

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

ZOE SINGS

We are delighted to announce our next exciting fundraising night. Zoe Birkett, Darlington's very own Pop Idol and star of stage and screen, will be entertaining us all at the Darlington Rugby Club, Blackwell Meadows on Friday 7th November at 7.00 p.m. This is a chance for all our mums and dads, grannies and granddads, uncles and aunties, staff and committee members, friends and supporters to come together to enjoy good company, good food and good music. All money raised will go directly back into the charity to help continue and develop our many projects. We hope to see as many of you there as possible, tickets are limited to 120, so will be on a first come, first served basis. Please indicate if you need a vegetarian or non vegetarian option, as a three course meal is included in the price. Dress code is Lounge Suits (Maggie was unsure what this was, so to clarify Maggie – suits for men, but no black tie necessary and nice and dressy for the ladies!) Tickets are £25 per person and are available during group sessions for parents and relatives from Maggie and Sue and from Sue Belton on 07806 707466 for everyone else. (If anyone wants to order the tickets and pay in instalments, please contact Sue or Maggie to arrange this) See you there!



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sandy King (Chairperson)	01325 465317
Tracy Dunn (Secretary)	01325 351795
Joe Hutchinson (Treasurer)	01325 300688
Maggie Hart (Education Co-Ordinator)	07806 707465
Sue Belton (Parent Representative)	07806 707466
Val Hutchinson (Fundraiser)	

For any enquiries please ring either of the following numbers:
07806 707465 or 07806 707466

The EDUCATION CENTRE for children with down syndrome

Registered
Charity
No. 1115300

NEWSLETTER

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Please visit our website on www.eccds.org.uk

WELCOME

Welcome to the new term and the beginning of our 4th year. We hope you have all had a lovely summer, despite the weather! We have another very busy and action packed year ahead of us. Look out for details of our fundraising events, training events and conferences in later issues this year. Here is to a successful 2008-2009.

SUMMER FAIR

Despite the dreadful weather this did not deter people from turning up to the Cumby Arms in Heighington for a great afternoon. Huge thanks go to Debbie and Gavin Icton, at the Cumby Arms, plus all



their staff, for making us so welcome and looking after us all. Many thanks also goes to Ruth Matthews and her girls (bottle stall), Geraldine Walker (book stall), Becki and Ben (lollipop stall), Val and JJ's Café (refreshments), Sue Belton and Family (cakes), Katie and Caroline (face painting), Val Henderson (bric a brac), Jan Littlejohn and mum (toys and crafts) and not forgetting Music Man (Daniel's dad!) Hope we remembered everyone. We managed to raise £749.54 and the winner of the sponsored balloon race was Paul Wytcherly, sponsoring Karen Jemmett. A great effort, many thanks, lets hope next year the weather is better!

TRANSITION GROUP

With the success of our early development groups and as some of our babies, who started with us begin to start school, we are currently piloting our first transition group. This is being attended by 6 children and their Teaching Assistants, initially for a six week course. The sessions run for an hour and children work with their Teaching Assistants to develop their literacy, numeracy, social and speaking and listening skills. We are delighted to work in partnership with Darlington Education Village, who have allowed Assistant Head Teacher, and also Trustee for the charity Caroline Berry, to deliver specialist input for the Teaching Assistants during these sessions. Ruth Beckett, an advisory teacher for Darlington Local Authority, is also present at these sessions. It is an exciting development for all involved and we look forward to evaluating the impact of these sessions for our children and their schools. Should it prove to be a success, we will endeavour to keep this group running throughout the year. It has been a great source of pride and delight to see how well our little babies have turned out. Seeing our little ones in their new school uniforms brought many a tear to the eye! Everyone's hard work, staff, parents and schools is paying off.



SWIMMING SESSIONS

Over the summer holidays we were delighted to subsidise swimming sessions for our families at the Hydrotherapy Pool at the Education Village. These sessions were well attended and allowed children and their families to enjoy some quality time together in a safe, friendly and more importantly warm environment. Due to its success, we will be arranging more sessions over the year, details of which will be printed in a future newsletter. Thanks to Sue for organising the sessions and Ken, our lovely lifeguard.



SINGING HANDS

After much eager anticipation the DVD from Signing Hands is now ready to buy. Please visit their website to order. A great gift for presents for children of preschool and primary age and a super resource for nurseries and schools. Well done Tracy and Suzanne, keep up the good work. Hope you can come and visit us again soon! Website: www.singinghands.co.uk

STAFF CHANGES

We say goodbye to our lovely Speech Therapist, Caroline Carter and wish her all the very best, as she starts married life. She has assured us she will be dropping in to visit us all from time to time. We also say goodbye to Katie and wish her all the best in her pursuit of becoming a nurse in the future. We welcome Sue Belton, Becki Hope and Caroline Berry to the team. We hope they will be very happy with us.

RAFFLE PRIZES WANTED

Raffle prizes big and small are needed for two events this term. If anyone has any gifts or contacts with friends in high places, who would like to donate a prize on behalf of their company or business, please get in touch with Sandy King or Sue Belton. Alternatively bring them along to the group sessions. Thanking you all in advance. Your kindness is much appreciated.

DONATIONS, FUNDRAISING AND GIFTS

Our very grateful thanks to everyone who has helped raised money for us.

Thank you all for your generosity!



SAVE AND RAISE

Hopefully everyone received a letter about the Utility Warehouse. Support the charity and save money on your bills, there is a free phone number – 08001313000, quote C17810 or contact Sue Belton on 01325 300738.