

eastparkpatter

Your newsletter for East Park



ISSUE 25 • November 2023



In this issue...

Kieron Bruce O'Brien Executive Director



As momentum gathers towards our 150th Birthday on the 27 October 2024, we are reminded of the significant contributions made by so many over a period of 150 years. In this technological and fast paced world that we now live and work in, we tend to forget the incredible and selfless efforts made during some of the most challenging times in world history. We would like our celebrations to reflect our gratitude and respect to the staff and most importantly the

children and their families who we have supported, cared for, and loved over so many years.

Recently BBC News broadcasts, newspaper features and social media stories have served to encourage more awareness of what makes East Park so unique and how the children and young people achieve, grow, and benefit from the amazing staff and skilled services that are available.

The official opening event was held at Maryhill Burgh Halls on the 06 October 2023,

when we launched our year-long exhibition, which includes a timeline of images spanning the 150 years. On the same day we held our Big Birthday Bubble Bash for the children and young people at East Park, ensuring they are always at the heart of everything that we do.

Apart from these two exciting events there are also plans for a Victorian Christmas in December 2023 and a Pamper Day for parents in January 2024. Other major events will be announced later

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in the year culminating in the main event in October 2024.

Any donations for events are also gratefully received. When making an online donation please designate your donation to EAST PARK 150th EVENTS.

EAST PARK BOOK: East Park 150 Years of Compassion



EAST PARK BOOK: EAST PARK 150 YEARS OF COMPASSION

We are extremely excited about the launch of our book, EAST PARK: 150 YEARS OF COMPASSION, due to be published in March 2024.

This project has involved an enormous amount of research and will take readers on a journey over a timeline of 150 years of innovation, bravery, and change. East Park

has invested £50,000 to engage with writers, researchers, and an editor so we would

greatly appreciate financial contributions towards this project. When making an online donation please designate your donation to EAST PARK BOOK.

Alternatively, if you are interested in sponsoring any event, the book or would like to become a part funder or sponsor, please get in touch with our Assistant Fundraising & Marketing Officer, Kiran Kaur, on 0141-9462050 or email her at kiran.kaur@eastpark.org.uk East Park is a special place in the heart of Maryhill, Glasgow. Its heart beats with passion and a resilience honed over many years and will continue

to do so for many to come. We would love for you to get involved and become part of our wider family, making the impossible possible and the possible life-changing for every child and young person at East Park School and Residential and Intensive Support Residential Services and Workmates.

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Scottish Charity No SC012838



EAST PARK IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER REGULATED BY THE CARE INSPECTORATE & EDUCATION SCOTLAND

eastpark.org.uk

Workmates Warm Space



Our young people at Workmates have been helping out at the local warm space supported by St Gregory's Food Bank. Some people go shopping for the items, others cook the food to prepare the day before and we have had a few people serve up at the warm space!

At the Warm Space, our young people have helped with various tasks; making toasties, serving soup, serving hot food, offering food/drinks and chatting with people. The staff were very grateful to all young people who were involved as one of the volunteers usually wakes up at 6am to prep! We had plenty to share with those



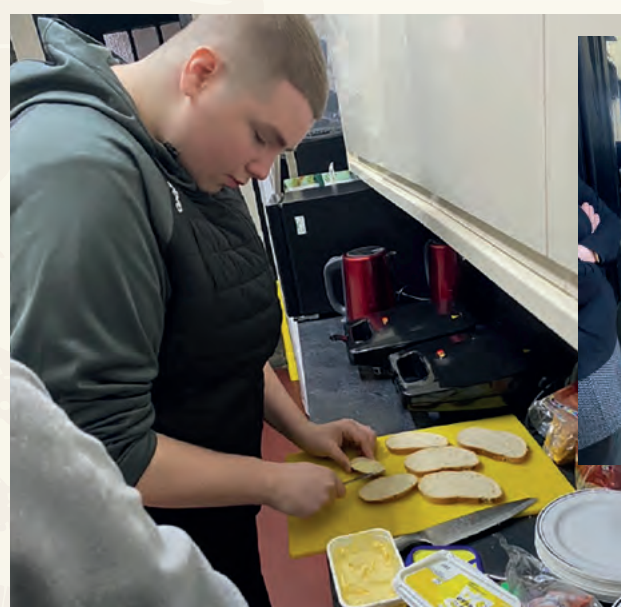
Serving up bowls of soup.



who came to the Warm Space that day. Following on from the success of our community engagement with the Warm

Space – we have some of our young people now going to give a helping hand at St Gregory's food bank! They will be helping to sort out

stock, make up bags and hand them out to the local community.



