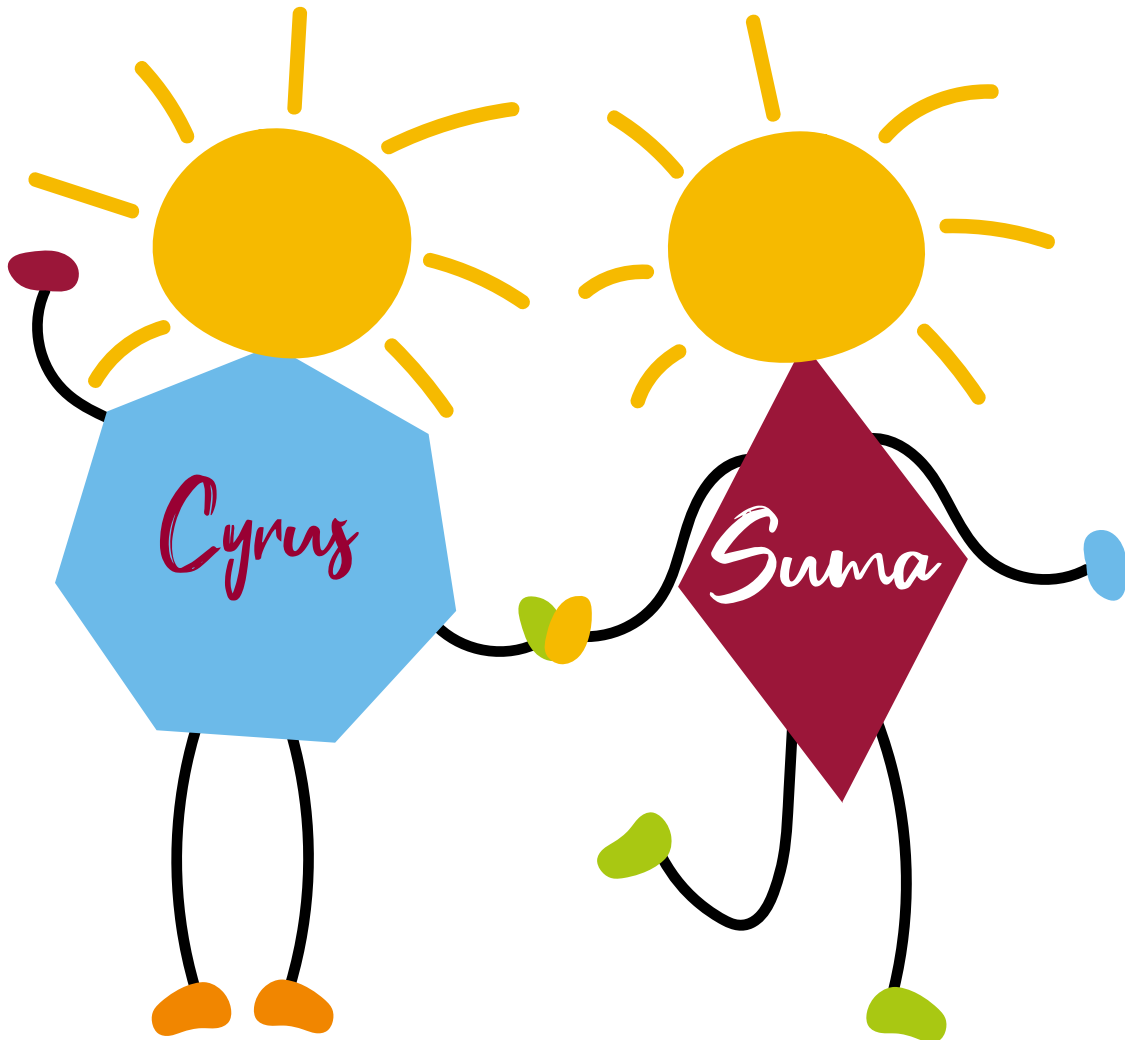


How lives changed



Venues across Hampshire. Southampton.
Portsmouth and Isle of Wight

*Please enjoy
reading about the
fantastic summer
we have had!*



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Introduction

For Summer 2019 Romsey and Park Community Schools achieved grant funding to provide a holiday programme which was very successful. We subsequently applied again in October 2019. The funding from the Department for Education (DfE) is for the local coordination of free holiday provision which includes activities and healthy food for disadvantaged children during the summer holidays. We were delighted to hear we had been successful in the middle of March 2020.

The project for 2020 has expanded to include more venues in Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and, for the first-time, on the Isle of Wight.

Our Ambition

Jan Lefley and Susan Parish are Community Managers based in Romsey and Park Community Schools and the creators of Connect4Summer. Over many years they have developed community projects engaging families and children in a range of ways to nurture community cohesion, raise aspirations, provide new experiences, support healthy lifestyles and wellbeing across Hampshire.

Little did they know when they bid for the funding that Covid-19 was going to be present in all of our lives from the end of March 2020. As the DfE were announcing who had been awarded the funding the government were announcing the potential for a lockdown.

Facts

- 20-day programme
- 29th July – 25th August 2020
- FREE Family Fun Days – 28 programmes
- FREE Teen Projects – 5 programmes
- FREE Holiday Childcare – 28 programmes
- Venues in Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight

29th July – 25th
August 2020

FAMILY FUN DAYS
HOLIDAY CHILDCARE
TEEN PROJECTS

"We really enjoyed our day today! Our children can be challenging but all staff are patient and make us feel comfortable. The lunch is lovely and so are the staff. Another fantastic day!" Katie

Impact of Covid-19

Initially it was difficult to imagine the project happening. It was thought that we might have to deliver the project virtually which was something both managers believed would not be effective. Covid-19 restrictions were changing daily during the preparation period. We were faced with limiting attendance to a maximum of 30 people including staff being in a venue. Fortunately, we had access to 18 schools with large indoor and outdoor areas which meant we could split groups across the school site as we needed, allowing us to take extra families in, but community settings were very much limited.

