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Merry Christmas from the Jungle!

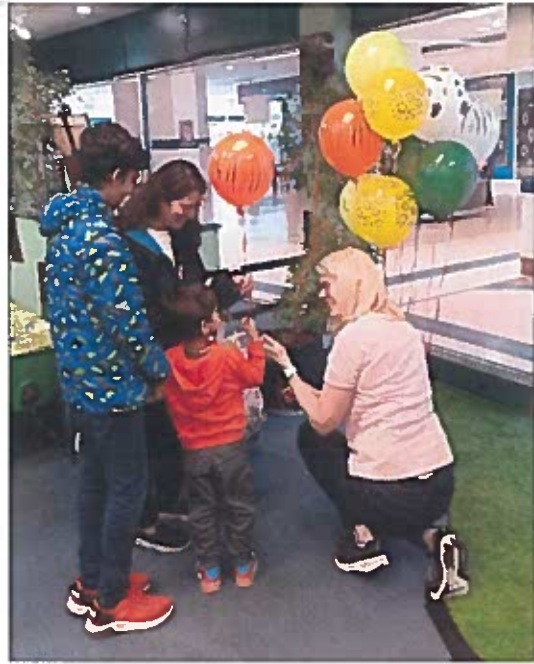
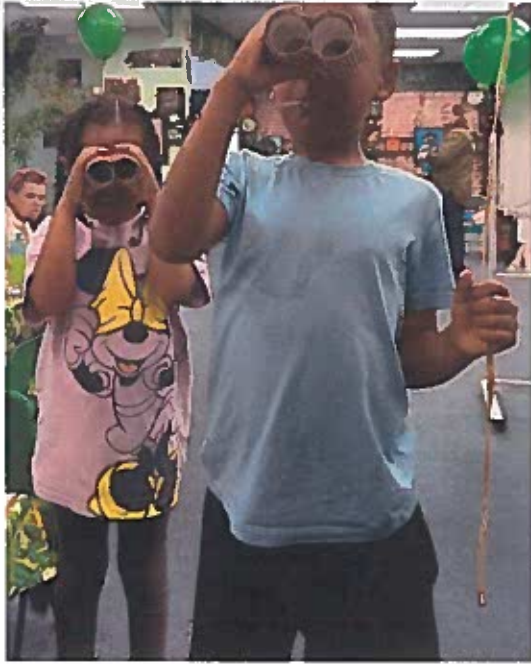
Jungle Opening

We held our grand opening during the last week in October with events each day and a party celebration on Saturday. It was so much fun!! We had story time, crafts, dancing, a harpist came to play, and a professional storyteller took the children on a jungle safari! At the celebration on Saturday, there were balloons, games, snacks, candy, prizes, crafts and everyone had so much fun! Many children came every day. I said to one father that it was nice to see him again. He said he had no choice because his daughter was determined to come every day!. Thank you so much for praying for these events. They were a huge success!

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Sad News

Our team mate, Jenny, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on November 13. She entered the hospital late on Thursday and died in the early hours of Sunday morning. Her parents arrived from America on Sunday morning, but sadly didn't arrive in time to see her. Those were traumatic and incredibly difficult days for all of us, but none more so than her parents. Lola and Anthony, the head of One Collective UK, helped to walk them through all of the things that needed to be done. Miraculously, they were able to fly home with her ashes less than a week later. Jenny was 43.

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Story Time and Senior Social

We have gradually been returning our focus to moving forward with events at the Jungle. Every Tuesday and Thursday morning we host story time. This has been a wonderful time of getting to know some children and their parents/carers. Several of them come every week and many of them came to our Jungle opening. We usually read three books from the story throne (depending on attention span!) and then the children will often go to the craft table where we always have coloring pages, markers, crayons and colored pencils. This table is a permanent fixture and many children come in at other times just to color.

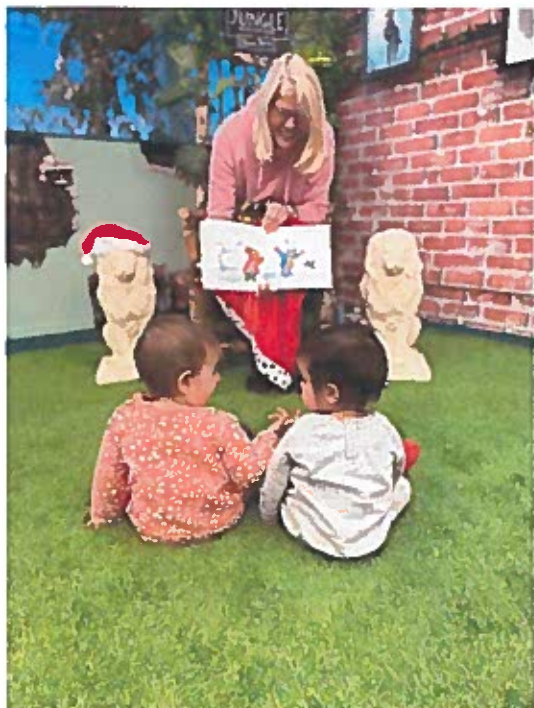
On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, we host a time for older people to come and have a cup of tea and a chat. This hasn't been as well attended as we'd hoped, but we have had some guests. On our very first day, a man came in and warily accepted a cup of tea. He sat down and started chatting to Peter (he and his wife Lisa are team mates). At some point in the conversation, the man said he was from Budapest, Hungary. Peter then started chatting to him in Hungarian - Peter's father was also from Budapest! Another man came in who has worked on a cattle farm for many years. He seemed very strong and weather hardened, and also very lonely. He sat down with a cup of tea and immediately started sharing about a tragedy in his life. By the time he left, he was encouraged and said he wanted to come again.

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we move forward in the plans God has for the Jungle as a community space.



To keep up with what's going on at Jungle, follow us on Facebook!

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Thank you so much for your prayers, financial partnership and your love.
I'm so grateful to have you on this journey with me!

I wish you joy, health and great blessing in 2023!

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Beverly Visser
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