

# WINTER NEWSLETTER

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! FAMILY FIRST FOSTERING WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THE AMAZING WORK YOU HAVE DONE THIS YEAR AND LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING 2023



## General Updates

As we come towards the end of the year we would once again like to thank all our amazing foster carers for the brilliant work they have done throughout 2022. It's been an amazing year and we hope 2023 will be even better.

We would firstly like to thank everybody who attended the **End of Year Christmas Party**. It was so lovely to see everybody, to celebrate an amazing night and what a wonderful year it has been.

We also would like to remind you of the agencies **referral scheme** for foster carers.

If you know somebody who is interested in fostering be sure to let the agency know! If the individual is approved as a foster carer you will receive £1,000!

I would also like to remind carers of the **out of hours Christmas rota**. This has been reattached with the newsletter. Please ensure to follow this rota system during the Christmas period.

## Training

We would just like to remind everybody how important it is that all foster carers attend training. Our 2023 training calendar will be circulated to you all before the end of the year so please ensure to keep an eye out. We ask that all foster carers go through the training calendar with their supervising social workers to identify which trainings would benefit them in the coming year.



## Welcome!

Can we please give a warm welcome to our Monika, who joined the team as a supervising social worker with us.

Also a warm welcome to our new foster carers who have joined the agency: DP, HT & AN, YH & WB, YW, VM & FM, VA.

## Placements

The placements team would like to inform foster carers that there has been an increase in referrals for young people with physical disabilities, female teenagers and parent and child placements. If you are interested in taking parent and child placements please contact Shabeer and he can discuss the opportunity for this and training options.

## Carers Recognition

We thank all our foster carers for the amazing work they do all year round but a huge well done to the carers below for winning awards at the Christmas Party and going above and beyond this year:

NB&JB, EK, JN, LG&SG, VC&RC, DG&ED, AA, DB

And also the following for their 5 Year Fostering Recognition: RD&CE, DH, BM&LM, AH, SU, MT, AK&TK.

And also to our staff member of the year Deborah Aremu

# *It's the most wonderful time of the year!*



2023

## Things to do this winter

As this is the season we all would prefer to stay indoors and keep warm there are still plenty of things you can do this winter to make the new year memorable.

- MOVIE NIGHT! A classic during the winter season and who doesn't love a movie. Get the popcorn out, make some hot chocolate and have a movie marathon
- BOARD GAMES! Board games are always a classic family night in. As long as the monopoly doesn't come out you can have make lots of memories.
- What is Christmas without the experience of Winter Wonderland. Winter Wonderland will be open in Hyde Park until the 2nd January.
- or if you can't make it to Winter Wonderland a lot of towns have local ice rinks. Wrap up warm and have all the family go Ice Skating!

## Christmas Movies to watch:

As stated above, the staff at Family First Fostering LOVE to watch Movies and Christmas is the perfect time to do that. Below I have listed some movies our staff have picked out as their favorites:

- HOME ALONE! It's one of our favorites in the office that all the staff enjoy!
- ELF! What is Christmas without watching Elf?
- NATIVITY! A real feel good Christmas movie, and if you like it enough - you could watch the sequels!
- Arthur Christmas! It may be a cartoon but what a great Christmas movie it is!
- How the Grinch stole Christmas! A classic!
- Jingle all the way! Because who doesn't love a comedy at Christmas!

## Weather Update

We would like to remind foster carers to ensure they're keeping safe this winter. Please keep an eye out on the weather, ensure you prepare for it and for all recent updates please ensure you're checking the MET website.

## Upcoming Celebrations

Here are some upcoming celebrations to remember:

- Christmas Day - 25th December
- Boxing Day - 26th December
- New Years Eve - 31st December
- Valentines Day - 14th February
- Random Act of Kindness Day - 17 Feb
- Pancake Day - 21st February
- World Book Day - 2nd March
- Mothers Day - 19th March
- Ramadan - Tentative Start 23rd March
- Clocks Change - 26th March

## Young People Achievements

We also like to highlight the amazing work young people achieve throughout the year. Here are some that have been brought to our attention and a huge well done to them all:

- IGM who has done exceptionally well with schoolwork and received an award from the LA for this! Well Done IGM!
- HN who has done exceptionally well in learning English! Well Done HN!
- KLC who has progressed well in learning the violin! Huge well done!
- AK for maintaining their great school attendance! Well Done!
- CB who won a public speaking award! Congratulations!

**"Kindness is like snow – it beautifies everything it covers" – Kahlil Gibran**

