

## Oakdene Remembers 22/05/2017



Oakdene have spent the last week thinking about the tragic events of last year at The Manchester Arena and they wanted to commemorate the 22 lives lost. Each of the teams made their own version of The Manchester Bee. One of our parents, Jill will be singing in The One Voice Choir in Albert Square. Thanks to our senior Louise for inspiring us to get creative.



## Oakdene News

### Sign Buddies

Loretta, Nat and their support worker Caroline, as their sign buddy, have been attending a sign group over the last 6 weeks organised by the Speech and Language Therapy team. This is held at Manchester Metropolitan University and it's a really friendly group enabling people with learning disabilities to come together to improve their skills in sign language. We have covered different topics each week and have learned how to introduce each other, signs for health, animals, the weather and lots more. And the great thing is we go out for our lunch after the sessions. At our last session we voted on a fun activity, and we voted to go bowling at Parrs Wood. Everyone had a great time.

Signing is a visual language that uses hand shapes, facial expression, gestures and body language. Because of the benefits of learning sign we have decided to start our own sign language sessions at Oakdene. This will be led by Loretta, Nat and Caroline. Judith, a speech and language assistant, is coming to help us put our working agreement together. The sessions will include sign bingo, sign of the week, A-Z and many other topics. If you have any specific signs that you would like to learn, let us know and we will add them to our sessions.

## Silverdene News

### Easter Fun at Silverdene

**For Easter residents at Silverdene had an idea to raise money for Manchester Dogs Home by having a fun day which included games, cake sales, a raffle and our fantastic residents all dressed up as the Easter Bunny. The day was a great success totalling £266.50 raised all together!**

Silverdene would like to say a big thank you to Samantha Skelton for her generous donation of £400 that she raised doing a sponsored run. Silverdene used the funds for trips out to Blackpool, the barge and the rest of the funds were used towards our royal wedding garden party. The people we support were over the moon that Samantha thought of them when doing the sponsored run, they've had a fantastic time. A big thank you to Samantha from them.

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Great news for Vestacare

We have all been waiting for news of the opening of Paul Murphy Centre, our short breaks service.

Our application to register with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) was approved on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

A number of people have made bookings and we are looking forward to welcoming people through the doors of Paul Murphy

**Staying Connected with Nourish**

Vestacare is introducing electronic care planning, replacing our paper based records with Nourish, a smart care system which will help our staff teams record, report and co-ordinate care on-the-go via smart phones. This will result in time saved, simplified administration and an improved quality of care, as our teams will have more time to spend with people we support every day.



**Royal Wedding Celebrations**



Silverdene and Oakdene had a great day celebrating the Royal wedding. Inside and outside were decorated with bunting, flags lots of food and of course Harry and Meghan face masks. The weather was beautiful and if there's a celebration to be had Vestacare always gets involved!





Vestacare staff, the people we support, families and carers collected warm clothes to donate to homeless people over the Christmas period.

With our vans full to the brim Silverdene delivered their collection of coats, hats and scarves to FC United on Christmas Day.

Oakdene delivered warm underwear, gloves and coats in the van to the drop off point to the Apostles Church in Ancoats to be handed out to the homeless on the 23rd December.

Julie Partington, one of our dedicated members of staff, who made the arrangements for the collection at Oakdene said she was, “entirely overwhelmed with the generous donations”, feeling that it would have made a lot of homeless people warm over Christmas.

Our directors donated £500 to supplement our collection with extra items to make sure that as many people as possible could benefit from extra support over the Christmas season.



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