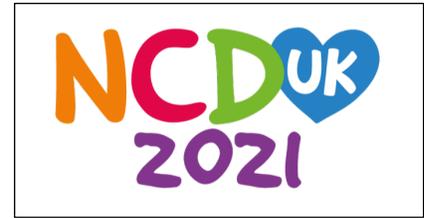


PRESS RELEASE

National Children's Day UK 2021
Sunday 16th May



- for immediate release -

National Children's Day UK (NCDUK) is all about the importance of a healthy childhood and how we need to protect the rights and freedoms of children in order to ensure that they can grow into happy, healthy adults.

This year National Children's Day UK will take place on **Sunday 16th May** and people can raise awareness about their activities for the week up to and including the day.

From family videos to school and community events, local authority initiatives, talks, seminars and youth led campaigns, it's a great opportunity for everyone to raise national awareness about the things they care about – and especially about the impact of COVID on children and young people.

The importance of Children's Voices

This year we are partnering with **The Children's Voice** www.thechildrensvoice.net and its supporters, so that we can help raise national awareness about the thoughts and concerns of children and young people - and the changes that they would like to see take place for the creation of a safer and more sustainable world.

Why is this so important? Because children have the right to participate in the conversations that are shaping their futures.

The conversation continues on social media #NCDUK2021
www.nationalchildrensdayuk.com

For more information, please contact

Sally Grindley, NCDUK Project Director
sally.grindley@nationalchildrensdayuk.com

m: 07766 201102

NOTES TO EDITORS

- National Children's Day UK is an initiative of the Save Childhood Movement – www.savechildhood.net. The movement was established in 2013 and is part of a growing group of individuals and organisations that share a deep concern about societal values and wellbeing
- The concept of Children's Day was established by the UN General Assembly in 1954 as a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children. The Assembly suggested to governments that the day be observed on the date and in the way which each considers appropriate. In the UK it was launched by the Save Childhood Movement in 2014 and is now held at the beginning of summer.
- The initiative has been the recipient of two 'Awards for All' Big Lottery grants

CHILD WELLBEING DURING COVID

BBC NEWS Feb 2021

Prof Russell Viner, president of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, recently told MPs on the Education Select Committee: "When we close schools we close their lives." He says the pandemic has caused a range of harms to children across the board from being isolated and lonely to suffering from sleep problems and reduced physical activity - alongside school closures all children's sport is currently banned as it has been at various points during the pandemic. Many experts are baffled by the approach to children's sport given the low risks of transmission outdoors and the clear benefits for emotional and physical wellbeing - **the UK has some of the highest rates of child obesity in the world.**

GUARDIAN 16th Jan 2021

The Observer Coronavirus

Coalition of child experts urge inquiry into UK's Covid crisis

A major coalition of child health experts warns that many families are being "swept into poverty" by the pandemic, which is set to significantly add to the 4 million children living in deprivation before the Covid crisis.

CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER REPORT - JAN 2021

A staggering 1 in 6 children now have a probable mental health condition. We do not know how far this spike will have long term consequences on children's mental health, nor do we know the impact of further lockdowns, but it is highly likely that the level of underlying mental health problems will remain significantly higher as a result of the pandemic. The data I am publishing today covers the period up to end of March 2020, so largely pre-Covid, but what it shows is a system without the necessary capacity or flexibility to respond to such seismic events in the lives of children.

BBC NEWS – DEC 2020

A mother says one of her children has been asking if he is going to die, as a survey shows almost half of children are struggling with anxiety.

More than a third of children were worried about getting Covid-19 and dying. Of the 1,000 children asked, 47% said they were experiencing anxiety.

GUARDIAN – NOV 2020

Half of child psychiatrists surveyed say patients have environment anxiety

Research finds young people in England feel growing distress about the future of the planet