



# KIDLINKS

## Newsletter Spring 2024

### ***Hello and welcome to the Kidlinks charity newsletter!***

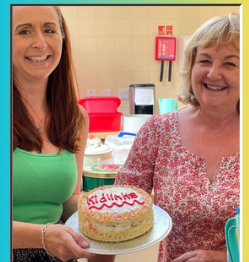
As always, Kidlinks has been busy busy busy, and so we'd like to take the opportunity to update you all on what's been happening with us and our families, including recent exciting events and upcoming developments!

### **KIDLINKS - A COMMUNITY HUB FOR FAMILIES**

The Kidlinks charity was formed in 2016 in response to the closure of local Children's Centres. Since then the charity has grown from strength to strength and provides a variety of groups throughout the week for families of 0-5's to attend. With the support of a fantastic team of volunteers, organisations such as the local health visiting team, other charities such as OBS, and that of a few local businesses, we are able to provide much-needed support to families with babies and young children. In 2022 we won an award for 'best toddler groups in Oxfordshire', and last year we won the Co-op Charity Partnership award! For more information on all the groups we offer, please see our schedule below.

### **SUMMER RELAUNCH**

In July 2023 we relaunched as '*KIDLINKS - Kidlington's Community Hub for Children & their Families*'. We revealed our new website, [kidlinks.org.uk](http://kidlinks.org.uk), and celebrated with families new and old at our relaunch party! With the help of many volunteers, we enjoyed live music, a magician, dancing by Ellagance Dance Academy, Gosford All Blacks Rugby 'coconut' shy, lunch by Uggy's Pizza, cakes galore (donated by our amazing families), Kidlinks arts & crafts, Zaara's glitter tattoos, a fire engine visit from the local station, and cutting of the ribbon to officially open our new play-garden! The event was a huge success and was attended by over 200 people!





## SEND SESSIONS

September saw the launch of our brand-new SEN drop-in group, SEN Squirrels. This session was created for children with additional needs and their families (with or without a diagnosis) and aims to meet a very real and ever-increasing need in providing a safe and welcoming space for play and connection. The positive response to the set-up of this group has been huge, and we continue to work tirelessly each and every week to spread the word and reach more and more families in need of this type of support.

## THE FESTIVE SEASON!

In 2022 we had the honour of hosting Santa in his grotto at the Kidlington Christmas Lights Switch-on, and in 2023 we were asked to do it again! This is always such a magical event with a huge turn out of families, and last year didn't disappoint. For Kidlinks this is an amazing opportunity to be out there in the community, chatting to families and letting them know what we do!



## THE NEW YEAR

In January we held our first Family Links parenting course at West Kidlington Primary School. This is a free research-based course open to all parents and carers, and offers a range of useful tools and strategies for navigating the trickier moments of parenthood in the early years. We received lots of positive feedback from the parents that attended and all said they would recommend the course to other parents. Our next course is scheduled to start in mid-April, after Easter.





come and find out  
**how to get the best out of family life**



Come and join us for this 4-week 'Parent Puzzle' course  
next term, starting April 16th from 12.45 - 2.35pm  
**FOR: PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF CHILDREN AGED 0-5 YEARS**  
**VENUE: WEST KIDLINGTON SCHOOL**  
**PRICE: FREE!**

To reserve your place please email Rachel at  
kidlington.communityhub@gmail.com  
[www.kidlinks.org.uk](http://www.kidlinks.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/kidlinksuk](https://www.facebook.com/kidlinksuk)

## NOW AND NEXT



In January we enjoyed a special Monday Toddler Club with an interactive session from Luminelle and Dancin' Oxford, organised with The North Wall Arts Centre. The children loved it, and it was great to be able to give families the opportunity to experience the arts and theatre world that exists on our doorstep! In the coming months we will continue to work with other organisations including a visit from a speech and language therapist to our SEN session, a breastfeeding trauma and grief session, a sling library visit, and first aid courses for families.

The past year for Kidlinks has been fantastic in terms of continuity and growth and we plan to keep that going over the next year, with the help of our families, volunteers and sponsors! With your support, all our regular groups and more are made possible!



# KIDLINKS

Kidlington's Community Hub for Children & their Families!



MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
<b>11.30am - 1pm</b> <b>TODDLER CLUB</b> Term-time course for ages 2 & 3 years Book via email at St John's	<b>10 - 11.30am</b> <b>LITTLE ACORNS</b> Stay & Play for ages 0-5 years at St John's	<b>10 - 11.30am</b> <b>BOUNCING BABIES</b> For babies aged 0 - 12 months at St Mary's	<b>9.30 - 11am</b> <b>ST MARY'S TODDLER GROUP</b> Stay & Play for ages 0 - 5 years at St Mary's	<b>10 - 11.30am</b> <b>SEN SQUIRRELS</b> Stay & Play for children with additional needs and their families at St John's
	<b>12.45 - 2.35pm</b> <b>PARENT COURSES</b> 4-week course for parents/carers at West Kidlington Primary School	<b>12.30 - 2.30pm</b> <b>OBS</b> Oxfordshire Breastfeeding Support By appointment at St John's		

### CONTACT US

 [kidlington.communityhub@gmail.com](mailto:kidlington.communityhub@gmail.com)  
 [www.facebook.com/kidlinksuk](https://www.facebook.com/kidlinksuk)  
 [www.kidlinks.org.uk](http://www.kidlinks.org.uk)  
OBS appointments: [www.oxbreastfeedingsupport.org](http://www.oxbreastfeedingsupport.org)

### VENUES

<b>St John's Church Hall</b> The Broadway Kidlington OX5 1DD	<b>St Mary's Church Refectory</b> 88 Church Street Kidlington OX5 2BB
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We hope you've enjoyed reading about the progress of our charity.  
To see what we get up to in our groups please visit our Facebook page at  
[www.facebook.com/kidlinksuk](https://www.facebook.com/kidlinksuk).

If you would like to know more or become more involved in supporting and  
growing Kidlinks, please do get in touch at  
[kidlington.communityhub@gmail.com](mailto:kidlington.communityhub@gmail.com)

**THE KIDLINKS TEAM**