Paul prepping the toasties and Katy taking them out to serve to visitors of the Warm Space.



Here's a picture of Paul taking round the homemade soup.

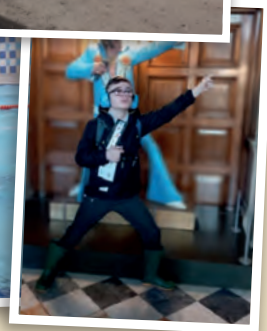
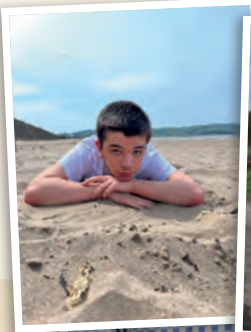


Children's Aid

CHILDREN'S AID BUS

Pupils in school have been enjoying all sorts of experiences thanks to the donation of a bus by Children's Aid. It is timetabled each week to facilitate class educational

outings, swimming trips, and to take pupils horse riding. We are so grateful to Children's Aid for helping our pupils to experience these opportunities.



spifox
working for scotland's children

SPIFOX LUNCH

We recently had the honour of attending a lunch at the Glasgow Hilton hosted by Spifox. Spifox have supported East Park over the years and donated 2 vehicles which have allowed more of our young people to experience new places and have new adventures. We arrived at a very busy Hilton and the young people took it all in their stride. The young people from our school

and Workmates sang some of their favourite songs accompanied by Bryan and handed out thanks you to the people attending the lunch.

Kieron was one of the speakers at the lunch and some of the young people made a guest appearance to say thank you to the 800 people there. Everyone had a great day and hopefully we get to do it all again next year.

ASDA

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Asda Maryhill for their generous donation of our new and improved Garden at Lewis House. The team, led by Ryan, went above and beyond to make this happen, Ryan and other Asda volunteers such as Scott spent each week painting, assembling and organising the construction on the garden that we are grateful for. The sensory garden has been a fantastic addition to our facility, providing an array of stimulating and interactive experiences for our children.



only provides a source of entertainment for the children, but also serves as a therapeutic tool for those who may find themselves overstimulated. It has enhanced their quality of life by offering a safe and calming environment for the children to enjoy.

Once again, thank you, Asda Maryhill and Ryan and the team, for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Your contribution has made a significant difference in the lives of our children, and we could not be more grateful.

It has been delightful to see their faces light up as they explore the garden and engage with the various sensory elements. The beauty of this garden is that it not



JOIN OUR TEAM

WE ARE HIRING!

Visit our website to see current vacancies
eastpark.org.uk/careers

We're Hiring!

If you or someone you know is looking for a rewarding career in the Education and Charity sector while also making a difference, consider joining us at East Park. As an organization dedicated to supporting children with complex additional support needs, your work with us will be both exciting and fulfilling. We're proud to be a reputable charity, providing essential services and facilities for children and young people in need.

Our goal is to create a safe, nurturing environment where children and young people can thrive and develop to

their full potential. Through our incredible team's commitment to excellence, we've earned recognition in the form of prestigious industry awards and the trust of our community. If you want to be part of this inspiring work, we invite you to explore our current vacancies. Your contribution will be invaluable in helping us make a positive impact on the lives of the children and families we serve.

Apply to a life changing role at East Park today and start making a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

CHLOE'S BIRTHDAY!

This year Chloe, one of our pupils, turned 16. Willow Class, with the help of many other people in East Park decided to go all out and make it a wee bit extra special for her. The day before her birthday a High Tea was organised by her classmates. A wonderful afternoon tea trolley full of lovely sandwiches, scones and cake, donated by Julie Baird of Hi Tea, went down a treat.

On Chloe's birthday, a full school birthday party was organised giving all East Park's young people a chance to celebrate with Chloe. The Hive was transformed into a party wonderland with amazing balloon displays, party lights, fabulous birthday cakes and the best music.

