

Sussex businesses rally behind rural pre-school for Christmas fundraiser

Submitted by: Blackboys Pre-School

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Blackboys Pre-School, near Uckfield in East Sussex, has been overwhelmed with support from local businesses for a Christmas fundraising event in aid of the charity pre-school.

Following an appeal for donations for its Christmas Raffle, enterprises in the area – many of which are family run -- have donated generous prizes for a Christmas raffle, to be held after the pre-school nativity on Wednesday 19 December.

Prizes for the raffle showcase some of the area's best businesses – and best kept secrets! They include afternoon tea for two at the luxurious Horsted Place Country House Hotel, award-winning Tickerage Blush sparkling wine from the vineyard in Blackboys and chocolate from the Sussex Chocolate Company, based in Cross in Hand, which produces hand-made luxury chocolates, truffles and bars.

Elizabeth Brown, Horsted Place hotel manager said: "Horsted Place has been a hotel and fine dining restaurant for 25 years. It's not one of a chain, I feel it's very much part of the local fabric and so it's appropriate for us to support local causes where we can."

Other local businesses that have donated to the fundraiser include home furnishings emporium Carvills in Uckfield and Bradford's farm shop at Holly Gap Farm in Isfield, a producer of award winning sausages which also specialises in high quality, naturally reared meat and poultry. Meanwhile, the Health Boutique in Uckfield, a boutique gym which recently won the Uckfield Business Awards small business of the year award, has donated one month's standard gym membership.

The East Sussex National has donated two day passes to its health club and spa.

Jenny Novkovic, Blackboys Pre-School manager, said the money raised by the raffle would go towards further enhancing the Pre-School's Forest School activities and pay towards running its very own allotment, where the children grow fruit and vegetables and look after their three chickens. "We are overwhelmed by the generosity of local businesses, particular at such a difficult time. The money we raise will make a huge difference to us at a time when Government funding for Pre-Schools makes it so difficult for those in small, rural environments to survive. We can't thank them enough for their support," Novkovic said.

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

About Blackboys Pre-School (<http://www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk>)

Blackboys Pre School, established almost 30 years ago, prides itself on developing the self-confidence and self-esteem of children aged between two and five in a small and caring environment. Based in a fabulous rural setting, the Pre-School applies Montessori principles and practice to some of its activities as well as offering Forest School activities to children. Rated 'good' by Ofsted, and with close links to Blackboys C of E Primary School just down the road, we are open daily during school term times from 8.45am to 3.30pm. For more information see the website at www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk

Media contacts:

Jenny Novkovic, Blackboys Pre School supervisor
Email: jenny@blackboyspreschool.org.uk Tel: 01825 891113

Rachel Fielding, Pre School committee secretary
Email: Rachel@rachelfielding.co.uk Tel: 07815 781069