



January - April 2025

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 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 introduction to team games. In the Autumn Term we have covered Football and Basketball. In the Spring, we will do Touch Rugby and Badminton and plan to do Rounders and Athletics in the Summer Term. We will end the year with the hub's first Sports Day in July!

Dance and Gymnastics

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

Dance and Gymnastics will continue to alternate through the Spring Term. Please see the hub timetable for when each club is running. The children will be working towards our first Showcase in July. The gymnastics children may also begin to work towards badges if they would like to.

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.



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, Toni Holland from Little Sparks Science

£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. Topics to include: Cells, Food & Digestion, Muscles & Skeletons, Gas Exchange, Photosynthesis, Respiration, Ecological Relationships, Genetics and Inheritance.

11+

Weekly

Little Sparks Science

£9-10, 2nd Fridays, Merryoaks Community Hall, 10:00-11:00 & 1:00-2:00 (7-11), 11:30-12:30 (4-8)

The 7+ Group (£10) will be completing their CREST Superstar Award. During the Spring term the children will continue to complete their 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 participating in all sorts of exciting hands on activities.

Meet The Masters Art Workshops

£18, 1st, 2nd 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, 2nd 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, 3rd 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.

Archery

£4.50, 1st Wednesdays, Merryoaks Community Hall, 4-11, 2:15-3:00pm and 3:00-3:45pm, 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.

Playful Phonics

£7.50, 3-8 years, 1st Mondays, 12:35-1:35, 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 early 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, 3rd Fridays, Merryoaks Community Hall, 8-12 Years, 12:45-1:45pm, Toni Holland from Little Sparks Science

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!

Nature Club

£7, 2nd Mondays, Merryoaks Community Hall, 12:45-1:45, Toni Holland from Little Sparks Science

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. We plan to develop Nature Club in 2025 to include community gardening at Merryoaks and more. Watch this space!

Forest Ed

£25, 4th Thursdays, Haystax Inclusive Farm, 7+, 10:00-2:00, Nikki Noo Noos

Enjoy an educational woodland experience with Nikki Noo Noo and her team (at least 2 trained Forest Leaders on site). Lots of learning opportunities to suit different ages, abilities and interests including Wild Passport skills if desired. Parents are welcome to stay onsite until your child is content and confident with us and the site but once comfortable, you can drop off. Nikki has recently installed a brand new space to protect the children and team from the elements and store resources as well as for doing daily activities.

Many of our weekly and monthly classes are full with a waiting list. If you are interested in getting involved in any of our classes, the first step is to contact Una Jenkins

dhechub@outlook.com

07759 332 841

Inspiring Architecture

£8, Tuesday January 14th, 1-4pm, 7+, Ushaw Historic House, Chapel & Gardens, Woodland Rd, Durham DH7 9RH

Get hands on making your own architectural structures in an inspirational setting. Explore Ushaw's stunning architecture in a half day hands on workshop where we will be designing and working to briefs celebrating archways and stained glass windows.

Ceilis

£5 single child/£8 per family, Fridays 17th January & 21st March, 2:00-3:30, Merryoaks, 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!

Lighting & Sound Tours

£10, Tuesday January 21st, 10-11:30 (11+), 1-2:30 (7-11), Gala Theatre, 1 Millennium Place, Durham DH1 1WA

Come and find out how important lighting and sound are to making a production. Find out how this works at Gala with our fantastic in house tech team who will show you some behind the scenes secrets and answer any questions you may have.

Real Lives, Real Stories

£6, Friday 7th February 1-2:30pm, 7-11 Years, The Story, Mount Oswald, South Road, Durham DH1 3TQ

Pupils will use the skills and techniques of historians to explore archives and objects to piece together the lives of six First World War soldiers, including George Roberts, a teacher from Chester-le-Street, who wrote back to his class, telling them about his experiences and James Birch, a vicar from Darlington who served as a chaplain and kept a diary illustrated with his own sketches.

Play Clubs

£3.50, Tuesdays 11th February and 8th April, 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. We have use of the main hall for active games and the smaller room for crafts, lego and other quieter activities. The first half of the session is free play and for the second half of the session, children are guided through games with our 9-11 year old Youth Leaders.