Special thanks go to:

- Emma Sanderson for a personalised T-shirt and cupcakes for Chloe.
- Steph from Boulevard Balloons and Leanne from Georgie Bubbles for

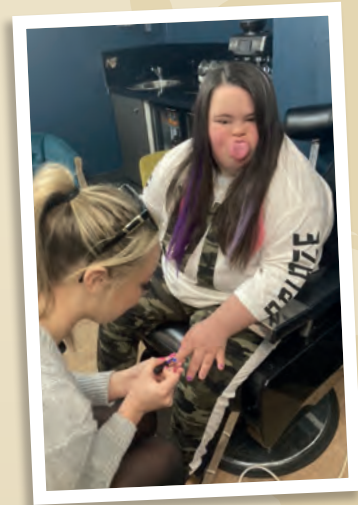
some outstanding Balloon displays.

- And Linda Grant for the stunning birthday cake all of which made this day so special for Chloe. The day after her birthday

Chloe was treated to a double surprise. In the morning she was invited along to Boveda Hair and Beauty Salon to get her nails and hair done (special thanks to Donna and the

staff for making Chloe feel so special!). This was followed by a birthday invitation to the Grosvenor Hotel for a lovely lunch complete with stunning pudding.

I cannot thank everyone who played a part in the 3 day birthday celebration enough. For Chloe these are memories for life.

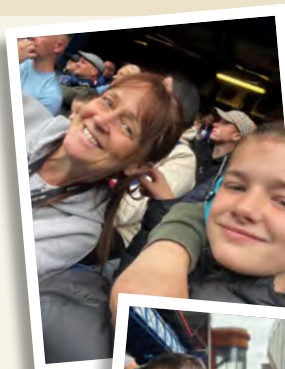




RANGERS CHARITY FOUNDATION



The Rangers Foundation has been applauded for their kindness and generosity in donating a large number of tickets to our East Park students to watch a legends game. The children, young people and attending staff thoroughly enjoyed the experience, thanks to the Rangers Foundation and their very thoughtful donation. This kind gesture has been appreciated by all, as it allowed the children to experience something exciting and memorable while also fostering a love for the beautiful game. The Rangers Foundation has demonstrated yet again their commitment to giving back to the community and improving the lives of those around them. Our sincere appreciation goes out to this worthy organisation. rangerscharity.org.uk/



We are so thankful to Spifox who have very kindly donated £39,000 towards our new gardens. The funding has allowed us to install new equipment such as swings, climbing frames, and sensory play items that will enhance the outdoor experience for our children and young people.

We have also been able to create a new outdoor seating area and improve the overall layout of the gardens to make it more accessible for those with mobility challenges. The new gardens have each been designed based on the requirements for our children and young people sometimes offering more sensory play or a hot tub for example. The newly refurbished gardens

have provided a space for our children and young people to connect with nature, access sensory stimulation, and enjoy opportunities for physical activity.

We are very grateful to Spifox for recognizing the importance of providing safe and engaging outdoor spaces for children and young people, and for supporting our East Park's mission to improve the

lives of those we support. We believe that our new gardens will have a positive impact on our children and young people's physical and mental health, wellbeing, and overall quality of life. We are excited to see the benefits of this project in action and look forward to creating many happy memories in our new outdoor spaces.

Disney ON ICE

A magical evening at Disney on Ice in the Glasgow hydro.

Our evening of enchantment began with an amazing three course meal and the VIP hospitality suite at the Glasgow hydro. The moment we stepped into the suite we were greeted with an ambience of elegance. The servers were so kind and accommodating and made our experience amazing, making us feel so welcome. Throughout our meal that attentive service and ambience of the VIP suite added an extra layer of luxury to the experience. As the lights dimmed and the enchanting melodies filled the air, I couldn't help but feel a rush of pure excitement

running through me. A night of magic, wonder and pure joy, we were at the Glasgow hydro to witness Disney on Ice. The moment the first skater appeared on the ice dressed as Mickey Mouse, a collective gasp of awe swept through the audience. It was as if the characters from our favourite Disney movies had come to life, gliding effortlessly on the frozen stage. The attention to detail and the costumes, the graceful movements and precision of choreography were nothing short of breathtaking. From the classics like Cinderella and Beauty and the Beast to modern hits like Frozen and Moana, the show featured a diverse line up of beloved Disney characters.



