



Kids Den

The Kids Den has had a brilliant term, with lots of activities going on. We've really enjoyed having Elfie sent from Santa to keep an eye on us, doing some wintery arts and crafts and our trip to Streamvale Open Farm, where we got to make reindeer food, meet Santa and so much more! Many thanks to ABS Accountants LTD and Tralas Insulation for their donations which helped towards covering the cost of such an amazing trip. We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to the new year!

Back on Track



During our initial meetings with volunteers and schools this September, we spoke about suitable resources our volunteers might need to support the work that they do with the children identified for the Back on Track programme. Based on that information, we were able to provide a 'tailor made' package of Literacy and Numeracy educational resources including games and books for each school. Most of the schools have now received their resources and we will continue to build on these resources each year.

*MD's message*



As we draw to the end of 2019, I would like to say a huge sincere thankyou to everyone from board members, to staff , volunteers, parents, teachers, community partners and of course the most important people , the children & young people attending our services, for all the support, commitment and dedication you have all given to Sólás this year.

Whilst everyone is still caught up in the moment, we can and should reflect on the fantastic year we just had, with so many special moments; our Early Years graduating, our Summer scheme expanding, our Back on Track extending its reach to more schools, our new sibling programme coming on board, our Home Support pushed to over capacity, our Kids Den Winter trip to the farm, our expanding youth groups and of course our extra special Santa Grotto which put an extra special smile on many faces on Sunday last, 8<sup>th</sup> December.

As we move into 2020, I can only wish that our combined efforts will take Sólás where our hearts want it to go.

*Autism Friendly Christmas Grotto*



A trip to Santa's Grotto is the most magical event of the year for the kids. Sunday 8th December was our 3rd annual Christmas Grotto and our premise was transformed into a winter wonderland. We hope all the families who came had a great time with Santa, making crafts and getting their faces painted.

A huge thank you to the Close Family who made a very kind donation at the Grotto. Donations like these help us to continue provide support to families and children with additional needs.



**The Afterschool clubs have been enjoying Yoga and Christmas sensory plays!**

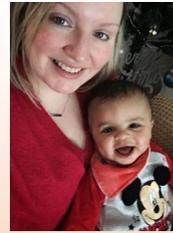


## Early Years

The toddlers have been busy painting and exploring new things.



## A new bundle of joy!!



Congratulations to Grace, our HR member who gave birth to baby Joshua in June

## Respite Service

Respite service allows children with additional needs to get some 1-1 time with a Respite worker to take them to some places they enjoy, e.g. cinema, park etc. This time allows family to have some respite from their caring role knowing that their child is doing fun activities with a professional staff. Families use direct payment for this service. If you are in receipt of direct payment and would like your child to receive respite please get in touch with Liz Carton at [respite@solasbt7.com](mailto:respite@solasbt7.com) or in the office on 02890247600.

## Sólás Christmas Opening times

We're closed from Saturday 21st December 2019 until 1st January, 2020. The afterschool clubs will start on 3rd January, 2020 and Saturday club at Parkmore will start on 4th Jan, 2020.

In partnership with FSP, BHSC, RNIB, Arts Ekta and Radius Sólás delivered an information conference in November on how to include those with disabilities when planning a community event.



A huge thank you to Craig Family who invited Solas to watch a Football match between Orangefield OB & Linfield over 35's FC. The teams raised an amazing £355 for Sólás! Special thanks to all those involved in the football match.



A huge thank you to McCaffrey family for raising an amazing £650 by doing a sponsored climb of Slieve Donard



## Donations & Thanks



Thanks to the work of our programme coordinators and volunteers we have several fabulous Christmas themed art pictures designed by the children in the Kids Den and After Schools programmes. In the future we are hoping to develop the children's art work into craft ideas which we will be able to sell as part of our vital fundraising activities.



We would like to wish all our service users, staffs and volunteers a Happy and Peaceful Christmas & New Year!

