

This week

- Mon 23 Feb: Pupils return to school after half term break
- Thu 26 Feb: Bring your decorated Fairtrade chocolate cupcake into school
- Sat 28 Feb: Ukes for UNICEF, Civic Centre, 11am-6pm

Dates further ahead

- Tue 3 March: eSafety Information for parents at Westfield Primary School, 7pm
- Thu 5 Mar: World Book Day – Come to school dressed as your favourite book character
- Fri 13 Mar: Friends of Thomas Coram Quiz Night

[A full calendar is available on our website](#)

Notices and reminders

Are your children safe online? Should you leave them alone with access to the internet? A [free eSafety information session for parents](#) of children at Berkhamsted schools will be held on Tuesday 3 March at Westfield Primary School. Refreshments will be available at 6.45pm and the meeting (approx 1.5 hours) will start at 7pm. Please see the attached information for more details. Last few places remaining.

Every school has to write an [SEN Information Report](#). The draft of our report is on the school website on our policies page. We invite any comments from parents/carers on this report; comments should be received by the end of February.

As part of the [Berkhamsted Fairtrade Big Brew](#), children are invited to decorate a Fairtrade chocolate cup cake. Bring this into school on Thursday 26 February with a label stating your name, age and school attached. If you are free on that morning, pop in for Fairtrade refreshments and items and admire the cupcake creativity!

For a guide to [family activities](#) over the half term and beyond, visit www.mumsintheknow/hemel Hempstead.

Hertfordshire County Council has launched a consultation into how it funds some of the [bus services in the county](#). The consultation closes on 10 April 2015. You can have your say or find out how it will affect you at www.hertsdirect.org/busconsult or call 0300 123 4036 to request a paper copy.

Recent letters

Last week we sent out these letters:

- The Coram Chronicle

This week's attachments

Today we're attaching:

- News from the Friends of Thomas Coram
- Fairtrade Big Brew
- Ukes for UNICEF
- eSafety Information Session
- DSPL Dacorum Newsletter
- Free 'Work Matters' Course information

We are now collecting [Sainsbury's Active Kid vouchers](#). If you have any, please send them into school with your child. These vouchers are used to purchase not only sporting equipment, but also a variety of cooking utensils to encourage active participation in food technology lessons.

[Construction club](#) will start after half term on Friday lunchtimes. We would appreciate donations of any unwanted Lego, Knex, Polydrons or Meccano etc. Thank you.

Patricia O'Sullivan, our [recorder teacher](#), is leaving us today to pursue her writing career. We wish her every success.

Have you read your copy of [The Coram Chronicle](#)? It has been emailed to parents and is available on our school website.



The Friends of Thomas Coram School,
Swing Gate Lane,
Berkhamsted,
Hertfordshire
HP4 2RP

Dear Parents,

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Comedy Night last Friday; I hope you had an enjoyable evening. The event raised in excess of £1200 for our school.

We have more events in the pipeline:

Friday 13th March: Quiz Night

Please save the date! A quiz, fish and chips, a bar and more ... posters/booking forms will be out soon!

Sunday 26th April: Triathlon

The Friends of Thomas Coram are delighted to announce that 'Team TC' for this year's inaugural Berkhamsted Triathlon are:

-  Kate Bailey
-  Philip Bailey
-  Louise Brookes

The fundraising target from current activities' aim is to purchase 6 laptops per year group, so we hope you will consider giving Louise, Kate & Philip your support and help get the children their computers! Fundraising information will follow in future bulletins.

The date is Sunday 26th April- the start venue is The Knox Johnston Sports Centre on Kings Road in Berkhamsted, so please save the date and bring the children to cheer on Team TC!

Other Events

- Brewery Tour
- Vineyard Tour
- Clothes Swap Night
- Mid-Summer Camp

Help Needed

We are looking for someone to join the Friends Of Thomas Coram Committee in the post of Secretary. You would be joining an active and fun team who are dedicated to raising funds for school projects that will enhance our children's educational experiences. If you want to find out more, please call me for an informal, no obligation chat on 07879 827179.

