

SPRING TERM 2023 Newsletter



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

The sun is shining and the clocks have gone 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.



Venue Updates

We have run 11 sessions each week in 10 different venues. 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 delighted to confirm that we are now permanently meeting at St Patrick's, near Ikea, on Tuesday mornings. We met with Father Patrick and he was so impressed with what we are doing and feels this really fits in with the ethos of the church. We are thankful for the 13 years we spent at St Michaels and All Angels in Stonebridge and will produce a short report in due course.

We continue to receive toy donations from the community and these help in so many ways. So glad we can use these in our sessions and anything we can't use we donate to charity



St Patrick's Church, Neasden



Farewell to St Michael's

CRAFTS & TOP TEN BOOKS



POPULAR FROG CRAFT

Our crafts this term have been based on shapes and we know that the bus, the frog, 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.



ENJOYING READING TOGETHER

Thanks to donations from Friends of Daniel's Den, we were able to buy 10 new books for each venue and these titles are ones we recommend for every child aged 0-4. We do hope you are enjoying these, and we really believe sitting and sharing books with your child is such an important thing to do and help with their language, feelings of security and warmth as well as a source of fun.

The Titles:

- The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- Each Peach, Pear Plum
- Brown Bear Brown Bear
- Elmer
- Farm 123
- Going on a Bear Hunt
- Ten Little Finger, Ten Little Toes
- Dear Zoo
- God knows all about me
- If you're happy and you know it



...and more!

Birthday Cards

After many years of talk, we finally have produced 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.

Singalong Week

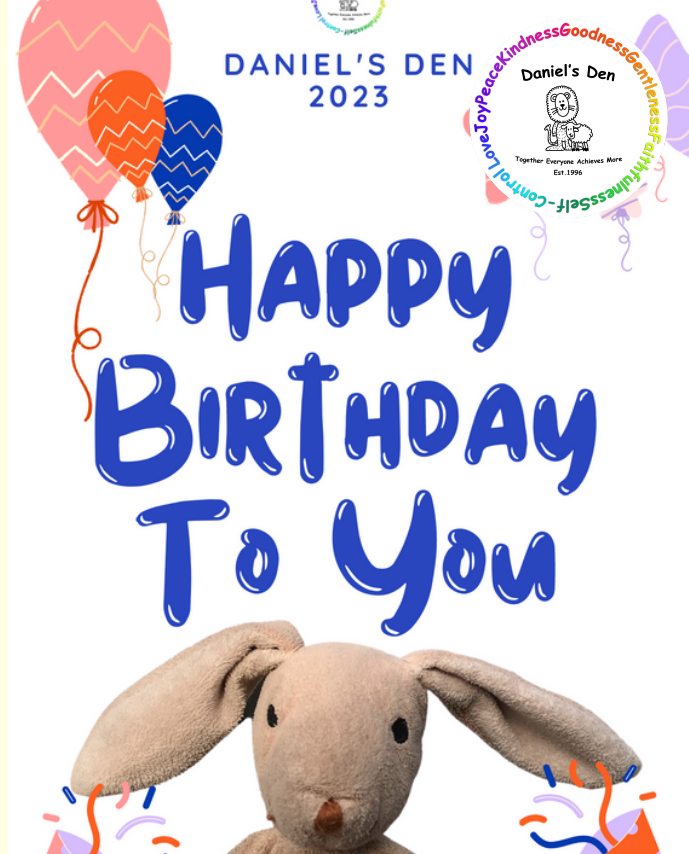
Some of you dressed up as your favourite song and sang for at least 10 minutes in our singalong week. Through sponsors and donations we raised over £250 for our chosen charity – Kids Club Kampala. This is being used to buy learning materials for young children in Uganda.

** Each month, Daniel's Den makes a small donation to 5 charities across the world and more details can be found on our website:

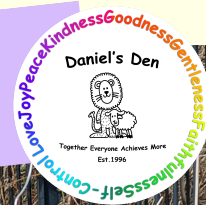
<https://danielsden.org.uk/about/sowing-into-5-continents/>

Hand Painted Plates

Lots of you took the opportunity to create a memory in the form of a Hand Painted Plate and we raised £600 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?



...and more!



Sowing Seeds

On a windy Saturday, lots of families came to the allotment to help clear away rubbish and prepare the beds for planting. The mud kitchen and crafts were as popular as ever – thanks to the wonderful Linda. 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 Mondays 1.15–2.45pm



Under-fives and the Voluntary Sector Exhibition

Daniel's Den is a member the Brent Parent and Toddler Network, a group of parent and toddler groups across Brent. Together with two other charities HomeStart and Little Village, we ran an exhibition in Brent Civic Centre to profile the work that we do and gather information about what else is needed or is already on offer. We made some useful connections and were delighted to talk to local politicians, Brent Council staff and local families.



Our new charity video

Also this term we were delighted to release our new charity video highlighting the work we do in our parent and toddler groups and why we do it! The video was produced internally, filmed by one of our Dad volunteers – Chris and edited by Tim, who are both professionals in the industry. They generously gifted their time and skills in support of Daniel's Den and we are so thankful for their support. Watch here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSjhp1n0o9Y>



Mum's Zone



St Cuthbert's was the venue of this year's Mum's Zone, and we were delighted that ladies from the church came to share their hobbies with us. Eva, Lynn and Christine are amazing artists and brought along some of their creations and then we got to

have a go ourselves. They were very patient teachers and I know that people have been inspired to do more. Anna from the church serenaded us with music on the grand piano and this added to a relaxing afternoon. Delicious food was prepared and enjoyed by the attendees, and we also

had a go at keep fit, making candle holders, or indulging in some pampering with hand massage and nails. We had fun playing games with our names and everyone said they can't wait for next year.

We are very aware a number of mums couldn't attend because they had issues with childcare. We are unable to provide a creche and we really want to encourage you to develop a support network in terms of childcare. We all need to have a little break from time to time ... Perhaps the daddies can grow in confidence by bringing the little ones to Dad's Zone whilst you have time to yourself?



Dad's Zone

This took place each month and is so much fun. We have a great team of volunteers who create a fun space and its been great to welcome new dads as well as ones who have been coming a while.

Upcoming dates



The Spring Term ends on April 1st with Dad's Zone and the new term starts on Monday April 17th.

Dads Zone:

May 13th, June 3rd and July 1st

April 2023:

17th - Sessions Re-Open

24th - Feedback Fortnight starts

May 2023:

8th - Bank Hol Monday (No Sessions)

17th - Trip to Willows Farm St Albans

20th - Sowing Seeds - Nature Trail

WB 29th - 2nd June - Half Term

June 2023:

All month - Fundraising Month

2nd - Volunteers Celebration Evening

17th - 25km Walk

23rd - Great Get Together Picnic

WB 26th - Sports week

July 2023:

8th July - Sowing Seeds - Bear Hunt

WB 10th - Teddy Bear Picnic & End of term



Action Points

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: <https://danielsden.org.uk/sessions-and-events/register-with-us/>

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.

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



To our grant funders, sponsors and regular donors...!

THANK YOU !

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



**Funding for 6 more
Daniel's Den over the
next three years!**

We were also delighted to receive news our application for continuation funding from The National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund was successful.

We are the proud recipients of funding that will help us consolidate our current 12 groups and projects, and open a further six Daniel's Den venues over 3 years. If any potential host would like to get in touch about running a Daniel's Den Parent and Toddler in their Brent venue please get in touch!

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.



Joanna Gordon

CEO & FOUNDER, JO GORDON

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
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020 8908 6986

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thereveryoneachievesmore

