

We are finishing the academic year with a celebration of the community participation of young people, who have contributed to three neighbourhood activities and will be involved over the holidays in the Meanwood Olympics. Certificates have been awarded to everyone who has given time and energy to connect with the local area and we're really proud of all that they have achieved!



The Easter holidays started with lots of fun and energy as we hosted a Family Sports day with plenty of activities and races, while keeping everyone well fed with hot dogs! It was encouraging that the event was shaped by the young people and that they were involved in so many aspects of the planning, even down to risk assessing, which gave them an idea of what goes into putting on a large scale event. One particular highlight was the teaching of boxing to the children, and one of the group spent the afternoon with her pads on,



encouraging everyone to have a go. Towards the end of the afternoon, we were treated to a display of her skills, which gave us the chance to see how good you can get if you keep persevering. This was followed by the grand finale – the tug of war, which brought out the competitive spirit and caused a lot of laughter.

We marked the Jubilee weekend with a tea party, which gave the young people the opportunity to serve food and get to know local people. Someone commented that the tea party wouldn't have happened without the contribution of the group, which shows the value of community engagement and connecting across different generations and groups. The young people have spoken about how leading activities has helped them develop confidence, speaking in front of others and having conversations with people that they might not otherwise have spoken to.

Our Messy Church Fun Day was another opportunity for involvement, as families gathered in the hot weather to have fun, enjoy the BBQ and connect. Amazing to see the commitment to inflating paddling pools for hook a duck with the high temperatures!



We are moving forwards with plans to place a building on the Stainbeck grounds and are grateful for the support of Iain, a local architect, who is helping us navigate conversations with the council. Following feedback from a pre-planning application, we are looking at a new position in the grounds and hoping to begin some vegetation clearance in the autumn. It is always good to have practical activities to involve the young people in, as a reminder that these long-term plans are continuing, and steps are being taken.

We have raised over £40,000 this year towards this venture and are two-thirds of the way there, which feels hopeful! Thank you for your commitment to this new development at this early stage – we are encouraged to see it taking shape and by what the next year holds.

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