Thanks for reading, best wishes,

Richard Roscoe

Chair, FOTC Committee



FAIRTRADE BERKHAMSTED

Fairtrade Big Brew

Thursday 26th February

09:30 – 12:00

**The Court House, High Street
(by St Peter's Church)**

Fairtrade refreshments
Fairtrade food, cards and crafts

Children's Competition

A Decorated Fairtrade Chocolate Cup Cake



ANNUAL

UKES FOR UNICEF

Ukulele

FESTIVAL

2015

BERKHAMSTED CIVIC CENTRE

SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

11AM - 6PM

A GRAND UKULELE FESTIVAL
FOR ALL THE FAMILY

HOSTED BY BURP



(BERKHAMSTED UKULELE RANDOM PLAYERS)

NEW ACTS CONFIRMED
FOR THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL:

- ☀ TOBIAS ELOF FROM DENMARK
- ☀ LIZ BYRNE & MARK VOXALL
- ☀ UKOLADE: THE ADRIAN BROADWAY
/ LARRY WARR BAND

GUEST ARTISTS ☀ WORKSHOPS
MASS STRUM-ALONGS
SOLO ACTS ☀ UKULELE BANDS
BAR ☀ REFRESHMENTS ☀ RAFFLE

EVERYONE WELCOME

ENTRY WILL BE BY DONATION.

in aid of

unicef 

Evening UkeThrash

During the evening there will be an informal UkeThrash at The Three Horseshoes - a wonderful 16th century pub. Fantastic food available.

The Three Horseshoes is at Winkwell, Bourne End, betwixt Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted, Herts., HP1 2RZ

www.ukesforunicef.com



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eSafety information session for parents



- Are your children safe online?
- Should you leave them alone with access to the internet?
- What are your children doing online?
- Is there anything you need to do?

Topics covered

Cyber-bullying, social networking, online grooming, damaging postings, inappropriate websites, gaming, help and advice.

Tuesday 3rd March 2015, 7.00pm to 8.15pm

Call **01442 862 729** by **Friday 27th February** to book your place

**Westfield Primary School
Durrants Lane,
Berkhamsted HP4 3PJ**

Herts for Learning Ltd
01438 845111
www.hertsforlearning.co.uk



Issue 2

Date: February 2015

Welcome

Welcome to the DSPL Dacorum Newsletter for parents and carers. We hope that it will give you a sense of what's going on with DSPL and special educational needs in Dacorum, and also let you know how you can get involved or be supported.

DSPL Dacorum Team

Paula Harris -Lead Head for DSPL Dacorum, and is Headteacher of Kings Langley Primary School.

Maria Oliver - DSPL Manager

Jan Nethercoat - DSPL Administrator

Please contact us - we are always happy to hear from you.

Maria oliverm05@kingslangley.herts.sch.uk

Jan nethercoatj05@kingslangley.herts.sch.uk

Maria: 07711556792

Jan: 07525 917125

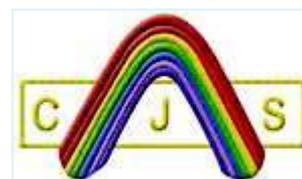
www.dacorumdspl.org.uk

Speech and Language Bases

If your child has an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) which lists Speech, Language and Communication as the primary need, she or he might benefit from being referred to a Speech and Language Base. Chaulden Infants' and Nursery School, and Chaulden Junior School both have Speech and Language Bases which serve all of West Hertfordshire.

The aim of the Bases is to work with each child to reintegrate them back into school as quickly as possible. Children are given space and time to communicate independently in a specially designed classroom, rather than relying on adults to communicate for them. Early intervention is key; children who attend the Base during Key Stage 1 have their issues addressed at an early age so that they don't translate into social and emotional issues as they get older.

If you would like to find out more, please speak to your child's Speech and Language Therapist to find out whether they think a referral would help.



Down Syndrome

We have surveyed Dacorum schools to find out where children and young people with Down Syndrome are being educated, as this data is not currently available from Hertfordshire County Council. We ran a training session in January for Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) and teachers from these schools, to offer practical solutions for communication and behaviour management issues. The training session was really well received, and we're now looking at organising a parent group for parents of children with Down Syndrome.

If you'd like to find out more about the parent group, please contact us.

Understanding Autism and ADHD

ADD-Vance has recently run a series of afternoon and twilight sessions for parents.

If you've missed these sessions but would be interested in attending one in the Summer term in Hemel Hempstead, please contact us to register your interest.

