

News from Serennu

September 2020

Volume 8 Issue 9



Summer Fun Day!

A big part of the Serennu calendar is the August annual fun day, and we love to see and speak with families at the event. This year of course it was just not possible to host it at Serennu Centre but we were keen to attempt a virtual fun day that we could invite everybody to participate in. We looked at a few best bits from previous fun days and decided to adapt them to online versions. On Friday 28th August, the Sparkle Facebook page was taken over with music, dancing, animal encounters, videos and a raffle with some fantastic prizes. There was even a cutest pets competition. The day started at 10am with a welcome message from Sparkle Key Founder and Chairperson of the Sparkle Appeal Charity, Dr Sabine Maguire MRCPCH, FRCPI, FRCPC, who spoke about our charity and outlined the day. Then three free, virtual sessions were lined up via zoom, for families to take part in activities whilst at their home or in their garden. We had a **Music & Storytelling Workshop run by Keycreate**, an **Animal Encounters session run by A+S Animal Encounters** and a **Monkey World session run by Monkey World in association with Leonard Cheshire Organisation**. We would like to say a big THANK YOU to everybody who helped make these sessions successful and also thank you to all our families who joined in with the fun. We would also like to say a massive THANK YOU for all the donations towards raffle prizes and the cutest pets competition. The amount raised from the event totalled £752 and we are truly grateful to everybody who purchased raffle tickets, joined in with the cutest pet competition and donated via text, your generosity and support was overwhelming. The day was a success, however we really did miss seeing our lovely families in person and we truly hope that we will be

able to schedule our traditional fun days in the not too distant future. Here the three winners of the cutest pets competition. 1st. Savage (photographed with Alice) 2nd. Meg 3rd. Rae rabbit



"Hi everyone! I'm Lucy Lane and I am the Sparkle's Communication Officer based at Serennu Children's Centre. I'm new to this post having been appointed at the beginning of June, however I have worked for Sparkle as an Administration Assistant since the start of December 2019. I really do love working for Sparkle and I am extremely passionate about the work that we do and the families that we support, I'm so proud to say that I work for such a fantastic charity with such amazing and supportive colleagues. Whilst working for Sparkle I have met many wonderful families and I have enjoyed chatting and getting to know you all.

As part of my role, I manage our social media pages and website so if at any time you'd like me to share information or details of anything that you feel would be beneficial to our families that you would like us to post, then please just let me know and together we can look at sharing it on the Sparkle social media and/or website. If I can be of any other help to you or if you'd like to speak to me about getting involved in fundraising or completing a challenge, then please just pop to Serennu to see me or give me a call or an email. I'm really happy to assist in any way that I can and I am always open to suggestions if you have any ideas about raising the awareness of Sparkle or getting involved."

marketing@sparkleappeal.org or 01633 748041

Meet the Team



If you would like to be kept up to date with activities, events, forums and support groups being held at Serennu and in the local area please email or call: Family.liaison.ABB@wales.nhs.uk / 01633748013 to be included on the mailing list.

Sign of the Month



Worried

Index hands (palms back, pointing up) at either side of forehead, make short alternate movements backwards and forwards.

For more signs, information and resources, please see www.signalong.org.uk or talk to your speech and Language Therapist

Have a great time everyone

For all our children and young people starting back at school this month, we hope you enjoy being back in your classroom and especially enjoy seeing all your friends and teachers. From all the staff at Serennu Children's Centre, good luck and we are looking forward to when we see you all at our centre in the future.

Congratulations and Well Done

Last month two of our Sparkle youngsters decided to climb Pen-y-Fan mountain to raise funds for the Sparkle Appeal. They did take their mums along on the trip for company, but oh my gosh what a long way for little legs! Kobe and his mum Jo and Elliott and his mum Janine, decided to set themselves the challenge to climb the highest peak in South Wales and they knew it would be tough but they wanted to raise awareness of the work Sparkle do and also raise vital funds. Kobe and Elliott are fabulous friends and they both attend the Sparkle skills group that takes place each Wednesday evening. Their fantastic efforts with this sponsored climb has raised over £1000 for the Sparkle Appeal and we are truly grateful to them both oh.... and we should mention their mums as well, just joking, great achievement Janine and Jo. Kobe's mum Jo told us "**Well we did it. We climbed Pen y Fan. The boys did so well. Kobe cried coming down as he had pain in his legs from the tight calf muscles he has, but he did it. It was tough and steep but those views were fantastic. We had the most amazing time and we loved it**". From everyone at Sparkle, we would like to say Well Done and Congratulations to you all, this is a fabulous achievement and we sincerely thank you for your enthusiasm and continued support.



During August we were delighted to be allowed to reopen the MediCinema at Serennu. These are challenging times at the moment and because of Government guidelines that absolutely need to be observed, Sparkle and MediCinema management have worked hard to co-ordinate necessary changes to allow the screenings to recommence. Social distancing is strictly observed and unfortunately this means the number of people we can accommodate within the MediCinema has reduced, however it is such a pleasure to see families once again watching films and enjoying a cinema experience. Other measures now in place include a telephone welfare check to families before each screening, temperature checks on anyone visiting MediCinema that day, perspex screens at the end of the first row which allow anyone walking past or sitting in that row to feel extra protected, disposable seat covers on each seat that is being used, hand sanitizers available and a decision that no food is to be taken into the auditorium, which is unfortunate but necessary for safety purposes. We would like to say a big thank you to the team at MediCinema for their support of allowing the screenings to take place. This is a fabulous resource for families to access and enjoy when a mainstream cinema may prove challenging for a child/young person. Also thank you to the families who have recently attended MediCinema screenings, your positive co-operation and response to the extra safety measures in place, has been great. If you would like any information about attending MediCinema screenings, please contact Melissa or Jayne on family.liaison.abb@wales.nhs.uk or 01633 748013, they would be happy to help.

MediCinema is back



MEDICINEMA
feel better with film



ORDINARY 2
EXTRAORDINARY



sparkle
helpu plant arbennig i ddisgleirio
helping special children shine

Gyda chefnogaeth / Supported by
BBC
Plant mewn Angen
children in Need



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board