



Winter Newsletter

Welcome to Ziggies festive newsletter. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our volunteers a Very Happy Christmas and New Year! See you in 2016!

It has been an amazing year, we have received funding from Sport Wales that has enabled the team to grow and expand to four other regions. WOW!!

Ziggies update

In September we started to work with our partners to promote Ziggies within Cardiff, Monmouthshire, Neath & Swansea as well as RCT. Our dedicated and enlarged team of Ziggies Co-ordinators have been busy promoting the programme and getting more schools on board.

We would, therefore, like to welcome the following schools to the Ziggies family:

RCT - Llanhari Primary, Llwynypia Primary, Hawthorn Primary, Trehopcyn Primary & Cwmifor Primary (Caerphilly)

Cardiff—St Pauls CofW Primary (starts in January)

Monmouthshire—Deri View Primary

Neath— Blaendulais Primary, Brynhyfryd Primary & Coedffranc Primary.

The team has provided extensive training and support to all the parent-volunteers who are now running the Ziggies sessions to support the children and families within their schools.



Deri View



Llanhari



Trehopcyn



Cwmifor

New team members

There have been some changes to the Ziggies co-ordinators team:

Monmouthshire - Nadine Fletcher has replaced Amy Jones as Ziggies Co-ordinator.

Cardiff - Dean Pymble has the support of his sports development team who will help to deliver Ziggies throughout the area: Charlotte Carpenter, Sinead Melinn, Owen Tresilian, Martin Chan, Catrin Stone, Ryan Wilkinson, James Bloom, Max Lyndon-Jones and Connor Berry.

Co-ordinator away day

Our volunteers require the best training and support possible to enable them to make their Ziggies sessions unmissable. In December, the Ziggies team got together to discuss how best to provide this support and training. The meeting was based around 'creating a session' where the co-ordinators were given a book and asked to write a session plan that can be run in schools.

The teams were very competitive and creative. The task created some very practical craft and games ideas that fit well with Ziggies' ethos of family engagement. The ideas will be available for schools in the New Year.

If you have an idea for a session then please do not hesitate to contact the team and we will create the session plan for you. All you need is an easy craft and physical game that both children and parents would be able to complete. Please feel free to speak to your co-ordinator who will be able to provide advice on any suggestions you have.



Ziggies Finalist in Housing Awards...

On Friday 27th November the Ziggies team attended the Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru (CIH) awards at the Vale Resort. This was a big occasion for the team and the programme as we were finalist in the 'empowering communities' category. As finalist, the judges commented that **"this project embodies empowerment within communities and focusses on children and therefore the future"**.

It is important to understand that the success of Ziggies within in all our schools over the years has not only helped to raise our profile but has also shown that it is a necessity to communities and should be embraced by all.

Remember - this is a whole programme success story from the central support team to the ziggies co-ordinators and in particular **YOU**—the volunteers who have worked relentlessly to engage your schools and families. Congratulations and well done! Keep up the good work and maybe next year we will win!!

Good News Story...

Deri View Primary in Monmouthshire started in October with a group of 32 however over the weeks this dropped to 7. Nadine (ziggies co-ordinator) took a look at the group and after speaking to the headteacher and parents identified a few barriers that were stopping the group from growing. To help build the group back up Nadine appointed a new lead volunteer who was extremely innovative and has facilitated some really fun activities which the parents and children love. Attendance levels have since risen to a steady 17 with most families attending every week. The school has also agreed to move the day of the sessions to a Monday when there are no conflicting activities. The Ziggies group will be re-launched in the New Year. Congratulations to both Sarah (volunteer) and Nadine (Co-ordinator) in turning these sessions around. Good luck for the future.

Nadine Fletcher (Monmouthshire).



How to contact Ziggies...

Website: www.ziggies.org.uk

Our website is a useful resource for when you are planning and developing your sessions.

You can access details on: reading the story, creating your own sessions, how to plan a craft activity, how to design your game, how to open and close a session, tips & suggestions plus much more...

You can also find copies of the workbooks that can be printed and photocopied, as well as materials that help to promote Ziggies within your community.

Social media

www.facebook.com/pages/ziggies

Share your sessions with other Ziggies volunteers by posting stories and pictures on our facebook page. This is a great avenue to see what other Ziggies groups are doing and to share ideas, as well as to keep up to date with what is currently happening in the world of Ziggies.

Twitter@ziggies.org follow us and find out what is going on

If you have need advice on accessing facebook/twitter or have a story to tell, pictures to share or an event to promote please contact the Central Support Team - we are here to help!

Ziggies Central Support Team

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