

Dear DEx families

We want to give you an update on our search for a new home for Downright Excellent in September.

As you know, we have been searching for the right space to accommodate our needs for both our pre-school (Friday) and school age (Saturday) children. The Trustees, several of whom are parents ourselves, have been very busy researching, contacting and following up on a range of possible venues across London. It has been our number one priority for the last couple of months and we have added additional meetings to our calendar solely to focus on our search.

Just like trying to find somewhere to live, there are always compromises to make – even Golden Lane isn't perfect! It is also a reality that any venue location is going to be more convenient for some families than others.

We are keeping as close as we can to our list of key criteria but are also thinking creatively about venue options as they come up. We are also considering venues which might work in the short term ahead of us finding a more suitable longer-term home. We certainly feel lucky to have the many potential opportunities that London has to offer! We thank all those families who have joined in the search by suggesting possible premises.

We have a few very positive potential venues which we are now reviewing in greater detail and visiting in person. We are aiming to make a firm decision on the options in July/August and will let families know where we will be housed in September as soon as we are able to.

You won't be surprised to know that in the meantime, our fantastic Downright Excellent team have already planned the first few weeks of the new term in September. Here are some dates for your diaries:

8/9 and 15/16 September – 1:1 sessions with therapists and families to be held centrally (venue to be confirmed but probably a couple of meeting rooms to be hired for the day rather than our new Downright Excellent 'home'). Appointments will be communicated before the end of term and over the summer.

22/23 September – Team preparation and volunteer inductions – NO SESSIONS FOR FAMILIES

29/30 September – first therapy sessions of the term with Stay and Play or Dexstars to be held in our new home (details to be confirmed)

We will of course keep you informed on venue progress and ask you to keep an eye out for email updates.

Best wishes

Lucy

Chair, Downright Excellent