The advantage of using schools was that the necessary precautions for the prevention of Covid-19 were in place and there were larger spaces and grounds. We decided the majority of the programme would be delivered outside under gazebos and canopies. We developed a Covid-19 Policy which was regularly updated and disseminated. Social distancing was observed, good hand washing took place between each session and all equipment was cleaned down between each group. The wearing of masks was introduced to all indoor settings from the 10th August in line with changing national guidance.

Last year we worked together with community partners to provide support, information and signposting during the lunch hour at each venue. As a result of Covid-19 this could not happen in 2020 because of restrictions placed upon the staff teams in these support organisations.

Anxiety levels with our most disadvantaged families were extremely high. Staff worked consistently to encourage participation and returning. This resulted in some families coming at least 3 times a week. They were using it as support in preparation for the returning to school in September and also to supplement the food they had at home.

Our Area

- Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight area totalling 2491 sq. miles
- Population is 1.9million
- Children 4+ in LAs 254,316
- Children living in poverty is 74,000 of which 34,613 are entitled to Free School Meals
- On Supported Families Programme 12,146 families
- FSMs provision is between 30-56% in targeted areas
- 37 Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the 20% most deprived areas
- Obesity/overweight Year 6 pupils 29% Portsmouth, 25% Hampshire, 29% IOW and 36% Southampton
- Families with English as their second language
- High deprivation, white working class
- 25,513 children in Hampshire require SEND

"The children had a fabulous day. Very varied and interesting. All three did things they have never done before." **Caroline**

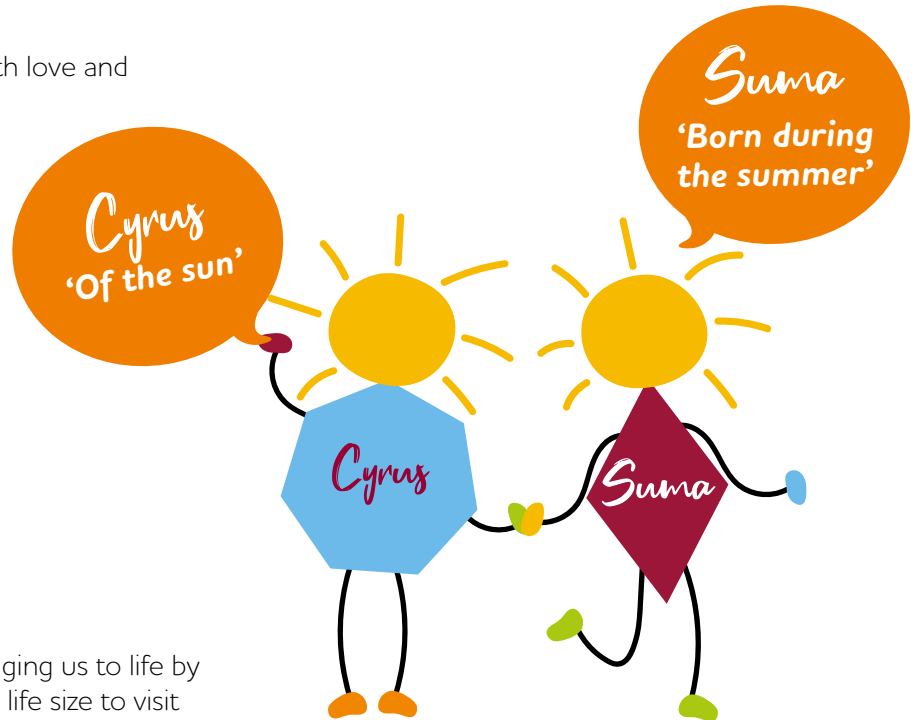
Hello from Cyrus and Suma

"We were created especially for this project with love and thought by many different people."

"Our bodies are made up of the shapes heptagon, rectangle, and circles so that the children are able to copy and draw."

"We are always smiling and our names were chosen specifically because they link together everything about this project."

We would like to thank James and Soo for bringing us to life by making the models and to Helen for making us life size to visit and play with the children at all the venues.



"We came a lot last year. So happy to hear it was back this year, seeing as most activities for children had been cancelled. We have had such a great day, the people and activities have been great." Carly

Recruitment

Some of our normal methods of recruitment were unavailable because of the pandemic. So, we increased our presence on social media and asked organisations that work with the DWP to assist in finding suitable candidates.

We are grateful for the input from Seetec Pluss (www.seetecpluss.co.uk, www.pluss.org.uk) who prepared and signposted candidates to us.

A new employment opportunity in 2020 was 'Junior Playworker'. We felt strongly that Year 11 and A level students had an abrupt end to their terms and wanted to reconnect them with routines. We employed four for every Family Fun Day venue. These Junior Playworker positions were oversubscribed. For the vast majority of Junior Playworkers, Connect4Summer was their first job and they did require support and training but brought a youthful exuberance and gained many skills throughout the 4 weeks.

Applications were received via email, references were obtained and interviews took place on Zoom. All colleagues were DBS checked.

Thank you to every colleague. Everyone worked extremely hard, adapted when needed and encouraged everyone who attended.

"I have worked this summer for Connect4Summer and I can honestly say I have thoroughly loved every minute. It's a great initiative for families from the local area and it's been really rewarding to see families come together and join in with all of our activities whilst always enjoying themselves."

