



2024/25 Programme

# Welcome!

Welcome to DHEC Hub or just 'The Hub' as we affectionately call ourselves! The hub started informally in July 2022 by Una, home ed mum of 3, under the name 'Spennymoor Home Ed Hub'. We started by providing a monthly arts and crafts meet for home ed children. Play Club was founded shortly after that and by 2023 we began developing successful community partnerships with various local organisations. The 2023/24 academic year saw enormous growth for the hub and we welcomed a large number of new families. In 2024, our focus has been settling in at Merryoaks Community Hall and Tudhoe Community Centre, leaving behind our original venue in Spennymoor. The move has allowed the hub to grow and flourish even more and we look forward to working with our venue partners more in the coming school year.

## What can you expect from the hub in 2024/25?

- New education providers
- More groups on offer for 9-14 year olds
- A formalised parent volunteer programme
- Increased focus on progression pathways for the children
- Opportunities for parent peer support and idea sharing
- More family events for recognition and performance opportunities
- Enhanced leadership opportunities for older children

## During 2024/25, we will be working on development for 2025/26 and 2026/27 including:

- Development of a high quality drop off provision
- Co-Working space for parents with childcare available
- Developing links with exam centres and providers for our first KS3-4 children
- Learning opportunities for parents with our providers
- The Hub on Tour! Trips further afield in the UK and possibly abroad as well

## Message from Una

Thank you to all the parents who have supported me over the first two years of the hub. I didn't start the hub with a big plan. I wanted to home ed my own children and do it well. The hub has allowed me to do just that while also making new friendships for myself and my children. I will be forever grateful that you have all come for the ride. My hope is that the hub will provide a place of welcome, nurture and skills development for the children and in a way, the same for the adults. Welcome to 2024/25 at the hub. It's going to be a great one!

Una

New Member Enquiries: Una Jenkins [dhechub@outlook.com](mailto:dhechub@outlook.com) 07759 332 841

4-11

### **Multisport and Team Games**

£5, Mondays, Term Time, Merryoaks Community Hall, 10:30-11:30 (4-8), 11:30-12:30 (9+), Simply Sport

Across the year the children will take part in lots of multisport games as well as an introductory to team games. Depending on children's interest and capabilities, the coach will cover Football, Basketball, Rounders, Touch Rugby etc. We will end the year with the hub's first Sports Day in July 2025!

### **Dance, Gymnastics and Musical Theatre**

£5, Wednesdays, Term Time, 1:00-2:00pm, Merryoaks Community Hall, MK Youth

A new club for 2024/25, the children will do Dance and Drama until January with the option to add Musical Theatre at that point if there is enough interest in working towards the hub's first Home Ed Musical.

### **Turpentyne Art**

£9 a session paid in half term blocks, Wednesdays, Term Time, 1:30-2:30pm & 2:45-3:45pm, Merryoaks Community Hall

Mixed age primary session where each child works on their own individual project. Jenn will teach drawing and painting skills across a wide variety of mediums. The class is bespoke for each child, and is taught at their own pace. It includes cartooning as well as increasingly realistic illustration, and eventually realism and master studies. Artworks do not finish every session, but students will work on a project until it is done to the very best of their ability.

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### **KS3 Physics**

10:00-11:00am, Thursdays, Merryoaks Community Hall, Toni Holland from Little Sparks Science

£8 a session paid in half term blocks

11-14 Years. Small classes (8-12 children)

Join us each week as we learn about the world around us and how things work, getting hands-on with physics topics such as Forces and Motion, Energy, Electricity, Magnetism, Waves and Space. There will be plenty of opportunities to carry out practical experiments and develop children's experimental skills at the same time. These sessions are loosely based on the Science National Curriculum for KS3 and are led by an experienced Physics teacher, running in a small group to allow areas of particular interest to be covered in greater depth.

