:15 or 9:50**
**Thursday 12 March - 9:15 or 9:50**
**Friday 13 March - 13:30 or 14:05**
**Monday 16 March - 13:30 or 14:05**
**Tuesday 17 March - 9:15 or 9:50**

The event will include a presentation from myself, and from some of our Year 8 students, followed by a short question and answer session. There will also be a tour of the school with one of our staff tour guides. Entry is by booking only and please follow this Link to reserve your place.

As places are limited you will understand that we are restricting bookings to one child and one adult ONLY, and we can only accept one booking per family.

Tours will be partly outside so please dress for the weather. Please arrive promptly as sessions will start on time and allow one and a half hours for your visit.

Full details of our Admissions Policy can be found on our website.

Thank you very much for your interest in our school and we look forward to meeting you.

Kind regards

Natalie Wilson

*King Edward VI Grammar School fully complies with information legislation. For the full details on how we use your personal information please check our website or call 01245 353510 if you are unable to access the internet*

Established 1551
King Edward VI Grammar School demonstrates a commitment to safeguarding children.
King Edward VI Grammar School is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (Company number 07583345).
Registered Office: King Edward VI Grammar School, Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3SX.

# Holiday Club

Kids Inspire free Holiday Club is run once a week during most school holidays. It creates a safe space for children to:

- participate in meaningful activities
- make friends and socialise
- access lunch and snacks

and all of this is while developing social and communication skills and exploring new talents or interests.

**Who is Holiday Club for?**

Holiday Club sessions are booked and offered to families according to criteria. Priority will be given to those from lower income families, in receipt of pupil premium or eligible for free school meals.

**Activities are free and suitable for children aged 6 and over in primary school.**

For more information you can read our Holiday Club Terms and Conditions.

**Where are the Holiday Club activities?**

Activities are held at our Kids Inspire HQ, Hargrave House, Hollycroft, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, CM2 7FW

**Time:** 10:30am-3:30pm

**Upcoming dates for 2026 Holiday Clubs:**

**Tuesday 17 February 2026 - Animal Discovery with Eden Oasis**

This February half term, children will have the chance to meet and handle eight amazing animals with a visit from Eden Oasis! **Please be aware that this will include cockroaches, leaf insects, royal python, blue tongue skunk, tortoise, ferrets, armadillo and rabbits.**

Expressions of interest are now open for our February activity, please **complete our expression of interest form.**

# WHY 'KINDNESS MATTERS' & HOW DOING GOOD DOES YOU GOOD

'WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET. WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE.'
SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

THE FOCUS FOR THIS YEAR'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK IS 'KINDNESS MATTERS'. IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK INTO THE BENEFIT OF HELPING OTHERS WHICH IS GOOD FOR IMPROVING OUR OWN MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS TO GET YOU THINKING:

## ALTRUISM

Altruism is acting in someone else's best interests in order to improve their welfare. When we feel compelled to donate money, shop for someone, call a relative in need or help a neighbour, we are considering the needs of others even when we may not know them. Showing kindness like this, often motivated by empathy, creates a sense of purpose, making us feel good and developing our wellbeing. Children and young people can take part in altruistic activities at home or school. They could create a video for those in isolation, fundraise for a local cause, bake cakes for neighbours or write letters to older members of the community who may feel isolated.

## GENEROSITY

In the context of kindness, being generous with our time, resources and words can provide a low-cost approach to helping others. A generous act is accessible to all. Giving compliments, for example, are a well-researched way of creating a sense of wellbeing and positivity in a community at school or with family. It helps us to recognise the positivity in others as we actively choose to notice and comment on what is valuable and meaningful in someone else. When compliments are given regularly, consistently and with meaning, the community benefits are far reaching!

## GIVE TO GIVE. NOT TO RECEIVE

Sometimes when we are kind there is no payback, which can make it more difficult to keep being kind. Our natural reaction is to shrink back and withdraw our kind act, feeling frustrated that it has either not been reciprocated or that it has not been valued. This is probably one of the most difficult concepts for children to understand and where the 'random acts of kindness' approach is helpful. If it is a random act then it is 'just because' and for no other reason than a one-off act for someone.

## HOLDING OTHERS IN MIND

By holding someone in mind we show that we have been thinking about them and that they matter to us. This act of kindness is so important now, more than at any other time, due to isolation. A simple text to say 'I saw... on the telly last night and it made me think of you!' or a quick call to say 'I was just thinking about you yesterday and was wondering how you're doing?' can mean so much. We probably all do this naturally as part of showing kindness and care to others, but perhaps may not appreciate the importance of this for wellbeing.

## COMMUNITY

When we help others in our community, it improves our wellbeing by helping us to feel less isolated as we connect with others. When we show kindness, it is something which we feel we can control, particularly when things may feel a bit chaotic and unusual. Helping others can often give us a different perspective on our own challenges and our own problems. Peer support, for example, is often overlooked as an important part of improving wellbeing. Older students can often greatly benefit from sharing similar, shared experiences and can offer a level of empathy and understanding that adults may not be able to.

## KINDNESS WITH CAUTION

There is a very helpful analogy that is used when we are in an emergency, 'we should put our own oxygen mask on before putting on someone else's'. What's helpful here is that giving to others can often improve our mental health and wellbeing. However, there are times when helping others can create stress or overwhelm us. This is sometimes called 'compassion fatigue'. So, we must balance our own wellbeing with the wellbeing of others. We should notice if we start to feel resentful or negative or if we start avoiding others, have difficulty concentrating or start experiencing unusual sleep patterns. If this happens it's a good time to take a break or ask someone for help or support.

'KINDNESS IS A SILENT SMILE. A FRIENDLY WORD. A NOD OF ENCOURAGEMENT. KINDNESS IS THE SINGLE MOST POWERFUL THING WE CAN TEACH CHILDREN.'
RA RTCVIST


The National College®

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.

For futher info, check out these online resources:

https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/blog/random-acts-kindness

https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week/get-involved

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