Morgan

Training

Training was provided virtually and colleagues undertook several courses, which included:

- Accredited First Aid
- Level 2 Food Hygiene
- Employability skills such as working in teams
- Confidence building
- Safeguarding

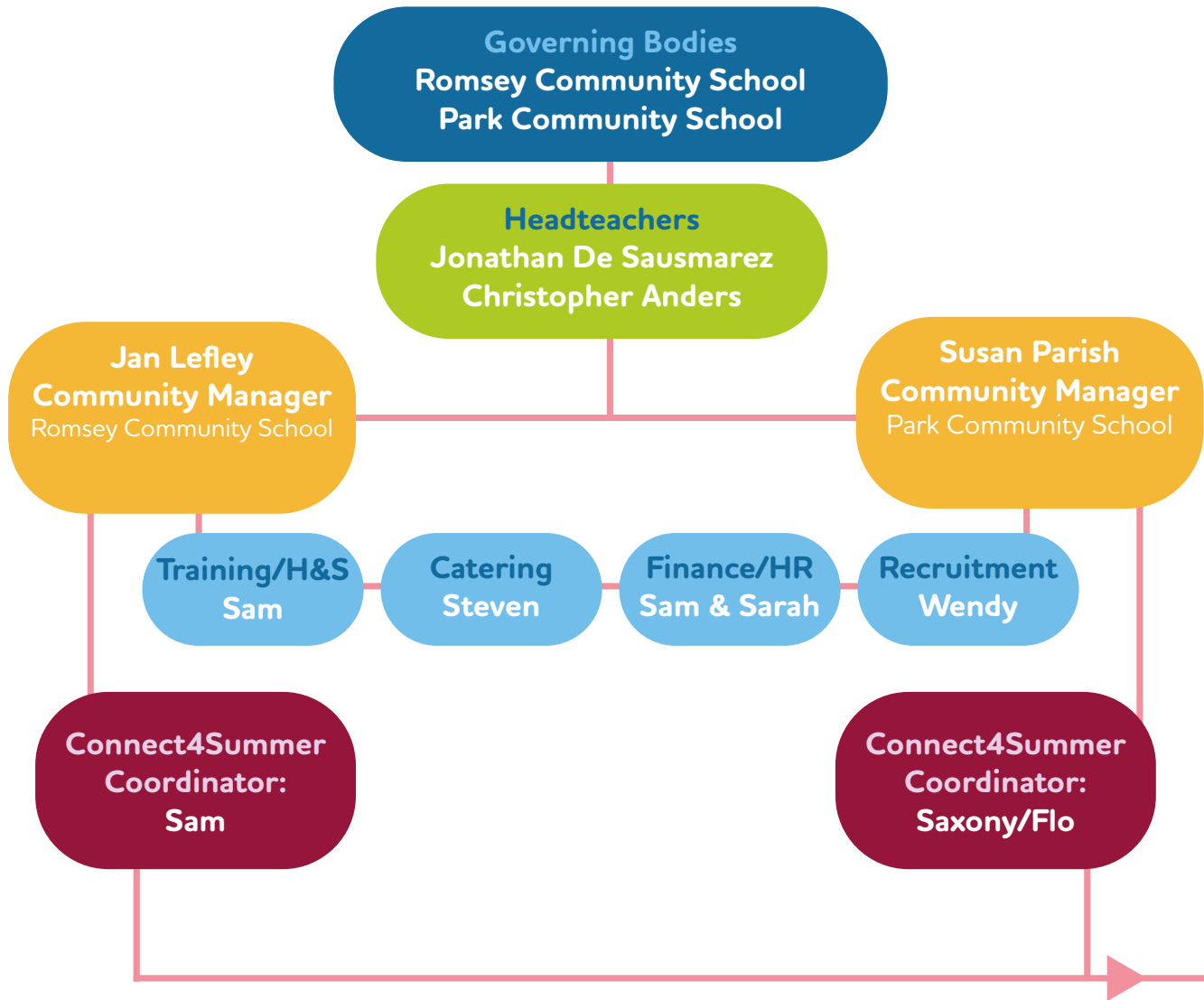
On the 27th and 28th July all the teams came together for induction to the venues and to familiarise themselves with the programme.

Over the project the skills gained by the colleagues we employed were:

- Understanding Covid-19 risk assessment and procedures
- Time management
- Customer care
- Event set up
- Arranging families into bubbles
- IT skills
- Functional skills – reading recipes, weighing ingredients
- Communication skills through online platforms
- Communicating with a whole range of people
- Listening to parents and children's anxieties and providing reassurance
- Hosting
- Prioritising workloads
- Working as a cohesive team
- Preparing and serving meals
- Conflict management
- Behaviour support management
- Project management
- Negotiating skills

"Today was a great day with lots of activities for the children. They especially loved the yoga and it really made them think about themselves and how they feel." Julie

Who's Involved



"Really good fun, jampacked day with lots of fun activities. Lunch was lovely. Great entertainment." Kathryn



"Today was amazing! We did crafts and Thai Chi which was very relaxing. We had a lot of fun. Staff were very involved and hands on with the kids." Chloe

