

Newsletter Spring 2017



Hello Everyone!

Hard to believe that it's nearly Easter - where on earth has the time gone! It really won't be long before Caroline has those booking forms out for the summer holidays...

We've certainly had a busy start to the year; what with organising the Easter play scheme at Fort Royal we have just taken over, continuing with our Pilotlight initiative with monthly meetings in London and all the work that we're doing behind the scenes working on our long term vision for the organisation including writing our Business Plan.

You may already have heard that Worcestershire County Council are busy gathering views of parent/carers to help inform their review of short break services for children with disabilities. It's really important that as many of us as possible feed in to this review as it will inform the future direction of services after all the current short break contracts end in March next year. There are a number of events taking place the first of which is at **Sixways on Fri 1st April @ 9.30 – 1pm**. We have a number of families coming along on that day. We are also going to be holding a joint coffee morning with Worcestershire Parent Carers Council which will be a more informal way to have your say to the Commissioners who'll be joining us.

We will be in touch with more details about this but **save the date: 4th May 10am** if at all possible. With this in mind it's also time for our Annual Survey. I can't reiterate how important it is that as many parent/carers as possible fill this in for us with as much information as absolutely possible.

I use this information to demonstrate the quality of our services and the difference that we make to our families. This might be for reports to existing funders or to bid for additional funding. It will definitely be used for any future funding we have to tender for from Worcestershire County Council. We also want to know exactly what you think of all our services so that we can make sure we're delivering what you want. I know as parents/carers of children with disabilities we are all very busy but please try & find the time to let us have your feedback.

You can find & complete the survey online at:

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MSFAnnualSurvey2017/> to be completed by Mon 24th April. We will also have hard copies available at all the play schemes over Easter too or please get in touch with us in the office & we'll send one out to you.

It's a really exciting time at Malvern Special Families at the moment as we continue to expand the Clubs that we deliver. Our reach continues to grow; we are in the process of registering 70+ new families at Fort Royal & we are talking to Regency High School about the possibility of extending our After School provision there too. With us delivering the Fort Royal summer play scheme in addition to the other 2 at Poolbrook & Regency - we will have a staff team in excess of 100 by the summer! Thank goodness we were prepared. In the office we have Donna busy helping with the registration process & offering support where needed to individual families. Cassie continues to raise our profile locally and liaise with our many fundraisers. Not forgetting Caroline as organised as ever – keeping all the plates spinning!

Please do keep in touch with us & remember we do love welcoming any visitors to the office if you're ever passing by.

Take lots of care,

Maria

Annual Survey 2017

It's that time of year already! Please take the time to complete and return the Malvern Special Families Annual Survey if you can.

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MSFAnnualSurvey2017/>



We really value your comments & feedback so we can help to improve our services. So please complete the survey, have your say and give us your feedback. Thank you.

Darren Huggins - MSF London Marathon Runner

The London Marathon is fast approaching on Sunday April 23rd and this year we are proud to have our first ever MSF London Marathon Runner! Darren & his partner Jo have been busy training for the Marathon and jointly fundraising for their chosen charities Malvern Special Families and the Brain Tumour Charity.



Thank you to Darren and Jo for being such brilliant fundraisers and we wish them both the best of luck for the London Marathon!

If you would like to sponsor them go to:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/DarrenHugginsAndJoTryne>

Fundraising & Volunteer Group

A huge thank you to our all Community Fundraisers and Volunteers. With a special thank you to Kay, Lucy & Zara who have been busy volunteering at various fundraising & awareness events for Malvern Special Families, as well as coming along to our fundraising group & brainstorming new fundraising ideas.

Do you have a couple of hours spare to help out? There are plenty of summer events coming up that we need volunteers for, so if anyone is able to help out in any way, it would be much appreciated.

