

Downright Special Termly Update

May 2022

Welcome to our latest update. The aim of these updates is to keep Downright Special families up to date with what is going on in Friday Group Sessions, term dates, training courses, social and fundraising events, health and education news, and any particularly good hints, tips, and contacts that we come across.

Social Events

The young people from our Youth Club age range had a fabulous time at Ask Italian this month and our younger children and their siblings had great fun at Monkey Bizness Soft Play in Hull. Thank you to Scientific Laboratory Supplies for sponsoring the soft play and thank you for the grant from Dynamix Friends Fund which enabled the pizza party to go ahead. Our families also had a brilliant time at the Easter Egg Hunt and then the Withernsea Bikers Easter event at East Park.

Our events for the next half-term are:

Sunday 3rd July Youth Club Art Session, led by [Arting UK](#)

A two-hour session where our young artists will complete a canvas 'seascape' painting to take home. This event is for our young people aged 11-25.

Book here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/downrightspecial/t-avgkevm>

Saturday 23rd July, Densholme Farm Fun Day– all ages welcome

- This event is open to all DRS families (including siblings - just remember to book a ticket for each child!)

- Arrive between 10-10.30am for a tour of the farm at 11am.
- Children will be provided with rolled oats to feed the animals.
- Bring a picnic and after the tour, we'll all enjoy our picnics on the grounds.
- There will be a selection of lawn games for families to enjoy after food.

Book here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/downrightspecial/t-gaxeoxx>

Future dates for the diary:

SAVE THE DATES...Exciting times ahead...

- **Sunday 18th Sept – Football Party at Soccer Kings, Hull – Juniors session (am) and Youth Club session (pm)**
- **Sunday 30th October – Halloween Fancy Dress Dance Party, Swanland Village Hall – Juniors session (am) and Youth Club session (pm)**
- **Sunday 11th December – Christmas Party, Lazaat's, Cottingham 12pm-3pm**

There will be even more events to come so keep an eye on your emails and social media.

Any questions then email social@downrightspecial.co.uk or call 01482 420160

Building a Brighter Future – Preparing for Adulthood

Parents of children of secondary age and above are meeting on Wednesday 15th June 7pm at Bodmin Road Church to chat about the issues they are facing at this stage in their young person's life and to help the charity work out what would be useful for us to be doing to better support families of this age group.

It isn't too late to join us if you'd like to come along. Just call 01482 420160 or email gillian@downrightspecial.co.uk to let us know. If you can't make it to a meeting but would like to get involved then we are happy to hear your views in other ways such as by phone or email.

Friday Group

We are starting the process of working out our groups for September and we will let you know late June/early July the plans for your own individual child.

We do have a waiting list for some of our groups and we want to do our best to accommodate those children so we will be looking at how we best organise staff and plan which children will be in which groups. If your child currently doesn't come and you would like to express an interest in your child joining, then do let us know.

We also know that lots of you with older children who no longer attend Fridays really miss coming, so if anyone just fancies popping in for a cuppa and catch up you are more than welcome!

Term Dates

Friday Term dates for next half-term are:

10th, 17th, 24th June 1st, 8th, 15th July

For those of you whose lessons are fortnightly or monthly, previous emails from your Downright Special teacher will detail your lesson dates & times.

Summer Term Training for parent/carers

Toilet Training for Children with Down Syndrome (all ages) Parents / Carers only

Thursday 16th June 930am-1230pm, Bodmin Road Church, Hull

Toilet training is something we know parents often feel anxious about and when your child has Down syndrome it may feel like toilet training is something that might never be achieved. However, we know that most children can learn the skills and become clean and dry. This training course aims to introduce some of the skills required for toilet training and help parents with how best to approach toilet training for their child.

This course is suitable for parents /carers of **all ages** of children **from 9 months** onwards.

Click [here](#) for more details and to book.

Summer Term Training for schools/nurseries

We also have an exciting programme of training to support schools, nurseries and other professionals working with children/young people with Down Syndrome. ***Whilst we do make professionals aware of future training, it is always worthwhile having a chat with your child's school/nursery about relevant training opportunities, so they do not miss out.***

Preparing for Successful Transition – online course

Thursday 9th June 2022

Click [here](#) for more details and to book.