Venue Teams



Connect4Summer co-ordinating team



"Brilliant cleaning between activities." Naomi

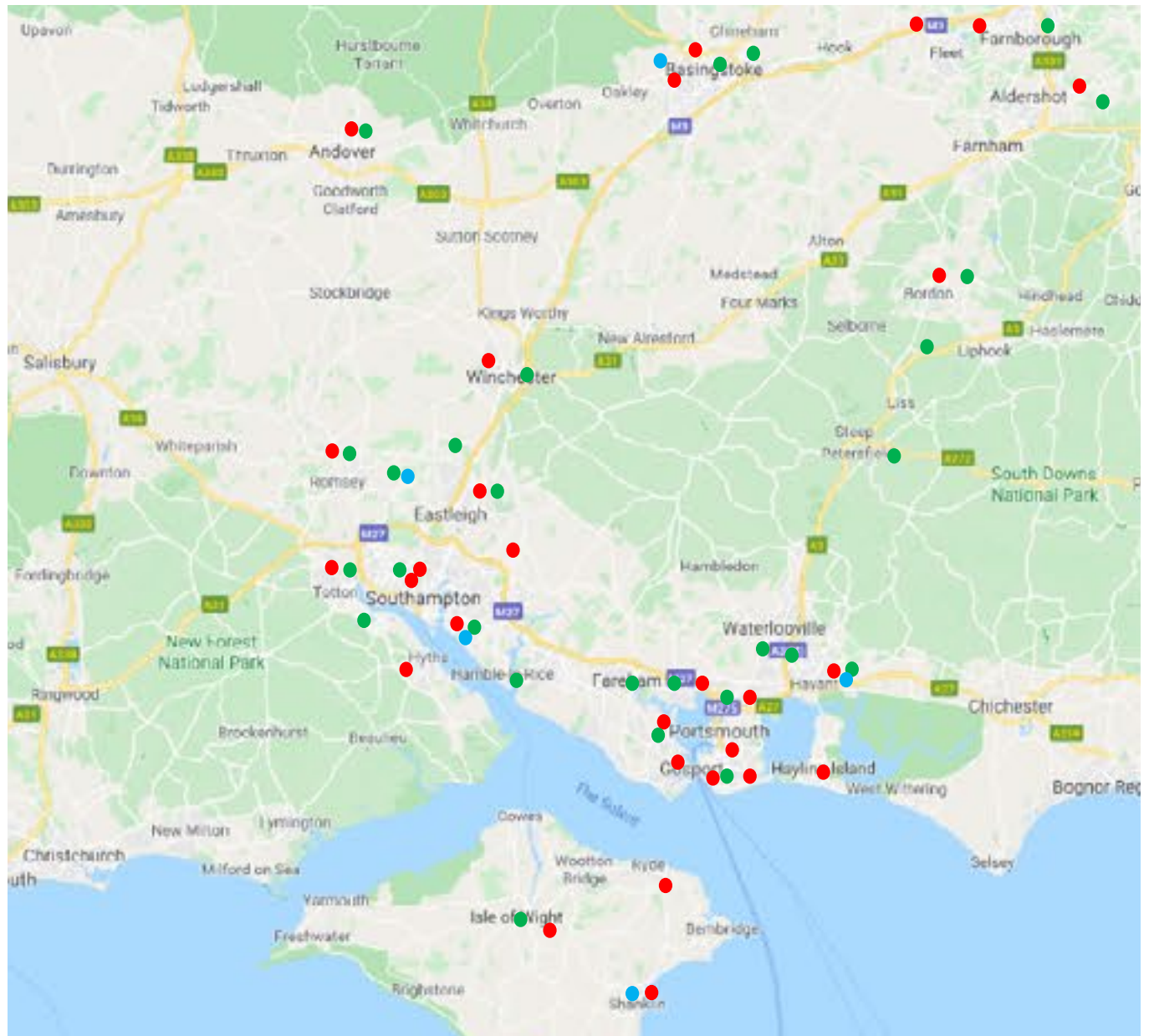


"We have had a great summer with everyone making food and art, meeting new people, lots of laughing with fun and friendly staff." Stella



"Connect4Summer was our lifeline after not working and lockdown. It fed us and entertained us." Vicky

61 programmes 50 venues



● HOLIDAY CHILDCARE ● FAMILY FUN DAYS ● TEEN PROJECTS

"We had a fantastic day. Loved all the activities and the lunch was very yummy" Sarah

Marketing

One of our challenges was that schools were running a very limited day and we were unable to get our marketing out to families and to be in the playground to spread the word.

To spread the word we were reliant on schools emailing and encouraging parents to book through our new booking system. Our preference would have been to meet parents but that was not possible.

We were able to use our contacts within each council, Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight, including Children Services, Family Support Services and the good support of each of the Directors of Children's Services in the four Local Authorities.

Social Media

With no face to face contact we were reliant on locally recruited staff to promote and advertise via social media. This year we had a much stronger, improved presence on social media.



TOTAL REACH

171,650

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT

27,683



TOTAL REACH

965

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT

482

"What a fantastic day. We both had a lovely day. Can't believe it's free! Will definitely be telling others." **Nikki**

Facebook Posts



Family Fun Day Venues

Our ethos is that delivery of our programme had to be more than 'just a sticking plaster'. Our aim is to create a legacy and with the Family Fun Days there were learning elements embedded throughout.

The timetable enabled families to experience a wide range of activities every day: cooking (and being able to take the food home for later), physical activity, wellbeing sessions, English, maths, and arts and crafts. 28 venues were used. To ensure facilities met the standards we required, all venues were visited, health and safety checks completed and Covid-19 risk assessment put in place. All venues and childcare providers signed a Memorandum of Understanding which included our delivery expectations.

Family Fun Day programme

With our expertise in community development this is where we knew we could make the greatest difference; parents being with their children and taking part in an exciting programme of fun and activities.

Each venue received:

- Venue Delivery Guide containing all legal documentation and how to deliver
- Covid-19 policy and procedures (continually updated)
- A range of marketing materials
- Initial large non-perishable food order
- Twice weekly fresh food deliveries
- Cleaning and sanitising products
- PPE and first aid supplies
- Craft supplies
- Sporting and activity equipment
- Activity Books , Passports, Postcards, Bubble Feedback Sheet
- Kitchen equipment
- Weekend bags every Friday for families
- Gazebos for outside delivery

Mentors routinely visited each venue to support the staff, ensure the programme was consistently delivered and most importantly, to talk to families and make these vital links that ensure a lasting impact.

Daily Timetable

TIME	RED GROUP	BLUE GROUP	GREEN GROUP
10.00 - 11.00	CRAFT	SPORT	COOKERY
15 MINUTES CLEANING			
11.15-12.00	SPORT	COOKERY	CRAFT
15 MINUTES CLEANING			
12.00 - 1.00	DAILY MILE & LUNCH		
15 MINUTES CLEANING			
1.00-1.45	SPECIALIST		
15 MINUTES CLEANING			
2.00-2.45	COOKERY	CRAFT	SPORT
2.45-3.00	SET STORY TIME		

West

The Romsey School, Romsey
Pavilion On The Park, Eastleigh
Itchen Valley Country Park, Eastleigh
Oakfield Junior School, Totton
Applemore College, Hythe
Itchen Sixth Form College, Southampton
Vigo Primary School, Andover
The Stanmore Centre, Winchester
Regents Park College, Southampton
Foundry Lane Primary School, Southampton

East

St Vincent College, Gosport
Alver Valley Junior School, Gosport
Portchester Community School, Portchester
Medina Primary School, Cosham
ARK Dickens Primary Academy, Portsmouth
ARK Charter Academy, Portsmouth
Cottage Grove Primary School, Portsmouth
Hayling Island Community Centre, Hayling Island
Park Community School, Havant
Weyford Primary School, Bordon
Alderwood Leisure Centre, Aldershot
The Grange Community Junior School, Farnborough
Cranford Park CE Primary School, Yateley
Westside Community Centre, Basingstoke
Popley Field Community Centre, Basingstoke

Isle of Wight

Oakfield Primary School, Ryde
Barton Primary School, Newport
The Bay CE Primary School, Newport

We were extremely pleased to deliver for the first time on the Isle of Wight. All staff and specialists resided on the Isle of Wight. Staff and families were very thankful that Connect4Summer was there.

