



Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres

Supporting children with additional needs and their families across Berkshire

Patron: Lady Stevenson DL

Welcome to our Autumn 2015 newsletter

Who are Dingley?

Our vision is 'the best start for every child', regardless of additional needs or disability. Our mission is to deliver life changing support to under 5's with additional needs and disabilities and their families by providing:

- specialist 'learning through play' sessions to help every child reach their full potential
- help, guidance and support for families in partnership with other providers
- training and education for families in partnership with professionals
- advice to mainstream settings to facilitate inclusion.

The latest news from our CEO

It has been an exciting few months at Dingley as we helped some of our children transition to school, and welcomed many new families. We also hosted a royal friend, held our annual golf day, and were selected to take part in a dragons den style event.

After talking to staff, parent reps and supporters, Dingley has finalised its plans for the coming five years, and we are confident that we will be able to reach more children than ever before. We are aiming not only to introduce more Family Support Workers, but also to look at the need for new Dingley Centres in new areas. In response to comments from parents, we will also develop more leaflets and written information to help families.

I hope as many of you as possible will join us on Tuesday 10th November for our AGM. There will be a celebration of our achievements, as well as a focus on our plans for the future. We would love to see you there. Please contact us for more details.

This November, we will be joined by a new Group Operations Manager—Jacquie Hathaway—who is passionate about early years provision and has extensive experience in settings and also working as an Early Years Development Advisor for a local Council. We look forward to welcoming her to Dingley and working together to maintain high standards and develop our services and strategies even further.

Finally, I wanted to give a special mention to the amazing people who have taken on challenges in aid of Dingley in the past few months: Tim Rees, the Thames Challenge Team - Sian, Denise, Neil and Mark, Zoe Manley-Austen, Sophie Freeman, plus our amazing staff Abi, Hannah & Victoria!

Best regards, Catherine

Royal Visit for Reading

We were honoured to host Princess Beatrix at our Reading Centre in October. The Princess took part in modelling clay, blowing bubbles and using the interactive whiteboard with the children. She gifted us a cuddly corgi and befeater and said: "It's fantastic to come here today, and meet you all, and see the amazing and important work you're doing" Many thanks to Berkshire Community Foundation for setting up the visit.



The Dingley Golf Day

Our Fifth Annual Golf Day was a great success, raising a fantastic £2,841. Fourteen teams played the Caversham Heath course, and the winners were the team from Picasso Restaurant. Even Dingley Bear made an appearance!



Dates for your diary...

- **10th November: AGM at All Saint's School Wokingham—everyone welcome.**
- **12th November: Pitch to the Panel at Newbury Corn Exchange—book tickets online.**
- **1st—24th December: Wokingham's 'Living Advent Calendar' performances open to all.**
- **Friday 18th March 2016: Our annual ball! This year the theme is 'Bollywood meets Hollywood'. If you would like to sponsor this popular event, please get in touch!**

More details about all our events can be found at:

www.dingley.org.uk or www.facebook.com/dingleygroup



Early Excellence at Wokingham

The Centre for Inspirational Learning observed sessions at Wokingham to see if we are working to Early Excellence standards. This is what they said:

'Overall, the team were able to demonstrate how their children had made substantial progress by using POMS in terms of assessment and moving their thinking forward.'



The enthusiasm and commitment shown by the lead practitioners has had a real impact on the success of the project.'

Well done to everyone involved!

Life-changing support

At the end of the academic year, we said goodbye to children who have been with us for some time, have developed their skills and abilities, and will now go on to school. Across our Centres, the average annual level of development was 2.25 EYFS stages, and we are proud to say that 99% of our children made some progress.

While there are many stories of achievement, we will pick just one for this newsletter. K came to Dingley at a difficult time in his life. He could not walk, talk or eat properly. With the care and support of our staff, and strategies tailored to him, he is now talking, eating well and has just entered mainstream primary school. We are very proud of him.



A parent in West Berkshire says... *'Dingley is a wonderful resource, if it was not there life would have been very tough and stressful.'*

Does your work place have a **"Charity of the Year"**? If so please consider nominating Dingley so that we can support even more families in 2016! For more information/contact details go to our website: www.dingley.org.uk



Thanks to our generous funders

Our trustees, staff and families would like to recognise support from:

- Dr Mortimer & Theresa Sackler Foundation: £10,000 for running costs at West Berkshire.
- Reading Borough Council: £10,000 capital grant to contribute to replacing the heating system at Reading.
- English Provender Company: £2650 for costs at West Berkshire and a special panto trip!
- Osborne Clarke: £6,870 as part of their ongoing support for Dingley.
- DM Foundation for Young People: £2724 for equipment for the Reading Centre.
- The Cultural Partnership's "More Arts": £1000 to Wokingham for 10 arty stay and play sessions.
- Engfield Charitable Trust (via Find Me A Grant): £1,000 for a Family Support Worker in West Berkshire.
- Plough on the Green: £1000 as part of their wonderful ongoing support of our West Berkshire Centre.
- Southbys Allotment Tenants Association: £450 (thank you also to Vodafone who match funded another £350) for sensory equipment in West Berkshire.
- CDK Global: £750 for our West Berkshire Centre through Toby Mears' sponsored event.
- A.W.E Project Mensa: £200 for West Berkshire.
- Little Rainbows Fete: £633.94 for our West Berkshire Centre.
- Boyes Turner: £600 to support children at Dingley.
- Wates Family Enterprise Trust: £500 and a volunteer day
- William Chown Charitable Trust: £500 for West Berkshire sensory equipment
- West Berks Conservative Association: £460 from an event.
- West Berks Golf Club: £343.37 from their Captains Charity Fundraising
- Chievely Church Council: £250 from their fete.
- Rockwell International: £250 for Reading equipment
- Inner wheel: £100 towards a new computer in Wokingham



If you are considering donating to our work please take a look at Greenham Common Trust's on line web portal www.findmeagrant.org.

We have 3 great projects listed on the site which are all eligible for Trust Top-Up. For example, a £50 donation would be matched by the Greenham Common Trust, and if eligible, gift aid would also be added - giving us an amazing £112.50!

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