Introduction to working with children with Down syndrome - Teams online course

We really recommend this course for anyone new to working with your child.

Thursday 23rd June 2022

Click [here](#) for more details and to book.

Colourful Semantics for children with Down syndrome - online course

Thursday 7th July 2022

Click [here](#) for more details and to book.

TA Online 'Drop-In' Session

Wednesday 22nd June 11.30am-1.00pm

Online drop-in Q&A session for school and nursery staff

This is a new opportunity to access direct support and advice from our team of teaching staff: Laura Nichols – Early Years Advisor, Katie Bewell- Key Stage One Specialist Teacher and Nicola O’Riordan – Key Stage Two and Secondary advisor

School/Nursery staff are able to drop in at any point between 11.30 and 1 to ask a question or discuss any issues that you may have. It is also an opportunity to meet other practitioners and professionals that support a child with Down syndrome, work together

and share knowledge. These are not training sessions, but a quick and informal way to ask a specific question about a current situation or need, or receive general advice. Email office@downrightspecial.co.uk for the link.

Health

Health Support 1:1s

Now that the latest version of the care pathway has been published, our Health Lead, Sam now has more time available for 1:1 discussions either in person or over the phone anytime on a Friday 9am-5pm. Just phone or text her on 07984166509 or email sam@downrightspecial.co.uk. Sam will respond to messages and emails on Fridays. You can contact her about general health issues, behaviour, sleep, help with referrals to services or help to complete a health passport.

Complex needs/dual diagnosis project

The next meeting of the complex needs group is taking place online on Wednesday 22nd June at 8pm. Sam has been gathering information from books and research papers and the feedback from the previous session. The group will be looking at the common themes identified and thinking about how these needs could be met. It isn't too late to get involved – email sam@downrightspecial.co.uk if you'd like to join in.

Health Visitor Dates

This half-term our Health Visitor, Louise Hobson, will be coming to Downright Special Friday mornings on 17th June.

Trustee News

It is so important to have parents, carers and other family members involved in shaping the future of the charity and we still have vacancies on the board of trustees so we would love to hear from you if you are interested. The role description is available on our website <https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/our-current-vacancies> or you can contact Gillian (gillian@downrightspecial.co.uk) if you'd like an informal chat about what the role involves.

Downright Special Surveys

Please could you spare 10 minutes to tell us your views on Downright Special? Every two years we send out surveys to families and schools/nurseries to get formal feedback and views. This helps us understand the needs of families and plan our service for the future. The feedback is also very helpful to us for applying for grants to fund our projects.

You can access the survey using the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DRSFamilies2022>

We also have a separate survey aimed at school staff such as the teaching assistants, teachers, SENCOs, headteachers, nursery and pre-school staff who are supported by us. Please help us by encouraging your child's setting to fill in the survey when they receive it.

Thank you in advance!

Fundraising

Humber Half-Marathon & Fun Run Sunday 26th June

We are one of the charities chosen to benefit from this years' Humber Half. If anyone would like to run for us then please let us know on louise@downrightspecial.co.uk and we can help get you set up with a JustGiving Page.

This year the event organisation has been taken over by a commercial organisation so we are not involved at all in organising the fun run this time. Sadly it means that this year the fun run is not allowing pushchairs, buggies or wheelchairs on the course.

But.... watch this space! Plans are underway for us to run our own inclusive sponsored walk next year.

The Movement for Good awards are donating £1000 to Charities.

To nominate Downright Special please complete the short nomination form below:

https://movementforgood.com/?utm_source=Email-giving&utm_campaign=MFG-launch&cmp=1&utm_medium=HTMLEmail

Our Charity Number is: **1175863** Charity Type: **Disability**

Winners are drawn in June, September, and December. You will be entered into all 3 draws and you can enter more than once.

Please share with family and friends.

Thank you for your support.

Down Syndrome Bill

The Down Syndrome Bill has now become law! There will now be formal consultation on the guidance that will go alongside the law. As a charity we have already been asked to contribute based on the local care pathway work and we will let you know as soon as we know more about how else everyone can get involved.

Suggestions and Ideas

If you wish to chat about anything in this update, have suggestions or ideas for events, training or support you would like, or you'd like to pass on any tips, please do get in touch.

Best wishes

The Team at Downright Special