



KIDLINKS NEWSLETTER



Summer '26

Welcome!



Welcome to our Summer Edition of the Kidlinks' newsletter



It's been another busy few months at Kidlinks and we're excited to share some of the highlights with you! From all the fun our families have been getting up to, to the activities and events we've been involved in, there's lots to celebrate, as well as lots to look forwards to!

Summer with Kidlinks

Our Kidlinks groups have been bustling with fun and creativity, and lots of conversation and smiley happy faces throughout the summer! From messy play and crafts to imaginative activities, stories, music and plenty of opportunities to explore and play, there has been something for everyone.

Our sessions are designed to support children's development across all areas, including physical, cognitive, social and emotional development, while giving children the freedom to learn, explore and build confidence at their own pace.

We've loved seeing children getting stuck into a wide variety of activities and making new friends along the way. Whether they've been creating colourful masterpieces, keeping cool (and very wet!) in the water play outside, joining in with singing time or simply exploring the space and taking it all in, our sessions have been full of smiles, laughter and lots of learning.

A big thank you to all our wonderful families and volunteers for making our summer sessions so special. It's been fantastic to see our Kidlinks community continue to grow and thrive!



Saturplay!

In May, we introduced some trial sessions of a brand-new Saturday morning drop-in group: Saturplay! After the success of these sessions, we can now confirm that we will be officially launching a regular Saturday morning slot for Saturplay at St John's!

These will be running on the third Saturday of every month from 10:00-11:30am (please always check our Facebook page for any changes to the schedule).

The sessions will be similar to our popular Tuesday Little Acorns group, offering the same fun activities and relaxed play space, and the chance for parents and carers to get together to socialise.

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

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!

Gala Day

Each year in July, Kidlinks are invited by Kidlington Town Council to be a part of Kidlington Gala Day in Exeter Hall grounds. This is a popular annual event where local businesses, charities and other organisations come together to provide a day of free entertainment and activities for children and their families in our local community space. This year, we experienced a brand new layout, in the Exeter sports fields. This worked really well as stalls were positioned in a circle around the edges, with much more visibility and much more room for families to move around and between stalls. At our Kidlinks stall, we had lots of activities on offer for the 0-5's, including a reading corner, waterplay, Duplo, chalk drawing, and messy play with dinosaurs. It was so lovely to see lots of familiar faces joining us for a play, and lots of you circled back to us for a second play before going home! We also got to meet many new families who were interested to find out all about Kidlinks, so we hope to see you at a group soon! All in all, another very positive and uplifting experience - thank you KTC!



Oxfordshire Family Alliance

Kidlinks is proud to announce that we are now a member of the Oxfordshire Family Alliance (OFA), a new collaborative network bringing together family centres, charities and community organisations from across Oxfordshire.

The Alliance has been established by organisations working directly with children, young people and families, with a shared belief that working together can create stronger, more joined-up support for local communities.

Our mission is to strengthen collaboration between community organisations and statutory services, promote early intervention and family wellbeing, and ensure community voices help shape local decision-making.

For Kidlinks, being part of the OFA is an exciting opportunity to connect with other organisations, share knowledge and experience, develop stronger partnerships and help ensure that the voices and experiences of local families are heard.

We know that families often need support from more than one organisation, and that early, accessible and community-based support can make a real difference. By working collaboratively, we hope to help build a stronger network of support for children and families across Oxfordshire.

We look forward to playing an active part in the Oxfordshire Family Alliance and working alongside our partners to champion families, strengthen communities and improve outcomes for children and young people across the county.



Kidlinks Visitors

If you attended Little Acorns recently, you might have noticed that Kidlinks had some important visitors! We welcomed Councillor Sean Gaul, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, Councillor Lesley McLean, Chair of Kidlington Town Council and Cherwell District Council, and newly elected Kidlington Councillor Rob Packard.

This visit gave them the opportunity to see Kidlinks in action and experience first-hand what we are all about. Rachel talked them through the range of support we provide, how our different groups link together to create continuity for families as their children grow, and the additional support we offer around SEND and family mental health.

We also talked openly about the challenges of keeping a community project like Kidlinks running and growing, including the constant need to secure funding so that we can continue providing these much-needed services for local families.

During their visit, our guests had the opportunity to chat with some of the families attending Little Acorns. Hearing directly from parents about their individual experiences gave them a real insight into the difference Kidlinks can make, from providing a welcoming place to meet others, to offering support, connection and reassurance at different stages of a family's journey.

A huge thank you to Sean, Lesley and Rob for taking the time to visit us and learn more about Kidlinks. We really appreciated the opportunity to showcase the work we do and to start conversations about how we can work together to secure a strong and sustainable future for local children and families.



Thank you to our Supporters

We would like to say a huge thank you to **Hill Street Holdings, Bloombridge, Earthline Ltd and Benedicts** for their generous contributions and support of Kidlinks. Support from local businesses makes a real difference to our ability to provide welcoming, accessible groups for local children and families. We are so grateful to organisations who recognise the value of investing in their local community and helping us continue the work we do. Your contributions make a real difference and help us to keep Kidlinks thriving!

We are also incredibly grateful to the **families** who attend our groups and contribute through donations, whether that is a regular contribution, a small donation at a session or support for one of our fundraising activities. Every contribution, however large or small, helps us to provide the resources, activities and welcoming spaces that families need.

A special and heartfelt thank you goes to our **church community**, whose support has been an important part of Kidlinks from the very beginning. We are grateful to the churches and congregations who support us through special collections, fundraising events and donations, as well as helping us to provide the spaces and resources we need. We are also thankful to those who give their time, skills and practical help throughout the year. This support plays a vital role in enabling Kidlinks to continue its work with local children and families.

We are grateful to everyone who recognises the importance of early years, family support and community connection. It is this combined support from local businesses, families, churches, volunteers and our wider community that enables Kidlinks to continue growing, responding to the needs of local families and creating opportunities for children to play, learn, connect and thrive.

Thank you for being part of the Kidlinks community and for helping us make a real difference! Your generosity helps us to keep our groups accessible and inclusive, and continue responding to the changing needs of the families we support.



Upcoming Events

- ☀ SEN Squirrels reopens 4th Sept
- 🌸 1st Official Saturplay 19th Sept
- 🌿 The Big Draw Festival 1st-31st Oct
- 🌸 Half Term for schools 26th Oct

Donate to Kidlinks

If you would like to donate via bank transfer, or gift aid a donation, please email kidlington.communityhub@gmail.com



Via Just Giving



Via Parish Giving

Please email kidlington.communityhub@gmail.com to confirm that your donation is specifically for Kidlinks.

Thank you!

Kidlinks Needs Volunteers!

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



KIDLINKS



2025 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 12.30 - 2.30pm OBS Oxfordshire Breastfeeding Support By appointment at St John'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 

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

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