

Lincluden After School Group



COVID-19

Our Story so far



"On Friday 20th March 2020 First Minister Nicola Sturgeon made the decision to close all the schools in Scotland to help combat the outbreak of the Coronavirus. As an Out of School Care provider this announcement came as a worry to the service, or so I thought! Our first thoughts did not go to closing the service our thoughts went to straight to what can we do to help support our most vulnerable families particularly those with children who have additional support needs and or disabilities. Starting the 6th week of lockdown I can say as a key service provider that I am immensely proud of my staff team. They continue to give 110% to our children. They come to work every day, putting their own lives and the lives of their families at risk, with a smile, never moan and never saying they can't do it anymore."

The "normality" and calm they are providing these children with cannot be described in words but should be commended."

Kathleen Procter
Manager



STAFF MORALE



"Worried sick at the start but ok now"

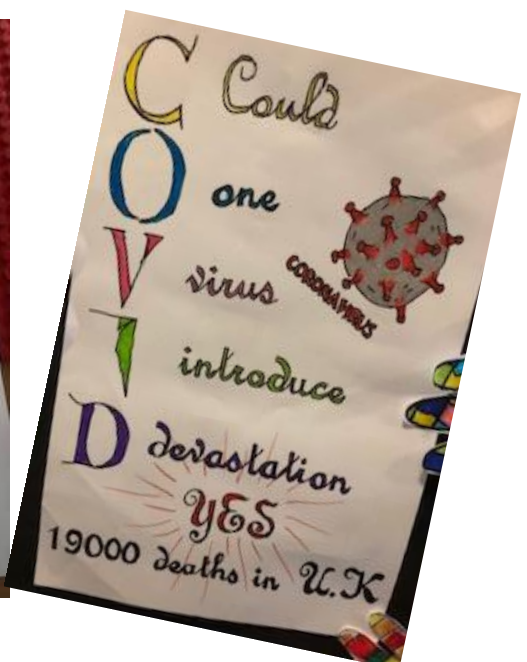
"We are just taking everything in our stride"

"Just getting on with our jobs as we now the parents need us"

"Laughter and Humour get us through the week"

"The kids make it all worth it"

What the virus means to staff





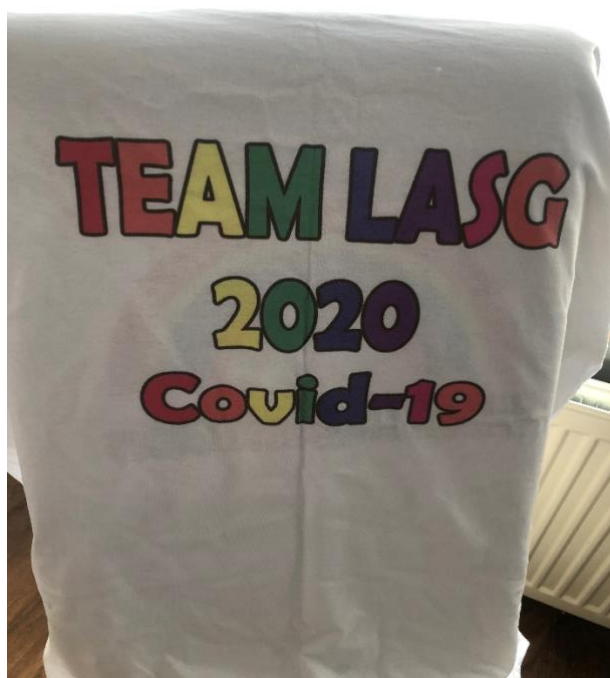
FURLOUGHED STAFF MEMBER

"I couldn't help but feel that I should be helping but I was so grateful that I could be furloughed to look after my two young children when my childcare provider closed. My partner needs to work as he works for Tesco"

"It means I know my kids are safe and also gives me time with my family at home trying to get through these tough times."