If you would like to help Malvern Special Families by volunteering your time or helping with future fundraising events please contact Cassie on fundraising@malvernspecialfamilies.org.uk

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are often needed for fundraising events. Please get in contact if you would like to get help out. Marshalls & walkers needed for a Sponsored Walk on the Malvern Hills. 1.30pm onwards on Wednesday April 26th. Marshalls to help school children cross the roads safely on way to hills. Walkers to walk up to the beacon and back.

Please contact Cassie on 01684 892526 or fundraising@malvernspecialfamilies.org.uk if you would like to help.

The more the merrier!

VOLUNTEER



Fundraising News & Thank You's!



Thank you to all our supporters & fab fundraisers including:

Darren, our MSF Marathon runner & his partner Jo for hosting a joint fundraising night which raised £1418 to be split between MSF & The Brain Tumour Society

Best Parties Ever Ltd £500 donation

White Stuff Worcester quarterly donation £596

Great Malvern Fatface Shop 'Thanks for Giving Campaign' £644

Local Artist Zaza Shelley & White Stuff Worcester for their Doggie Day Portrait Fundraiser raising £445

Malvern St James' School for their ongoing fundraising efforts

Basepoint for their brilliant Match funding

Xplorer Challenge – Free for MSF Families

The Xplorer Challenge is back in Priory Park in Malvern. Free entry for MSF Families.

XPLOER

ONLY 50p per person

PRIZE FOR THE QUICKEST FAMILY

Fun, Family Challenge

MONDAY 1 MAY 2017
10.30AM - 12NOON
IN PRIORY PARK, MALVERN
(MEET AT THE BANDSTAND)

EXPLORE THE PARK,
FIND THE MARKERS,
COMPLETE THE
CHALLENGE, HAVE
FUN TOGETHER

PART OF

big Splash Monday
malvern water Festival
Fortis
Malvern Hills District Council
freedomisure where you matter

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:
WWW.XPLOER.ORG.UK

Malvern Special Families Holiday Clubs @ Fort Royal

Easter and Summer - Children aged 5-11 years
10am-3pm - £20 per session

There is a lot of interest in the short breaks provided at these holiday clubs and family demand exceeds places available. We now have a contract in place with Worcestershire County Council to provide 16 places per day for 4 days at Easter & 16 places per day for 20 days during the summer at Fort Royal. Fort Royal school is no longer running these holiday play schemes. In order to be as accessible as possible & to include as many families as we can, places have been limited to 1 day per child at Easter & for 2 days per week during the Summer in the first instance. 60% of all places must be available to 'referred' children (those assessed by Social Services) as per the contract.

It was agreed by Commissioners and ourselves that priority would be given to the children who attended the Fort Royal holiday clubs in 2016. These families form the Membership. It is anticipated that the places at the 2017 clubs will be filled by these families.

Priority

Priority will be given to children:

- Children who do not have their own carers.
- Children who are not in receipt of Direct Payment's & employing PA's,
- Whose booking forms are received by the booking deadline;
- Whose registration form, medical details and consents etc. are complete and up-to-date;
- Whose payments are up-to-date;
- Who do not have other care in place such as "looked after" children in residential care;
- Who do not attend other specialist holiday club provisions e.g. The Vale, New Hope etc.;
- Where there are exceptional circumstances e.g. family in crisis;
- Priority at youth clubs will be given to those who have already attended MSF clubs for 5-11 years and are looking for succession in provision. There is a lot of interest from "new" families (families who didn't attend Fort Royal holiday clubs in 2016) so we will be holding a waiting list. This will help us to identify the excess demand for the number of places the council is currently funding.

Waiting List

- Children must be aged 5-11 years old to be entered on the waiting list for Fort Royal Holiday clubs.
- The waiting list will be kept on a first come first served basis, in date order.
- When a vacancy becomes available, the play services coordinator will contact the parent/carer whose child is suitable (see Suitability section) for the place and is highest up on the list. If the parent/carer no longer wishes to take up a place, then the next name on the list will be contacted.

Young Carers Facts

.....Did you know ?

