



December 2020



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Dear parents, carers and Friends of Daniel's Den

We hope our newsletter finds you well and staying safe.

It's amazing to think that we are coming to the end of our autumn term at Daniel's Den. It has been packed with activity in a totally different way to usual but has still offered friendship, fun and the opportunity to experience community on and offline.

Daniel's Den at Home

Our Daniel's Den at Home project continues to develop. Thank you to everyone who has sent in pictures of the craft you have made with your child/ren – it is so good to know that the crafts are being enjoyed by so many.



Here are a couple of the quotes we have received:

"I just wanted to say a massive thank you for the craft pack....it is amazing especially for a mum who is not very arty and has so many things to do! Really well put together, so thank you very much 😊"

"So, this Brown Bear Brown Bear book. I have to read it none stop but now she fully knows it off by heart and reads it herself – it's the cutest ever (sic) "



c/o Daniel's Den St Andrews Church | 956 Harrow Road | Sudbury | HA0 2QA
Tel: 020 8908 6986 Website: www.danielsden.org.uk

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Sessions

Of course, we have been running our Zoom sessions every week too – same time as we would be meeting in our face-to-face sessions. Attendance has been low, which has been disappointing and we understand that some people feel shy, worried their child won't sit still (this is something you shouldn't worry about at all as a number of children just play in a different part of the room during the sessions) or don't have access to the Internet.

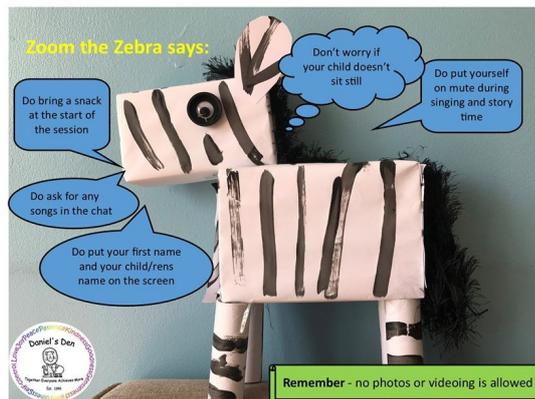
We really want to help more families join these sessions so please get in touch and one of our volunteers can show you how. (We were delighted that one of our older volunteers has mastered Zoom so she can join the session and we do believe – if she can do it – others can too!) Here is the [link](#) to sign up for Zoom – you also must be registered with us too – here is the [link](#) to register.

Those who have attended have loved the sessions and we have been so encouraged to see the way in which the children's confidence and participation has increased. One little one wouldn't say a word at first but now reads the story in the session. A mum sent in her feedback:

I would love to just thank everyone at Daniel's Den. Your team is amazing, and I truly do wish I lived closer to be able to join in person. It has been a lifeline for not only the children but for me as well. It's been very beneficial to just be able to feel so comfortable to be able to talk and enjoy and be motivated to join in. The craft packs are amazing, and you have thought of absolutely everything. The story book is an amazing added extra that my children love to read and join along. All I can say is just thank you.

This terms regular Zoom sessions will finish on Friday December 11th and restart on Monday January 11th, 2021.

Our weekly Facebook Lives will continue every Saturday at 10.45am so do look out for those as well as our posts on social media.



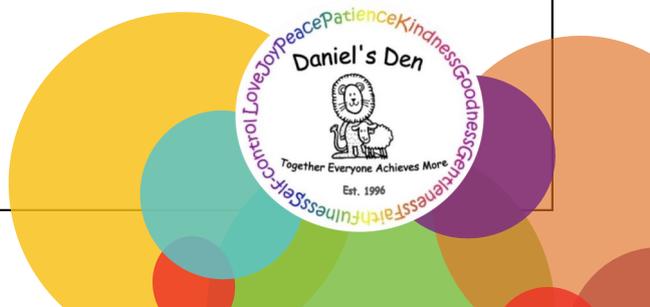
Craft Pack 2 – Christmas and New Year

The new craft packs have been collected and are being delivered/posted. If you would like one, please do let us know. We have created 200 (thanks to our wonderful team of volunteers) so there are lots still to go out to families. They contain 7 crafts based on paper plates.

