DDCS VISIT TO THE LUSH FACTORY

On Thursday 21st February, during the school half term, 23 families (62 members) went along to the Lush Factory in Poole. Dorset DCS was invited along so that the children and young people could have a look round the factory and also have the opportunity to make their own bubble bath.

Three groups of families went on staggered tours during the day and were able to have a look round the handmade soap department and then go on to make their own bubble baths. There was a lot of fun with the glitter and the adults were enjoying it as much as the children!

We would like to thank Lush for making us so welcome and for giving our children and young people this opportunity and experience. Thank you so much to Mandy and Marc who looked after us all so well and to all the Lush staff.

Everyone went home very happy with their bubble baths they had made and also some other goodies too!
A BIG THANK YOU FROM DDCS!

Dorset DCS wishes to thank all the individuals and organisations who have made donations, fundraised for us or provided something for us free of charge. Without you we could not provide the support for the children and their families!

THANK YOU TO:

- Connect Business Technology for printing the ‘Let’s Hear it Briefly’ flyers free of charge
- Strategic Solutions Financial Services for posting all the newsletters free of charge and making regular donations.
- Martin Bray
- Insurance Institute of Bournemouth
- Brit Valley Lodge 8315
- Roger & Marjorie Furniss
- Lisa Forbes
- Rebekah Fund
- John Myers
- Octa Lodge 4397
- Mr Jordan Butler
- In Memorium – Mr Roy Tarbin
- Hoare Lea
- Kevin & Lisa Forbes – Anniversary & Birthday gifts
- ASDA – Coin Donation
- Cambridge Weight Plan 60 Day Challenge
- Shirley Sorbie – Birthday gifts
- Royal Parks Half Marathon Team - Lisa Forbes, Jodie Forbes, Adam Foley, Nicola Foley, Kelly Hennessy and Nicky Findley
- J. Butler
- Canford School Golf Club
- Kings Stag Methodist Church
- The Blandford School - Christmas Party Venue
- Cater Link Ltd – Christmas Party Food
- Bournemouth Deaf Club – Collection Box
- Sally & Greg Kelson
- Margaret Turner
- SGN Poole
- In Memorium – Mr Gilbert Cross
- Charles & Susie Andrews
- David Sampson – London Marathon
- Dalkeith House Dentist – Collection Box
- Conor Tobin – Sponsored Football
- Ideas for fund raising could be a sponsored event, car boot sale, cake sale, donations instead of gifts, a collection box in a work place, raffle or a school multi day.
- Why not give it a go!

DDCS GRANTS

DDCS has funds available for grants and will consider contributing towards our member’s costs or partial costs for deaf related equipment, activities or learning. We have in the past contributed towards signing classes and provided literature to support signing. We have also provided specialist alarm clocks for children to become more independent at getting up in the morning!

We may also be able to offer grants in certain circumstances for financial support with a deaf related project.

Please contact us in writing or by emailing info@dorsetdcs.co.uk
Each case is considered on its individual merits.

KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE!

Please let us know if there are any changes to your circumstances for example if you have moved house, changed your name, telephone number or email address. Also if you now wish to be removed from our membership list or if you have a child who had a conductive hearing loss and it has improved and they no longer wear hearing aids.

We cannot change your membership details without you telling us!
Email us at info@dorsetdcs.co.uk or ring Shirley on 01202 571089

NDCS HELP LINE

Do you need help and advice about DLA claims or education for your child?
If so please ring the NDCS help line number 0808 800 8880 or Email helpline@ndcs.org.uk

DO YOU HAVE AN EXPERIENCE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OTHER FAMILIES?

We are always looking for articles for our newsletters. It really helps to read what other families have experienced, or maybe you just have a story to share?
Please contact Shirley on 01202 571089
We would love to hear from you!

DDCS has been accepted as a charity on the BH Coastal Lottery, If you buy a £1 ticket, 50p goes directly to the DDCS. There is a one in fifty chance of winning each week (that’s better odds than the National Lottery and People’s Lottery) and the top prize is £25,000!

