

Children Matter

News Bulletin



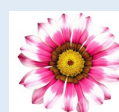
Issue No.8

May 2019



Welcome to the latest edition of our Children Matter news bulletin. 2019 is flying by and the summer holidays are fast approaching. We are sure many of you are wondering what is going to happen in the new school year.

We will be writing to all schools and volunteers over the next few weeks to explain and instigate our exit strategy. However we are not giving up on the Children Matter project without a fight! More information on page 2.



Thank you to Entrust

We held a 'Struggling Readers' training session in April at The Dudson Centre in Hanley. This was attended by a number of new volunteers from the north of the county. It was also an opportunity for



volunteers to get to know the project team. Project Organiser, Wendy thoroughly enjoyed joining in with the session and meeting everyone.

Our final session is arranged at The Roller Mill on Thursday 6th June. We would like to thank Michelle and Entrust for their support and look forward to working with them again in the future. We will have delivered this training session to over 100 volunteers over the last 3 years.

Steering us in the right direction



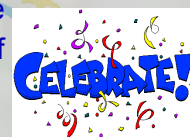
We held an extremely useful Steering Group meeting at Chads Moor Junior School Cannock in April. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped with suggestions for funding. The new project idea was formed as a direct result of these discussions - proving how valuable the meeting are to us and the continued success of the project. May we take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers and schools and parents who responded to our recent request for feedback concerning the future of the project. Thank you all so very much.

Staff changes...

Team Manager, Helen Simpson and Project Organiser Lucy Buckley who were based at our Hanley office have now left the project for pastures new, we all wish them the very best in their new adventures. For volunteers in the north of the county, Wendy Lubacz is available for any questions help or advice on 01782 200732. Lisa Hibbert & Debbie Wilkes have been appointed as joint Team Managers and are supported by Amy Richards in our Penkridge office 01785 788484.

End of Project Celebration:

We are looking forward to our End of Project Celebration which is planned for August. More details of date and venue will be circulated in due course and we hope to see lots of you there!



In other news....



Funding news.. The whole team has been working hard to develop a new idea. We have lots of evidence to prove that the fantastic work our volunteers do in school, listening to children read, makes such a difference to lives of pupils across Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent. The new Children Matter Intergenerational Project will expand our focus to embrace the additional 'nurturing' aspect of the role. Schools tell us that they would love volunteers to help out with activities, events and groups in school that support the pupil's emotional well-being and develop useful social skills. Initiatives which look to provide early intervention to improve Children's mental health are now increasingly popular with funders and the team are passionate about the subject. The benefits for children will be increased self esteem and confidence whilst building life skills, social skills and resilience. Together we can make a lasting and powerful impact!

We have applied to the National Lottery Community Fund to consider this new idea but we have also submitted bids to other large funders such as Comic Relief and Children in Need, as well as looking at some smaller pots of money to keep the project buoyant if there is a shortfall in time and budget. It is unlikely we will know the outcome of these bids before the end of the summer term but we will keep you informed of all developments. We are also looking for celebrity ambassadors to support us, so if you have a telephone number for Robbie Williams.....?

simple bobble hat beginner pattern by Juliet Bernard

Yarn: Yellow and white
Needles: 4mm

Hat
Cast on 31 sts in yellow
Knit two rows

Beginning with a knit row work 12 rows in st st
Next row: k2tog to last st, k1 (16sts)
Next row: purl
Next row: k2tog to end (8sts)

Cut the yarn leaving approx 10cm length. Thread this through a sewing needle and bring through stitches and pull up to tighten.

Making up
Use a sewing needle to join side seams.
Make a pom-pom in white and sew securely to top of the hat.



Abbreviations: St(s) - stitch(es) | st - stocking stitch | k2tog - knit two together



Age UK is a registered charity (number 1128267)



The Big Knit is a joint campaign between Age UK and Innocent Smoothies. You knit the hats and the Innocent Smoothie bottles wear them! For every hat knitted locally Age UK Staffordshire receives 25p which the charity uses to help support its vital services and activities for older people across Staffordshire.



Download knitting patterns from:

<http://www.thebigknit.co.uk/knitting-patterns>

If you would like us to post one to you please call us on 01782 200729, or email your name and address to: jenny.bell@ageukstaffordshire.org.uk



**Contact The Children Matter Team at Age UK Staffordshire South : Tel: 01785 788484
The Roller Mill, Teddesley Road, Penkridge, STAFFORD. ST19 5BD.**

**Contact The Children Matter Team at Age UK Staffordshire North: Tel: 01782 200732
The Dudson Centre, Hope Street, Hanley. STOKE ON TRENT. ST1 5DD**

National Age UK Website: www.ageuk.org.uk