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## Beloved Children's Characters to Entertain Families at Bluewater This Summer

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Families visiting Kent this summer can look forward to a series of free events at Bluewater Shopping Centre, where popular children's characters including Bluey, Paddington Bear, and Papa Smurf will be making special appearances. The meet-and-greet sessions are scheduled every Thursday from 24 July to 28 August, providing a fun, family-friendly outing during the school holidays.

Each event day will feature five meet-and-greet sessions with the characters, carefully designed to be accessible and engaging. Notably, one of these daily sessions is adapted

specifically for children with *Special Educational Needs* (SEN), ensuring an inclusive experience for all families attending.

Bluewater's Centre Director, James Waugh, commented on the initiative, stating: "We know families in and around Kent are looking for fun events to keep the little ones entertained through the summer holidays, so we're pleased to offer a free, all-weather option here at Bluewater." His remarks reflect the centre's ongoing commitment to providing accessible community-based activities that don't place additional pressure on household budgets.

In a time when many families are watching their spending, events like these provide a welcome break from expensive attractions and offer something that's both enjoyable and cost-effective. Importantly, they also reinforce the role of local centres like Bluewater in supporting communities, not just as retail destinations but as spaces for family engagement and recreation.

The inclusion of timeless favourites like Paddington and Papa Smurf alongside modern stars such as Bluey ensures that children of all ages have something to look forward to. The choice of characters speaks to the organisers' efforts to balance nostalgia with contemporary appeal, creating moments that parents and children can enjoy together.

With free parking, a variety of dining options, and easy access by road and public transport, Bluewater remains one of the UK's most popular shopping and leisure destinations. Its ability to offer family-friendly entertainment, especially during peak school holiday periods, demonstrates a broader understanding of what modern retail centres can provide beyond shopping.

As families plan their summer schedules, these free character events offer a reliable and enjoyable option for keeping children entertained without breaking the bank.