

# DANIEL'S DEN SPRING TERM 2024 NEWSLETTER



The sun is shining, and the clocks are just about to go forward – it really feels like spring is in the air. The beautiful yellow daffodils and the buds on the tree do bring lots of joy and it makes you want to get out and about.

This term, we have yet again seen many new families come through our doors and if this is you – WELCOME! We hope you have enjoyed attending the sessions or other events.



## Daniel's Den Team

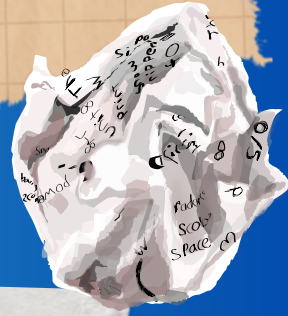
### Daniel's Den Team

The year started with us welcoming Sabrina into our staff team, and she is covering Nat's maternity leave. Georgina (our database and volunteer coordinator) went on maternity leave in January and has welcomed baby Honey into her family. Nat (our operations manager) went on maternity leave in Feb and welcomed baby Coco in March. Congratulations to both families.

It has been a joy to welcome on board new volunteers including Sonali, Jinal, Hina, Lizzie and others. There are so many volunteering opportunities at Daniel's Den – in sessions, admin, at the allotment etc. Please do get in touch if you want to know more or know others who may be interested.



# VENUE UPDATES



We run 11 sessions each week in 10 different venues. A number of these sessions are full, and we are always sorry to have to turn people away. But, to keep everyone safe, we need to restrict numbers and also remind parents/carers to supervise their own children! We do ask for your understanding.

We are so thankful for our session hosts for enabling groups to run in their buildings and our vision is to see a group within walking distance of all families – watch this space.

We are so thankful that we were able to move our group that usually meets on Wednesdays at St Andrews in Sudbury to Sudbury Baptist Church – the new hall is bright, clean and has a kitchen and toilets that work.

Big shout out to Cathy Nind and the church for welcoming us into their venue and its lovely to see this community developing.



On March 25th we heard that The Yellow is closing on March 28th and will re-open in May 2024. The venue is under new management, and we do hope to return. In the meantime, we are delighted that we have secured an alternative venue, 15 minutes walk away from The Yellow.

The address is St Augustine's Church, 152 Wembley Hill Road, Wembley HA9 8EW and we are thankful to the vicar Scott for offering this great space. There is a car park, and several bus routes are nearby. We will meet there from Friday April 19th until May 24th.



# CRAFTS

Our crafts this term have been based on shapes and we know that the Humpty Dumpty craft, the train puppet, smiley face and planting seeds were some of the most popular crafts. Do feel free to take these home and display on a door or wall - this is such a great way to show your child how you value the things they make and inspires them to have a go.



We often say it's not the finished craft that's important - it's the sticking, tearing, and doing that helps develop fine motor skills, language, and creativity.

## BIRTHDAY CARD

### Daniel's Den Team

We have produced version 2 of our own birthday card, and these are presented to the children in the session.

Please let us know if your child has had a birthday or has one coming up - we know that they love to receive a special card.



# EVENTS



## MUSIC WEEK

We were delighted to welcome several musicians to our sessions. Bagpipes, ukelele, violin, guitar and keyboard were some of the instruments played and lots of you enjoyed shaking, hitting and banging various instruments.



## DADS ZONE

This took place each month at St Cuthberts in North Wembley and was so much fun. We have a great team of volunteers who create a fun space and it's been great to welcome new dads as well as ones who have been coming a while.

## HAND PAINTED PLATES

Lots of you took the opportunity to create a memory in the form of a Hand Painted Plate and we raised over £1000 in doing so.

It's amazing how quickly our children grow and capturing memories is a joy - I know some of you took pictures of the process and I wonder what your children will think when they grow older - was I really that small?



# EVENTS

## BUBBLE MACHINE

Thanks to an anonymous donor who bought 4 bubble machines off our Amazon wish list, we now have bubbles in lots of our sessions!



## Sowing Seeds

On March 23rd 11 children and their families came to the allotment for our Spring Special. They made bird feeders, played in the mud kitchen, watered the garden, and had lots of fun. We are delighted to announce that we will be offering weekly sessions in the allotment for the summer term, and these will take place on Thursday mornings 9.30-11am.