Each performance was a miniature masterpiece, drawing us into the magical worlds we had grown to adore. What made the evening even more special was the feeling of togetherness in the audience. Parents, children, couples and friends all gathered under the same roof to share in this enchanted experience. The smiles on the faces of children, wide-eyed with wonder, were heartwarming. It was a reminder of the timeless appeal of Disney and its ability to bring generations together. The

VIP suite was nothing short of a haven, offering us an exclusive vantage point to enjoy the spectacle unfolding on the ice. The generous VIP sweet donation elevated our experience to a whole another level which we never expected. Words alone cannot express the depth of our gratitude for this act of kindness. It was a selfless gesture that warmed our hearts and reminded us of the goodness and kindness that exists in the world, making it a truly unforgettable night for our young person and us.

150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

As the 150th anniversary of East Park approaches, students and colleagues can feel the excitement in the air. This historic organisation, nestled away on Maryhill road, has been a beloved school and residential home for generations of families, and the local community. East Park was first established in 1874, and since then, it has played a central role in the community. Its expansive grounds have come from a tiny cottage opened by William Mitchell in the hopes that he could care for and aid young children to better health. For many locals, East Park is a part of their families history and a



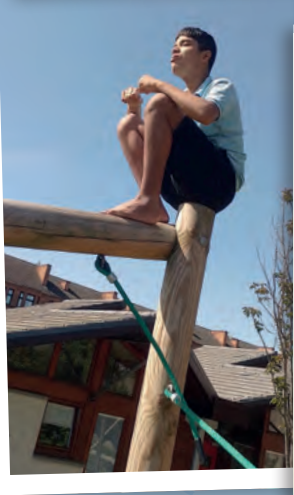
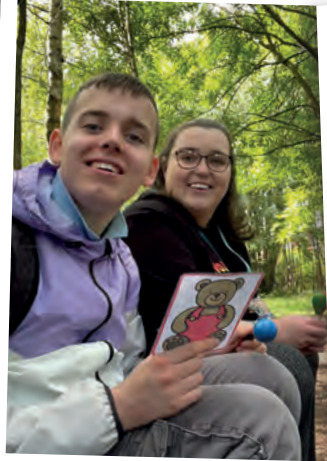
part of Maryhill. To mark our 150th anniversary, we have planned a series of events and activities throughout the year that are sure to delight our students and supporters. The festivities kicked off with the Big Birthday Bubble Bash on the 6th of October where we had the pleasure of welcoming Goerge Bowie and Clyde I to perform at the event. Thanks to the Entertainer the children and young people throughout

East Park had the opportunity to enjoy lovely sweet treats and lucky bags packed with sensory fun! We also welcomed the official opening ceremony of the East Park Exhibition which showcases a timeline of photographs from the park's long and storied past which is now live in the Maryhill Burgh Halls. Throughout the year, there will be fun days, pamper day's for parents, book launch and a fashion show! Giving our

supporters and parents a chance to experience the fun of East Park in new and exciting ways. One of the most anticipated events of the anniversary celebration is the East Park Victorian Christmas, we'll be taking a little trip back in time to Christmas at East Park in the 18th century. For those who have grown up with East Park as a cherished part of their childhood, the upcoming celebrations are a chance to relive old memories and create new ones. For others, they are an opportunity to discover this beloved local treasure for the first time. No matter how you choose to celebrate the 150th anniversary of East Park, there is no doubt that it will be a day to remember. East Park truly is a place where memories are made.



150 years EAST PARK





Skydive

On a beautiful sunny day in July, a group of brave staff and supporters took to the skies for an thrilling adventure. They geared up and jumped out of a plane at a whopping 10,000 feet, all to raise money for our wonderful children and young people. The team

fell through the skies, taking in the breathtaking views along the way. Their bravery and determination paid off, as they managed to raise an incredible amount of £5,536 for the children and young people here at East Park. The money raised went towards providing even

The team's bravery and generosity have made a significant impact, and every penny raised will make a real difference. East Park School's skydiving adventure is proof that we can achieve incredible things when we work together.



"When I got the opportunity to participate in the Skydive, as daunting as it was, I knew I could participate in the fundraising that our young people have benefited from. I was overwhelmed by the kindness of people to contribute in a meaningful way towards meeting the aspirations of our young people, their families and staff. It made a terrifying jump well worth it and I'm so grateful for your kind donations."

