



KIDLINKS NEWSLETTER



Spring '26

Welcome!

Welcome to our Spring Edition of Kidlinks' newsletter. Here you'll find out what we've been up to this year so far, ours and our families' accomplishments, and all our upcoming plans!

About Our Groups

After a lovely festive break, we were pleased to welcome families back in January and resume our regular groups for children aged 0-5 years. Our drop-in sessions — including Little Acorns, Bouncing Babies, St Mary's Toddler Group and SEN Squirrels - remain as popular as ever. Our OBS breastfeeding support session continues to be in particularly high demand and is frequently fully booked. We look forward to another busy and rewarding term supporting local families and welcoming new faces to our groups.

Group Activities

Our drop-in groups are always full of activity, creativity and fun! Each week we offer a variety of engaging activities designed to support children's development across all areas, including cognitive, physical, personal, social and emotional skills, while encouraging their natural curiosity and imagination.

Craft is always a favourite part of our sessions. Every week brings a new theme - from the weather and the changing seasons to New Year celebrations, Valentine's Day, and Mother's Day. Children are invited to explore a wide range of materials including glue, paint, card, paper, googly eyes and junk modelling resources.

While we provide ideas and templates to help get them started, we love seeing the children take their own creative direction - and the results are always fantastic!

To celebrate Lunar New Year this year, the children had great fun making colourful horse puppets on sticks to mark the Year of the Horse.



Fond Farewell

In February, we waved a fond farewell to our longest-serving volunteer, Ann Croft. Ann has been with Kidlinks - formerly Kidlington Community Hub - since its inception in 2017. She helped regularly at Bouncing Babies for the first four years and then began volunteering at Little Acorns when we relaunched after the pandemic in 2021.

We will miss Ann's weekly help setting up the baby room, her amazing homemade playdough, and our chats about her ever-growing family!

We would like to wish Ann and her husband, the Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft, all the very best in their retirement, and we hope they enjoy this exciting new chapter together.

With love from your Kidlinks family xx



Volunteer With Us!!

Are you looking for a rewarding way to give back? Join Kidlinks and help support our local children and families through fun, welcoming and supportive activities!

By volunteering with us, you'll:

- Make a real impact in the lives of children and parents
- Gain valuable skills in teamwork, communication, and organisation
- Build experience for your CV or future career
- Meet new people and be part of a friendly, supportive community
- Enjoy flexible volunteering that fits around your schedule
- Stay active, share your experience, and maintain a sense of purpose in retirement

No matter how much time you can give, you'll be helping to create a stronger, more connected community.

If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you!

Please contact Rachel at

kidlington.communityhub@gmail.com

*We follow a safer recruitment pathway with all volunteers at Kidlinks

Fundraising

This term, one of our wonderful grandmothers launched a fantastic fundraising initiative for Kidlinks by hosting a bake sale during one of our Little Acorns sessions. She generously baked batches of delicious cakes, thoughtfully provided clearly labelled ingredient lists, and even supplied a donation tin, and paper bags for families to take their treats home.

We're excited to share that the first sale raised an incredible £58 for Kidlinks!

We hope to make this a semi-regular fundraising activity and would love to see more families getting involved. It doesn't have to be just bake sales - if you have an idea and would like to get involved, please speak to Rachel about joining our Parent Participation WhatsApp group. We'd love to have you join us!

WhatsApp Groups

We now have three dedicated WhatsApp groups for parents, helping you stay connected, supported, and involved in the Kidlinks community.

Our Bouncing Babies group is a friendly space where parents can chat, arrange coffee meet-ups, and support each other through all things baby-related.

Our SEN Squirrels group helps families stay in touch and organise get-togethers, especially during the holidays when sessions aren't running.

We also have a Parent Participation Group for those who are interested in getting more involved, including helping to run activities and fundraising for Kidlinks.

If you would like to join any of these groups, please speak to us at a session or email

kidlington.communityhub@gmail.com.



KIDLINKS



International Year of Cooperatives

Cooperatives Build a Better World

Co-op - Kidlinks Charity partners since 2023!

Kidlington's Community Hub for Children & their Families!

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
	10 - 11.30am LITTLE ACORNS Stay & Play for ages 0-5 years at St John's	10 - 11.30am BOUNCING BABIES For babies aged 0 - 12 months at St Mary's	9.30 - 11am ST MARY'S TODDLER GROUP Stay & Play for ages 0 - 5 years at St Mary's	10 - 11.30am SEN SQUIRRELS Stay & Play for children with additional needs and their families at St John's
		12.30 - 2.30pm OBS Oxfordshire Breastfeeding Support By appointment at St John's		
CONTACT US kidlington.communityhub@gmail.com www.facebook.com/kidlinksuk www.kidlinks.org.uk OBS appointments: www.oxbreastfeedingsupport.org			VENUES St John's Church Hall The Broadway Kidlington OX5 1DD St Mary's Church Refectory 88 Church Street Kidlington OX5 2BB	

Saturplay

Exciting Announcement!

This May, we're launching a brand-new Saturday morning drop-in group: **Saturplay!**

Running once a month from 10:00-11:30am, our first session will take place on 16th May. Saturplay will be similar to our popular Tuesday Little Acorns group, offering the same fun activities and relaxed play environment - now at the weekend.

It's a great opportunity for families who can't usually attend during the week, especially those with work commitments, to join in the fun.

As always, tea, coffee, and snacks will be available, along with the option to enjoy a pastry for a small donation. We can't wait to see you there!

Upcoming Events

- Easter egg hunt - Little Acorns 7 Apr
- Saturplay Launch 16 May
- Father's Day card making 16 - 19 Jun
- Kidlington Gala Day 18 Jul



We hope you've enjoyed reading about the progress of Kidlinks, and all the ways we support our community, while having lots of fun!

To see what we get up to in our groups, please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/kidlinksuk

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