

DANIEL'S DEN



END OF SUMMER TERM 2022 NEWSLETTER

WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON THIS TERM
AT DANIEL'S DEN



Dear parents, carers and Friends of Daniel's Den,

So, our last sessions have taken place and our summer holiday has begun. Time to write our summer newsletter and reflect on this past term.

It has been a pleasure to welcome so many new families – in this past term alone we have welcomed 172 new children and 197 adults. Thank you for registering on our database – you are receiving this newsletter via email because you have registered. As we are a charity, we need to demonstrate our impact to funders and being able to show where people live, the age of the children, number of attendees in each session etc helps greatly.

Our venues

The Lewinson, Willesden –

We are delighted to have a new carpet! The children and volunteers were all involved in raising funds for Daniel's Den during our fundraising month – from bouncing on trampolines, baking cakes and selling plants – what a wonderful team effort.

St Michael and All Angels, Stonebridge –

They welcomed lots of new families including a 2-week-old baby in the last session. They've really enjoyed using their outdoor space for sports day.

Mandhata Youth and Community Association, Wembley –

We have enjoyed the space, location and free parking in this venue. However, it is expensive and under review.

St Cuthberts, North Wembley –

The numbers attending the sessions has grown and everyone loves to join in the singing session with Gill on her violin. They too have a lovely outdoor space which Linda loves to use as much as she can.

Chalkhill Community Centre, Chalkhill –

This venue is such a blessing to local families and there is a real sense of community being developed.

St Andrews, Sudbury –

There have been a number of goodbyes this term as families have moved out of the area – always a time of mixed emotions.

The Ascension, Wembley –

This space was launched on May 12th, 2022, and is ideal for running a group. We are looking forward to welcoming the new Bishop of Willesden to our group in a one-off pop-up session in July.



& more...



Latymer Community Church, Ladbroke Grove –
It has been a joy to see the numbers growing in this venue and many tears were shed by the children on the last day of term when they received their certificates to mark the occasion of them moving onto nursery. This really demonstrates the impact Daniel's Den has on the lives of our children.

The Yellow, Wembley Park –
Due to large numbers and not wanting to turn people away led us to open a second session straight after the first one – thanks to funding from Quintain. We were able to stop the booking system, and both sessions are now a walk in. We've welcomed several visitors to the sessions including Christine from Little Village, two researchers from the Children's Commissioner, Hannah from The National Lottery (our main funders) and Carol from the London Network of Parent and Toddler Groups.

New groups

From our data, as well as your comments, we knew there was a gap in provision in the Preston Road and Kingsbury/Kenton areas.

- 1) We were approached by Rev Jacqueline Shalloe about opening a group in her church The Ascension, Wembley. After several meetings and discussions, the new group opened on May 12th, and it has been wonderful to offer a safe space within walking distance to families in the local community off Preston Road. There is a lovely team comprising of Jacqui and church members Tracy, Honora and Sheila. Raduca is a local parent and is part of the team too.
- 2) We are delighted to say we have funding from NCIL to start and run a group in Kenton/Kingsbury area and plans are well under way to launch this in September. Details to follow.
- 3) We are also looking into a potential new group in Alperton but need to secure the funding for this.

Events



Trip to Hanwell Zoo

Lots of families took the bus or drove to Hanwell Zoo and enjoyed seeing the animals, playing in the sandpit and park.

Queens Jubilee Celebration in King Edwards Park

We had a stall and made festival streamers as well as Jubilee playdough activities. So wonderful to connect with past and present families and share in the celebrations. We even ended up singing and dancing to 'We are Family' on the stage

Great Get Together Picnic

Our annual Great Get Together picnic took place on June 24th – a beautiful event with sand pit, parachute games, bubbles, shared picnic food, the Big Sing and so much more

Sports Week

The children loved taking part and receiving their certificates – well done all!

Teddy Bears Picnic

Our end of term was celebrated with teddy bears picnics in each of our venues. Food was shared and certificates given out to all the children going to nursery and reception classes

Our Team - Staff and volunteers

We would not be able to do what we do without the amazing team of staff and volunteers who week in, and week out contribute so much to ensure our sessions open, data is collected, pictures taken and shared, crafts prepared, conversations had, phone calls received etc! As part of the National Volunteer's Week, we held our annual Volunteer Celebration Evening at the Black Horse pub in Sudbury. Past volunteers from the last 25 years were invited and it was a true celebration with games, speeches and an amazing cake and thank you notes for all the trustees. Hermina Heder was presented with the Emma Hay Sunshine Memorial Award for the most outstanding volunteer of the year - a truly deserving winner.

In August we will say goodbye to our Kickstart staff member Kimisha. It has been a pleasure to have Kimisha as part of our team and she will be missed in many ways. Hopefully she will volunteer from time to time!.



Fundraising

June is now our designated fundraising month. Thank you to everyone who jumped, walked, lost weight, did burpees, baked cakes, sold plants, bought raffle tickets, donated gifts etc ... we raised **£3250** in total and have increased our regular giving by **£250** a month. This is wonderful and will help us thrive and stay alive.





How to Donate

It's not too late to donate or sign up to be a regular giver ... please do visit our donation page on our website given below.

DONATE

If you would like to support the charity financially you can do so via our website:

<https://danielsden.org.uk/support-us/donate/>

For partnerships & any other fundraising opportunities please email:
natalie@danielsden.org.uk

Contact us:

www.danielsden.org.uk
office@danielsden.org.uk
020 8908 6986

twitter & instagram:
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thereveryoneachievesmore





Finally

I'd like to wish you all a very happy and safe summer. I know many of you would like us to run events over the summer, but this isn't possible as we need a rest and also many of us have young children too to look after. Please look out for any one off events on social media or in our WhatsApp groups and of course, you can meet up in the local parks etc.

It has been a joy to run a whole year of sessions and continue to build community. Whether you are new to Daniel's Den or have been coming for a number of years – each and everyone of you is important to us. Thank you for walking through the door ... and we look forward to our sessions re-opening in the week beginning September 12th, 2022.

Jo Gordon
CEO