Face to Face sessions

We do not envisage re-opening our physical groups until after Easter 2021 and this is subject to the guidelines from the government. We know this is disappointing, but we want to keep everyone as safe as possible. When we do reopen our sessions, our aim is to keep one Zoom session so folks can join even if they live far away or are unable to attend a face to face session.

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Events

We are delighted to be hosting two events in December. Following the huge success of our Great Get Together Picnic and Trips to the Farm and the Beach at Home on Zoom and Facebook Live, we have organised two more trips.

- **Trip to Lapland at Home on Saturday December 5th 2-3pm** – an opportunity to meet Santa, play snowball games, watch a puppet show and sing Christmas songs
- **Trip to Bethlehem on Wednesday December 23rd 2-3pm** – an opportunity to dress up and take part in the re-telling the story of the first Christmas, eat Christmas snacks and sing Christmas songs as well as games.

You can join these events two ways. You can join the actual Zoom session (you need to have signed the Zoom agreement and we will then send you the link) or you can watch the Zoom session streamed live on Facebook. This gives you the opportunity to comment, sing along. Of course, you can watch it afterwards but there is something special about being part of the real-life thing!

You are invited
Trip to Lapland at Home
Saturday 5th December 2020
2-3pm

This event is free of charge
Invite your friends to join you
It will be streamed live on our Facebook page
(If you want to join the Zoom session you must have signed our Zoom agreement)

Daniel's Den
Trip to Lapland at Home
2-3pm Saturday 5th December 2020

Information -
You can set up your Lapland in your home— use white sheets and pillows to make snow, put up a Christmas tree. Make a sled out of a large cardboard box.
Gather boxes and blocks to grow a tree
Make a paper chain snowman or a concertina tree
Please share photos on social media
Make snowballs out of socks.

On the day
Bring your own picnic.
Remember to bring hats and gloves

2pm	WELCOME— share pictures of our Lapland. Snowmen/trees!
2:10pm	Grow your own tree—have boxes/blocks ready
2:15pm	St Nicholas traditions
2:20pm	Puppet show
2:30pm	Picnic
2:45pm	Big Sing including Jingle Bells
2:55pm	Snow game

Enjoy a fun filled day in Lapland (at home)

For more information - Tel: 0208 908 6986 Email: info@danielsden.org.uk
www.facebook.com/DanielsDenTogetherEveryoneAchievesMore
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Events



You are invited Trip to Bethlehem at Home

Wednesday 23rd December 2020

2-3pm

This event is free of charge
Invite your friends to join you
It will be streamed live on our Facebook page
(If you want to join the Zoom session you must
have signed our Zoom agreement)



Daniel's Den

Trip to Bethlehem at Home

2-3pm Wednesday 23rd December 2020

Information -

You can set up your own Bethlehem scene in your home— use rugs/blankets/boxes to create the stable and manger
Make bunting with a Christmas theme— stars, angels, sheep.
Dress up as a shepherd using tea towels, dressing gowns; collect animals for the stable
Pack a picnic full of Christmas snacks—mince pies, satsumas
Make a star to hang up
Please share photos on social media

On the day:

Bring your own picnic.
Wear appropriate, comfortable clothes and footwear.

2pm	WELCOME— share pictures of Bethlehem at home—bunting, animals
2.10pm	No room game
2.15pm	Animal noises
2.20pm	Re-telling the Christmas story—everyone can join in
2.30pm	Picnic including special Christmas snacks
2.45pm	Big Sing including Away in a manger and Twinkle Twinkle
2.55pm	Christmas cracker

Experience the story of the first Christmas

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Projects



Sowing Seeds

We are delighted to be taking the next steps with this project. In February we asked for your thoughts about encouraging our children to sow seeds in pots and green spaces. We have put in a bid for funding and hopefully we will start the project in January. Getting outdoors is so important during the pandemic and we will ensure this is COVID safe and follows the Government guidelines.

