



Press Release – For Immediate Release

LANTERNS NURSERY SCHOOL RECOGNISED AT NATIONWIDE COMMUNICATION AWARDS

Staff and families at Lanterns Nursery School and Children’s Centre in Winchester are celebrating after being highly commended in the **Early Years Setting of the Year** category at the **2013/2014 Shine a Light Awards** for their work supporting children with special educational needs (SEN).

The Awards, held in London recently and hosted by Broadcaster and Health Campaigner, Anne Diamond, are run by Pearson Assessment in partnership with The Communication Trust to honour individuals, teams, campaigns, communication friendly settings and communities that have excelled in their support of children and young people’s communication.

The Nursery School and Children’s Centre was highly commended for their inclusive and multi-agency approach to supporting all children’s communication development, particularly those with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). Of the 110 children attending the nursery school each week, 36 children have significant SEN.

The judges were impressed with how Lantern’s work is making a significant difference to children’s outcomes and their transition to primary school. Communication and language is supported at the School by giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Joy Reynolds, Headteacher at Lanterns Nursery School and Children’s Centre, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have been short listed as finalists for the Shine a Light *Early Years Setting of the Year* award. We are proudly displaying our 'Highly Commended Finalist' certificate in our reception area.

"It is a fantastic to be recognised for all that we do to promote Communication and Language for all children and families who attend Lanterns. Listening to the great work that people are doing across the country at the awards ceremony, has motivated us to strive to improve our communication even further and we are already planning areas of improvement."

Lanterns Nursery School is a Hampshire County Council maintained nursery school. Commenting on the good news, Councillor Keith Mans, the County Council’s Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services said: "On behalf of the Council, I would like to congratulate the staff at Lanterns on achieving professional recognition, at a national level, for the excellent work they are doing to support children in developing their communication and language skills.

“Ensuring children get the support they need at an early stage in their learning journey is one of the key building blocks to success. This commendation is well deserved.”

Chris Hall, Managing Director of Pearson Assessment and Shine a Light Award Judge, says: “It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Lanterns Nursery School and Children’s Centre for being highly commended in the early years category.

“We have been blown away by this years nominations and seen some truly inspiring examples of work being carried out to support children and young people with SLCN. With the awards now in their third year, we are excited to have helped over 90 teams shout about their work and go on to inspire others.”

Lanterns Nursery School and Children’s Centre is a Makaton Centre of Excellence and all children experience using signing and symbols as part of their learning. A dedicated Communication Practitioner has been appointed to take a leading role in promoting good practice working with staff, parents and children.

For the full list of Shine a Light winners and highly commended finalists, visit www.shinealightawards.co.uk

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For Further Information

For more information, or to arrange an interview with Lanterns Nursery School and Children’s Centre, please contact Laura Smith or Charlotte Hussey at Consilium Communications by emailing lsmith@consiliumcommunications.co.uk / chussey@consiliumcommunications.co.uk or call 07766651366.

Notes to editors

About the Shine a Light Awards

- The Shine a Light Awards are sponsored and organised by Pearson Assessment in partnership with The Communication Trust. They took place on the 3rd April 2014.
- The Awards are designed to promote and celebrate good practice in speech, language and communication for individuals, groups and settings which work with children and young people, particularly those with SLCN.
- The awards form part of the legacy of the National Year of Communication (*Hello* campaign) and have become a key event in the speech, language and communication community’s calendar.
- Nearly 80 applications were received with 16 winners and 13 highly commended finalists picking up coveted awards at a glittering ceremony hosted by Anne Diamond.
- 17 judges were involved in the Shine a Light Awards including Janet Cooper, Founder of Stoke Speaks Out, Peter Sutcliffe, Editor of SEN Magazine, Virginia Beardshaw, Chief Executive of I CAN, Sean Stockdale, Editor of Special Magazine, Kamini Gadhok, Chief Executive of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT), Diz Minnitt, Milton Keynes Youth Offending Team and Hilary Berry, Headteacher at Over Hall Community School.
- For further information and to view the film of the ceremony and the full list of judges, visit www.shinealightawards.co.uk

About Pearson Assessment

- Pearson Assessment is the world’s largest commercial developer and distributor of educational assessments and psychological testing materials with over 90 years history of commitment to researching and developing products to a reliable high standard.
- Pearson Assessment is dedicated to the pursuit of professional excellence, leadership, and growth through acquisition, development, publication, and the maintenance of quality assessment tools in order to anticipate and meet the needs of its customers.
- Pearson Assessment have sponsored the Shine a Light Awards since their launch in 2011, as part of the *Hello* campaign (National Year of Communication).

- For more information, visit www.pearsonclinical.co.uk or follow @PsychCorpUK #SAL2014

About The Communication Trust

- The Communication Trust is a coalition of nearly 50 leading voluntary sector organisations, which raises awareness, influences policy, promotes best practice among the children's workforce and commissions work from its members.
- It has an extensive advisory group, which includes the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, Association of Educational Psychologists and the General Teaching Council.
- For more information about the Trust visit www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk or follow @Comm_nTrust #SAL2014