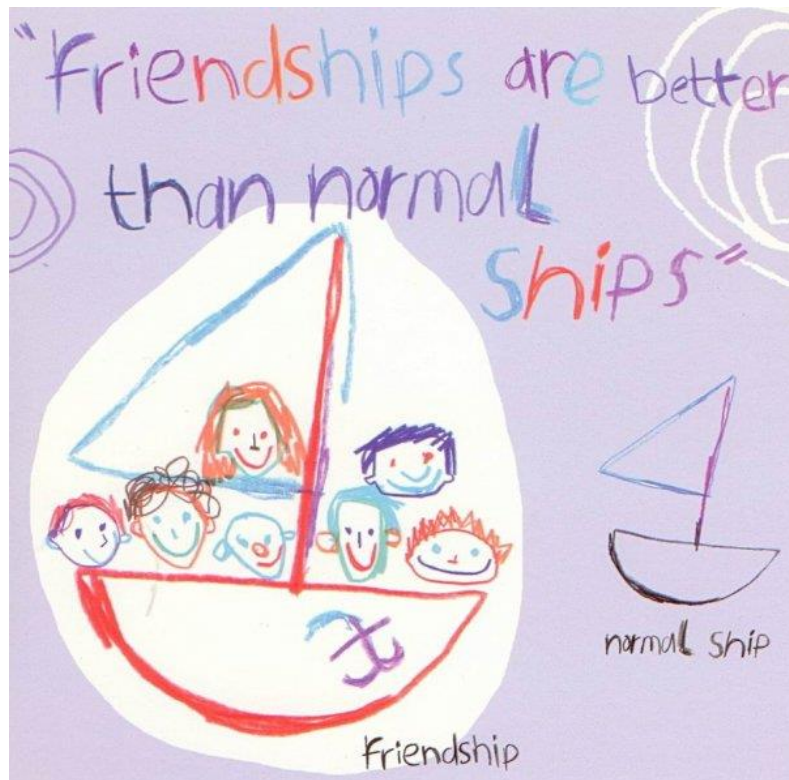


# Friendships are better than normal ships



This card arrived a few days ago and I wanted to share it with you a) because I think it's fab and b) because it's true ...! And talking about friends ...



Lalitha Velautham and Professor Tania Aspland from the University of Adelaide are in the early stages of Children's University development in partnership with Principal Lynn Simons from Mark Oliphant College. I am hoping to see them in Kuala Lumpur in early June when we are

meeting with Malaysian Government representatives and our colleagues from the Di Purba Centre for Professional Excellence to establish a local Children's University presence in Malaysia. Professor John MacBeath of the University of Cambridge will be joining us too.



The Netherlands Children's University has now officially joined the ranks and are starting their operation from Rotterdam. The lead organisation in the Netherlands is the CED Groep.



Closer to home we have been joined by our first Academies and Free Schools Trust Children's University, the Tauheedul Islam Faith, Education and Community Trust (TIFECT). Based in Blackburn, the trust will soon have a number of Academies and Free Schools across the country. Blackburn CU in the extremely capable hands of Sarah Casey will of course continue to flourish in its own right!



Meet Keith! Keith Wysner is the driving force behind the CU development in Northern Ireland in partnership with a whole host of people and organisations ... his enthusiasm and grasp of what it can look like are amazing! A graduation within twelve months ...? Piece of cake!



*Keith (not a piece of cake)*

Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty and Maggie Atkinson, Children's Commissioner now also know that we are around and like very much what we do and what we stand for – meeting them was a pleasure and ... maybe we will see more of them in the future!



*Shami Chakrabarti*



*Maggie Atkinson*

School 21 is a new, state-funded, inclusive school for 4 to 18 year olds in the heart of Stratford, Newham. It is a school for girls and boys and for children from all faiths and backgrounds. Peter Hyman is its Executive Headteacher and it was a pleasure to meet with him in Manchester recently ... we are hoping School 21 might join our CU family in the not too distant future.



*Peter Hyman*

Michelle Temperley is the Arts Room Co-ordinator in Oldham and is building up a list of *Artisti* or 'Artists in Residence' providing Children's University learning ... a human *Learning Destination!* (*Artisti* of course refers to Loris Malaguzzi and the Reggio Emilia approach.)



The Hachette Book Group has indicated that they may well be interested in developing a worldwide partnership with the Children's University ... so watch this space!

More, much much more will be revealed during the Children' University (CU) Trust annual meeting on 15 June in Manchester - BBC, B&Q, Summer Reading Challenge 2012, First News, CU Volunteering, website and *E-Passport*, CU Lectures ...

It was a delight to visit Bradford CU and Bradford University recently and meet up with some old ... well 5 years old – friends: Sophia, Mutty, Nadira and a good few more. Bradford Children's University was there right at the beginning and the support received locally and nationally from Bradford University's Vice Chancellor Professor Mark Cleary has gone a long way to helping us get where we are today ... with lots of friends!



*Lunch at Mumtaz in Bradford ... with friends*

Guess what ... the Children's University (CU) Trust has been shortlisted for The Charity Awards 2012 and we will find out what this really means at The Charity Awards 2012 Ceremony on 14 June in London! Keep fingers (and everything else) crossed!!



And it always feels as if the best bits are yet to come ... CU graduation time is upon us again soon ... Birmingham, Hull, Blackburn, Chesterfield, Colchester, Doncaster, Knowsley, Lambeth, Middlesbrough, Norfolk, Carlisle, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, Slough, South Hertfordshire, Stoke, West London, York and last but not least Coventry ... and one way or the other we will get to them all!!



Anyway, time to go ...!

TTFN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J.W." or similar, written in a cursive style.