

February 2022

Quarterly Report to Thame Town Council on the work of the Red Kite Family Centre

The impact of the pandemic on all our lives has continued in recent months and this has been just as true for the Family Centre as it has for the local schools and other early years settings in the town. During the autumn season up until Christmas the centre staff team only had 5 days when all were able to work normally. For the rest of the time there was always at least one staff member unable to work because of a personal covid infection or because of isolation with a family member infected. This presented enormous challenges to our two acting leaders Catherine and Helen. Thanks to their supreme efforts and the 'can do' spirit of the staff team, relief staff and volunteers, only a very small number of sessions had to be cancelled and the centre was able to keep its programme up and running for local families.

We now have 250 families registered with the Family Centre and most of these are attending one or more sessions on a regular basis.

During January 2022 attendance at all sessions at the Thame centre ranged from 71% to 106%* (*Some overbooking is allowed to cover last minute cancellations). The most popular sessions remain our twice weekly 'stay and play' sessions.

Attendance at our 'Outdoor Explorers' sessions at Moreton Barn Farm have been lower during the winter months but we expect this to grow significantly as the warmer weather arrives.



Sarah Candy

In January our new Family Centre Manager, Sarah Candy began working with us and she has been working hard getting to know the staff team, building relationships with them and all our families. She will be arranging a meeting with Linda Emery our council representative very soon. It is already making a big difference having a complete staff team. This will also enable us to grow our outreach work to new families in the coming year

January 2022 Staff Team

Family Centre Manager	Sarah Candy
Professional Lead Programme Delivery	Catherine Myles
Professional lead Family Support	Helen Burton
Family Support assistant	Rebecca Boulton
Family Support Assistant	Amanda Mitchell
Family Centre Administrator	Marie Scott

There are also changes to the board of trustees. After 5 years as chair, John Hulett is stepping down but will continue as a trustee for a further three years. Katie English and Amy Spicer (our former leader who became a trustee in October 2021) have now become co-chairs of the board. At the end of 2021 we also said a big 'thank you' and farewell to Mary Stiles, after 5 years as a trustee, and she was also a former chair of the advisory board when the centre was run with government funding before 2017.

The full list of trustees is as follows:

Katie English – co-chair
Amy Spicer – co-chair
Lottie Curry – secretary
Sarah Bradford – co-treasurer
Rosie Pearce – co-treasurer
Sarah Roberts – HR lead
Rebecca Matthews – parent user
John Hulett – Link person for TTC, SODC and OCC.

We are very grateful indeed for the on-going financial support of the Town Council for the Family Centre. We take our accountability to the local community very seriously and hope that, with your continued support, we can offer our vital family support service to as many families with young children in the area as possible. We still have a way to go in demonstrating the truth of our motto of 'Being there for every family' and it remains a key aim within our local community as well as in Chinnor.

John Hulett, TTC link trustee.