SHEILDING PREGNANT STAFF MEMBER

"I have felt very isolated on my own and scared to leave the home as I am pregnant and have diabetes. I feel I can't get excited about the birth of my baby because of all the fear I have. My partner will only be allowed to stay for an hour after the birth and we will not enjoy her homecoming as she won't be able to meet anyone. The thought of going into hospital to give birth is giving me so much anxiety and panic"





KIDS MORALE



Extremely Normal Service so far just like it's the Summer Holidays

Kids are:

- Upbeat
- Next to no mention of virus
- Washing hands like pros now
- Tired sometimes – staying up all night
 - Eating and drinking lots
 - Generally happy
 - Laughing
- Taking it all in their stride
- Happy go Lucky Kid Angry now



Our kids are Superstars



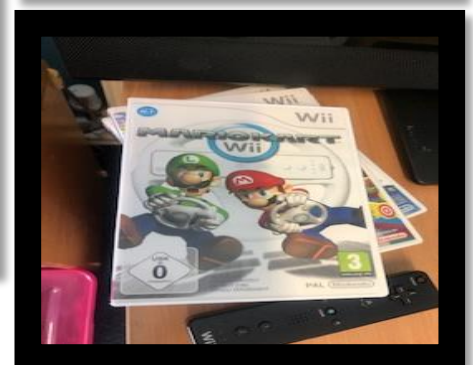
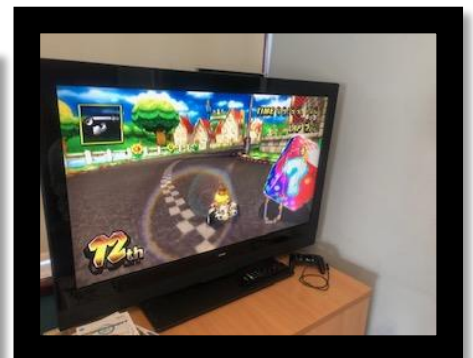
Phillip loving the Hand Gel we are using

According to him it smells like “cucumber”

But Lacey refutes that as she thinks it smells like “Cabbage”

Tory at the start of the lockdown found an interest for the First time ever in playing the Wii. With lots of praise, encouragement and support from staff she has now gone from doing 1 lap of Mario Kart in 1 hour to 3 laps in just under 10 minutes,

What a star! Well done Tory!

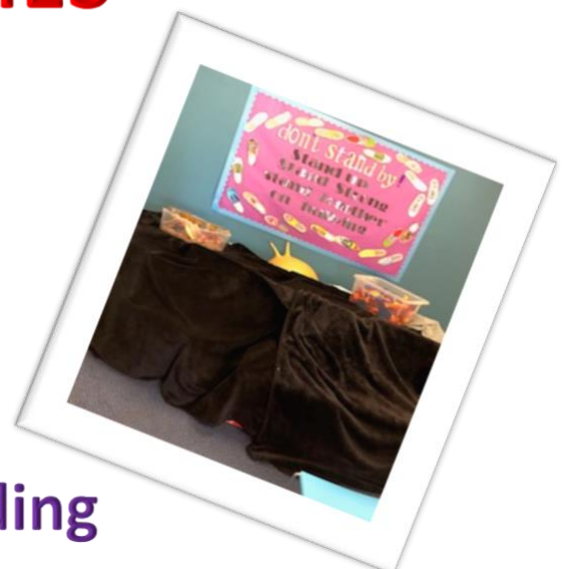
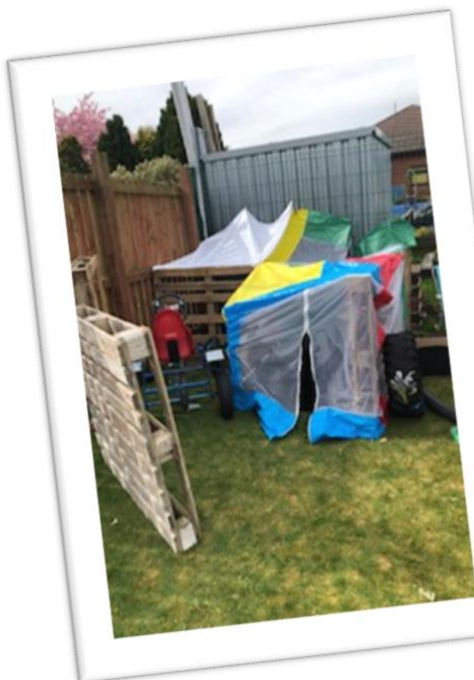


Lacey wanted to do some Junk Modelling and this lovely Aquarium was the result.

