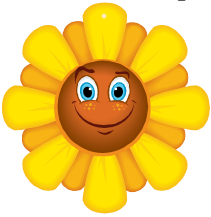




Wakefield & District Down's Syndrome Support Group **Newsletter: May 2011**

Saturday Club



Sunbeams CC are having some building work done, which means that the June Saturday Club (**Sat 4th June**) will be going on the road – we will be meeting at

Anglers Country Park (Haw Park Lane, Winterset, WF4 2EB). Bring outdoor toys, rugs and a picnic (or money for the cafe!).

For new families, Saturday club is always the first Saturday of every month, and from July will be back at Sunbeams Children's Centre (Lupset Crescent, WF2 8RH).

Summer trip to Flamingoland

Date for your diaries: our summer trip will be on Saturday 6 August (in place of August's Saturday club). We will also be booking coaches for travel there. Places on the trip are subsidised by a grant, so free tickets and travel will only be available to families with a child with Down's syndrome. More details next time!!

Older children/Young adults group news

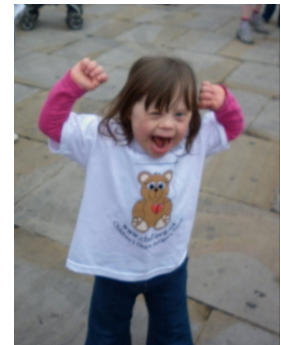


Here's a beautiful picture of Ayesha Hodgson attending her prom recently – you look gorgeous Ayesha!! We are also looking for a more catchy name for the group – let me know if any of our older children or young adults have any suggestions and I'll pass them on!! Activities are continuing on a

monthly basis – Sue Hodgson is the contact (07876 070983) if you want to get involved!

Jane Tomlinson mini fun run

Well done to all of the children who took part in this event recently – each raising money for their own causes, and also a team of families wearing t-shirts to raise awareness of the Save our Surgery campaign working to keep children's cardiac surgery at the LGI. Lots of our children's siblings were fantastic, including Max Cookward, Callum Lancaster and Jacob Sheard, but special mention has to go to Isaac Sheard and Zoe Arnold – coming last and second to last (with Smarties-based bribery) – what an amazing achievement for two exceptional four year olds!!



Breaking news!!

Also as part of the Save our Surgery campaign in Leeds, Zoe Arnold will be one of three children and their families going to Downing Street in June to knock on the famous black door and hand deliver the huge pile of petitions to No 10!! (well over 420,000 signatures!). Watch out for Zoe and her daddy on the news!!

Clever technical stuff

For those of you who use iPads and other technical gadgets, the netbuddy web site has produced a new info pack that has lots of good information. Click here <http://tinyurl.com/3jvb62e> or search via the netbuddy web site (www.netbuddy.org.uk), you never know what interesting things you might find on there!!

If you have any news to share, contact Andrea on 07814 367594 or andrea@bignews.co.uk
Check out our web site: www.downsyndrome-wakefield.co.uk



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Special Olympics team success

In April, four members from our group represented Able2 Pontefract Special Olympics at the Festival of Athletics at Don Valley Stadium, Sheffield. They had great success in the track events, finishing either first or second in their races, and many returned home with new personal bests.

Around 1000 competitors took part in this unique sporting event - the only open track and field event in the country which featured mainstream track and field events, a full programme of race walking events, a road race and fun run, disability events and a schools challenge.



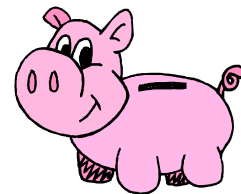
Some of our children have been heralded for their sporting achievements alongside mainstream peers at the Wakefield School Sports Federation Awards evening recently too.

Children who have represented Wakefield at Regional or National Sporting Events were invited to the event. Thomas Raddings received badges for Athletics, Boccia, Kurling and Swimming and was also presented with a Special Award for Outstanding Achievement (having represented the district in four disciplines) by Neil Fox MBE (Wakefield Trinity and Great Britain.) James Tulley was also recognised with a similar award and badges and Beth Courtman received a badge for New Age Kurling.

If you have any news to share, contact Andrea on 07814 367594 or andrea@bignews.co.uk
Check out our web site: www.downsyndrome-wakefield.co.uk

Fundraising news

Thank you to Enviroco for a donation of £400, through Amy and Lisa.

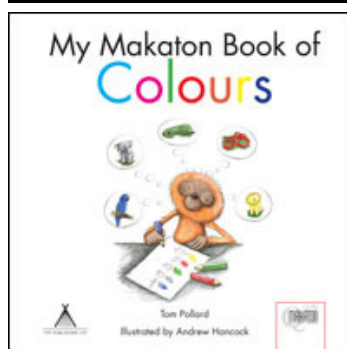


Inclusive park coming soon!

The grand opening of the new fully inclusive Phys-cap Play Area at Temple Newsam park is on **Thursday 30 June at 11.00am**.

There will be a wheelchair accessible maze & fort, wide slide, different style of swings, wide paths & sensory equipment – created by a grant from Phys-cap (a local Leeds based charity supporting children with disabilities). There will be a Changing Places toilet, increased disabled parking, and more interactive exhibits added to the farm. The grand opening will have a celebrity ribbon-cutting and other activities.

Makaton resources



There is a new range of Makaton books available focusing on basic vocabulary for younger children – three vocabulary books and a new colours/animals one. There are

only a few signs and symbols per book and are quite expensive at £8.99 each but they are a useful reminder. They are available from the Makaton web site (or search for Makaton on Amazon – there is a description of the first book that gives an idea of the vocabulary included and it's free delivery – but don't tell Makaton I said that!!)

Thank you!

Thank you to all those who have sent your email addresses, you have saved us a lot of printing and postage costs! Please contact me if you currently receive your newsletter by post and could get it by email instead.