

Flying Start app launched to connect with families

Flying Start Carmarthenshire has become the first Flying Start in Wales to have launched a mobile app helping Flying Start families to stay connected during the coronavirus pandemic.

As a Welsh Government funded programme, Flying Start supports families who live in the most disadvantaged areas of Wales aiming to give children under the age of four the best start in life.

The team developed the app to increase engagement, and to signpost families to important information and promote events in the local areas. The app can also be used to send calendar invites to families to attend baby groups and drop-in clinics with the health visitors, as well as to share photos and information with parents from the Flying Start childcare services.

The app has proven particularly useful during the coronavirus outbreak to communicate with families by using push notifications to provide COVID-19 information and to direct families to trustworthy sources.

The Flying Start Language and Play team have been using the app to carry out story time and sing-a-long videos. Parent Amy from Trimsaran said:

“I think the app is great, and my son Isaac is loving watching the stories on it.”

Executive Board Member for Education and Children’s Services Cllr Glynog Davies said: “Although the app was being developed long before we even knew about the coronavirus, it has been very beneficial in helping the team to stay in contact and letting families know that they are still there for them during these difficult times.

The app is free to download and is available on both IOS and Android, just search through the Apple or Google Play Store.

For further information on Flying Start visit the Carmarthenshire Family Information Service website fis.carmarthenshire.gov.wales.