

SUMMER TERM 2023 Newsletter



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

As we approach the end of our summer term 2023, we are so thankful for all the amazing fun we have had this term in Daniel's Den. From hunting teddy bears in our allotment to balancing bean bags on our heads; from walking 25km to playing with playdough - there is a never a dull moment!

TEAM

We would not be able to do what we do without our amazing volunteers and at our annual celebration of all our volunteers at the Black Horse in Sudbury, we presented Jackie Oliver with the Emma Hay Sunshine Memorial award for the volunteer of the year!

We said goodbye to Annette who had been on staff for 7 years and we said hello to Georgina who is now our new Volunteer and Database Coordinator.

We are always looking to recruit new volunteers so please contact us if you are interested... you can volunteer for one off events, in our weekly sessions or in admin roles. Volunteering can give you the confidence and skills you need for future employment or studies.



Street Party



Jackie & her award



Introducing Georgina!

Our volunteers also helped at a local street party to celebrate the King's Coronation and our crafts are always so popular. We were able to model our new Hi-Viz jackets, and these do help us stand out in a crowd.

OUR GROUPS



Sleeping Bunnies



Storytime lead by Oral Health Team

Each of our venues has welcomed new families and it is always such a joy when we see new friendships being formed and the children learning new things. Thank you for offering the gift of friendship to others – we love the diversity of our groups and aware that this sometimes brings challenges. I know we had a couple of biting incidents in the very hot weather, and we were so pleased how people dealt with these – kindness and understanding goes a long way. You may or not be aware that we run 11 sessions each week in 10 different venues and that every group is completely different to any other – this depends on the venue, the team and attendees. Large or small, we hope everyone finds something they enjoy. We even have a monthly Dad's Zone just for dads and other male carers. Thank you to everyone who took part in our survey – we value your feedback and even though we can't take on board every suggestion, we can make tweaks here and there.

We welcomed several visitors to our sessions and received advice about applying for nursery spaces, healthy eating and looking after our teeth. The Bishop of Willesden visited the group at The Yellow and commented on how friendly people were.



Latymer Team

The group at the Ascension celebrated their first birthday as did our project called The Net – an outreach programme for asylum seekers living in local hotels.

Sadly, our group that meets at Latymer Community Church is closing at the end of term as the building where it meets is being demolished – we are thankful for the time we have spent there. We are looking to open more groups in Brent so watch this space!

...events & projects

Trip to Willows Farm

Thanks to funding from Sisk, we were able to offer discounted seats for our trip to Willows Farm, near St Albans. We took 3 coaches on a sunny Wednesday in May and thoroughly enjoyed feeding the animals, going on a tractor ride, watching sheep racing and riding on the various toys and play equipment. There was something for everyone and one mum said, 'that was the best day out I've ever had'.



Sowing Seeds

We received funding from Brent Zero and were able to offer weekly sessions on Monday afternoons on our allotment. The attendance was very low and many of you said that this was because it was your child's nap time. However, lots of you came to our Nature Trail and Bear Hunt Saturday sessions and as ever, the mud kitchen and planting were very popular.



Sports Week

Our recent Sports Week saw children having a go at balancing eggs on spoons and jumping in the sacks – one mum was so proud that her child had received their first ever certificate she was keen to share with family and friends on social media. We do love the fact that our groups cause ripples and that many of you share the experience with others.



Great Get Together Picnic

We were blessed with a beautiful sunny day for our Great Get Together picnic in King Edwards Park and over 100 people enjoyed the bring and share food, bubbles and parachute. We were glad that families from other toddler groups were able to join us too.



...and more!



June - Fundraising Month

June was our fundraising month and thank you to everyone who took part whether walking, keeping silent (!), buying tickets, sponsoring someone etc. Sierra and Nevarra asked people to sponsor their hair cut and not only did they raise funds for Daniel's Den, but they also donated their hair to the Princess Trust. Wonderful! Our annual 25km sponsored walk took in all our venues and was a huge challenge - some of us were able to join for 10km or 5km and we are already planning the walk for 2024! A great way to get to know the local area and make new friends along the way. Our Family Fun Day was enjoyed by many and hook a duck and throwing socks in bins were popular games. We have raised over £3000 which will be used to support our projects.



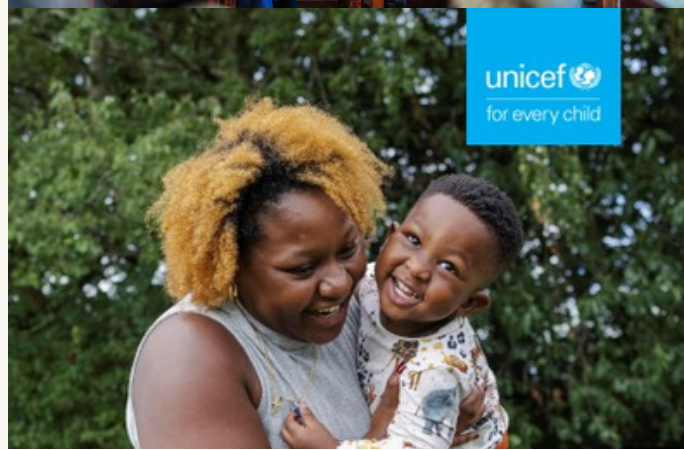
Houses of Parliament

Daniel's Den not only runs toddler groups - we run activities to support other toddler group leaders across London and beyond. In June we hosted a reception in the Houses of Parliament for toddler groups leaders - they came from across the UK - from Penrith to Cornwall, and Wales to Norfolk. It was good to highlight the amazing contribution these groups make in communities.



Our work recognised!

Daniel's Den has been mentioned in 2 publications this term - each of which has a national reach. One was a report called Love Matters and was produced by the Archbishops Household Commission and the other was an Infant Mental Health Toolkit produced by UNICEF. It is great to see our work being recognised in this way.



Upcoming dates



Dates for your diaries:

Friday July 14th – end of term

Wednesday September 6th – snipping (voluntary opportunity to help pre cut the crafts for the upcoming term)

Monday September 11th – all our sessions re-open

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: <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!**

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 many of us also 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 together!



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:

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