So if you think you can be lucky and also support Dorset DCS then please log on to: www.bhcoastallottery.co.uk
Select buy tickets and then select Dorset Deaf Children’s Society!
Thank you!
On Sunday 17th March Dorset DCS went along to Rock Reef at the end of Bournemouth Pier. In the morning session we had two groups of our younger children who came along with their parents and siblings and in the afternoon it was the turn of the teenagers. Everyone took part in the Clip’n’Climb and also the Highline. Some very bravely did the Highline blind folded and some of the older group in the afternoon had a go at the Vertical Drop Slide! All together 62 climbers and 116 members enjoyed a great day.

On Saturday 2nd December we held our annual Christmas Party at The Blandford School, Blandford and 156 members came along including some very excited children. Three new families attended their first DDCS event and were able to meet other children and parents.

To start the afternoon families were entertained with music from Richard, Party time for Kids, who also organised some games for the children. He brought along his magic bubbles which he managed put the children (and some parents) inside of, much to the delight of the children! The children were also able to have fun at the craft tables and there was also face painting of some great festive faces! Thank you to Joanna (mum of Lily) and her friend Joanna who do such amazing face painting for us. The Dorset DCS information table was available for families to help themselves to any literature they might need and NDCS Christmas Cards were on sale raising money, not just for NDCS, but also for us.

Everyone enjoyed a finger buffet with plenty of delicious food. The savoury food was provided for our families by the school catering company, Cater Link Ltd. We would like to thank Karen Hall and her team for giving up their time to make the savoury food for us. All the cakes, biscuits and fruit and drinks were provided by DDCS. A big thank you to Sandra Mackrow, one of our parents, who volunteered to make cakes for us.

After the food it was time for the entertainment provided by Richard and Party Time for Kids! This included games for the children and dancing and before long the adults were joining in! Everyone had a great time.

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I work as a 1/1 TA at Corpus Christi Primary School and am immensely proud to work in year 5 supporting a hardworking young man called Conor, who is profoundly deaf, and has cochlear implants. For the most part, Conor works independently and contributes well in class, overcoming barriers which can make concentration difficult, such as background noise and peripheral sounds such as pencil tapping, chairs moving etc.

Recently, during English lessons we were focussing on persuasive writing, being quite a shy boy he found the concept of boastful language, imperative verbs and generally showing off quite difficult. Whilst trying to explain that he needed to use flamboyant language to sell an idea, we talked about things that he felt he could be persuasive about. The next day, with input from his Mum, he discussed Dorset Deaf Children’s Society. I suggested that he could do a fundraiser and he could make a poster promoting the charity. Conor set about researching the work of the charity and recalled events he had been to in the past, and how much he had enjoyed them.

He decided to do a football dribbling challenge, and became uncharacteristically animated and excited about making his poster, drawing up sponsorship forms, and preparing a short speech based on his research to persuade people to sponsor him. As he collected sponsors he became more confident, approaching his peers, members of school staff, family, friends and neighbours, many people whom he would not normally speak to, and nobody was left in any doubt about the cause he was supporting. Whilst he was doing this, he displayed wonderful life skills, improved social interactions, responsibly filling out his forms, taking care of money, working out how much people owed and collecting monies with gratitude, manners and confidence.

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After the challenge Conor spoke in assembly in front of the whole school, thanking them for their support and raising awareness for Dorset Deaf Children’s Society. This was an amazing moment as he overcame his shyness and spoke passionately.

I am so proud of his achievement. Finally he wrote an excellent letter enclosing his cheque, again, letter writing was featured in our English lesson.

Conor gained so much from this project, his self-esteem, confidence and communication skills have soared. We covered quite a few things which were outside his comfort zone and he rose to the occasion admirably, and increased awareness of the need to support deaf children. In all, I believe that this has been a life enhancing activity, and one I would recommend.

Thank you to Keira and Corpus Christi Primary School and Conor and his parents, Siobhan and Brian, for sharing this story with us.