The Sproughton Parish Council

Dear Sir / Madam,

Apologies that I can not make the meeting this week but please see below a little bit about us and the current situation that we are in. Your Parish has always been so kind to us and your local support.

William Petersen our Chairman has spoken with the gentleman who runs the Beer festival and asked about us being their nominated charity for next year as we are in Sproughton. This would be amazing awareness for us and a fantastic opportunity.

We currently are receiving more children that we can hold so every penny will help us to opening another day and helping more local families.

The Bumblebee Children’s Charity is a specialist centre for children with physical disabilities including difficulties with movement and co-ordination. Using principles of Conductive Education, we incorporate all aspects of the child’s development (physical, cognitive, social and emotional) into our programme. Every child has different needs, so the programme is designed around the individual child, his/her age and ability.

Under the guidance of our Makaton trained staff, parents/primary carers work with their child, usually as part of a group, using equipment, toys and songs to make the tasks enjoyable and productive. It is important that the parent and child are involved together in the learning process and all skills learned are closely related to those which serve a purpose at home.

Children attending have a wide range of conditions including Down’s Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Infantile Spasms, Chromosomal Abnormalities, Autism and other developmental challenges. Many have no diagnosis and all have a delay in acquiring physical skills. We offer each child a weekly 2.5 hour session, for as long as they need it, usually until the child starts school.

There are no other equivalent specialist centres in the area that provide pre-school "readiness" development to children with physical disabilities. Working collaboratively with parents increases the effectiveness of intervention and promotes the child's development whilst also addressing the parents’ needs for the family to function well. It goes without saying that parents are also supported by meeting like minded people who they can relate to and therefore feel less isolated.

We currently have enough money left for one year running costs. The severe impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic and corresponding lockdowns caused fundraising to dry up. As such, we are reaching out in an effort to ensure we can keep offering this service to our children and their families.

Should you wish to come and see the amazing work that we do please let me know and we would love to welcome you.

Yours faithfully,

Lisa Scott / William Petersen

Chair Trustee