

Dear WAC Arts,

I am applying in advance for a bursary for my son, Fionn Bright, to attend the Saturday ukulele lessons at 12.45pm from the January term. Fionn will turn four on 17th December, so I understand he will be eligible to join from January.

Fionn is a young carer for his older brother, Dáithí, who has Down syndrome, autism and significant additional needs. Dáithí is non-verbal and requires a very high level of supervision and support with everyday activities. I have attached a paediatrician's report as supporting evidence of his needs.

Fionn would especially benefit from the ukulele lessons because having a regular activity that is entirely his own would give him an important opportunity to develop his confidence, creativity and independence outside of the caring environment at home. Inevitably, a great deal of our family's time and attention has to be devoted to meeting Dáithí's needs, and this has an impact on Fionn too.

We are very conscious of making sure that Fionn has opportunities that are just for him, where he can have fun, develop his own interests and receive individual attention. He loves music, and I think the ukulele group would be a particularly positive and enjoyable outlet for him.

A bursary would help us to ensure that the additional demands on our family do not limit Fionn's access to activities and opportunities of his own.

Thank you very much for considering his application.

Best wishes,
Gráinne McLoughlin

07824586212

COMMUNITY CLINIC - PAEDIATRICS

Community Paediatricians:

Dr Dulmini Birkett	Dr Gita Croft
Dr Ellie Day	Dr Felicity Katz
Dr Priscilla Julies	Dr Sasha Krichevskaya
Dr Ilana Shein	Dr Sarah Walker
Dr Allison Ward	

Contact numbers:

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Private & Confidential

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AH/J06284365/MRN60640138

NHS No: 724 519 2294

Clinic Date: 18/02/2025

Date Typed: 19/02/2025

Dear Dr Naylor

Re: Master Daithi Bright DOB: 19/11/2020
7 Clyda Mansions, Gondar Gardens, London, NW6 1EU

Diagnoses:

1. Down syndrome
2. Autism spectrum disorder

Current Medication:

None.

Current Health Teams Involved:

1. Paediatric audiology at the RNTNE (Dr Chrysa Spyridakou).
2. Paediatric ophthalmology at the Royal Free Hospital.

Current Health:

Daithi was brought to clinic on 18th February with both parents. Daithi has unfortunately been unwell in the last six weeks, with parent's main concerns being about his food intake during this time. Around six weeks ago Daithi became unwell and began having only small amounts of food but did continue to have three to four bottles of goat milk a day. During this time he had not had any intercurrent illnesses with no fevers, coughs, coryza, vomiting or diarrhoea. His parents say that during this time he had a one-week period where he returned to his normal self and was eating as normal. Approximately one week ago he again had reduced food intake and this has coincided with cough and coryza over the last couple of days, which are symptoms shared by his family members. He has not had any fevers and has not required attendance to hospital. He is otherwise drinking well, opening his bowels and passing urine as normal. Parents do not think he has pain at the back of his throat. He has not had any vomiting, rash or diarrhoea. His mother

measured his oxygen levels while sleeping this morning and found them to be 90%, he was clinically well during this time and has not had any difficulty in his breathing.

Since his last clinic appointment, other than the above, Daithi has been well in himself with no hospital admissions and his eczema has improved following emollient cream from the GP. He is currently sleeping well with no symptoms of obstructive sleep apnoea.

His weight today is 13.58 kg and his height is 96 cm. This is tracking well on his previous growth chart.

His respiratory, cardiovascular, abdominal and general examination was normal today. He had no focal signs on the chest and had no work of breathing. He was noted to be coryzal and intermittently coughed. His oxygen saturations today were 95%-96% in room air.

Hearing:

Daithi attends Dr Spyridakou's clinic at the RNTNE. Parents say at his last clinic appointment it was reported he had 20%-30% hearing loss. Daithi does not like wearing his bone conduction hearing aids and parents are working closely with nursery regarding his compliance. Currently he wears them every day at nursery for approximately 30 minutes at a time and will have similar periods of time at home a couple of days a week where he will wear his hearing aid. Parents do feel they can improve his compliance by putting on music that he likes and they do see him respond positively to this. They have had involvement from a teacher for the deaf who is helping to support compliance. His next clinic appointment with audiology is in March 2025.

Vision:

Daithi is currently under paediatric ophthalmology at the Royal Free Hospital. His next appointment is next Friday (28/02). At his last clinic appointment parents report they were told he was noted to have a "slight squint", but this is currently under monitoring without intervention required.

Thyroid Function:

Daithi had normal thyroid function in 2024 with T4 17.3 pmol/L and TSH 5.58 mU/L. He is due his repeat thyroid function today and we have asked parents to book in his blood test. In view of his HLA status we will also test his coeliac function at this time.

Dental Care:

Daithi is receptive to brushing teeth and sees his dentist regularly with no concerns. His next review is reportedly in a few months.

Sleep and Behaviour:

Daithi sleeps well and independently in his cot. He sleeps in the same room as his brother with no symptoms of obstructive sleep apnoea or night sweats. With regard to self-care, there are no concerns with how Daithi opens his bowels. Parents are trying to start toilet training, but he currently has no awareness of his need to go to the toilet. When he opens his bowels into the nappy he will not tell his parents that he has done this and parents will need to anticipate to change him. Parents do feel they have to anticipate his needs a lot and he finds it difficult to convey these.

Educational Progress:

Daithi has been at Tuffkid Nursery full-time and parents feel this has been good for him, but he does sometimes come back tired at the end of the day. His sensory seeking behaviour has improved and he is not pulling hair as much. Parents feel his interaction with other children is limited, but he will sit with his younger brother who also attends the same nursery. Mostly he will spend time by himself but he does have a key worker who will be attentive to his needs. Nursery continues to be positive for him. He currently has occupational therapy, speech and language and physio input once a week at nursery. Parents have said he has a place at Kisharon School to start this September. This is a special needs school.

Summary:

Daithi appears to be suffering from a viral upper respiratory tract infection which is impacting his appetite. His appetite has been generally reduced over the last six weeks but with a period of return to normal. I have explained to parents that this is likely back-to-back viral infections and we would look to see him improve within the next week or two. He is currently well hydrated, examines well with normal oxygen saturations and no current red flag features. We have explained to parents if his intake reduces further and there are clinical concerns such as fevers, increased work of breathing or increasing lethargy, they should seek medical attention.

Daithi is otherwise progressing well and continues to thrive at nursery. Parents are working with health professionals to improve his compliance with his hearing aids. He is due his thyroid function tests and parents will book in these blood tests at the Royal Free. Due to his HLA status, we will also check for coeliac disease at this time, of note he has previously been negative for coeliac.

Plan:

1. Thyroid function tests to be booked this month.
2. Continue ophthalmology and audiology follow-up as planned.
3. Review in this clinic in nine months.

Yours sincerely

Dictated and Approved electronically to avoid delay

Dr Alexander Hunt
ST4 Paediatrics

cc
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