



Welcome

Welcome to the first Fundraising Parents Newsletter of 2021. As we all know, 2020 was an extremely difficult one for everyone and here at St George's we certainly had many challenges but, with the dedicated support of our amazing team and wonderful parents and children, we carried on doing what we do best - care for your wonderful children in our safe and nurturing environment every day, and we continue to do so.

From a fundraising point of view, we were obviously very sad that none of our normal fundraising events were able to take place last year. However, with the current rollout of the vaccination programme, we are hopeful that by the summer we will be able to hold some events, though we are not able to plan anything at present as this pandemic has taught us not to plan too far ahead and things can change very quickly.

Considering what a tough year 2020 was, we were amazed to receive over £13,000 in donations via our "Keep St George's Going Campaign"/anonymous donations/donations from parents and staff/in-house raffle/TW Lotto/Pyjama Day/children, parents and staff taking on their own sponsored challenges.

We have spent some of the money on a firepit that all the children love, Christmas decorations/crafts, new toys and books for the rooms and Captain Fantastic Magic Shows to name but a few.

We also received approximately £17,500 for our Assisted Childcare Places Scheme, via grants and trusts awarded to us from Kent Community Foundation, David Friday Memorial Fund, Lawson Trust, Colyer Fergusson and Whitehead Monckton.

Again, we were extremely grateful to receive these vital funds to help struggling families in our local community. If you know of anybody who may be eligible to benefit from this scheme, please contact kym.russell@stgeorgeschildcare.co.uk for more information.



St George's Day- 23rd April



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23rd April

Every year we celebrate St George's Day and this year it is 40 years since St George's Childcare became an independent charity - back then we were St George's Community Children's Project and became St George's Childcare in the Autumn of 2017!

For obvious reasons we cannot hold a big celebration to mark the occasion but all the children and staff in nursery on that day will get to have fun and learn about St George, our namesake!

We are going to hold a virtual raffle, more details to follow in the next couple of weeks, that will be drawn on St George's Day.

If anybody has any prizes, they would like to donate to the raffle we would love to hear from you. All proceeds from the raffle will go towards the cost of a new Den in the garden.

Staff Fundraising Challenges



As you may know, our lovely Steph and Mel challenged themselves to speed walk their own Half Marathon on Valentine's Day, up and down their drive. They completed their challenge in less than 4 hours and have so far raised over £600 (including gift aid) for St George's - which is amazing.

Steph is the longest serving staff member at St George's and has worked as a childcare practitioner here for 27 years this year, working with all ages of children, and they all love her! She has taken part in many fundraising events and challenges to support St George's over the years and has raised £1000's.

We are extremely grateful to her for being such a dedicated, professional and fun member of Team St George's, always with a smile on her face - thank you Steph! If anyone would like to add to Steph's fundraising you can visit <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/StephanieArmstrongBotley> to donate.



Back in November our wonderful Sarah Kempster, Senior Childcare Leader in Little Dragons, embarked on her amazing challenge of cycling the distance from Lands' End to John O'Groats (1745km in total) both on her road bike and exercise bike.

Sarah wanted to complete the challenge before her birthday on 18th February but, unfortunately, due to Coronavirus and isolating, she had to have a 4 week break from exercise, so the completion date has been extended to 20th March. She is back cycling and is determined to complete the challenge by this date. Sarah has already raised over £600 (including gift aid) for St George's, which is brilliant.

She also took on a 24-hour cycling challenge with her 3 daughters last May and raised over a whopping £1,500 (including gift aid) for us! Sarah really is a superstar, having so far raised over £2,000 for St George's and we cannot thank her enough. She is such a great member of Team St George's, always going the extra mile (literally) and all the Little Dragons children simply adore her, as do her colleagues. Thank you Sarah!!

If you would like to support Sarah in her challenge you can visit her fundraising page <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com./SarahKempster>.

Donations of materials needed for Moles Sensory Area



Ellie and the Moles team are looking to turn an area of their room into a dark sensory room, which will not only help children with additional needs but benefit all the children. If you or anyone you know can donate any of the following items, we would love to hear from you:-

- black or dark fabrics
- sensory toys and light up toys
- different textured toys or items to go in sensory baskets
- fairy lights
- old locks /switches /handles /doorknobs etc for a busy board
- scarf material - lots of bright colours

Big 'THANK YOU' from Becky

We know how difficult everything has been during the last year for everyone and nobody could have envisaged that this pandemic would still be with us! Even so, we have been very touched to receive many offers of help and support by lots of lovely parents and staff during the year, for which we are truly grateful. We really cannot thank you enough for your kindness and generosity - we are always pleased to receive your emails regarding fundraising ideas, volunteering opportunities (once restrictions are lifted) and obviously your donations - THANK YOU EVERYONE!

If you require any further information on any of the topics covered within the newsletter, or absolutely anything fundraising, please contact me on becky.king@stgeorgeschildcare.co.uk - I would really love to hear from you.

Thanks once again for your support.

Becky