



January 2024 Newsletter

A very warm welcome to all our new members.
We hope that you will be able to join us at one of our events in 2024



Dates for your diary:

Saturday 27th January 2024 10.30 am

Saturday 24th February 2024 10.30 am

Cuppa, cake and chatter
Corner House 350 Limpsfield Road Hamsey Green

Why not come and join us for coffee, tea or hot chocolate and GF cake

This is a regular event – and is the fourth Saturday of the month!
We appreciate that this is on the outer border of the Groups area. Sadly, Priscillas closed and we welcome to suggestions that would be more suitable to cover the whole of the Croydon area. But so far, we have not managed to find anywhere that serves GF cakes that are safely presented and served and also an area large enough to cater for us.

If you have any suggestions of suitable venues, please do get in touch
Croydon@coeliac.org.uk and we will happily go and check them out.

School Aged Children

Do you have children in school in Croydon?? This might be something that you are not aware of, but thanks to one member who has a son in a senior school in Croydon, this has been invaluable.

You can find out more about the entitlement to free schools' meals and relevant government guidance for each of the nations below. And if you still can't find out what you need to know, get in touch.

If a child is entitled to a free school meal, they should not be excluded because they have coeliac disease.

The Children's and Families Act 2014 came into force in September 2014, and states that all state funded schools in England, including academies and free schools in England must make arrangements for [supporting children with medical conditions](#) . The Act also places a duty on these schools to offer a free school lunch to all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2.

All children with a medical condition should have an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHCP) which should include information on the needs of the child. The IHCP is part of the statutory guidance from the Department for Education.

All schools should have policies setting out how they manage long term medical conditions. Further information about school foods standards: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-food-standards-resources-for-schools>

Here is the link to the "Individual Health Care Plan"

<https://www.coeliac.org.uk/document-library/1616-individual-healthcare-plan/individual-healthcare-plan-template.docx>

if you require any further information please do get in touch or ring the Helpline at Coeliac UK. Also please let us know if you already have a care plan in situ – does it help has the care of your child improved? Etc etc.

Child membership of Croydon Group of Coeliac UK – this is very difficult to work out from our membership list as most children the parents are registered with Coeliac UK so it is very difficult to asses how many children we have and the age range. We are aware as a Committee that this group in our membership are "forgotten" or not catered for. But as we put on activities for adults and these are NOT well supported we have made a decision that we will support families and children but we wont be putting on specific activities for this group of our membership.

You are of course welcome to bring along children to any of our meet ups or activities. And any invites from other Coeliac Groups will always be forwarded to members by email.

AGM – November 2023

I am pleased to announce that we were “quorate” JUST! Thank you to those that attended. I am also pleased to inform you that during the AGM myself as Group Organiser & Treasurer, Julie our digital and social media committee member and Julia Group Secretary were voted to remain in position for a further year or until the next AGM.

I am sure that those who were there will agreed, the talk by Dr Rajak (Consultant Rheumatologist and lead for Osteoporosis at Croydon University Hospital) gave a very informative talk.

If you would like a copy of the slides (talk was aimed at adults so please bear this in mind) please get in touch and I will happily send them via email.

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