28 VENUES

18 schools
3 colleges
5 community centres
1 leisure centre
1 country park



Family Fun Day Activities

Covid-19

Whenever possible, activities took place outside, Social Distancing was observed, good hand washing took place between each session and all equipment was cleaned down. The wearing of masks was introduced to all settings from the 10th August 2020, when inside.

Activity Book

This year we introduced an Activity Book for families to take home and use as a guide to be able to do the activity at home. It is a colourful, 64-page book, with recipes that were used for the meals at lunchtime and the cooking sessions. In addition, we filmed a cooking video for each recipe and uploaded it to our website www.connect4.org.uk so that the families could watch at home as well.

Make, Take and Freeze

Families spent 45 minutes each day with staff following a recipe to make something they were able to take home and eat as a family or freeze. Fresh ingredients were used throughout and the recipes were created by LACA National School Chef of the Year 2019 Steven Cross. His brief was to use fresh affordable ingredients from supermarkets, teaching cookery skill and ensuring it was attractive to children. The Activity Book contains a supermarket price comparison for families to use when carrying out their weekly budgeting and shopping.

Arts and Craft

Families created craft pieces to take home. All materials and instructions were provided and families had guidance from Playworkers.

Families who could not attend due to shielding were supplied with a craft and food pack to take part at home.

Sport

We created a programme of activities for everyone to enjoy. Team building, good old-fashioned games; cricket, rounders, aerobics and dance.

Daily Mile

Before lunch families walked the Daily Mile. Our aim was to encourage them to enjoy walking together. Everyone, including staff, took part each day.

Obesity/overweight Year 6 pupils

- 29% Portsmouth
- 25% Hampshire
- 29% Isle of Wight
- 36% Southampton

Specialist Time

Every venue had a different specialist to provide a learning experience each day. With the variety of specialists there was something for everyone. The specialists provided challenge, learning, introduction to new activities and fun. The variety and quality of these sessions was high and appreciated by parents. Children were captivated by the sessions.



"This programme was interesting for the kids. Both my kids enjoyed it and the staff were engaging the kids. They were friendly and helpful. Food they provided was healthy. My little one is learning how to eat independently." Saranya



"Really enjoyable and relaxing. I've always wanted to try yoga and now that you taught us at Connect4Summer I will definitely try to continue" Jane

Our Specialists



"One family in Basingstoke had 3 toddlers who weren't sure about getting involved and were shy but the parents got stuck in which helped with the flow of the session. By the end the little ones were happy to join in which was lovely. I really enjoyed this particular session!!"
Tara, mentor

"Very well organised. Made to feel really welcome. Great activities. Confidence building for my son." Jenny

Reading Time

At the end of a busy day there was nothing better than all gathering around to sit and listen to a story being read. The books were provided by the library local to each venue. They were loaned 100 books as part of the Big Summer Reading Challenge organised by the Library Service. Children were encouraged to take books home and read as many as possible during the summer in return for stickers and certificates. Working in partnership with libraries was key to being able to deliver this quiet time at the end of the day.

Friday Afternoon Special

What a great way to round up the week. Every Friday a professional entertainer came to each venue and it was heart-warming seeing families and staff laughing at the rabbit coming out of the hat, the pirate with the parrot and the endless scarf.

As families left they were all given enough food to be able to cook two meals at the weekend. Families were very appreciative of the Weekend Bags. We were able to provide these bags because of our partnership with FareShare. They provided us with the amount of food that we required at an extremely good price. Thank you NSPCC and Citizen Advice Bureau for your partnership and providing materials to give to parents. We introduced families to our new concept Community Pantries which are becoming established in different areas. It is our aim to move families from usage of community food banks to a more sustainable way of using pantries.

NSPCC



"I'm so impressed! What fantastic staff, so friendly, helpful and happy. The activities were brilliant and the lunch was lovely. Couldn't recommend more!" Emma

Food Glorious Food

This was one of the most important aspects when planning the programme. We wanted families to:

- Enjoy the food
- Sit, eat together and have conversations
- Be introduced to new tastes, vegetables and fruit
- Replicate the meals at home
- Learn how to make hot, tasty, nutritious meals
- Know where to find affordable food

Recipes were created by Steven Cross, Head Chef at Park Community School. Initially we thought that we might have to provide the programme virtually so Steven was filmed cooking the 30 recipes. These films can be viewed by families on www.connect4.org.uk and recipes can all be read in the Activity Book.



Steven Cross

Head Chef at Park Community School

Some venues were fortunate to have fully operational school kitchens but some only had domestic cooking set ups. All Chefs employed took great pride in getting the meals cooked and families enjoyed a great hot meal and pudding. Early on we were fortunate that Bidfood believed in our project and did everything possible to ensure we received deliveries of food twice a week in 28 venues. Bidfood were extremely flexible in their approach which made this much easier for us to manage. Thank you Bidfood.

We would also like to thank Premier Foods and Kraft Heinz who both donated their products free of charge which assisted us greatly with regard to the food budget that we were working within.



"It's a life saver because we have no other family and my partner works away. It is a struggle on my own and Connect4Summer helped me with my day." Archana

Holiday Child Care Providers

We provided grant funding to Holiday Childcare Providers (HCP) to allow access for free to those children receiving free school meals and with parents who were working. Each parent could book ten days of free childcare. We contracted 28 providers across Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight.

For families this proved extremely popular because their children had been at home for over three months and parents had been unable to work because of the lack of childcare and they were often not classed as keyworkers. It provided much needed structure to the children's lives which had been missing since March.

