



A huge THANK YOU from Flamingo Chicks!

Your generosity enabled us to have transformational impact in the last year through funding core costs enabling us to dramatically expand our capacity.

Results:

- **237 workshops** delivered - **up by 74%**
- **84 regular classes** – **up by 52%**
- **32 new settings** joined us
- We saw **7371 children** through our sessions - **up by 32%**
- We worked with **every UK Children's Hospice**
- Teaching team grew to **23**
- **5 awards** and an **MBE for our CEO!**
- **Increased diversity** at all levels, both lived experience of disability and ethnic diversity
- **2 tours;** Men-tour (breaking stereotypes around disability and gender) and SMOOSH a collaboration with Paraorchestra
- **5 new Parents & Carers Champions**
- **506 intergenerational volunteers** actively involved in our work
- **40 Agents Of Change** (our youth advocacy group) – membership **up by 25%**. They **hosted 12 VIPs guests** across a range of sectors from humanitarian relief to climate change.
- **New online community class** ideal for clinically vulnerable children
- **New virtual class for World Space week** - 3801 children took part!



IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE

From young people themselves:

- 79% said their physical ability had improved (60% 'a lot') - an 8% increase on last year
- 83% of students' confidence and resilience improved
- 73% showed an enjoyment and interest in our themes

Settings view:

Teachers or support staff scored each child out of 10 in the following areas, before and after the year of classes.

- Physical engagement: +2.23
- Physical ability: +2
- Confidence: +2.4
- Enjoyment: +2.64
- Knowledge of the theme: +2.34*
- Interest in the themes: +1.94





"These sessions were magical and full of wonder, sensitively adjusted for all abilities. The teacher was also able to use Makaton. This means our students, who have a wide range of profound and multiple physical and learning disabilities could take part – they access the sessions from Acheeva beds, wheelchairs or using their walkers.

We love our sessions, and look forward to them all week."

Lucy Galloway, Curriculum Lead
- Claremont School, Bristol

"Within just one session, as teachers and LSAs, we were really inspired by the Flamingo Chicks' approach. It made us re-evaluate what our children were capable of in a new context. It helped invigorate our team, freshened our thinking and empowered us to be more creative with the opportunities for our students. Pupils were able to experience the joy of dance and expressing themselves in different ways, something that most of them would not have been exposed to because of the inability to access mainstream dance groups. This also helped make pupils and parents aware that there are opportunities to access extra-mural activities for children with additional needs."

Charleen Bruce, Assistant Headteacher
- John Chilton School, Ealing

PROFESSIONALS' SURVEY

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We surveyed the health, education and socialcare professionals we work with to hear how they feel our classes and workshops impacted young people.

Here's some highlights:

- **85%** of professionals said they had learnt new techniques from our work and 95% will be implementing them into their own practice
- **80%** said they see their children as more capable
- Independence - **55%** saw a significant improvement, 25% medium
- Physical ability - **60%** significant improvement, 30% medium
- Increased curiosity - **50%** significant improvement, 30% medium
- Life skills - **55%** significant improvement, 20% medium
- Emotional wellbeing - **65%** significant improvement, 30% medium
- Speech and language – **65%** saw some improvement in speech and language following attending classes
- **95%** said Flamingo Chicks has been helpful to show parents/ carers what children can do out of school

"Flamingo Chicks continues to prove that dance is not only a progressive physical activity, but a truly therapeutic route to character development and all round well-being for some of our most complex young people. Confidence, resilience, invaluable support with tangible outcomes. It's gold dust!" - Kris Tavender, Warmley Park School



IMPACT ON VOLUNTEERS

- **90%** said their experience at Flamingo Chicks had made them re-evaluate what disabled children were capable of
- **85%** said volunteering at FC improved their mental health and **53%**, their physical health
- **74%** had improved confidence
- **85%** now felt more connected to the community
- **65%** had learned Makaton
- **39%** of volunteers have volunteered with us for over 3 years and **26%** 1-3 years
- **100%** of volunteers aged 55+ would recommend volunteering with us and **73%** reported improved mental health
- **100%** of volunteers aged under 20 thought volunteering with us would help their future career and would recommend volunteering at FC, rating the training provided as excellent
- **100%** of disabled volunteers felt volunteering improved their mental health and **75%** saw improvement in their physical health (this is 22% higher than our overall stats)





'I enjoy volunteering - it keeps my mind going. Meeting younger volunteers teaches me things and makes me more aware of what's going on in society. When you mix with different age groups you benefit.' Jane

'The volunteer experience at Flamingo Chicks is simply the BEST. The support, the community, the classes, fundraising campaigns and projects lift me up and inspire me. Thank you for the amazing work and for looking after each and every volunteer and making us feel truly valued.'

Mary



"I don't have grandchildren so don't have the opportunity to interact with young people any more. Being a part of Flamingo Chicks is the highlight of my week. It's nice to feel part of something and valued too - I think being that bit older I can be a good ear for the parents when they need to talk." Elsie



"We love our volunteering partnership with Flamingo Chicks. It gives our residents focus and purpose, they absolutely love being able to enjoy expressing their creativity knowing it will help disabled children dance. They've been making sensory props and it gives them so much joy to imagine the young people being transported to magical worlds thanks to their artistic talents. It has really boosted morale and helped us engage a wider range of residents in arts activities."

Abbie Ward, Activities Co-Ordinator at Badminton Place Care Home

"We are thoroughly enjoying the Work Experience with Flamingo Chicks. The students have been able to dig into their imaginations and work collaboratively to create their art. It has been so successful that we have extended it to 10 weeks. It has been wonderful to watch the students' confidence and creativity blossom."

Charlotte Sibanda, Teacher at New Fosseway School for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities from the ages of 4 - 19.