

## Newsletter No.1 Summer 2019

It's difficult to believe that our community run centre has now been in operation for nearly two and a half years! Thanks to Amy Spicer's inspired leadership and the hard work, enthusiasm and creativity of her staff team, the Family Centre has gone from strength to strength over this time, providing activities and support to an ever-growing number of families with young children in the area of Thame and Chinnor. This newsletter brings you up to date with reports on recent events, together with our plans for the future.

[John Hulett, Chair of Trustees.](#)



### Thame Day Centre

Red Kite have made some magical visits to the Day Centre for the elderly this term. Sessions have included silhouette cutting, paper aeroplanes, making birdboxes and a singing session with Starlight Theatre. It has been such a special opportunity to watch the elderly build relationships with the Red Kite Families. The sessions will continue monthly after the summer holidays.



### Thame Museum

Red Kite have met with Thame Museum to work in partnership to deliver sessions to under 5's. The Museum visited Red Kite 'Stay and Play' with a wonderful array of dressing up costumes so children could see what the museum has to offer. The following month Red Kite staff visited the museum to deliver a story session to children and volunteers in support of the ongoing story sessions that they run. Later in the summer Thame Museum joined us for Thame Play day to continue to engage young children in the Thame community.

### Starting from a story

Our popular 'starting from a story' sessions have continued to visit the local pre-schools each month so we can continue to build community links and share good practice.

### Thame Play Day



An estimated 500 adults and children visited us for a day of 'free play' on Southern Road recreation ground on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Local organisations had a chance to showcase their businesses and meet families in the community whilst children enjoyed an array of activities including giant bubbles, soft play, zorbing, bouncy castles and having their hair and nails painted! An enormous thank you to

Thame Town Council for their support with the event – another successful year!

## Abingdon and Witney College

Red Kite have partnered with Abingdon and Witney College this term to deliver community led learning. Courses have included Makaton sign language for volunteers, HENRY (a parenting course for health and nutrition in the family environment) and 'FitMums' for new parents returning to exercise. Red Kite were awarded the 'most successful new project' award and one of our parents was awarded 'student of the year award' at Blenheim Palace.



## Rotary Business in the Community

A big thank you to the team of volunteers from Thame Rotary who organised a brilliant clear up and refurbishment of our outside spaces and play area recently. They did a great job!

## Summer Holidays

Summer can be a long period for young families. During the holidays we are again running our summer holiday club for children aged 3-5. This allows working parents to find childcare for young children and also funds places for vulnerable families who could not otherwise afford to access such schemes. The Red Kite have also linked up with Chinnor Community

Church to deliver 2 summer sessions, a messy play and a teddy bears picnic. See our website for details.

We also have lots planned for next term.....

## Autumn Term Programme

Our Autumn Programme is now published and we look forward to hearing how some of our children get on at school and welcoming lots of new faces into the centre.



## Children's Cinema

During the last 6 months Red Kite have been working in partnership with Thame Town Council to integrate further into the community, providing activities and opportunities to the under 5's. Becky Reid has been supporting the centre to develop 'Children's Cinema' and following a tremendous positive response from a community survey there are 3 pilot dates planned for Children's Cinema in the Autumn. The project is also supported by Thame Players and Thame Cinema for All.

## Outreach Roadshow

We want to engage more of the community in the services we run and we are aware that lots of new families moving to Thame may not know where we are or what we do. We plan to run an 'outreach roadshow' in the new housing developments starting in the Autumn so that families can meet the team and have a taste of Red Kite sessions on their doorstep. More to come!

## Parenting and First Aid Courses

Red Kite will be delivering a parenting course in Chinnor starting on September 30<sup>th</sup>. There will also be evening first aid courses for parents and a full paediatric first aid course which runs on two Saturdays. Full details on our website.

## Friends of the Red Kite Family Centre

Earlier this year we launched our Friends scheme, and many have already joined. This is one important way in which anyone in our community can support our work and ensure that our main activities remain freely available to parents. For as little as £5 a month you can become a 'Friend' and in return you will receive a range of benefits. To become a friend simply go to the 'Friends' page on our website and apply online.

