

1st January 2026

FRIENDS WINTER NEWSLETTER



Friends - Play for Disabled Children
Email: info@friendsplay.org.uk
Website: www.friendsplay.org.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1167995



What a busy few months it has been with our festive trips and Christmas activities! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and managed to make some special memories together.

January might be known as a quiet month, but there are lots of things happening behind the scenes. We are reviewing how we do things and planning for the year ahead so that we can continue offering even more inclusive activities and trips for our families. We are really looking forward to another exciting year with you all.

Paula, Mel and Emma x

Regular Weekly Activities

We also run regular weekly sessions designed especially for children and young people with SEND:

- 🧘 Family Yoga Therapy
- 🎵 Sing and Sign Choir
- 🎪 Aerial Hoop
- 🌟 Dance Sessions

These groups help children build confidence, develop coordination, make friends and — most importantly — have fun in a relaxed, understanding environment.

Upcoming Events

We've got lots to look forward to over the next few months! Here are some of the fantastic activities and trips we have coming up:

★ Special Trips & Events

- 🎭 Mary Poppins – Liverpool Empire Theatre
25th January
- 🎵 K-POP Demon Event – Tunza Centre
7th February
- ❄️ Disney on Ice – 1st March

More details and booking links will be emailed to members and shared on our Facebook page — keep an eye out so you don't miss out.

Please note: our trips and activities are for registered members only.

Become A Member

Membership is required to attend our activities and trips.


Do you have a child or young person with SEND and live in St Helens or the surrounding areas?

We would love to welcome you — register now at:

friendsplay.org.uk/registration


Help Us Fundraise

You can support Friends in a few simple ways:

 Raise donations while you shop
Sign up to easyfundraising and choose Friends as your cause.


It costs you nothing extra, but we receive a donation every time you shop online.

 www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends

 St Helens Community Lottery
Buy a weekly lottery ticket and support local good causes.

For every £1 ticket:

- 50p goes directly to Friends
- 10p supports other St Helens charities

 www.sthelenscommunitylottery.co.uk/support/friends---play-for-disabled-children

Every penny helps us provide more inclusive trips, activities and support for families. Thank you for your kindness and support.

Donations Received

We would like to say a big thank you to the organisations and individuals who have supported Friends – Play for Disabled Children this quarter. Your generosity helps us to continue providing inclusive trips and activities for children and young people with SEND and their families.

Donations received from:

- Matt's Great North Run – £255
- Spiritualist Church – £100
- Winter HAF – £5,491
- Awesome Liverpool – £500
- Easyfundraising – £41.45
- St Helens Community Lottery – £111

www.friendsplay.org.uk



Who are we?

Friends – Play for Disabled Children is a registered charity supporting families in St Helens and the surrounding areas.

Our charity number is 1167995.

We are registered in England & Wales.

Tel: Paula Jones – 07806 924774

Tel: Melanie Battye – 07562 869613

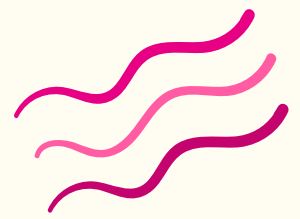
Email: info@friendsplay.org.uk



Halloween at BeWILDerwood

Our families had a fantastic time at BeWILDerwood's Halloween event, exploring the spooky trails, pumpkins and twinkly lights. The children loved dressing up, climbing, sliding and getting wonderfully muddy as they made their way through the woodland play areas. The relaxed outdoor setting meant everyone could join in at their own pace – with smiles (and a few happy squeals!) everywhere. It was the perfect mix of spooky and silly, and a brilliant autumn adventure for our families.

What have we been up to...



Liverpool Philharmonic – Sing-along Santa

This was a truly magical festive concert for our families. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, children's choirs and Santa himself led us through lots of Christmas favourites, with plenty of chances to sing, dance and join in. The relaxed atmosphere meant children could enjoy the music in their own way, and the smiles and waving throughout the hall said it all – a wonderful, inclusive Christmas experience.



Robin Hood Panto – Manchester Opera House

Oh yes we did! Our trip to see Robin Hood at the Manchester Opera House was full of laughter, audience participation and big panto fun. The relaxed performance made it accessible and comfortable for SEND families, and seeing everyone laughing and joining in together was just brilliant.



East Lancashire Railway Santa Train

Our families boarded the Santa Train for a festive steam ride filled with excitement. We sang songs, waved at passing stations and of course met Santa himself! The children were thrilled to receive gifts on board and the relaxed environment meant everyone could enjoy the journey without pressure or rush.

