

Dear F.L.A.S.H. Families

Following on from our recent letter asking for your support in our campaign to improve secondary school education for our ASD children; we would like to thank all of you who have written to Councillor Kirk. He wanted to hear from you all directly to strengthen his case and your personal letters are essential and really will make a difference. Although we have passed the 30<sup>th</sup> March deadline for responding to the BSF consultation, it is still not too late to write to Councillor Kirk and have your chance to make a difference and make your voice heard. His contact details are:

Councillor D Kirk, 5 Belmont Road, Andover, SP10 2DD

Email: david.kirk@hants.gov.uk

We have also written and sent a further report to Councillor Kirk to confirm what was said at our meeting with him and clarify what is needed in this area. We will keep you all up-to-date with any developments.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### **HORIZONE PLAY CENTRE, HAVANT**

FASS and FLASH have joined forces and have booked Horizone for the following dates:

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June**

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July**

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August**

**THEY ARE ALL AT THE SAME TIME 6.30pm - 8.00pm**

This costs £3 per child for the first 2 children in a family, then £1.50 per child thereafter - voluntary contribution. Please pay on the day on arrival.

#### **TARO CENTRE, Petersfield - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 6.30pm to 7.30pm**

We have booked the whole of the swimming side of the complex. This is all at a cost of £6 per family. Please see the attached flyer and return to Helen before Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **LIONS CLUBS LANGSTONE HARBOUR WALK - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May - all day**

The Lions organize a sponsored walk around Langstone Harbour each year. If you wish to take part, you can support the charity of your choice and it would be really appreciated if you chose F.L.A.S.H. The total distance of this circular walk is approximately 15 miles. It is split into sections and you can choose where to start and finish so you don't have to walk the whole distance and can tailor make it to suit your capabilities. It is a fun day for all ages and many charities are represented, hundreds of people attend and some even wear fancy dress for the occasion! For further information please contact [john.apps1@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.apps1@ntlworld.com) or tel 9232 1847 to register and for further details.

**Registered Charity Number 110485**

**MARWELL ZOO - Dreamnight Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 6pm to 9pm**

We have been able to get a limited number of tickets for this annual event which is specially organized for children with special needs and their families. The event is not publicized and the only way to obtain tickets is through organizations such as ourselves rather than through individuals. It is a special evening where all the family can spend time together and enjoy seeing the zoo in a relaxed atmosphere. Tickets will be given out on a first come, first served basis. If you would like tickets please contact me, Helen Hall, via email at [Lawrence.Hall1@sky.com](mailto:Lawrence.Hall1@sky.com) or write to me at 26 Lovedean Lane, Waterlooville PO8 8HJ enclosing an sae.

**PRE-FATHERS DAY - PRESENT MAKING ACTIVITY June**

Craft event where you can come along and make a gift for your Dad ready for Fathers Day the following week. Venue and cost in the next newsletter.

**COFFEE MEETINGS Mill Hill Children's Centre, Mill Road**

These are on the first Thursday of the month from 10am to 12pm.  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June,

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**FASS (FAREHAM AUTISTIC SUPPORT NETWORK) EVENTS**

**MONKEY BIZNESS SOFTPLAY, BETWEEN GOSPORT & FAREHAM**

Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April

6.30pm-8.30pm

No need to pre-book, come along on the night. Please pay on arrival £3 per child for the first 2 children in a family, then £1.50 per child for any further children - voluntary contribution. Find out more about Monkey Bizness by going to [www.monkey-bizness.co.uk](http://www.monkey-bizness.co.uk) and to get directions.

**WATERCRESS LINE**

Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> July

11am to 12.30pm (access to carriage from 10.30am)

This costs £3 per seat and for further details contact Susie Maddy on 07900297267.

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**OTHER NEWS**

**A BIG THANK-YOU**

To Mr and Mrs Snelling for donating money to F.L.A.S.H. from the proceeds of their Christmas sale at Stansted House.

To Mr Trevor Nee and his colleagues from the Air Traffic Controllers at Swanwick for donating money to F.L.A.S.H. instead of spending it on Christmas cards for each other.

The token scheme at Waitrose, Waterlooville raised £280. Thank-you to all our members who put tokens in the F.L.A.S.H. box. We're hoping to be chosen as one of the 3 nominated charities in the Havant Waitrose store in the near future, so look out for us!

**SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION DAY Park Community School, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

This is a free event for parents and carers of children and young people with special needs and professionals involved in supporting them. There will be lots of different organizations exhibiting there, and various workshops to take part in. Please contact 01962 845870 to find out more, or email: [enquiries.pps@hants.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries.pps@hants.gov.uk)

### **STUDY ABOUT FATHERS AND AUTISM**

This study is still taking place in Norfolk. Ian Mallandain and Dr Langdon are looking to speak to fathers who have a child between the ages of 3-16, with an autistic spectrum disorder. Taking part will require a five minute interview about your son or daughter, which can be carried out either over the telephone, or in your home where practical. They will also ask you to complete some questionnaires. They are hoping that the findings of this study will contribute to a greater understanding of the father-child relationship, which could help inform future support and interventions.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Ian Mallandain or Dr Peter Langdon at:

Telephone: 01603 593599 Email: [P.Langdon@uea.ac.uk](mailto:P.Langdon@uea.ac.uk)

### **HOLIDAYS IN FRANCE**

We have heard about these holidays in France which sound interesting but we have not personally experienced the locations and can't actually recommend them to you but it may be worth looking into.

Emma Ryland has said "I worked as a SEN teacher in Sheffield for 12 years (National Autistic Society, Bents Green Special School, LEA Autism Service) and I now live in France. In response to the requests of many families with children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders, I've established [happykidsholidays](http://www.happykidsholidays.com), a registered non profit making association". To find out more look at: [www.happykidsholidays.com](http://www.happykidsholidays.com)

### **PETERSFIELD INTERNET CAFÉ**

Every other Saturday from 2<sup>nd</sup> May 10am to 12pm at the United Reform Church, College Street, Petersfield costing £1 plus £1 tuck money (max). Numbers are limited so if you are interested please contact Cathryn on 078679 23995 [handpsnf@hampshirefamilies.org.uk](mailto:handpsnf@hampshirefamilies.org.uk)

### **TUESDAY SPECIAL NEEDS YOUTH CLUB**

A free club for young people aged 11-16 at RKdia, Portsmouth Road, Horndean on a Tuesday 4pm to 6pm. The project is designed to help support young people with extra support needs in meeting new people, making new friends, support them to gain new skills, new experiences, fun outdoors, trips, activities. Contact Vicky Sawyer at: [Vicky.Sawyer@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Vicky.Sawyer@hants.gov.uk)] or phone RKdia on 92598420

### **F.L.A.S.H. LIBRARY BOOKS AND RESOURCES**

We are currently doing an audit, could you please return any outstanding books. Our next coffee meeting is on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May at Mill Hill Children's Centre.

### **CAN YOU HELP US?**

We are looking for a storage/office space to keep F.L.A.S.H. resources, our houses are bursting at the seams! If anyone knows of anywhere that's available at a reasonable rate, please contact Margaret On 023 9226 1812.