For providers it gave them certainty of income for the holiday, enabling them to bring back furloughed staff as they reached capacity. It gave providers the opportunity to make a difference with parents who ordinarily would have relied on friends/families but were now unable to do so because of shielding.

For families, it gave them the ability to work knowing their children were in a safe and caring environment, having lots of fun. On average this was a saving of between £25-£35 a day for families.

"I am a single parent with two children. My parents would normally look after my children when I worked but they have been shielding. I accessed 10 days childcare which allowed me to work for the first time in 3 months. Financially, this was amazing and now I can buy my children's school uniform. Thank you!"
Clare



"I love Connect4Summer. It is so fun, I have made new friends and the craft is enjoyable. Cooking is cool." Jack

West

The Romsey School, Romsey
 Mountbatten School, Romsey
 Pavilion On The Park, Eastleigh
 Oakfield Primary School, Totton
 Applemore College, Hythe
 YMCA, Millbrook
 Itchen College Sport Centre, Southampton
 Hamble Primary School, Southampton
 Vigo Primary School, Andover
 The Westgate School, Winchester
 John Keble CofE Primary School, Hursley

360 Degree Sports Coaching
 Personal Best Education
 360 Degree Sports Coaching
 New Forest Childcare
 CM Sports
 YMCA
 Itchen College
 Creative Kidz
 Creative Kidz
 Sportskool
 Sportskool



East

St Vincents College, Gosport
 Oak Meadow, Fareham
 Harrison Primary School, Fareham
 Highbury College, Fareham
 Charter Community Sports , Southsea
 Springwood Federation, Liss & Petersfield
 Mill Hill, Waterlooville
 Park Community School, Havant
 The Petersfield School, Petersfield
 St. Matthews CE Primary School, Liss
 Bordon Junior School, Bordon
 The Cambridge School, Aldershot
 Guillemont Junior School, Farnborough
 Fun House, Basingstoke
 The Everest School, Basingstoke

CM Sports
 Growing Places
 Activ8 Minds
 Activ8 Minds
 YMCA
 Activ8 Minds
 Growing Places
 Active Kids
 Activ8 Minds
 Activ8 Minds
 CM Sports
 Casa Clubs
 CM Sports
 Fun House
 Sport Extra

Isle of Wight

Winchester House, Shanklin
 St Mary's Nursery, Newport

YMCA
 YMCA

Holiday Child Care Feedback

"Over 10 years we have been running this business to get more children up and active and this allows those we may not usually see due to the cost of coming to our camps." **Sports Xtra**

"My kids love it! So much so that they asked if I could book them every day! I am ecstatic they have the opportunity to attend Connect4Summer. whilst I work." **Karly**

"I would like to say such a huge well done. My child has additional needs and we need to use your services. He has never had a successful day camp before. However, he loved it and wanted more. He was enthused. Spot on, two happy parents. Thank you." **360 Degree Sports Coaching**



"Connect4Summer means a great deal to SportSkool. We found it extremely rewarding and a big part of many things we stand for as a business, including inclusivity and allowing children a safe and fun environment to play and learn together." **Parents delighted their children are getting much needed fun and structure back in their lives. Sports Skool**

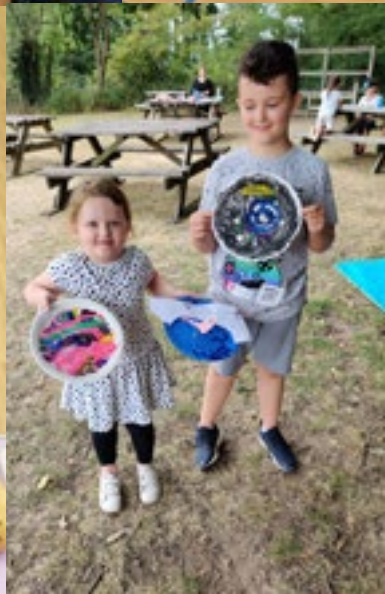
"It has been an amazing programme for both families and staff members. It's been led really well, and has received lots of positive feedback. I have been grateful to work with childcare and be given the chance to go back to work. I've loved working here" **Freya**



"Great fun, well organised and FREE! Definitely booking more days." **Michelle**

"Working for Connect4Summer was vital in helping me re-gain a sense of routine and sanity amongst the coronavirus pandemic. Seeing children back out and socialising, having fun and gaining friends has been really rewarding. I have thoroughly enjoyed helping create a fun environment for people this summer." **Emma**





Teen Programme

New for 2020 we introduced teen sessions especially for those aged 12-16. Teens could come along to a centre and attend for 3 days or just pick the day that they fancied. As with all the programmes it was completely free and included a hot meal. We were supported by Personal Best Education who supplied leaders and playworkers to assist the specialists with set up, support the young people and provide meals.

NEW FOR
2020

The three sessions were:

- Woodwork with Tux on Tuesdays
- Game design with Stuart on Wednesdays
- Graffiti art with James on Thursdays

Following this we can see there are other opportunities all year round to engage with teenagers. They enjoyed being treated as young adults and engaging in purposeful activities which provide work life skills which give opportunities for a window into employment. 100% of all attending fed back positively about their experiences and that they wanted it to continue throughout the year. This is not your typical youth type provision as it is skills focused.

The Mountbatten School, Romsey
YMCA Winchester House, Shanklin IOW
Itchen Sixth Form College, Southampton
Park Community School, Havant
YMCA, Basingstoke



"I've enjoyed all of the sessions because they have given me the confidence to make new friends and been very engaging" Keelie


Feedback

We collated feedback from postcards that parents completed. Children were each given passports. Every visit they described their day using three words and if they could, by writing some sentences. We also had a quick comment poster.



2000+
COMMENTS
RECEIVED







Name: _____

If you are happy for us to contact you please tick here ☐

Email: _____



Passport



NAME: _____

Connect with us!
CHILDREN
What **THREE** words would you use to describe your time at Connect4Summer?

