

31st March 2026

# FRIENDS SPRING NEWSLETTER



Friends - Play for Disabled Children  
Email: [info@friendsplay.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsplay.org.uk)  
Website: [www.friendsplay.org.uk](http://www.friendsplay.org.uk)  
Registered Charity Number: 1167995



*Welcome to our Spring Newsletter!*

*We hope you all had a lovely start to the year and are looking forward to the brighter days ahead. It's been another busy few months at Friends, with lots of activities, trips and planning happening behind the scenes.*

*We've got plenty to look forward to over the coming months, including our Easter activities and more inclusive opportunities for our families.*

*As always, thank you for your continued support — we're really looking forward to another fantastic season together.*

*Paula, Mel and Emma x*

## Regular Weekly Activities

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

- Lego Club
- Sing and Sign Choir
- Aerial Hoop
- Dance Sessions

These sessions 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

- Gulliver's World Theme Park Trip
- Walton Hall Gardens – Petting Zoo

### Sessions

- Chester Zoo Trip
- Gravity MAX / Activity Sessions

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](http://friendsplay.org.uk/registration)*

# Help Us Fundraise

easyfundraising

Raise donations every time you shop online — at no extra cost to you.

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends)

St Helens Community Lottery

For every £1 ticket, 50p goes to Friends and 10p supports other local causes.

[www.sthelenscommunitylottery.co.uk/support/friends---play-for-disabled-children](http://www.sthelenscommunitylottery.co.uk/support/friends---play-for-disabled-children)

## Donations Received

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

Donations received from:

Easyfundraising – £53.94

St Helens Community Lottery – £137

Bury Lodge of Relief No. 42 Freemasons – £150

Mencap – £5,650

## Charity Skydive – Coming Soon!

We've got something exciting coming up... our Friends charity skydive!

16 amazing supporters will be taking to the skies to raise funds to help us continue providing inclusive activities and opportunities for children and young people with SEND.

Every donation makes a difference — we can't wait to share more and cheer them on!

[totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/skydivefriendsgroup](http://totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/skydivefriendsgroup)

[www.friendsplay.org.uk](http://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

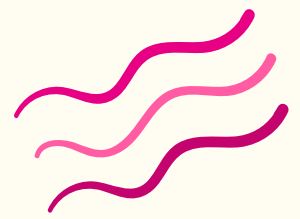
Email: [info@friendsplay.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsplay.org.uk)



## Puddle Project

Our sessions at The Puddle Project were filled with smiles, confidence and a real sense of community. Children explored, created and played in a space where they felt safe to be themselves, taking part at their own pace. It was lovely to see friendships forming, siblings playing together and families connecting. Sessions like these support confidence, wellbeing and a real sense of belonging. The calm, welcoming environment allowed every child to feel included and supported. It was wonderful to see so many happy faces throughout.

# What have we been up to...



## Disney on Ice

Our trip to Disney on Ice was truly magical for our families. Children were captivated by the music, characters and incredible performances, with many experiencing a large arena for the first time. The atmosphere was full of excitement from start to finish, with plenty of smiles, singing and waving throughout the show. The relaxed environment meant families could enjoy the experience in a way that suited them. Seeing familiar characters come to life created so many special moments. It was a memorable day out that families will treasure for a long time.



## K-POP Demon Event

Our K-Pop Demon event was full of energy, music and excitement. Children enjoyed expressing themselves through movement and creativity, building confidence as they took part. It was fantastic to see young people engaging in something that reflected their interests. Sessions like this encourage confidence, self-expression and inclusion. The atmosphere throughout was lively, positive and full of enthusiasm.

## Bubble Fun

We kicked off half term with a sensory-filled bubble session at the Tunza's Pride Centre. The session was full of colour, movement and magical bubbles, creating a calm and engaging environment. Children explored and interacted at their own pace, with plenty of opportunities to join in. It was a relaxed, inclusive session filled with smiles and laughter. Families enjoyed sharing the experience together.