### **KS3 Biology**

11:30-12:30, Thursdays, Merryoaks Community Hall, Liz Knapper from Back Into Nature

£8 a session paid in half term blocks

11-14 Years. Small classes (8-12 children)

Join us as we delve into the study of living organisms big and small. Aimed at 11-14 years old and led by an experienced Biology teacher, these weekly sessions will loosely follow the KS3 national curriculum biology content, providing a strong foundation for KS4 study. As this is a smaller group, Liz will be able to cover years 7-9 in one year. We intend to continue in 2025/26 with a KS4 group including supporting you through the exam process as well. Topics to include: Cells, Food & Digestion, Muscles & Skeletons, Gas Exchange, Photosynthesis, Respiration, Ecological Relationships, Genetics and Inheritance.

11+

Weekly

## Little Sparks Science

£9-10, Second Fridays, Merryoaks Community Hall, 10:00-11:00 (8-12), 11:30-12:30 (4-8)

The 8+ Group (£10) will be completing their CREST Superstar Award. Across the Autumn Term and beyond, they will complete eight Superstar Activities and record these in their CREST Superstar passport. Each challenge involves solving a real-world problem, developing their investigative and teamwork skills. The younger group (£9) will be racing to Space for World Space week, stomping with dinosaurs, developing their engineer skills and much more!

## Meet The Masters Art Workshops

£18, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:00-12:00, Merryoaks Community Hall, Turpentyne Art

This school year we will be running a Meet The Masters theme for our monthly art workshops. Each month's project will be inspired by a Master artist and each session will incorporate a little art history as well. These monthly workshops have been running for a year at the hub and most of the children have now chosen to progress onto the weekly classes for this school year. We will continue making these progression routes available for the children.

## Waldorf Classes

£24, second Thursdays, Tudhoe Community Centre, 9:30-12:30 (5-9), 1:00-4:00 (9+)

Run by Anthea Stock, a teacher with over 20 years experience in Waldorf Education, these workshops engage the whole of the child, their head, heart and hands. Workshops for 5-9 year olds typically involve: movement, singing, skipping, bean bag exercises, french elastics, wet on wet painting, story, seasonal craft, games. Workshops for 9+ children are similar but age appropriate with movement exercises involving tennis balls or basic juggling. The story is often mythology based and the craft is more complex such as needle felting. The painting is more complex involving more form and colour blending. Form drawing is often also offered which is celtic knots and woven patterns.

## STEM Club

£5 per family, third Mondays, Merryoaks Community Hall, 4-10 Years, 12:30-2:00pm

STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) is run not for profit by a home ed parent. It inspires children to explore, create, and innovate using fun and engaging tools such as LEGO, K'NEX, Botley the Coding Robot, Snap Circuits electronics, board games, and more. At STEM Club, we facilitate an environment where families play together to nurture children's abilities in hands-on and interactive ways. We provide a space where kids and parents can develop essential STEM skills in a playful setting. Our sessions are flexible and self-directed, respecting children's agency to enhance their engagement. Parents stay with their children throughout the STEM Club sessions, learning side by side. Join us at our sessions to nurture your child's love for learning and creativity.

## **Playful Phonics**

£7.50, 3-8 years, 1st Mondays, 12:45-1:45, Merryoaks Community Hall, Fiddlesticks Education

Join us for a fun active phonics party. Each session will include a range of games, activities and story times focusing on 3 key letter sounds, developing letter recognition and blending skills ideal for pre readers. Includes a take home digital bundle of resource pieces which will build into a full phonics toolkit over multiple sessions. This group is aimed at our hub pre-readers up to struggling readers. Sessions will be fun, hands on and interactive and will provide a support to parents wishing to start their children off on their reading journey.

## **Nature Journalling**

£7, third Fridays, Merryoaks Community Hall, 8-12 Years, 12:45-1:45pm, Back Into Nature

Develop a closer connection with nature through a combination of art, writing and science. Nature journalling deepens observations, develops creativity and hones critical thinking skills. It also provides a wonderful opportunity to slow down, pay attention and experience the awe and wonder of the natural world. Aimed at 8-12yr olds, with accompanying adults very welcome to participate too! No artistic ability needed - this isn't an art class!