...One mum shared with us a photo of the bulb she planted last term and she said

'Thanks a lot for this beautiful experience, it's the first time for me to plant, and here its... blooming .. Thanks Daniels Den'



# OTHER NEWS.....

## Funding



This term we have received funding from Robert Southall, Quintain, Sisk and Children in Need as well as regular giving and one-off donations.

**Daniels Estate Agents** continues to do all our printing.



Thank you for your weekly donations at the sessions – this money really helps us to keep doing what we are doing! We do not receive any funding from the government or the local council and have to raise all our funds ourselves.



## Annual Daniel's Den Exhibition – focussing on Dad's Zone

We ran our annual exhibition in Brent Civic Centre to profile the work that we do, and we made some useful connections.

We carried out a survey about Dad's Zone and were amazed at how many people had never heard about Daniel's Den. Please do help us spread the word to others.




We were delighted that Sisk invited us to be part of their float at the St Patricks Day parade in central London on March 17th.



We now have Daniel's Den branded t-shirts for sale – perfect for the summer. Look out for more details.

# JUNE

Our annual fundraising month...



...and we encourage people to find ways of raising funds for our charity. In the past people have baked cakes and sold them, sold plants, did a mini sponsored event in a local park, a 25-hour sponsored silence, 25km sponsored walk etc. Please look out for more details.

**'It's not a parent and toddler group booklet'** and School Readiness Daniel's Den has been very involved in producing this very informative booklet that shows how bringing your child to our sessions can really help with school readiness. There is so much learning taking place through play and here is a link so you can download a copy for yourself

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)



It's not just  
a parent  
& toddler  
group

12 TOP TIPS  
FOR SCHOOL READINESS

WWW.NOTJUSTAPARENTANDTODDLER.GROUP

## FINALLY...

..I want to say a HUGE thank you to our team that makes Daniel's Den happen.

Our motto is TEAM

Together Everyone Achieves More

and this is so true! Without the hard work of our session leaders and volunteers, we would not have the 11 sessions each week. Without our staff team working in the background ensuring all the administration is done the charity wouldn't be able to do what it does. The sense of interdependence is very real and valued by us all.



# UPCOMING DATES...

The Spring Term ends on March 28th new term starts on Monday April 15th.

- 15/04/24 - Summer Term Starts / All Volunteers Information Evening
- 04/05/24 - Dad's Zone
- 06/05/24 - Bank Holiday (Lewinson & LPBC closed)
- 13/05/24 - 24/05/24 - Feedback Fortnight
- 16/05/24 - Annual Farm Trip (Grand Union Closed)
- 25/05/24 - Sowing Seeds Nature Trail
- 27/05/24 - 31/05/24 - Half Term
- 08/06/24 - Dad's Zone
- 09/06/24 - Volunteers Appreciation Evening
- 15/06/24 - Annual Fundraising Walk (Date TBC)
- 20/06/24 - Great Get Together Picnic
- 24/06/24 - 28/06/24 - Sports Week
- 06/07/24 - Sowing Seeds Bear Hunt
- 08/07/24 - 12/07/24 - Teddy Bear Picnic Week / Last Week of Term
- 13/07/24 - Dad's Zone

Do check out our website, social media and WhatsApp groups for updates.





# ACTION POINTS...



**PLEASE REMEMBER** to take pictures of only your child and to **NEVER** take pictures of other people's children.

## Registrations

We have noticed that not everyone has registered on our website. Registering is free and is something you only need to do once. Why register on our database?

- It tells us who is using our services which enables us to report to funders
- It enables us to keep in touch with you



**Register** via here

Don't forget to claim your free Welcome Bag with your voucher attached to your welcome email.

## Volunteer recruitment

We are always needing new volunteers to help at our sessions, with administration and occasional events. We were pleased to do a presentation at the College of Northwest London regarding volunteering opportunities and are delighted that a number of students are coming to volunteer in some of our sessions.

If you or someone you know is interested please speak to the session leaders or visit our volunteer page on our [website](#).



# THANKYOU...



**WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO  
ALL THIS WITHOUT THE  
GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR  
FUNDERS!**

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](mailto:natalie@danielsden.org.uk)



(This photo shows some of the families at Chalkhill Community Centre, a group funded by Children in Need)

**DONATE**