Family care charity wins lottery grant

THE Community Family Care charity from Staunton, near Newent, has won a £4,000 grant from the People’s Postcode Lottery.

The money will go towards IT equipment such as laptops and mobile phones for case workers and cover training and recruitment costs for five new family support workers.

The charity helps families, children and young people in need of support.

“Getting essential IT equipment and keeping it up to date is a big cost for an organisation like ours which has three staff and relies on public funding,” said manager Sasha Brown.

“So getting the support of the People’s Postcode Trust is invaluable.”

The charity seeks to improve parents’ confidence, help with routines to get children to school, or more complex support dealing with challenging behaviours at home.

People’s Postcode Lottery is a charity lottery. Players play with their postcodes to win cash prizes whilst raising money for good causes. A minimum of 30 per cent goes directly to charities.

Since 2009, People’s Postcode Trust has awarded more than £11 million to good causes. A minimum of 30 per cent goes directly to charities.

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Wake and shake for school pupils

PULSES were definitely racing at Yorkley Primary School as the pupils ‘went the extra mile’ to take part in National Fitness Day.

All children and parents were invited to start the day with an energetic ‘Wake and Shake’ session of dance routines put to music.

During the day, the youngsters enjoyed yoga and taekwondo sessions and the children took particular delight in kicking out at pads which were held by their teachers.

School teaching assistant Katie Pyfe said: “We took the opportunity to introduce a new initiative for our school - The Daily Mile.

“This is something the school has adopted and every class will be taking 15 minutes out of each school day to run or walk around the playground in a timed session.

“The children benefit from being outside in the fresh air, running with their friends in a non-competitive way.

“It supports classroom learning and improves children’s confidence, concentration and behaviour.”

Wakey Wakey: Pupils run a mile around the school’s playground.

Flexible living for the future

EXCITED tenants of Two Rivers Housing received their keys last week to six brand new homes in Lydney.

This development of four one-bedroom ‘flexi-flats’ and two two-bedroom houses was developed in response to the Forest of Dean District Council local housing needs survey.

One delighted tenant, Marina Tolhurst, was welcomed to her new flexi-flat in Orchard Road by the Forest of Dean MP Mark Harper, the chief executive of Two Rivers Housing, Garry King and the chairman of the board, David Powell.

Marina registered on Homesearch Plus and was delighted to find that her housing needs met the housing association’s requirements.

She said: “The flat is beautiful. I was brought up in Lydney, all my children and grandchildren are here, so it is wonderful to be back. I have missed cooking for my family and having them around me. I am very excited.”

Mr Harper was keen to find out more about the flexi-flat’s innovative design that can easily be adapted to suit people’s changing lifestyle needs.

It is a unique concept, developed in response to the high demand for one-bedroom homes to rent at affordable prices. The flexi-flat offers a larger-than-average living space which can be comfortably divided up to achieve a second bedroom if required, and all with minimal disruption.

They are high quality energy efficient homes, built by J Harper and Sons (Leominster) Ltd, are economical to run, with solar panels on the roofs, additional insulation and low energy lighting throughout.

Mr Harper said: “Orchard Road is an impressive development in Lydney. The flexi-flats allow for adaptations to be completed easily and with minimal disruption.

“It was a pleasure to officially hand over the keys to Mrs Tolhurst and I would like to wish her all the very best as she moves into her new home.”