## **Archery**

£5, first Wednesdays, Merryoaks Community Hall, 4-11, 2:30-3:30pm, Kid's Archery Durham

Kids' Archery Durham offers archery classes for children of all ages in a safe and fun environment. Children are introduced to the sport by fully qualified and experienced coaches and can work towards badges and certificates at their own pace. Everyone starts off learning the basics of safety and technique using soft archery equipment and can then progress to using real arrows.

## **Workshops at Wharton Park & Hardwick Park**

£6, Hardwick or Wharton Park, fourth Tuesdays, two groups running simultaneously (4-7, 7-11)

This year we welcome a new partnership with the Parks and Countryside Team. September topics are below and future topics will be released throughout the year. September 24th is at Hardwick Park 12:30-2. October 22nd is at Wharton Park and November 26th is back at Hardwick Park. We will have a break for winter Dec-Feb and workshops will return in March.

### **EYFS & KS1 Minibeast Explorers**

Pupils learn about some of the mini-beasts that make their homes in Hardwick Park. They will be introduced to the idea of habitats and eco-systems, take part in a woodland minibeast hunt and try pond dipping activities. Full day participants will be given an opportunity to expand their knowledge and experience by learning about the important role that mini-beasts play in our eco-systems and how climate change is having an impact on this.

### **KS2 Park Protectors**

Did you know that five of the world's ten key climate change preventing species live in Hardwick Park?! As climate change impacts the entire world, discover those species that are putting up a fight in this ongoing battle for the future of the planet. Join us in the fight against climate change and help find the key to protecting the environment.

# Twice Monthly

## Nature Club

£7, 2nd & 4th Mondays, Merryoaks Community Hall, 12:45-1:45, Back Into Nature

Aimed at 3-7 year olds and their parents/carers, Nature Club is a celebration of the natural world as seen through the eyes of the child. Expect lots of play and exploration opportunities as we journey through a year in nature, observing and celebrating the different seasons and all that they bring.

# Every other month

## Play Club

£3.50, 2nd Tuesday every other month starting in October, Merryoaks Community Hall, 1-3pm

Play Club started in 2022 thanks to funding from The Lego Foundation through Change X and has continued to grow thanks to funding from PlayWorks. Play Club has recently moved to Merryoaks Community Hall where we are able to utilise the Main Hall for our larger resources, the smaller multipurpose room as a quiet room when needed and the enclosed grassy area as well. We also used Play Club to launch our Play Leaders scheme for 9-11 year olds in early 2024. During Play Club children spend the first half in free play and for the second half children are guided through games with our Play Leaders (renamed Youth Leaders for 2024/25).

## Ceilis

£5 single child or £8 per family, every other second Friday starting November 15th, Merryoaks Community Hall, 2:00-3:30, Tyneside Irish Dance Ceili Club is run by Derianna Thomas from Tyneside Irish Dance. As well as Ceili Club at the hub, Derianna teaches Festival-style Irish Dance classes in the North East of England for all ages, no matter your skill or experience. Tyneside Irish Dance believes Irish Dance should be fun and accessible, with a space free of competition that focuses on community and learning. Ceili Club incorporates dances from Ireland, Scotland, Wales and beyond. Our Ceili's are an opportunity for our community to come together and have some fun a couple of times a term!

## **Autumn Events:**

Tues 24th Sept, Hardwick Park, Parks & Countryside Team

Tues 15th Oct, Nature Detectives, Wear Rivers Trust

Tues 22nd Oct, Wharton Park, Parks & Countryside Team

Thurs 24th Oct. Woodland Field Trip, Wear Rivers Trust

Mon 28th Oct First World War, Durham University Library & Collections

Thurs 31st Oct, Real Stories Real Lives, The Story

Tues 5th Nov, Monsters and Myths, Padraig's Educational Adventures

Fri 15th Nov, Autumn Ceili, Tyneside Irish Dance

Tues 19th Nov, Pugins Pupils, Ushaw College

Tuesday 26th November Hardwick Park

Saturday 14th December Nativity

Tuesday 17th December Yuletide Tales

Friday 20th December Panto Trip to the Gala

Event Details and booking released on social media closer to the time or on enquiry.

## **New Member Enquiries:**

Una Jenkins

dhechub@outlook.com

07759 332 841