Bumps, Babies and Brushes

Have you given birth in 2020? Are you pregnant? Would you like to meet new people in a fun, relaxed online art class?

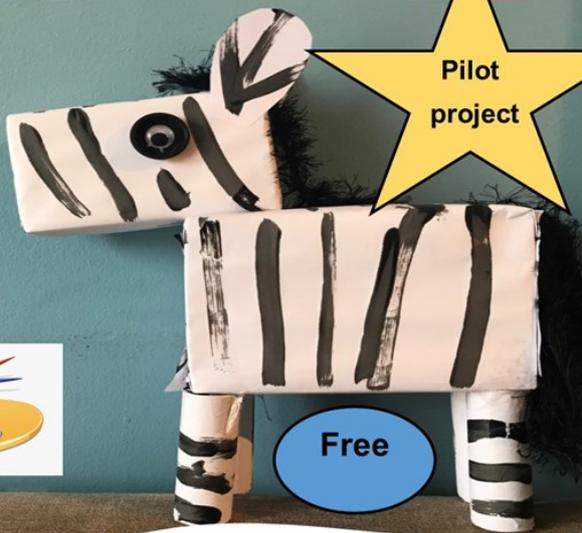
Daniel's Den is hosting a monthly step-by-step guided online art class for beginners, led by a local artist who gave birth to twins during the pandemic. All materials will be provided free of charge – you will be sent details now to collect them. You do not need any previous experience to join these sessions, it will be an opportunity to learn new skills. All the sessions will be on Zoom. Sign up [here](#)

This is a pilot project running for 3 sessions - December 16th, 2020, January 20th, 2021 and February 24th 2021

An online monthly art class
for all who have given birth
or are pregnant in 2020.
Art kit provided



**Bumps
Babies
and
Brushes**



10.30am-12noon

December 16th 2020, January 20th + February 24th 2021

To book your session register on Eventbrite

For more details go to our website: www.danielsden.org.uk



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Projects



Daniel's Den celebrates 25 years

We thoroughly enjoyed sharing cakes for our 24th birthday and in November 2021 we will be celebrating 25 years. A steering group is being formed to develop a special programme of Silver Jubilee celebrations so watch this space. Please feel free to share any ideas.

Fundraising

Auction – a huge thank you to Linda Concannon for organising this. We raised over £200!

JustGiving – if you'd like to make a donation to help us continue to reach out to more families please feel free to do so [here](#)

Dates for your diary

December 2020

5th - Saturday, 2.00 - 3.00pm – Trip to Lapland at Home on Zoom

w/e 11th (All venues) – Last Zoom sessions of 2020

16th - Wednesday, 10.30am -12noon – Bumps, Babies and Brushes

23rd - Wednesday 2.00 - 3.00pm – Trip to Bethlehem at Home

December 23rd to January 4th – Daniel's Den Office officially closed

January 2021

11th - Monday (All venues) – Zoom sessions reopen

20th - Wednesday, 10.30-12noon – Bumps, Babies and Brushes

Weekly - Every Monday evening 8-9pm (termtime) - Hotspot on Zoom and streamed live on Facebook – lively discussion about parenting and other relevant topics

Finally ...

Daniel's Den would not be able to do what it does without the tireless work of our staff team and volunteers. A huge thank you goes to them for all they contribute to making Daniel's Den what it is. And of course, we wouldn't be what we are without our families and friends. Please do keep spreading the word.

On behalf of us all we wish you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Jo Gordon

Chief Executive

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**Our Zoom sessions re-open
on Monday, 11th, January 2021**

