Our October Holiday fun activities are back! Activities are fully staffed so parents/carers are not required to stay. Please Note:

- Our staff:child ratio is approx 1:4. If your child requires more support please contact us before application.
- Children must be dropped off and collected from all Activities at the stated venues
- We have strict age restrictions - participants must be the correct age at the time of the event.
- The stated arrival/drop off time is when registration will begin. Our staff become responsible for young people after registration – if you arrive early please supervise your child and wait to register.

Applications Please complete the attached Application Form.
Receipt of an application will be acknowledged AFTER payment and a fully completed Application Form has been received.
Final confirmation of places will be sent AFTER the closing date on Friday 9th October 2015.
If you have queries or special arrangements regarding payment please let us know as soon as possible.
IMPORTANT note about MEDICATION - If whilst attending our Activities your child will need any medication which may require action/intervention/storage by our staff, e.g. Diabetes, medication for ADHD, epilepsy, please let us know ASAP so we can organise staff training. Attendance will not be permitted If our staff are unable to receive training in good time, or we were not made aware of medical needs.

The Closing Date for applications is Friday 9th October 2015 – Please BOOK EARLY as activities are usually fully booked! We prioritise early applications as much as possible. If you have any queries or need help to complete the Application Form, please contact: Judith by Email: info@afso.org.uk ☎ 01844 338696 (Monday-Wednesday term time only)

All About the Girls
This is for all our girls on the Autism spectrum (sorry, no siblings or brothers please!). This event is not fully staffed so parents must attend and be responsible for their child but there will be a zone for adults to grab a drink and to chat to other parents/carers. This will be an opportunity for parents and daughters to socialise and have fun together. It is open to all GIRLS on the autism spectrum and ages up to 18. Please bring a packed lunch.
Please let us know if you are coming by completing the Booking Form / emailing info@afso.org.uk

Time: 10am - 2pm
DOORS WILL OPEN AT THE START TIME
Where: Wovercote Young Peoples Club
St Peter's Road, Wolvercote
Oxford, OX2 8AU
Cost: £5 per child
Activity: There will be a range of activities available
Activities

Note about illness

If your child is unwell prior to the activity, please do not send them to our activities as this can have an impact on the health our staff and other children. If our staff become unwell we may have to cancel another activity. If you wouldn’t send them to school then please keep them at home and let us know!

Possible funding for October Holiday Activities

Short Breaks funding may be available to help fund activities and could possibly pay fees as well as transport for those on low income/benefits. Please contact Pauline Mackinnon at the Oxfordshire Family Information Service for more information on 08452 262636, (or 01865 328580 which may be cheaper from a mobile) or Email: fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk

There may be some funding available for transport. For more information please contact the Oxfordshire Travel Hotline on 0845 310 1111 or www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/community-transport

Other Activities in & around Oxfordshire

Over the October there are a number of other groups who run activities. Please see page 7 of this Newsletter as well as our Fact File, which can be downloaded from our website which lists many of these organisations. If you are on our emailing list you will also be notified if we receive information about such events, courses and activities whenever possible.

Also check out the Oxfordshire County Council Local Offer website page which details what is available across the county.

So far in 2015 we have received 196 NEW referrals as well as requests for help from families already known to us. We want to continue to help, and provide MORE …..BUT ... we need your support!

Check out our Fundraising pages for inspirational ways to support our work >>>

Activities Newsletter October 2015

Page 2 of 8
Fundraising  Our fabulous fundraisers

On 11th October 2015
Daniel Bremner is running the Oxford Half Marathon

Daniel’s niece, Chloe, was diagnosed with Autism three years ago, and since then Daniel says we have “been a continual source of support for her and all the family”. Daniel is busy trying to fit in training for the run…. And needs your support!

Please do donate whatever you can – every little helps:

Please donate online, and share Daniel’s challenge ails with your friends, family and colleagues

www.justgiving.com/Daniel-Bremner

Could you help raise much needed funds?

We welcome your ideas, if you have any suggestions please do contact Gita Lobo on Email: gita@afso.org.uk or call 07929 379125 / 01844 338696.

Here’s some ideas to get you thinking:

★ nominating us as your company’s charity of the year
★ a sponsored event
★ collecting donations instead of gifts/flowers at special occasions (e.g. birthdays, weddings, and funerals)
★ regular giving by standing order
★ mufti days
★ leave a Legacy gift in your will
★ sell on eBay or at auction for us
★ … or contact us to discuss your idea!

