



# Newsletter - Summer term 2020



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

I trust this newsletter finds you and your family safe and well.

So the end of another year is drawing to a close. Our weekly sessions on Zoom have ended as have our daily Facebook Live sessions. We are continuing throughout the summer with our Saturday morning Facebook Live sessions - these incorporate a craft, a song and suggested play activities. This summer they will all be based on the book *Dear Zoo* and we have nearly finished craft packs to accompany these. Please let us know if you'd like one - they are free of charge and they can be collected from each of our venues (date and time to be arranged) or dropped at your home.



We are also doing our Hotspot discussions on Monday evenings 8-9pm. Feel free to tune in on Facebook Live (or watch later) and of course you are welcome to join the Zoom.

As I reread this newsletter I'm laughing to myself as I think about Zoom and Facebook Live. Both these phrases were unknown to us four months ago but are now an integral part of what we do. We will be asking for feedback from those of you have taken part so it will help us plan for the future.

## Digital Poverty

Of course we are so looking forward to be able to re open our sessions but this is not going to happen in 2020 unless something major happens as in Coronavirus goes away. It is just not feasible to have sessions with our little ones and maintain social distancing. We will let you know if anything changes but for now, we are focussing on our online provision and also developing Daniel's Den At Home. Of course not everyone is online and this can be for a variety of reasons.

We are becoming increasingly aware of the impact of digital poverty and hope to address this in due course. If you know of anyone who is facing challenges with this or yourself please let us know (aware that if you're receiving this via email you have some access to online content).

We are now functioning as a 'hybrid toddler group' as in we are doing what we do both virtually and physically. We are exploring different ways we can build our community in this socially distancing world and welcome any suggestions! We do print out newsletters and send via post to our elderly volunteers.



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Tel: 020 8908 6986 Website: [www.danielsden.org.uk](http://www.danielsden.org.uk)

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# Events



## Snipathon

We held a 26 day Snipathon and raised over £1000! One of our session leaders Linda kicked off the event by having 26 inches cut off her hair ... hair, logs, carrots, fingernails, hearts, spaghetti and so much more—do check out [our video](#)



## Great Get Together Picnic

We were thrilled with the response to our Great Get Together picnic on June 19th and families tuned in, sharing pictures of their picnics in their living room. We even put together some Bags of Hope (homemade scones jam and cream, a dove, a pot of bubbles) and delivered these to our older volunteers - they appreciated them so much. Check out [our video](#) to see what happened

## Trip to the Beach at Home

We are hosting a trip to the beach on Friday July 31st 2-3pm - see flier. Please feel free to join in and create the beach in your home. We will be streaming the event on Facebook live and there will be lots of activities for you and your child to do during the session. This can be watched after too but there is a wonderful sense of community when we do it all together. Do feel free to share photos.

There is a Facebook group called [Friends of Daniel's Den](#) - a great way to share your pictures. Please note this group is public so don't share pictures you don't want the world to see! There will be a prize for folks who manage to complete all the crafts related to Dear Zoo.

Of course we missed our end of term parties and giving out leavers certificates to those of our children who are going to nursery or reception. We will try and do something to mark this special occasion.

**You are invited**  
**Trip to the Beach at Home**  
Friday 31st July 2020  
2-3pm

**This event is free of charge**  
Invite your friends to join you  
It will be streamed live on our Facebook page  
(Due to safeguarding you sadly cannot join the actual zoom session)

**Daniel's Den**  
**Trip to the Beach at Home**  
**2-3pm Friday 31st July 2020**

**Information -**  
You can set up your own beach in your home—use rugs/blankets to create the sand and the sea. Make bunting with a seaside theme—flags, fish, seagulls. Please share photos on social media.  
Pack a picnic  
Gather a bucket and spade and building blocks (Duplo, boxes, Lego) to build a sandcastle  
Make a fish waver or mini windmill (templates on our website)

**On the day:**  
Bring your own picnic.  
Wear appropriate, comfortable clothes and footwear.  
Remember to bring sun cream and sun hats

2pm	WELCOME—share pictures of our beach at home. Windmills and fish!
2:10pm	Build a sandcastle—have boxes/blocks ready
2:15pm	Swimming in the sea and singing Baby Shark
2:20pm	Puppet show
2:30pm	Picnic including ice creams
2:45pm	Big Sing including Oh I do like to be beside the seaside (words on website)
2:55pm	Souvenir game

**Enjoy a fun filled day at the seaside (at home)**

For more information - Tel: 0208 908 6986 Email: [info@danielsden.org.uk](mailto:info@danielsden.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/DanielsDenTogetherEveryoneAchievesMore](https://www.facebook.com/DanielsDenTogetherEveryoneAchievesMore)

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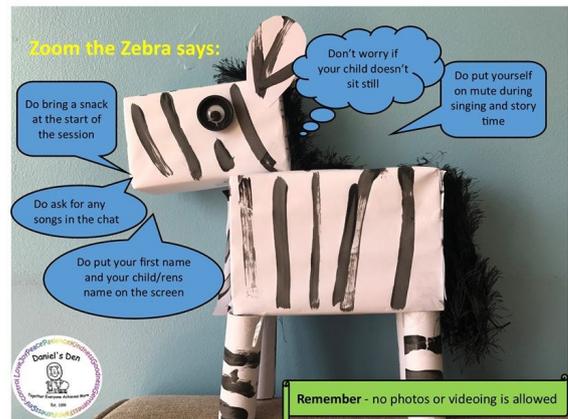
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# News



Daniel's Den will not be the same after Covid and we choose that it'll be better than ever. We will continue to run at least one group online after our groups start meeting physically as there are family's who are unable to attend an actual group. In fact our reach has grown and we now have people attending our virtual sessions from Dublin in Ireland and Watford. Do feel free to invite your friends and family - remembering they need to register online and also sign up for Zoom!



## Welcome

The administration team has grown dramatically during lockdown and we have welcomed Jackie Jackson onboard as our full time Operations Manager and Lesley McGinty as our part time fundraiser. They are settling in and our team is working so well from home!! We are so thankful to Sisk who donated two new laptops for our new team members



## Thank you

I want to pay tribute to Annette, our part time administrator who has done so much to keep our database up to date. I also want to thank our incredible team of volunteers who have thrown themselves into so much activity. We have laughed, cried, dreamed, discussed and so much more - truly living out TEAM Together Everyone Achieves More! Thank you Linda, Emma, Yvonne, Alison, Gina, Jackie, Lisa, Hermina, Bina and all our other volunteers behind the scenes.



I am about to write the Impact Report for 2019-2020 - the theme with be 'So much So little So long' and basically it means we have done so much with so little for so long. I often think people must believe we have a full time staff team of 10+ and a team of 50+ volunteers - this is not the case. However the passion and commitment we do have is huge and it is our pleasure to support and encourage all our families in whatever way we can.

Kind regards,  
Jo Gordon

Follow us on:



**Our Zoom sessions re-open on Monday,  
14th September 2020**

