

DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS WEEK

8th June – 14th June 2009

26th March 2009

Dear Colleagues/Friends/Parents

I am writing to ask for your kind support in helping a very good cause.

Some of you may know, that in the last year, I have set up a speech and language group for children with Down Syndrome, which runs fortnightly on Saturdays in Gillingham. Currently we have 17 children regularly accessing this service. It is a vital service to help develop the communication and speech and language skills of people with Down Syndrome. Parents pay for the sessions, but we also need funds to help support and maintain the group. I have a young child with Down Syndrome who also accesses this speech and language group.

The group has families coming from the boroughs of Tonbridge and Malling, Dartford, Maidstone, Medway, Ashford, Shepway, Swale and Meopham - so it is across the board - both Kent and Medway!

[This year, during the week of 8-14 June 09, will be Down Syndrome Awareness week.](#)

I am truly hoping that you and your schools will be able to support our speech group by helping to raise funds during this week as well as raise awareness about people with Down Syndrome.

The event is called **Up for Reading** and it involves getting sponsorship for reading and is a wonderful way to support and promote literacy skills in young people.

50% of funds raised would go to Down Syndrome Education International registered charity no. 1062823 and the other 50% raised would also go to Down Syndrome Medway (which is affiliated to the Down Syndrome Association) to help support this local speech group. **It is really important that should you or your school/nursery kindly take part then you would send 50% of the funds made payable directly to the "Down Syndrome Education International" and 50% separately made payable to "Down Syndrome Medway" c/o Jas Notay, 40 Oakleigh Close, Walderslade, ME5 9EW for me to pass onto the group's Treasurer. All funds must be collected by the end of June 09 if possible please.**

I truly believe that this is a fabulous opportunity for your school, nursery or playgroup as well as you individually, to be able to take part in supporting such a good cause and at the same time raise awareness of Down Syndrome.

I am writing now to give you all time to take this request forward to your respective learning centres and help me raise funds for our group. All information on how you or your schools/nurseries/playgroups can take part can be found on www.up-for-reading.org. You can get all the information, fundraising packs and sponsorship forms directly from the website.

Once you have had time to consider this request please confirm your details by end of May 09 to my email address: jasnotay@hotmail.co.uk whether you, your school or nursery will take part for my records.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you very much for your support with this.

Kindest regards and best wishes,

Jas Notay
Parent Co-ordinator of Medway Speech Group

NB. (Down Syndrome Medway is a support group affiliated to the Down Syndrome Association)