Great what a few bits of Junk can produce. Well Done Lacey



ACTIVITIES



Den Building
Outside & Inside

Tyre & Reel Painting



Taking our pens for a walk



Some art work of taking our pens for a walk from the children and staff showing we are in it together but all different therefore we all coping in our own ways.



POGO STICKS – Lacey can now do over 50 continuous jumps not bad for only being able to 1.



Although she cant beat Jayla yet as she's the Queen !

Other Activites Include;

Board Games, **Jigsaws,** **Construction,**
Baking, **Plaster Paris Model making,**

Marble Run

Uno , Dos,

Arts & Crafts

and much more



PARENTS COMMENTS

What does the Service Being Open Mean for you?

"It means the World. I just don't know what we would do without it."

"Ryan needs this so much and so do I. We both would have gone insane if we couldn't access the service"

Danielle – Single parent of child with ASN

"It means the World to us, we are very, very humbled to have this service at this very scary time in our lives. We can't thank LASG enough and Social services for letting us access this service. It's a risk worth taking for us with the danger that surrounds us."

"If we did not have this service our household would be in turmoil. Tory can be a very demanding child at times and needs a routine to thrive and function daily. So we are very grateful to LASG for its service as we would be a family in great turmoil at this time in our lives."

Loretta – Parent of child with ASN

"My Disabled son attends LASG and has done for some time now. I also have several other children at home besides hi. If it wasn't for Kathleen and her staff team providing additional care at this time I wouldn't be well. With the schools being closed I cannot do with them."

"My son needs routines and without having LASG he becomes very angry, stressed and very, very anxious. It also provides me with much needed respite and enables me to give time to my other children. They all do an amazing job which is difficult at the best of times but more so in the situation we find ourselves in. Personally and I am so glad they are open and they need to stay open no matter how long it will be to help not only myself but other families in similar situations"

Claire – mum of child with ASN/Disabilities

"Lincluden After School Group remaining open has been a lifeline for those families who have not met the criteria for their children to attend school hubs but who need to access childcare during this difficult time. Having the service open has enabled parents to continue working in the food industry, NHS and provided Safety and security for those children with ASN who really struggle when there is a change to their routine. The staff have gone above and beyond to safely accommodate as many children as possible with all their different needs. As a Social Work assistant I want to say Thank you. We are Grateful for the service they provide"

Kyla – Social Work Assistant Dumfries & Galloway Council

"My son and I totally love the service, everyone is so professional and polite and we are extremely grateful for them at this scary and unsettling time"

Clean, Clean, Clean

Staff are ensuring that not only hands are cleaned regularly but all the toys including the outdoor ones and also not forgetting handles surfaces etc as well as providing tissues and hand gel throughout sessions.



Chairperson Comment

“I have been involved with LASG for over 21 years. We together have weathered many a storm that being part of the Third Sector can bring. My manger Kathleen continuously strives with grit and determination to provide as good a service as she and her staff possibly can for all our families. This scary and unexpected time is proving no different as they come to work faithfully each day, full of good humour and laughs to ensure as much normality for our children as possible. Our families are vulnerable, even more so at a time when everything is in turmoil and routines and structures have gone out the window. The team at LASG are going above and beyond what is expected of them during such a terrifying and daunting time. I take great pride in being Chairperson of such a fab organisation and in the benefits it provides to our community and families. Without the dedication and commitment of Kathleen and her staff team the service would not be in the place it is today”

Laura West

Chairperson

UPDATE JUNE 2020

“We were unsuccessful in a bid to the Third Sector Resilience Fun but managed to secure money through the Scottish Government Wellbeing Fund:

<https://www.gov.scot/news/supporting-mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

We also managed to get the £10,000 small business grant.

The service has also been able to provide care for children with ASN that the hubs weren't able to accommodate- staff have taken time to get acquainted with these children.

It's given me so much peace of mind now that I am less stressed worrying about 10 jobs and the survival of the group. I'm so proud of my team I can't actually put it into words.

#WeCanGetThroughThisTogether”

Kathleen Procter, Lincluden ASC Manager