

PRESS RELEASE

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The National Marine Aquarium to host Jeremiah's Journey *Stepping Stones* Day Out

Families of Jeremiah's Journey *Stepping Stones* project are looking forward to a day out at the National Marine Aquarium. On 16th August, up to 20 children and their families from across the region will get to experience a special series of co-ordinated events and activities around the Aquarium, as part of the *Stepping Stones* initiative.

Stepping Stones is a project run by the Plymouth-based charity, Jeremiah's Journey, for children and young people with a terminally ill parent.

Stepping Stones' guests can look forward to seeing the sharks being fed from the top of the Ocean Tank, and enjoy the huge variety of marine life that resides at the Aquarium. They will also get to take part in some hands-on experiments, including 'Slime time' which will see the families make their own slime – vital in marine creatures survival and 'Saltwater eggs', where they will investigate the properties of saltwater.

They'll also get to take part in the dramatically named experiment 'Exploding canisters' where the affects of ocean acidification will be tested by dissolving calcium tablets in vinegar in a sealed container – and watch them explode! Finally, their marine aptitude will be tested by 'Investigation Stations', in which they will be challenged to identify marine artefacts.

Dr David Gibson, Managing Director at the National Marine Aquarium, commented: "We're delighted to welcome the families of the *Stepping Stones* project to the Aquarium. Jeremiah's Journey work with families in the city is to be commended – we're honoured that we can be a part of their initiative and give the children a well-deserved break, as well as provide a little bit of fun. We hope they all have a great day and enjoy getting stuck in with the marine-themed activities."

Kim Higham, Project Coordinator for *Stepping Stones* added: "Our families are all really looking forward to a day out together at the National Marine Aquarium. After the success of ClayArt it feels great to be providing another fun day out where families can form friendships and create memories for the future. The team at the Aquarium has developed a brilliant day of special experiences which everyone is looking forward too."

DRIVING MARINE CONSERVATION THROUGH ENGAGEMENT



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The National Marine Aquarium

The National Marine Aquarium is a registered charity committed to promoting a sympathetic understanding of the sea through programmes of education, conservation and research. With a mission to *drive marine conservation through engagement*, the National Marine Aquarium operates the largest public aquarium in the UK and is the lead partner in Just Add H₂O, a programme for schools that aims to *bring the marine curriculum alive*.

Opened in 1998, the National Marine Aquarium is based in Plymouth, Britain's Ocean City, and has since become one of the most popular attractions in the region.

With over 4,000 marine animals and Britain's deepest tank – measuring 10.5m deep – the National Marine Aquarium facilities includes the Eddystone tank and a state-of-the-art learning centre, as part of Just Add H₂O programme.

More information about National Marine Aquarium is available at
www.national-aquarium.co.uk

About Jeremiah's Journey

For more information on Jeremiah's Journey, visit: www.jeremiahsjourney.org.uk, like the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/jeremiahsjourneyplymouth or follow them on Twitter: @JeremiahsJourne