



Special Parents

Newsletter 3—May 2010

Welcome!

Welcome to the Spring newsletter, I hope you all had a lovely Easter and are enjoying this lovely weather that has arrived!

There has been so much going on behind the scenes of Special Parents since the last newsletter, we are now being noticed by other agencies and word is getting out to parents that we exist. I have been so touched by the people that have offered to fundraise for us and get involved with organizing events all of which I am so thankful for.

If there are any parents that want to help more by delivering leaflets or making phone calls to promote the group please get in touch with me as any help is always welcome. Also if there are any budding cooks out there that would be prepared to make cakes for the group meetings please let me know as cake is always an important part of our meetings!

Thank you again to all that come to the meetings and contribute such worthy information, please continue to support us in whatever way you can.

Rachel.

Special points of interest:

- * Quiz night
- * Fundraising
- * Group meetings
- * Family Trip
- * Sponsored Swim
- * Sibling Group
- * Dates for your diary

Contact Details

We now have a new telephone number for the group, this will enable the contact responsibilities to be shared between the committee members resulting in a better service for parents that may require information. All other contact details remain the same with the main source of contact being through the website contact forms.



Website: www.specialparents.org.uk

Email: Rachel@specialparents.org.uk

Telephone: 07522 847742

www.specialparents.org.uk



Fundraising

We are always grateful to anyone that offers to raise money on our behalf and will assist with publicity and anything else required, so if you have an idea for fundraising please let us know and we'll do all we can to help make the event a success.

Joshua Bradford recently held a toy sale to raise money for Special Parents. As part of his course at school Joshua had to arrange an event and raise money and we were lucky to be chosen to be the recipients. Joshua raised £15 on the day and because he

felt this wasn't enough he contributed £5 of his own money to make the total £20. Thank you so much Joshua.

Michelle recently held a fundraising party at home and donated the commission for items sold, she also arranged a raffle which was very successful and in total she raised £95 for Special Parents which is amazing. As well as raising a lot of money we all had a really good social evening. Thanks to Michelle for hosting the event and to all that came along to support her.

The staff at the main office in the Childrens Centre recently had a collection of loose change for Special Parents and donated the contribution to us, many thanks to all those involved.

Over the coming few months we have Bluebell children's nurseries holding a mufti day to raise money for us which has been arranged by Nicola Likeman.

We are always looking for ideas for fundraising, if you have any ideas or wish to make a donation please contact one of the committee members.



Membership and publicity

As stated in the last newsletter, it is now a requirement that all parents become members of special parents and complete membership forms. We recently sent out an email asking people to complete the forms and return them by a specified date if they wanted to become members and remain on the mailing list, this date has now passed and it has en-

abled us to amend our mailing list and therefore reduce sending information to people who no longer require it.

We are in the process of redesigning our leaflets, in the past Rachel has designed these and printed them off to order from home. Due to the fundraising that has taken place the committee now feel we are

in a position to instruct a printer to produce leaflets for us, this will not only look more professional but it will also enable us to order in bulk and therefore provide them to outside agencies so we can spread the word about the group.

Group Meetings

At present group meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month term time only, a full list of meeting dates for the year are on the back page. Attendance at the meetings is consistent but it would be nice to see an increase in numbers, so, if you know anyone who would like to come along please feel free to come and join us, or, if you are someone that is yet to attend why not come along to our next meeting?

I have had some phone calls from people that cannot attend meetings during the day as they work so I am looking into the possibility of evening meetings every couple of months. If you are interested in coming along to an evening meeting please let me know as I would need to ascertain numbers before I can look at venues and costings to ensure it is worthwhile.



Remember that we have a free crèche running for our meetings, this is run by very friendly, qualified staff and the children have the opportunity to play with a range of toys and are provided with a snack. This crèche is invaluable and gives the parents a chance to relax and talk at ease, however if we don't use the crèche we will lose it! To book your place for the meetings please phone 01323 464160.

Quiz Night

On Saturday 15th May 2010 we held a quiz night at the function room of Reef n Beef in Eastbourne.

The quiz was compiled and delivered by Dannii, who is also the group treasurer and was received well by the 10 teams that entered.

A cash prize of £50 was given to the winners and a

bottle of wine was given to the losing team and also to the team with the best team name.

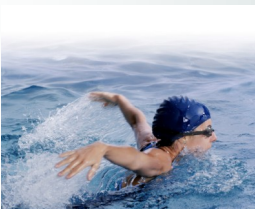
The quiz was followed by a raffle with all prizes donated by local businesses and members of the committee and this was followed by a disco provided by Reef n Beef.

All in all the night was a huge success and a very enjoyable night, I have received lots of positive feedback and hope to repeat the event again next year.

The total amount raised was a very impressive £269.00 and donations are still coming in from people that couldn't attend. Many thanks to all who helped.

Don't forget to book your children into the free crèche! Phone 01323 464160 two weeks before the meeting.

Sponsored Swim



We are planning to hold a sponsored swim later this year and we are presently making enquires to local pools to request the use of their facilities for the event.

We will be looking for people that are willing to take part and raise sponsorship for the event. We will provide the advertising, sponsor forms and of course a hot drink at the end of the event!

Further details will be announced once we have confirmed all the details but if you are able to take part

can you please let one of the committee members know as soon as possible so we can collate numbers and plan the event.

It doesn't matter how far you can swim, or how much you can raise, it all helps and will be gratefully received.

Sibling Group



We have decided that we would like to branch out a little! An issue that regularly comes up when talking to parents is the lack of support available to the siblings of our special children. Siblings often have a life that is very different to that of their friends with often no one to talk to about their feelings. Special Parents are now looking into opening up a sibling group that would run in the evenings and we are in talks with EAVS (Eastbourne Association of Voluntary Services) who are advising us on issues around the set up and funding of such a group. The first step of this is a feasibility study to ensure that there is a need for this type of service and a questionnaire has been created online and sent out to members and outside agencies for completion. We are aiming for this project to be up and running in 18-24 months and we will keep you updated about the progress but if anyone has ideas or expertise in this area please contact Rachel.

Members Family Day Out



We have been fortunate enough to gain funding from the Eastbourne Lions Club to enable us to organise a day out for our members and their families.

We have organised a trip to Knockhatch Adventure Park in Hailsham on Thursday, August 26th 2010. A coach has been booked for the trip and this will depart from and return to the Willingdon Trees area.

We have space for 50 people and these places will be issued on a first come first served basis, members will be sent letters offering them a place nearer the time. Please ensure you return your forms as soon as possible if you would like to come.

Annual General Meeting

Special Parents first AGM will take place on Monday June 28th. Please contact one of the committee members if you have anything you wish to contribute to the meeting.

Dates for your Diary

12th January	Group meeting
2nd February	Group meeting
20th February	Parent Networking Event—Sponsored by Avant Photographic
2nd March	Group meeting
20th April	Group meeting (late to avoid Easter holidays)
4th May	Group meeting
8th May	Quiz night
8th June	Group meeting (late to avoid half term)
6th July	Group meeting
26th August	Knockhatch trip
14th September	Group meeting (late to avoid staff training at children centre)
5th October	Group meeting
2nd November	Group meeting
7th December	Group meeting