

Hop Skip & Jump welcome new President to the team!

South-west based charity Hop, Skip & Jump are delighted to announce their new President, radio and TV presenter Ali Vowles.

The BBC presenter and journalist has been a valuable supporter of the charity in Bristol, which offers a special place for special children and their families providing support and play for children and young people with life limiting and life threatening illnesses, or any special need. The charity aims to improve the quality of life for children with disabilities by building their confidence, social skills and self esteem.

Over recent years Ali has shown her willingness and dedication to Hop, Skip & Jump through close involvement with various charity projects as well as visiting the centre. She's also helped fundraise by running the Bristol half marathon, on behalf of the charity and its children.

Ali Vowles said, "I am absolutely delighted to have been invited to support the team at Hop, Skip & Jump. I have been following the charity's work for many years now and know from talking to the parents and children just invaluable the service is to families in and around Bristol. I know it's often the first time that they have felt completely at ease knowing that they are in an environment where everyone understands. I am looking forward to working closely with the dedicated members of staff as well as the families that come from far and wide to make use of the wonderful facilities."

Ali will begin her Presidency at a time when the charity's work is receiving widespread recognition and the centre is seeing a steady increase in visitor numbers. The centre recently saw the opening of its new Sensory Garden which was funded by community organisations and designed to stimulate the senses of the children and young people visiting.

Andrew Young, Chairman of Hop, Skip & Jump said, "We are thrilled to be welcoming Ali to the Hop, Skip and Jump team and I am in no doubt that she will be a valuable asset to the charity. The work that Ali does for the charity is marvellous, demonstrating her dedication and enthusiasm for the work we do. I look forward to working closely alongside her in helping to further the support that Hop, Skip and Jump is able to provide for the local community."

The centre, which relies entirely on charitable donations to raise the £200,000 needed to keep it running each year, is an invaluable resource for many families. It gives hundreds of children the opportunity to build their confidence, mobility, strength, social skills and self-esteem through the freedom of adventure play, open space, fun and laughter. It also provides much needed respite to parents and carers.