- 2011 Census figures show that in Worcestershire 3,490 children and young people identified themselves as young carers
- 52% of young and young adult carers registered with Worcestershire Young Carers are from single family households
- As of June 2015 79% of carers registered with WYC are caring for a parent
- According to national research 1 in 20 young carers miss school due to their caring role
- From the 2011 census most carers are between the ages of 10-14 years
- Young carers are four times more likely to live in a household where no adults are in work
- A young carers family is more likely to have an income £5000 less than the national average



"What's so difficult about caring?"

"Mummy and Daddy don't have time for me"

"Not having time for me to go out with my friends and feeling like I'm not doing enough"

"Seeing Mum upset because she cannot do simple things"

"When I have had a tiring or a bad day it's hard to care for someone else when you just want to be alone"

"Trying to have a social life and relief from stress"

"All the stress, it annoys me - it makes me upset when she is upset. Balancing in with everything"

Worcestershire Young Carers

13-17 Carden Street

Worcester

WR1 2AT

Tel:01905 619886

youngcarers@yss.org.uk

Further information and referral forms can be

found at

www.yss.org.uk



Worcestershire Young Carers

**Providing support
to**

**Young Carers and
Young Adult Carers**

across

Worcestershire

Worcestershire Young Carers is part of YSS- Charity No
1081882

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

Supporting Young Carers across Worcestershire

AUTISM AWARENESS LUNCH

Celebrating Autism Awareness Week

Essential information and advice for all ages on Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and related conditions.

Wednesday 5th April

10.00am – 2.00pm at Archdales 73 Social Club, Windermere Drive, Worcester WR4 9HY. (NEXT TO LIDL'S)

FREE car parking.

Drop in and talk to:

Care providers; education experts (incl SEN, FE, University).

Plus advice on employment, community safety, housing, benefits and lots more!

FREE lunch and refreshments.

Games and activities for all ages.

For further information contact: Tom Piotrowski on 01905 670104 or Email: tpiotrowski@fortisliving.com



CONTACT US



www.fortisliving.com



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Hairy Fairy Tails By Open Sky

Malvern Cube @ 2.30 on Sunday April 30th

Open Sky proudly present their new show...Hairy Fairy Tails! Classic fairy stories retold as never before through rhyme, song, music, puppetry, mime and magical transformations.

Rapunzel's sick of people going on about her hair so she takes matters into her own hands. Janet rescues Tomlin from the wild woodland fairies by giving him a cuddle – even when he turns into a wolf, a snake and a burning stick. Goldilocks is scared of the three bears so very surprised to find that they're totally terrified by her. The Nanny Goats Tuff aren't taking any nonsense from the Rock n' Roll Troll.

The stories offer simple life lessons for girls and boys; be yourself, be kind, be open minded and be brave. Fabulous furry fun for all. Book tickets via the link below:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/335308>



LITTLE STUFF
POSTCARD ART CELEBRATION
2016-17

All you need? Can you fit your big idea in a little postcard?
This one is with us. All ages and abilities are welcome.



Thank you to everyone that took part in Little Stuff. Artwork can be viewed in the Long Gallery at Malvern School of Art's Open Evening on Wednesday 5th April between 5.30pm - 7.30pm.

Last Chance to Join the Malvern Special Families Sky Dive Team

Sponsored Tandem Sky Dive Sunday May 7th 2017

**CHARITY
SKY DIVE
7TH MAY 2017**



**Sign
up!**

**MAKE 2017 YOUR BEST YEAR YET.
JOIN THE MSF SKY DIVE TEAM
TODAY. EMAIL: FUNDRAISING@
MALVERNSPECIALFAMILIES.ORG.UK**

3 weeks to go for the Co-op Community Fund:

Thank you to all the Co-op members who have been choosing Malvern Special Families as their charity. Not a member yet? Did you know it's only £1 to become a Co-op member and then you can select us as your chosen charity?



Malvern Special Families, First Floor Offices, 73 Church Street,
Malvern, WR14 2AE Phone: 01684 892526

office@malvernspecialfamilies.org.uk

www.malvernspecialfamilies.org.uk

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