PARENT/CARER
Please let us know what you thought about your time at Connect4Summer

From (Name): _____
Email address: _____
Telephone number: _____

I give consent to be contacted with future opportunities from Connect4Summer ☐

Words used by children to describe Connect4Summer:



"Fantastic day. Staff very friendly and attentive. Will definitely be coming back. Lots of activities throughout the day. My three children are very happy." Amy

Captured Memories

"I was able to speak to a parent crying at the gate. Mum was completely overwhelmed, it was the first time out of the house with the children. We could show we were doing everything possible to keep her safe and she became a regular." **Susan**

"I met a parent who said their child would not eat any vegetables at home but at meal time with us, they have eaten everything." **Sam**

Visiting the Isle of Wight, Jan spoke to an expectant mum who said that as the Covid-19 shutdown hit, her employer dismissed her with no notice. The family fun days were helping her keep the children fed and she was able to get support from other mums.
Jan will be helping in September with some adult courses for her.

"At a venue in Winchester a single parent was getting on two buses to come each day. They had been re-homed after a fire in their home. They were living where they knew no one and had very little money for food. Connect4Summer purchased bus passes so they could come daily. Dad was very appreciative." **Wendy**

Parent went to a school because she needed to register her child to start. Connect4Summer staff were there and said it is done online. Parent had no access to wifi so they made phone calls, then helped her register. This parent living in temporary accommodation then came daily to Family Fun Days. The meals and food bags were a lifeline to her.

"Connect4Summer is an amazing programme which has allowed me to interact with families that I otherwise wouldn't have met. The children and families have all come back more than once and praised the organisation with positive feedback. My oldest brother has worked as a part of our team and my youngest brother has attended most days, allowing us to spend quality time together."
Ashlea-Paige

"It has been brilliant! I feel so lucky to see children learning, playing and to be part of their summer. I think that it has been the perfect first job as a Junior Playworker, working with brilliant staff. It has been the highlight of my summer!" **Esme**

"The 2-course lunch is a fantastic bonus! Always yummy." **Sylvie**

'N' worked as a Playworker last year and this year stepped up to be a leader and delivered a very successful programme. 'N' commented that Connect4Summer had helped with her confidence and loved challenging herself. She also said how much she loved leading and providing support to her team.

"This was my first job, I was scared and did not know what to expect. I got lots of training and everyone helped me. I had such fun. On my college application I can say I have had a job and the skills I learnt. Best of all I earnt my own money. Thank you Connect4Summer."

Harvey

Connect4Summer employed a homeless person and helped place them in temporary accomodation

" I am 14 years old and in the holidays Mum works and I have to look after my two sisters. I don't mind but this year for 10 days they went to childcare and it meant I could attend the teen project. I had a great time, and so did they!"

Daniel

" I am the woodwork specialist. It was so rewarding after each session seeing the young people take their lamp home they made. They were so proud of their achievements and it is certainly something we should look to do more."

Tux

" I was so proud of the programme especially when I saw children aged 4 years doing chest compressions during the first aid session. What a skill to start passing on, something everyone should know."

Cheryl

"The response to the sewing has been very positive. The concentration on peoples faces and the drop in noise levels showed how everyone was engrossed in their designs and enjoying being creative with stitches. Parents as well as children surprised themselves with how much they enjoyed sewing and many found it relaxing. One parent commented that he was going to take it up at home. Many families asked for extra materials to take home with them so that they could continue their sewing at home as a new family activity. A great way to help calm little ones down before bedtime!"

Helen

"Builds confidence after months off school during lockdown." **Lily**

The Numbers

62,240
hours of free
childcare
provided

7500+
individuals
signed up

315
teenagers
attended
teen
projects

All attending
childcare were
FSM

3,400
weekend
bags given
out

2000+
feedback
comments
received

59 new
C4C Pantry
referrals

58
staff offered
interviews and
jobs after the
project

Families
attendance
average
8 days

"The children keep asking to come again!" Kim

2,800
families
registered
for FFD

15,000kg
grocery

**Over
60,000**
daily miles
completed

12,100kg
vegetables

650
hours of
specialist
activity

**Children from
450 different
schools
attended FFD**

112
hours of
professional
entertainment

648
volunteer
hours
provided

**Coverage
of the
project by
BBC South**

"Chefs are amazing and catered well for my needs." Sandra

What we achieved

Connect4Summer rose to the challenge presented by Covid-19 and succeeded in delivering an extended programme over the summer of 2019. In true British spirit we kept pushing forward.

The brand of Connect4Summer, reputation of both Community Managers and their schools carried this project forward.

Organisations and agencies that normally would work with us had closed their doors and were responding virtually or by telephone. This meant our teams were dealing with issues that we would normally have referred onto agencies but because of the type of family we work with they needed face-to-face resolution and our teams became the conduit between agencies and families.

Parents formed networks within their bubbles to support and communicate with each other with returning to the settings and in preparation for return to school.

- We introduced 7,000 to 'How to Save a Life' with First Aid introduction (Covid-19 edition) including children aged 4 years
- We opened up community buildings that had been closed and gave them much needed rent
- Schools used Connect4Summer to reunite with children and parents
- Children's fine motor skills developed through the craft activities and sewing
- Parents were able to communicate and support each other
- We raised the profile of the Isle of Wight and its needs
- We received over 2,000 written positive comments from families
- Our monitoring of the project was much improved and hence the quality of what we provided was upgraded on the year before

What we achieved:

- We kept over 7,600 children physically and mentally active and entertained over 4 weeks.
- 2,794 families were together enjoying themselves
- We supported families to create structure and routine in their lives
- We showed them how to cook on a budget and learn cooking skills
- Daily families had great food at lunchtime and then food to take home
- Cookery films were made available for families for reference Weekend bags given out
- Families have an Activity Book to keep as a reference
- We introduced families to 'How to Save a Life' with First Aid introduction - Covid-19 edition
- We employed 320 adults
- Reading, maths and science were embedded.
- We employed 112 students who gained practical work life skills in preparation for employment

Even better if...

