

# Helping early development of pre-school children

## Lanterns School Playscheme grows skills in vital early years

Lanterns School opened in September 2005 as an inclusive nursery school, with specialist provision for pre-school children with complex special needs across the Winchester District. Its origins lie in the Opportunity Group, which several local church members helped to start in the 1970s, soon developing into Medecroft School at King Alfred College.

Its objectives are:

- To address the impact of sensory-processing difficulties on a child’s ability to pay attention and learn, and to help regulate their feelings and emotions.
- To deal with small children’s difficulties with mental health and behaviour as a result of challenging life circumstances.
- To prioritise help to families who are financially disadvantaged.



The local Charity **Friends of Lanterns** provides vital funding support for both play therapy (during the term) and the Playscheme during the summer. As part of play therapy, a skilled therapist works with the child, through talking and play, to explore difficult experiences and make sense of confused feelings. This enables the child to use more appropriate strategies to communicate their worries and concerns, rather than through behaviours which get in the way of learning and their ability to participate in nursery and later school life. Early intervention may avoid difficulties becoming an entrenched part of a child’s school life, and can therefore have a major positive impact. A block of



play therapy costs £400, and £1,200 could support 3 children in this way.

One session a week of Playscheme enables children from disadvantaged backgrounds to maintain the positive skills that they learn from nursery: communication skills, attention and listening skills and access to high quality play and physical experiences all mean they will start school ready to learn. Both schemes will be especially relevant to children from Ukraine, who are able to take up places at Lanterns through the 15 hours per week of free child care scheme. £100 for one session a week of Playscheme during the summer will fund access to the scheme for each child, and £3,000 could help Friends of Lanterns to support 10 families with limited means in this way.

**Please give these important projects your support—you can donate by bank transfer:**

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**Account No: 00890996 Sort Code: 30-93-04 Please reference ‘CWP’ with payment**



Lanterns Nursery School  
and Extended Services

A Hampshire Maintained Nursery School

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Object of funding	Fund play therapy and Playscheme for children of limited means
Beneficiaries	13 children and their families
Target amount requested	£4,200
Programme location	Winchester and District
Friends of Lanterns website	<a href="https://www.lanterns.hants.sch.uk/friends-of-lanterns/">https://www.lanterns.hants.sch.uk/friends-of-lanterns/</a>