The Baddies

£11, Thursday 27th February, 1:30-2:30, Gala Theatre, 1 Millennium Place, Durham DH1 1WA

Meet the very worst Baddies in the world! Don't you dare to come too close to a witch, a troll and an ancient ghost! The Baddies love being bad. They roar, spook and cast wicked spells to try and scare a girl out of her wits...who will succeed? Or perhaps the girl is braver than they think. With songs by Joe Stilgoe (Zog and Zog and The Flying Doctors), The Baddies is a wickedly hilarious adaptation of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's smash-hit story. A laugh-out-loud riot for all the family.

Map It Out

£7, Tuesday 25th March, 12:30-2:00, 4-7, Wharton Park, 10 Princes St, Durham DH1 4FJ, Parks & Countryside Team

From the whole universe to the details of one room we can map it out! Together we will navigate our way through directions, human and physical features, simple keys and creating maps. Look over Durham City and what is around us within Wharton Park to see a sense of scale and perspective. Discover the possibilities for curious minds as we explore the world of maps.

There Is No Planet B

£7, Tuesday 25th March, 12:30-2:00, 7-11, Wharton Park, 10 Princes St, Durham DH1 4FJ, Parks & Countryside Team

The Climate Change emergency is here and very real! Join us as we battle it out to explore key environmental issues that affect County Durham's countryside. It's time to think global act local! Packed with practical hands-on activities that encourage discussion, teamwork and problem solving. Challenges will focus on the impact humans are having on our environment and how we can be part of the solution to allow nature to restore itself. Let's be part of team 'Save Planet A'!

STEAM Ahead

£30, Monday 14th April, 9:00-3:00, 7-14, Tudhoe Community Centre, St David's Close, Tudhoe, Co. Durham. DL16 6TA

A brand new partnership for 2025, we are excited to welcome STEAM Ahead to Tudhoe to run a fantastic day of activities for the hub. In the first half of the day, the children will create their own vacuum formed chocolate, first using food safe plasticine to make various designs for their chocolate moulds. These designs are vacuum formed using desktop vacuum formers. Children melt their chocolate, adding to their moulds, before experimenting with various toppings. The second half of the day will involve making compressed air rockets. Children will produce a number of designs, completing a selection of challenges from these such as hitting a specific target.

Hansel & Gretel

£9, Saturday 19th April, 2:00. Gala Theatre, 1 Millennium Place, Durham DH1 1WA

Come on an enchanting adventure in Northern Ballet's brand-new children's ballet Hansel & Gretel. In this reimagined classic, Hansel and Gretel take a walk through the woods, unaware of the damage they leave behind. But when they get lost, they meet a host of spirited friends who teach them how we can all better look after the planet - and have some fun along the way! Northern Ballet's magical ballets for children bring much-loved fairy tales to life with bold sets, bright costumes and brilliant live music and dance - the perfect way for you and your child to experience the wonder of ballet together.

Anglo Saxons & Vikings

£9, Friday 25th April, 9:30-12:00, 7-11, Tudhoe Community Centre, St David's Close, Tudhoe, Co. Durham. DL16 6TA, Durham University Library and Collections

We continue our history days with a session on Anglo Saxons and Vikings. The children will become mini archaeologists through object handling investigations, gaining key historical enquiry skills. Activities will vary on the day but may include learning about the life of an Anglo Saxon monk, looking at a facsimile of the Lindisfarne Gospels and trying their hand at creating their own Gospel page using a quill pen, looking at kennings (Viking poetry) and trying to write their own, examining examples of rune stones, playing Viking games and much more!

Stormy Weather!

£7, Tuesday 29th April, 12:30-2:00, 4-7, Wharton Park, 10 Princes St, Durham DH1 4FJ, Parks & Countryside Team

The Percy the Park Keeper classic tales give children a timeless introduction to nature. Through the story, children can access and explore the impact climate change has on our environment with increasing stormy weather. Join Percy for a treasure hunt after the storm. Follow clues to discover what has happened to the park and animals, getting hands on with ways in which we can help.

Map Skills & Orienteering

£7, Tuesday 29th April, 12:30-2:00, 7-11, Wharton Park, 10 Princes St, Durham DH1 4FJ, Parks & Countryside Team

Exactly what it says on the tin! This workshop is an energetic introduction to orienteering. Pupils play games and take part in activities which build their mapping skills and introduce the core foundation of orienteering. They then go on our simple orienteering course to develop their map reading confidence.