



\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*

Stepping Stones final summer trip is sure to be a roaring success!

This summer the Stepping Stones project run by Jeremiah's Journey has brought families together like never before and this Saturday will see their final summer trip to Dartmoor Zoological Park.

Stepping Stones is a group for children who have a terminally ill parent, they meet bi-weekly in term time at Plymouth College of Art, as the College closes for the summer it felt incredibly important to continue running a programme of activities for the children and young people. Holiday time can be very hard as the day to day routine of school and seeing friends isn't there.

Kim Higham, Stepping Stones Project Coordinator felt it was important to bring the families together, allowing children and parents to build happy memories whilst giving an opportunity for the families to meet and make friendships with others who understand.

Benjamin Mee and his team at Dartmoor Zoo have been fantastic in offering every family an annual membership, as well as putting on an excellent timetable for Saturday - from falconry displays to meeting the Meerkats, creepy crawlies and close encounters the families are in for a treat!

Benjamin Mee, Owner of Dartmoor Zoo said; "I am delighted to be able to offer Dartmoor Zoo as a venue for Stepping Stones families. Having direct experience of family loss, and also of the regenerative effects of the zoo, I am looking forward to meeting the families with my children, and getting to know them through a day packed with activities."

Kim Higham added “This Summer has been incredibly special as we brought our families together for the first time. We have experienced some fantastic days out and we are all excited about our final trip to Dartmoor Zoo. The team have laid on some exceptional experiences for the children and their families and I feel sure that they will leave with some memories that will be treasured forever. We just hope it stays dry!”

Whatever the weather, we are confident that Saturday will be a fantastic day for some truly deserving families.

To find out more about Jeremiah’s Journey please visit:

[www.jeremiahsjourney.org.uk](http://www.jeremiahsjourney.org.uk) or get in touch with Leila on 01752 424348 or email [leila@jeremiahsjourney.org.uk](mailto:leila@jeremiahsjourney.org.uk).

To find out more about Dartmoor Zoo please visit [www.dartmoorzoo.org.uk](http://www.dartmoorzoo.org.uk)

#### Dates for Your Diary

Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Photomathon	FIRST EVER EVENT IN PLYMOUTH
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Superhero Skydive	Dunkeswell Airfield
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Moulin Rouge Ball SOLD OUT	The Duke of Cornwall, Plymouth
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Plymouth 10K	Plymouth City Centre

#### ENDS

03/09/2014

#### Contact:

Leila Nottage  
Fundraising, PR and Communications Manager  
t: 01752 424348  
e: [leila@jeremiahsjourney.org.uk](mailto:leila@jeremiahsjourney.org.uk)  
w: [jeremiahsjourney.org.uk](http://jeremiahsjourney.org.uk)  
f: [facebook.com/jeremiahsjourneyplymouth](https://www.facebook.com/jeremiahsjourneyplymouth)  
t: @jeremiahsjourne



#### Notes for Editors:

- 1, Jeremiah’s Journey was founded in 1996
- 2, Each year Jeremiah’s Journey supports approx. 220 bereaved children and their families in Plymouth and the immediate surrounding area.
- 3, The children who use our service are anticipating or have experienced the death of someone special, the majority of our children have lost a parent.
- 4, We support families who have been bereaved through a variety of circumstances including long term illness and sudden and often traumatic events such as road traffic accidents and suicide. We offer support in a variety of ways and always listen to what the family need.

- 5, We offer short term therapeutic group programmes which we run in partnership with Plymouth College of Art. This means that we are able to offer a safe space for children to: express their feelings of grief; share memories of their special person; and explore ways of coping.
- 6, With the support of Comic Relief, we have been able to develop a new project called Stepping Stones, which provides support to young people who have a parent with a terminal illness.
- 7, Sadly our service is one that will always be needed. As a self-funded charity we can only support local families with the generosity of our community. We want to be there for every child who needs our service; we believe that no child or family should feel alone in their grief.

Registered charity no 1144431 Company Number 07517748