

## **The Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials to be first international sporting event to host Care at the Event**

**From Thursday 7th May to Sunday 10th May**, Hop Skip and Jump will be attending The Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials to launch Care at the Event.

Care at the Event is an innovative provision of flexible and immediate day care for anyone with additional needs, no matter how complex, in order that they and their families may have the opportunity to enjoy a family day out. Badminton is the first event to sponsor such a space so that families can enjoy a day at the horse trials without anxiety. The Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials is a world class event and, with more than 150,000 people expected at this year's trials, it is a fantastic occasion at which to launch Hop Skip and Jumps Care at the Event.



**CARE AT THE EVENT**

The Hop Skip and Jump marquee will be situated next to the disabled car park where highly trained staff will welcome and care for all ages whatever their disability. There will be a wet room and a variety of activities, as well as a screen showing the dressage, cross-country and show jumping.

Chairman of Hop Skip and Jump, the Reverend Celia Carter confirmed “It is our wish for families who care for all those with a disability to be given the opportunity to enjoy a special day out at Badminton. Our staff will help provide hours of fun and laughter, while the family are free to walk the course, watch the show jumping and dressage as well as visit the shops. We are thrilled that the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials has had the vision to provide this facility in conjunction with Hop Skip and Jump”.

Care at the Event has been developed from Care in the High Street, an initiative to provide high quality respite care in centrally located and easily accessible spaces such as shopping centres and football stadiums. Our concept was launched at a prestigious event hosted by Samantha Cameron at Ten Downing Street. Shortly after the first Care in the High Street was opened by Hop Skip and Jump Patron Elizabeth Hurley in the Brunel shopping centre in central Swindon. This year three new Care in the High Street centres are to be opened in Cardiff, Horsham and Wigan. Care at the Event is the first of its type at an international sporting event and presents an exciting development in respite care. Hop Skip and Jump is delighted to be pioneering such a vital facility at this esteemed sporting event.

Badminton Event Director Hugh Thomas said “We were very excited when Hop Skip and Jump approached us. To make our event more accessible to disabled and disadvantaged people and above all their carers is a great step forward”.

‘Care at the Event’ will be open Thursday to Saturday from 10am – 6pm and on Sunday from 10am-4pm. Reservations can be made in advance please email [office@hopskipandjump.org.uk](mailto:office@hopskipandjump.org.uk) or telephone 01453 836 390. For further information head to our website <http://hopskipandjump.org.uk/> or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

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For more information, images or samples please contact Katie Baggaley at Hop Skip and Jump on: [develop@hopskipandjump.org.uk](mailto:develop@hopskipandjump.org.uk) or call 01453 836390.

### **Notes for Editors**

Hop Skip and Jump was established in 1982 to provide immediate and flexible respite care to children and young adults across the South West. In the thirty years since the launch of our first centre in Cheltenham, we have gone on to launch two further centres in Bristol and Swindon, with new centres in Wigan and Milton Keynes scheduled for the near future.

Hop Skip and Jump provide support for children with any additional need, from complex physical conditions to special educational needs and behavioural problems. HS&J offer thousands of placements every year; care and support for children with help and advice for their families. Through targeted therapy sessions - after school care, weekend respite, teens and twenties clubs - Hop Skip and Jump provide valuable support to our community.

Care in the High Street aims to make respite care easily accessible to all. With centres across the country, Care in the High Street will help support families when they need it most. These units will offer parents the opportunity to have some time off from the responsibilities of care, give children a stimulating environment to play in that is safe and secure and encourage footfall to Britain's high streets by enabling parents who cannot otherwise go shopping the opportunity to do so.