- If we could have used more school premises the facilities would be larger and access to kitchens and cooking for families would change the experience we are able to offer
- If we could have accessed more parents face to face prior to the project
- If schools could have distributed our marketing more effectively
- If our partners had attended the venues as planned
- Covid-19 had not affected attendance and recruitment of families
- If this was a 3-year funded project
- If we could influence development at a national level
- If this was funded throughout the year in some form. Delivering this project in the way we do requires a lot of energy, motivation, communication, creation of structure, programme, ideas and partners for a project that lasts four weeks.
- Conversing with families we believe there is a need for delivering this type of project all year round to relieve strain on families.

And Finally...

Hopes and dreams for the future

We believe that we have raised the profile of the benefits of this project to councils, schools, agencies, partners and those that make the funding available.

Without a doubt we are extremely proud of what Connect4Summer teams and families achieved this year.

All the teams have worked extremely hard to be able to offer four weeks quality provision. We have entertained, fed, kept safe and taught skills to the most vulnerable, socially isolated and those with mental wellbeing issues. We have employed 420+ people of which 58 were unemployed, provided signposting and helped overcome the anxieties that Covid-19 has caused.

We maintain that this has been no 'sticking plaster' and in the fullness of time the impacts, benefits and legacy will be clear to see. We saw the benefit of this project on a daily basis. We believe the benefit to families would be maximised if we were able to deliver all year round during every holiday. This would link with the agenda on food poverty, wellbeing and also provide education and aspiration to the most vulnerable families.

Thank you to everyone who has made this happen. As they say there is no 'I' in 'Team' and it has been a great team effort. Everyone has worked incredibly hard, with tenacity and enthusiasm throughout..

Thank you to our Governing Bodies and Headteachers at both schools who enabled us to do this, the support of Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight Councils and to the Department for Education in awarding us this grant.

We saw the benefit of this project on a daily basis and we would certainly want to do it again. Keep safe everyone.

Best wishes

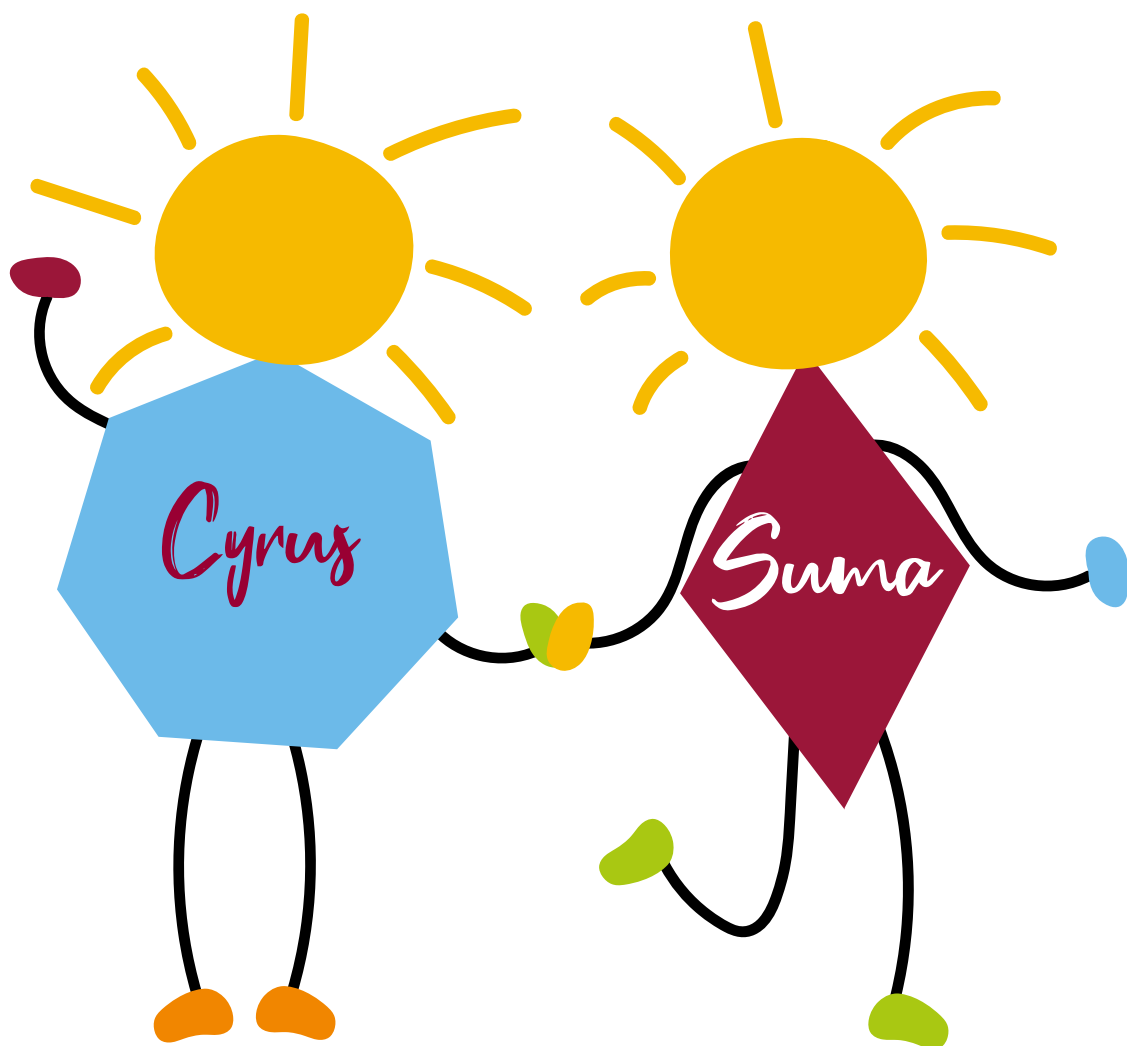
Jan and Susan



"I enjoyed how busy the day was and think it has been organised well with respect to social distancing." Jess



*Thanks for
reading!
See you next
summer!*



**Thank you to everyone that has supported
this programme you have been amazing!**

Thank you to all organisations that added value

Thank you to all staff, volunteers and centres

Thank you to both Governing Bodies and Headteachers
that gave us the freedom to fulfill our dream to do this

Thank you to the Department for Education
for granting us the funding

**Thank you most of all to
everyone who came**

Summer 2020 was amazing!

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