



September - Medi 2024

Dear Sparkle families,

We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer break and are as excited as we are to welcome you back to our clubs soon!

Recently, we had the privilege of collaborating with Save the Children on their research, ensuring that the voices of children with disabilities are prominently heard. Additionally, we've received numerous inquiries about fundraising opportunities, which is simply amazing.

It's shaping up to be a busy month, but we can't wait to see what's around the corner. We look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Team Sparkle

CELEBRATING SUMMER!

As another wonderful summer comes to a close, we reflect on the fantastic holiday activities we enjoyed. From playing outside and making new friends to exploring our excellent facilities across Gwent, it was a season full of fun. For many children, participating in these activities before starting regular club sessions in September has been incredibly beneficial, easing their transition into the club.

Some of our children and young people said...

"It was really good! My favourite thing to do was basketball and bingo!"

"Yes, I enjoyed holiday activities. I loved the park and going on the swings and spinning on the roundabout!"

"Really good! I enjoyed painting with my friends"

If you need any help transitioning back into clubs or back to school, please be sure to get in touch with our Family Liaison Officers who can send you some resources.



We would like to thank those who have supported our holiday activities this year:

- ★ **St. James Place Charitable Foundation**
(Supporting holiday activities in the North)
- ★ **Caerphilly County Borough Council**
(Supporting West holiday activities and family play sessions)
- ★ **SENSE**
(allowing us to host West holiday activities at their hub)

Save the date...

Fri 6th Sept
Cerebra Workshop*
@ SCC

Sun 8th Sept
Picnic in the park
@ SCC

Tue 10th Sept
SNAP Cymru session
@ SCC

Sat 14th Sept
Dads Group
@ SCC

Thu 19th Sept
ADHD+ Support
@ SCC

Tue 24th Sept
Coffee Group
@ Blaina ICC

Wed 25th Sept
CCP: intro to sensory processing workshop (online)

Fri 27th Sept
Meeting with Sparkle Chair to discuss Childcare in Wales*
@ SCC

Sat 28th Sept
Dads Group (online)

*Please contact one of our **Family Liaison Officers** if you would like to attend

If you would like more information on any upcoming events or if you would like any further support, please get in touch with our Family Liaison Officers...

SCC

family.liaison.abb@wales.nhs.uk

NHCC

abb.familyliaisonnorth@wales.nhs.uk

CCC

abb.familyliaisonwest@wales.nhs.uk

SPARKLE SWIM EVALUATION

In collaboration with Disability Sport Wales, we recently assessed the experiences of 72 children, aged 5-17, who participated in a 10-lesson swimming program.

While half of these children had attended community-based swimming lessons before, 81% had negative experiences. Parents frequently reported a lack of 1:1 support for children, the majority of whom had autism, many of whom were non-verbal.

For children needing aids like hoists to access the pool, parents often found either the necessary facilities were unavailable or staff did not know how to use them.

Swimming is a life-saving skill that also offers numerous fitness and leisure opportunities. However, children with additional needs face significant barriers to learning how to swim due to physical and neuro-disabilities.

Despite the Welsh Government's commitment to teaching basic water safety to all children, many are still missing out.

Sparkle's swimming lessons are entirely funded by fundraising, as there is no statutory funding for these fully integrated lessons.

Support Sparkle through fundraising ([here](#)).
Read the full report ([here](#)).






Are you interested in fundraising for Sparkle?

Email
fundraising@sparkleappeal.org
or
Call
01633 748041

to learn more or get started.

Find us online!

-  Sparkle
-  @sparkleappealofficial
-  justgiving.com/sparkleappeal
-  www.sparkleappeal.org
-   @sparkleappeal

JOIN THE SPARKLE COMMUNITY TODAY!

We're thrilled to unveil our Sparkle Membership Package, designed with your feedback in mind! This exclusive membership is open to everyone!



As a Sparkle member, you would be playing a crucial role in helping us continue our services to those who need it most. To maintain our operations, we need to raise in excess of **£700,000** each year. Your membership directly impacts our ability to secure these essential funds, ensuring that we can continue to provide our vital services to families and individuals who rely on us.

Once again, we'd like to thank you for your support. Together we are making a real difference!

You can sign up to our membership scheme [here...](#)
(Please review the terms and conditions to ensure you understand your membership).

WELCOME, SIAN!

We are delighted to welcome our new Trusts & Foundations Officer, Sian Rowlands to Sparkle.

Our ability to continue offering our services depends greatly on securing successful grant applications. Sian's support will be crucial in this endeavor.

Does your workplace have a grant scheme that could be linked to Sparkle?

If so, we'd love to hear from you! Please send any information to Sian at grants@sparkleappeal.org.

If you would like to contribute to the Sparkle newsletter, please email Marketing@sparkleappeal.org

Newsletter available in Welsh upon request