ADD-Vance is a registered charity, providing specialist information, training and advice for professionals, as well as support for children, adults and families on issues relating to Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and related conditions.

To find out more about ADD-Vance, please visit their website: www.add-vance.org



What else is Dacorum DSPL doing?

We are funding training for staff in all Dacorum schools on:

- **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)**
Teachers and Teaching Assistants are attending training courses on understanding ASD and ADHD, including practical advice on how to support children with ASD and/or ADHD in the classroom. The training is run by ADD-Vance (see front page). There has been high demand for these courses and we're now running another course in the summer term.
- **Behaviour Management** – Hertfordshire Steps is a positive approach to behaviour management, and Dacorum DSPL is paying for all staff in schools and early years settings in Dacorum to undergo training and keep up to date.
- **Speech, Language and Communication** – Dacorum DSPL will be funding training in speech and language support for staff in schools and early years settings.
- **Nurture Groups** – Dacorum schools will have the opportunity to run a Nurture Group in their own school, working with experienced staff from Dacorum Education Support Centre. Nurture groups assess learning and social and emotional needs and give whatever help is needed to remove the barriers to learning. Schools who run a Nurture Group will also have training for their staff so that they can continue to run the group themselves. For more information about nurture groups, visit the Nurture Group Network website at <http://www.nurturegroups.org/>

Help, Support & Advice

Parent Support Group

Woodfield School runs a Parent Support Group on Wednesday mornings during term-time – please see their website at:

<http://www.woodfield.herts.sch.uk/2013-01-09-15-46-47/coffeemornings>



School Family Workers

Dacorum has four Family Service teams, who support families of children attending Dacorum Schools. Advice and support is available on a range of issues, including supporting families of children with additional needs. School Family Workers can also help with the facilitation of Education, Health and Care Plans. The teams also run parenting courses and advice sessions, for example with specialists in special educational needs.

The areas covered by the different teams are listed below – please feel free to get in touch:

Gade Schools Family Support - covering Old Town, Chaulden, Warners End and Gadebridge, Boxmoor & Apsley. Contact: 01442 278792 www.gadeschoolsfamilysupport.co.uk

Link Family Services - covering Adeyfield, Highfield, Grove Hill, Woodhall Farm.

Contact: 01442 230768 www.linkfamilyservices.co.uk

Dacorum Family Services - covering Bennetts End, Leverstock Green, Corner Hall, Tring & villages, Berkhamsted & villages. Contact: 07780008651 www.dacorumfamilyservices.org.uk

Kings Langley Partnership of Schools - covering Kings Langley, Nash Mills, Bovington, Chipperfield, Sarratt and Bedmond. Contact: 01923 271744

Hertfordshire SEND Information, Advice & Support Service (SENDIASS)

Formerly known as Parent Partnership Service, SENDIASS is an impartial information, advice and support service funded by Hertfordshire County Council for parents, carers, young people (0-25) and professionals. Phone 01992 555847 or email parent.partnership@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

Find out more at <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/healthsoc/childfam/specialneeds/educ/parpart/>



The KIDS East and West HUBs www.kids.org.uk/hub 01923 676549

The KIDS HUB offers information and support for parents and carers of disabled children / children with additional needs. aged 0-19 in Hertfordshire.



PRESS RELEASE

WORK MATTERS

Four years ago a group of Christians representing Sunnyside and Kings Road Church's had a community based meeting and recognised that there was a need to help the unemployed and those with a desire to embark upon a new career.

Martin Fillippides, who leads the team, has said 'the last course was very successful in helping those who attended so we have decided to run the programme again this year'.

The course is called Work Matters and is open to all and completely free of charge. It includes free tea and coffee, and will be facilitated by amongst others an HR Director, a Barrister and an Accountant. Content of the free course will include:

- The job search – presenting yourself/networking
- Your legal rights
- Managing money
- Starting a business
- The person (managing stress)

And will take place at Make Believe Café on Tuesdays 17, 24 and 31 March from 7.30 - 9.30 pm.

A different aspect of the programme will be covered on each evening. We would therefore ask participants to attend all three sessions to gain full benefit from this course.

If you would benefit from or know anyone that might benefit from attending the course then you or they should contact Martin by email on mfilippides@gmail.com or call Mike Wallis on 07891 760244.