Liam

"It's something I've wanted to do my whole life I'm so happy to have done it for East Park and the amazing children and young people. Cloud walking was definitely the best bit! 10/10"

Gary Fraser

"Amazingly terrifying, it was the best experience I've had, I'd 100% do it again!"

Gillian Cochrane



more opportunities for the students, improving resources and enhancing their education and allowing them to live a fulfilling life. The skydiving experience was not only an incredible fundraising achievement but also a testament to the school's devoted and supportive community. It shows the lengths to which

It is an inspiring story that will not only be remembered by those involved but will

also serve as a reminder of what we can accomplish when we put our minds to it.

were all eager to contribute to the cause. With nerves and excitement at an all-time high, they made the leap and



people are willing to go to make a difference in the lives of those they care about. The event received an overwhelming response and highlights the power of collective action.



ZIPLINE



The zipline itself was an adrenalin-fuelled adventure that saw participants whizzing across the river at high speeds. The participants were cheered on by friends, family, and supporters, who had

Scary but definitely worth it - so glad the money benefits our children and young people.

Recently, a group of supporters and staff members took part in a thrilling zipline across the Clyde to raise money for our children and young people. The event was a huge success, with

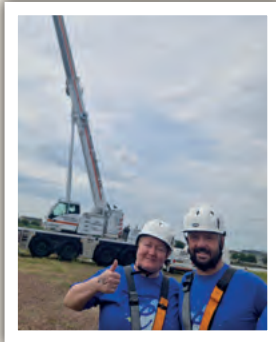
Terrifying experience definitely got the heart going!

participants raising an impressive £2,771.92 for the charity. This money will go towards providing essential services and support to children and young people with complex disabilities, helping them to live fulfilling and independent lives.

AHH-bsolutely delighted with the experience it had me out my comfort zone I'd 100% do it again

come out to show their support for their daring feat while donating to East Park. We would like to extend a

massive thank you to everyone involved in the zipline event. Your dedication and commitment to helping the children and young people at East Park is truly inspiring. Your efforts will make a tangible difference in the lives of those who need it most. This fundraiser is a perfect example of how the generosity and kindness of our community can have a huge impact on the lives of others. We hope that this event will inspire others to get involved and support the valuable work of East Park in any way they can.



An adrenaline pumping experience would definitely do it again!

VOLUNTEERS



We truly appreciate the efforts of our tremendous volunteers who have generously given their time and support over the past few months. Their invaluable contributions have allowed us to spruce up our gardens and give

East Park the tender loving care it deserves. We extend our sincerest gratitude to Laurie Ross, Santander, Asda, and Marsh Commercial and many more for their commitment to maintaining East Park's gardens and grounds, which undoubtedly enhance the East Park's environment and provide

numerous benefits to our children and young people. We are fortunate to have such dedicated individuals who selflessly devote their time and resources to making our spaces better places for the children and young people to enjoy. Their contributions not only add to the quality of our school,

but also foster a sense of pride in the community. Once again, we express our deepest appreciation to all of our volunteers for their unwavering dedication to making a positive difference.



Workmates

Workmates Award
It's always heartwarming to see hard work and dedication being recognized and celebrated. That's precisely what happened for our very own Workmates' John and Paul, who attended a special event in July to accept the Unsung Hero Award on behalf of Workmates, for their work at our local Warm Space. The award, presented by People Make Maryhill, represents a fantastic achievement and is a testament to the tireless effort put in by all at Workmates.

At the award ceremony, John and Paul were joined by Ivan and Mark, their wonderful support workers



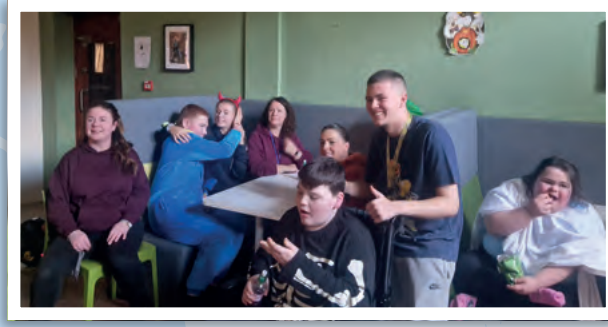
and Paul's mum, who all had a great time celebrating this exceptional achievement. It was a momentous occasion, one that brought joy and inspiration to everyone involved. Workmates takes great pride in promoting compassion, inclusivity, and the importance of hard

work. The Unsung Hero Awards are a perfect reflection of these values, and we could not be prouder of John and Paul for their remarkable work. We wish to express our gratitude to People Make Maryhill for creating this dynamic initiative that recognizes individuals

who work to make a difference. We are honoured to have our hardworking young people celebrated and recognized, and we hope their example will inspire others to strive for excellence in their work and kindness in their communities. Great job, John and Paul!



