



Special Parents

Newsletter 2—January 2010

Special points of interest:

- * New website
- * Fundraising
- * Guest speakers
- * Quiz night
- * Sponsored Swim
- * Parent Networking Event
- * Dates for your diary

New Website and Logo

Some of you may have already noticed that we have a website and new logo for the group, all of which was kindly produced free of charge by Dean Pugh at Wesley Computers. Dean also waived his hosting fee and asked for this to be donated to the group funds which we are really grateful for.

The new logo (shown above) will be used on all paperwork and will help us become more recognisable.

The website will always show the latest newsletter and also has a chat forum that is moderated by members. It is hoped that the forum will give people the opportunity to ask questions, share feelings and get to know us then hopefully come and join us in the monthly support meetings.

For anyone that hasn't visited the website and forum yet please do so and register as a member on the forum as this is where you'll get all the latest news about the group events and meetings.



Happy New Year to all our Special Parents and their families, we wish you a happy and healthy year with your special children.

www.specialparents.org.uk





Fundraising

As reported in the last letter Michelle and Rachel hired a table at the IDEA League UK pre-Christmas shopping event, Michelle spent the morning face painting any willing children and raised £14 for the group. Thanks to Michelle for her hard work, at one point she had quite a queue and all she asked for in return was tea and cake!!

In December Rachel held a 'Beauty By Hand' night at her house with an entrance fee and raffle and this raised £134.00 for the group, £20 of this was kindly donated by Bridget

from the Family Information Service who regularly supports us at the group meetings.

We have also been passed a donation of £107.00 through Care for the Carers. This was raised by Trinity Church in Willingdon from a coffee morning they held, they specifically requested that it be passed to a carer support group in the local area. Thanks to Kim from Care for the Carers for nominating us to receive the donation.

We have had a meeting with a representative from the Eastbourne Lions Club

with regard to a grant. They are putting our request forward to the main committee and we are waiting for a decision. If we are successful we will be using this grant towards organizing a family trip later this year.

We have some more ideas for fundraising this year and more details can be found further on in the newsletter.

We are always looking for ideas for fundraising, if you have any ideas or wish to make a donation please contact one of the committee members.

We are always looking for ideas for fundraising, if you have any ideas or wish to make a donation please contact one of the committee members.



Membership Forms

As the group has become more formalized we are now applying to outside agencies for funding and grants.

One of the requirements when we apply for this funding is that we have to ensure all our paperwork is in place, correct and up to date. We are also required to keep details of all members of the group.

Future events organized by the group will always be open to parents that have completed membership forms first and where payment is required members will always receive a discount.

With this in mind I will now require all parents to complete a very basic membership form and return it to me as soon as possible,

please be assured that all information will remain confidential and this is purely for monitoring group size.

If anyone has any concerns could they please contact Rachel to discuss these.

In the future we will be looking to apply for charity status and we will not be able to do this unless we monitor membership.

Guest Speakers

We are now in the process of arranging guest speakers for the meetings. It has been decided to ask for a guest to come and speak at every other meeting and therefore the next speaker will be arranged for February.

Arranging speakers has proved to be a little difficult as we need to meet the needs of all parents with children of varying ages and conditions, however, we have put together a list of speakers we plan to ap-

proach for this year's meetings.

Once confirmed, speakers will be announced at the meeting before, the special parents facebook page and the forum. If you have any special requests for speakers at the meeting please contact one of the committee members or email us through the website.



Proposed speakers:

- Sibs group
- Speech therapist
- Dietician
- Community dentist
- OT
- Care for the Carers
- Crossroads Kids
- Activenture
- Behavioural specialist
- Scott unit nurse
- Incontinence specialist

Quiz Night

We will be holding a quiz night on Saturday 8th May 2010 to raise funds for the group. The quiz night will be held at Reef n Beef in the upstairs function room from 7pm with there being a prompt start to the quiz at 7.30pm. Following the quiz there will be a prize raffle and a disco. Entry to the quiz will be £3 per person

and there is no limit to team numbers.

Please support this event by coming along with your friends and family and taking part in the quiz.

A leaflet advertising the event is included so that you can tell everyone you know about it. Remember the more people we get to

attend, the more funds we raise which all goes towards making lives better for the parents of children with special needs.

If you know any local businesses that can donate raffle prizes for the event please let us know as soon as possible.

Sponsored Swim



We are planning to hold a sponsored swim later this year and we are presently making enquires to local pools to request the use of their facilities for the event.

We will be looking for people that are willing to take part and raise sponsorship for the event. We will provide the advertising, sponsor forms and of course a hot drink at the end of the event!

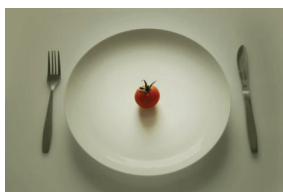
Further details will be announced once we have confirmed all the details but if you are able to take part

can you please let one of the committee members know as soon as possible so we can collate numbers and plan the event.

It doesn't matter how far you can swim, or how much you can raise, it all helps and will be gratefully received.

Please support us by bringing all your friends and family to the quiz night on Saturday 8th May from 7pm.

Parent Networking Event



We are hosting a parent networking event on Saturday 20th February 2010 and tickets are now available for the event. This will take place at The British Queen, Willingdon.

Ticket Prices: £10 members, £15 non-members

Ticket price includes a four course meal and entertainment by singer Tom Fitzgerald.

This event has been sponsored by Avant Photographic who have donated money to the event to enable us to reduce the price of tickets. Our thanks go to Phil at Avant for his generous donation.

Avant Photographic Special Offer

Avant photographic is raising funds for the [Special Parents Support Group](#) which aims to provide respite for parents of children who have special care needs, as well as advice and support for the families.

So, for a limited time, we are pleased to present a very special offer.

Make a £25 donation directly to the Special Parents Support group and receive a voucher from Avant Photographic for a full family portrait session, including shots of the whole family and shots of brothers and sisters together as well as stunning individual shots of the children. You will get to see your portraits straight after your session and get to choose an image for us to print to 10x8 inches and also frame for you. Finally, Avant Photographic will happily give you £50 towards a wall portrait!

100% of the donation money will go directly to The Special Parents Support Group

Please contact Phil Burrowes on 01323 738566

Dates for your Diary

12th January	Group meeting
2nd February	Group meeting
20th February	Parent Networking Event—Sponsored by Avant Photographic
2nd March	Group meeting
20th April	Group meeting (late to avoid Easter holidays)
4th May	Group meeting
8th May	Quiz night
8th June	Group meeting (late to avoid half term)
6th July	Group meeting
August (date TBC)	Knockhatch trip
7th September	Group meeting
5th October	Group meeting
2nd November	Group meeting
7th December	Group meeting