Don’t know what you want for your birthday?
How about asking for donations to Autism Family Support?

Instead of sending Christmas Cards
why not make a donation to Autism Family Support?

Please go to our JustGiving page or make cheques payable to “Autism Family Support Oxfordshire”
Fundraising Well done & Thank You to....

John Coates walked ... and walked... and kept walking!

A HUGE congratulations to John on his epic 87.5 miles NON STOP walk of the Ridgeway Path! John completed the walk in just under 30 hours, walking through day and night. He smashed his £1500 target and has raised a whopping £2798!

You can still donate: www.justgiving.com/JohnCoatesRidgeway
Christine O’Neill jumped out of a plane!

Christine was given the jump for her 50th birthday and it was her daughter Robyn, who has Asperger’s Syndrome, who suggested raising money for AFSO. Christine said “This amazing local charity does so much for families and children and young people on the spectrum, whether it is holiday activities, groups for teens, training or individual support.”

Christine smashed her target of £200, raising a fabulous £595!

Well done Christine…. It looks AMAZING!!

You can still donate:
www.justgiving.com/Christine-O-Neill

Smiles and nerves of steel

What a view!

Sky high and flying

Still smiling.... Wow!!

And THEN ....
Robyn cut her (very long!!) hair!

Robyn, a 16 year old with Asperger's Syndrome, decided to cut her hair short after her GCSE's, to symbolise a fresh start. As well as raising funds for us, she plans to donate her hair to charity. Robyn aimed to raise £150... but her crop has raised us a fantastic £380!

You can still donate: www.justgiving.com/Robyn-O-Neill

Events

- 2015
  • Challenging Behaviour Course – see attached form for details
  • Behaviour Management and Physical Intervention Workshop - for parents who have attended and completed any of our Challenging Behaviour Courses
    Details will be sent by email to those on our mailing list

- 2016

Artists, creative and techie people wanted!

We are already planning for World Autism Awareness Day 2016! We hope to hold several events celebrating people on the autism spectrum. We are keen to involve arts and crafts work by people on the spectrum as well as workshops led by people on the spectrum. So if you or someone you know fits the below please contact us:

• We will be exhibiting art in a gallery in Oxford and are looking for volunteers to help with the exhibition launch, including stewards, caterers, people with experience of curating exhibits, and suggestions of invitees.
• We would like to run workshops and would like to hear from people on the spectrum, family members, or professionals who could lead or help lead a workshop. Possible workshops drumming, trampolining, music, photography, gaming and technology.
• We would like to hold social events focused on common interests, such as sensory play; cartoons (e.g. Thomas the Tank Engine!, My Little Pony); gaming (e.g. Mine Craft!); comics etc - please let us know what would interest you!
• Volunteers – we are looking for volunteers to help with organising and running events e.g helping to set up a stall, volunteering at a stall, setting up equipment (e.g tables) and tin shaking.

Please contact us if you or someone you know would like to get involved – or have ideas, or could help organise the events. Contact: info@afso.org.uk  Tel: 01844 338696
Local Activities

OASIS - Tel: 07900 144493 www.oasisonline.org.uk Email: chair@oasisonline.org.uk
Parent led support group that arranges family playdays during the school holidays for all children on the Autistic Spectrum & siblings. These are heavily subsidised but parents/carers must accompany children.

Thomley Activity Centre - Tel: 01844 338380 www.thomley.org.uk
Email: enquiries@thomley.org.uk Menmarsh Road, Worminghall HP18 9JZ.
Recreational facility on Oxon/Bucks border, for children & young people with disabilities, families & friends. Specialist equipment, workshops, art & crafts, outdoor play, bikes, swings, sensory room and activity days during the October holidays.

OCC website has links in the Local offer to OXME.info for information on activities

Guideposts Trust - 01993 893560 or by email: cyps@guidepoststrust.org.uk
Guideposts offers inclusive all round childcare in five locations around Oxfordshire, for children and young people aged 3 – 19 years. We work from Special Schools in Witney, Wheatley and Sonning Common and at the East Street Family Centre in Banbury.

Parasol - Tel: 01865 742816 Inclusive Play & Leisure in Oxford. Also provides Enablers – 1:1 staff to accompany children to other mainstream activities – contact Parasol for up-to-date details.

Barnardos - Tel: 01869 252905. Play schemes, youth groups and trips across Oxfordshire. Ages 5-18.

Lets Play Project - Tel: 01295 263694 www.letsplaybanbury.org Activities based in Banbury area for 5-19 year olds and siblings from Oxfordshire.