Halloween Party

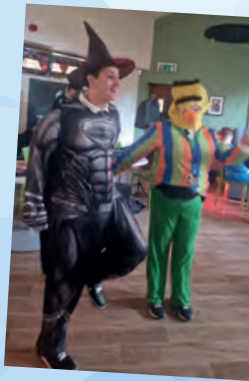


Our Halloween party was a huge success, with the children and young people thoroughly enjoying dressing up in their spooky costumes and having a great time with all their friends. The Hive was transformed into

a ghostly wonderland, with decorations and props that made the atmosphere exciting and thrilling. The party was made even more special thanks to the generous donation of snacks from Tesco Maryhill. We

were absolutely delighted to receive a variety of treats, including crisps, chocolates, and sweets. The goodies were a hit with everyone, and the children were thrilled to be able to indulge in some delicious snacks

while they enjoyed the festivities. We are incredibly grateful to Tesco Maryhill for their kind donation, without which the party would not have been the same.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

We're excited to announce that this year, we are bringing a special festive treat to our supporters - our very own Christmas cards designed by our talented students. These cards are perfect for spreading joy and cheer to those you care about while supporting a fantastic cause. The cards feature beautiful Reindeer artwork made by our children and young people, showcasing their creativity and originality. They're sure to put a smile on anyone's face and add

that extra special touch to your season's greetings. For a suggested donation of only £3 per pack, you can get your hands on six cards and envelopes to share with your loved ones. To order your pack of cards, simply email fundraising@eastpark.org.uk. Your donation will go directly towards supporting our children and young people.

Thank you for your support, and we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Leave a Gift for Future East Park Children

THOMAS BRADLEY & CO

East Park are delighted to be partnered with Thomas Bradley Legal Services. We see this as a wonderful opportunity for our supporters to work with one of the leading Estate Planning legal firms in Scotland who specialise in Asset Protection, Estate Planning and Inheritance Tax Planning, helping clients in later life to protect their assets and pass them on efficiently to their family. There is a choice of different services and levels allowing supporters to select the option that is

right for them and their family. You can choose a Free or a fixed price service giving certainty and price clarity with a quick turn

Scott Ewart, Managing Director at Thomas Bradley Legal Services said: "Everyone benefits. You get the Will or Will review you

your Will to East Park. If you are over 50, you can benefit from our Free Will Service! Kim Pollock, Fundraiser at East Park said:

Everyone benefits. You get the Will or Will review you need whilst East Park gets much needed funds.

"We are delighted to be working with Thomas Bradley. This will be a valuable service for our supporters, as well as a welcome fundraising opportunity. We are grateful to everyone at Thomas Bradley Legal Services for making their Estate Planning service available to all."



around and a process that is as easy as possible. And Will storage is very competitive to ensure your Wills are safe and secure. Thomas Bradley Legal Services hopes this ensures peace of mind.

need whilst East Park gets much needed funds. And if you like the Thomas Bradley service, you might use us for other work now or in the future." One of our most popular services is a Will for Charity. All we ask is that you consider leaving a Gift in

For further information on the services we are providing in our partnership with Thomas Bradley, please don't hesitate to get in touch. This is a great chance to get your Will written or updated.

THOMAS BRADLEY & CO

Call Thomas Bradley on **0330 390 9200** or email info@thomasbradleylegal.co.uk to arrange a chat with one of their consultants

Happy for us to keep in touch?

East Park would love to continue to share the achievements and learning of our children and young people by sending you our quarterly East Park Patter. However, if you would rather not receive this newsletter please complete this tear off slip and return to **Fundraising, East Park, 1092 Maryhill Road, Glasgow, G20 9TD.**

I would **not** like to receive the East Park Patter anymore

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ADDRESS:

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