



August 2023

# COFFEE TOTS

## Newsletter

### A season of change

#### **As the new term approaches, we're taking time to be thankful**

As we approach Coffee Tot's 13th birthday, we're incredibly thankful for our new home at the Wave. Everyone has settled in well, we've restarted all the courses and play sessions and with our more visible presence in the city we're making links and partnerships with other organisations and services. Coffee Tots has grown and developed over the years, our aim was always to shape our service according to the needs of families, although we often dreamed big, we never thought we could achieve all that we have. We've had the privilege of building relationships with 100's of families; some we have known only for a short time and others for over a decade. By being available, listening to their stories and coming alongside them in times of need, it's our prayer that we have and will continue to change futures and bring new hope.



It is with feelings of sadness and gratitude that we must announce that next month we will be saying goodbye to one of our Directors, Catherine Jupp, who is leaving to train to be a psychotherapist. Thirteen years ago this September, Catherine (& Catherine) opened the doors of Coffee Tots for the first time. Since then, alongside being a key support to so many families, Catherine as co-founder and director, has also been a key part of establishing and shaping Coffee Tots as we know it today. The trustees would like to particularly thank her for her invaluable contribution to the direction, planning, fundraising and day to day management of Coffee Tots over those 13 years. Catherine has brought calmness in the face of all challenges, wisdom and insight, especially from her background as a children's nurse, and she will be hugely missed.

**Naomi Grew** - Chair of Trustees



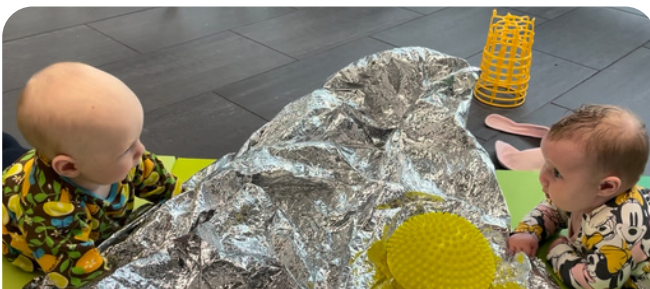
## As Ann moves on to a new challenge we want to say a massive thank you.

Ann has been a key part of the staff team for many years, & this small section will never do justice to everything she has achieved to support & nurture families during that time. As well as excelling at her role heading up the 1st 1000 days programme, Ann has made sure that every Christmas is special; going above & beyond to help families make precious memories. She also delighted us during lockdown with stories and songtime with Ann Tots. We will miss her and know that she will be a blessing in her future role as a vicar.



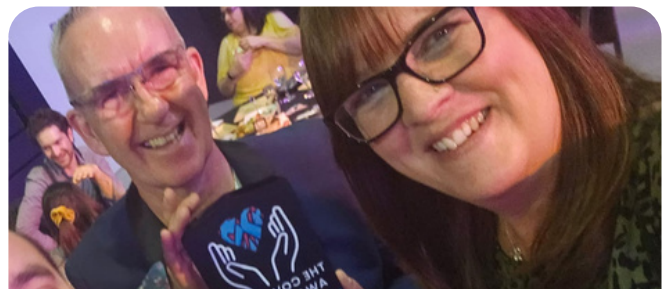
## Summer holiday fun

This year the summer holidays brought more of a challenge, as we were unable to have the cafe area during school holidays, we had to think of new ways of supporting families. Ann put together an incredible programme of play sessions, trips and activities to make sure everyone had free fun things to do each day. We enjoyed trips out to local parks, where we played, explored and had a picnic. A special thanks to the play team at the Transport museum and Herbert Art gallery for welcoming us into their amazing play spaces.



## Play sessions and courses are back!

We took half a term to settle in to the Wave with just the cafe open, so it was amazing to be back to running courses and play sessions in June and July. Although a little different to before, (sensory play on the squash court and baby massage in the dance studio to name but a few), they worked really well and we're looking forward to a packed programme in September.



## More than just a cafe!

Grapevine recently organised the inaugural Cov Cares Awards to shine a light on community-focused city businesses that are bringing a sense of belonging, connection and smiles to customers every day. The competition was tough with some amazing businesses providing a great service but we were delighted to win in the 'more than just a cafe' category. The win was even sweeter as we were nominated by lots of our customers who shared their experience of coming to Coffee Tots.