Yellow Submarine - Tel: 01865 236119 www.yellowsubmarine.org.uk
Day trips and activity days in the Oxford and Witney area for 11-18 yr olds from Oxfordshire during school holidays.

Southmoor Children's Centre - holiday group for children with additional needs at the children's centre, Laurel Drive, Southmoor, OX12 5DJ. Play activities, supported by the centre's SENCO worker, giving parents the opportunity to meet and chat.
Contact Lorraine Hurdley, Tel: 01865 820751 Email: lhurdley@spurgeons.org

OXSRAD - Tel: 01865 741 336 Email: info@oxsrad.org www.oxsrad.org
Address: Court Place Farm, Marsh Lane, Marston, Oxford OX3 0NQ. Integrated Sports & Leisure Centre. Recreational and leisure activities accessible to all. Gym, Sensory Room, Trampolining.

The Music Club - held at Crowmarsh Village Hall, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh. OX10 8ED. Children aged 0–19 years, siblings & carers. Music workshops, fun days. First Monday in the month (except bank holidays) and school holidays. They also have October events, contact them for more details. Tel: 07768 298297 / 0118 9722322 Email: info@music4disabledchildren.org.uk www.music4disabledchildren.org.uk

Camp Mohawk - Camp Mohawk, Highfield Lane, Crazies Hill, Wargrave, RG10 8PU. Tel: 0118 9404045 Email: info@campmohawk.org.uk www.campmohawk.org.uk "Drop in" and "Book in" Family Days available, details coming soon on their website

Special Needs Tennis - Shrivenham Tennis Club, SN6 8BL. Contact: Chris Hand, Tel: 07970481707 Email: cd.hand@yahoo.co.uk

Autism-Friendly Cinema - Dimensions offers Autism Friendly Film screenings in partnership with ODEON, Vue, Showcase and Cineworld cinemas. Details are available at their website: www.dimensions-uk.org/what-we-do/autism-care/autism-friendly-films/ where you can join their mailing list for information and dates of screenings. The Regal Picturehouse, Henley-on-Thames also has film screenings especially for people with autism and their families. Email: regal@picturehouses.co.uk Tel: 0871 704 2064

Spectrum Girls - SOCIAL GROUP FOR GIRLS WITH AS/HFA
Covering the Home Counties area. Contact Lesley on 0771 4483485 or Email: spectrumgirls@sky.com

National – Residential Camps - Doit4real run mainstream camps for young people. We have had good feedback from families who booked their child on the Autism Spectrum and/or siblings. See www.doit4real.co.uk

Disclaimer: While we share and forward information we do not accept responsibility for the accuracy and credibility of information or actions of third party organisations or individuals. We strongly advise you make further enquiries with third party organisations. We endeavour that all information provided is accurate, impartial and unbiased however, we cannot accept liability for any loss whatsoever caused as a result of inaccuracy of this information. No responsibility is accepted for any loss or damage caused by information contained in this newsletter.
Don’t let our emails get stuck in your spam folder!

Save our address!
Please SAVE our new email addresses: info@afso.org.uk and judith@afso.org.uk

Join our mailing list
If you have not already joined our email mailing list – we recommend you join now! And be among the first to hear about courses and events.
If you are new to us please complete a Referral Form first, available on our website www.afso.org.uk or contact us on Email: info@afso.org.uk ☎️ 01844 338696

Mailing List
We send regular emails with news of services, events and training courses. Email is our preferred form of communication.
We also have a monthly adult newsletter sent by email (only) aimed at our 18-25 year old young people. If you, or they, would like to be added to either or both of these lists, please email us the details.

Have your contact details CHANGED?
Please email us at info@afso.org.uk with details of the changes OR write to us at the address below.

Would you prefer our Holiday Activities Newsletters sent by post?
Please let us know by emailing info@afso.org.uk OR write to us at the address below. Please note we cannot send our weekly or monthly newsletters by post, so you will miss some information about some events.

If you are getting this by post, it is because we don’t have an up to date email address for you or you have requested it is posted in the past. If you would like it emailed, which saves us the cost of postage and printing, then please send us your email address to info@afso.org.uk and we will add you to the list.

Contact Us
www.afso.org.uk

Autism Family Support – Oxfordshire

Autism Family Support Oxfordshire
Thomley Hall Centre
Menmarsh Road
Worminghall
HP18 9JZ
T: 01844 338696
E: info@afso.org.uk