

Music Bugs saddles up for charity during Royal Ascot Week

Submitted by: Peekaboo Communications

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6 May 2009 – Music Bugs (<http://www.musicbugs.co.uk>), the fun, lively music classes for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers, will be getting into the saddle during Royal Ascot Race Week (<http://www.ascot.co.uk/royal/royal09.html>) (16 – 20 June 2009) by holding special horsey themed classes to help raise money for Horse Power (<http://www.racehorsesgreatwood.org/horse-power.html>), a charity that brings together rehabilitated ex-racehorses and children with special needs.

The classes will include plenty of horsey songs and rhymes, while wearable hobby horses will be provided for children to gallop about in. Other activities on offer will range from a sponsored toddler trot, raffles, a race day hats parade and horsey-themed arts and crafts*. Rosettes will be on sale, the proceeds of which will go to the charity.

Horse Power is a programme run by Greatwood, a charity that rehabilitates ex-racehorses. It helps children with special needs – many of whom are fostered or have suffered abuse – to build confidence, communicate or be affectionate, often for the first time in their lives.

“Music Bugs is all about having fun, letting kids be kids and learning through play. Yet not every child is as lucky as those who we see at our classes. By supporting Greatwood’s Horse Power programme, we hope to help more children rediscover the fun side of life,” explains Claire Bennett, founder of Music Bugs. “Our hobby horses are a favourite class prop so we thought we’d get into the spirit of Royal Ascot Week and help out a wonderful charity at the same time.”

Classes are held in a number of locations across the country (look at www.musicbugs.co.uk to find a venue near you). During this special week, classes will be open to regular Music Bugs attendees as well as guests who’d like to give them a try, however, booking is essential. Classes will cost between £4 and £5.50, depending on the location.

For those who can’t make it to a class, the Music Bugs horsey song sheet will be available to download for free from the site and donations can be made via the www.justgiving.com/musicbugs site. You can also buy your own hobby horse from the new Music Bugs shop (<http://www.musicbugstoyshop.co.uk/store/d4-wrap-around-hobby-horse/>) and one pound from every hobby horse sold during the Royal Ascot week will be donated to Horse Power.

~ENDS~

Notes for editors:

*Note, activities will vary at each Music Bugs location. Contact should be made with a local brand for specific details of what’s on offer.

Music Bugs® launched in Swindon in June 2004 and became a Ltd Company in June 2006 by Claire Bennett. The Company launched as a franchise in October 2006 with 120 exclusive territories available throughout the UK and Ireland. The company currently has 13 franchisees.

Music Bugs is a franchise offering fun and lively singing and music classes in a relaxed, friendly environment for children aged 6 months to four years. Its fun and friendly approach encourages social development and inspires a love of music in children, but more importantly, it lets kids be kids. Lively, welcoming and happy, it enables learning through structured, yet adaptable play. It's the antidote to formal, fixed and strict classes that are more focused on ticking educational boxes than on letting children explore the world through music and fun.

About Greatwood and Horse Power

Horse Power is a life skills and emotional literacy programme, developed by Greatwood, aimed specifically at children with special educational needs. Children with special needs, or at risk of social exclusion, require help to develop the life skills they need for a fruitful and positive future. This is a remarkable project where the children interact with horses, teaching them teamwork, cooperation and good social skills.

The children who are involved in the project have a range of learning difficulties including autistic spectrum disorder, ADHD, emotional and behavioural difficulties, specific learning difficulties and Down's syndrome. There are very limited activities tailored for children with special needs. In just two years this innovative and individually tailored programme has already proved a massive success within the special needs sector throughout Berkshire and Wiltshire. We hope to expand the programme nationwide.

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