

Luca to run in support of other autistic children.

PLUCKY three-year-old Luca Forsey is in training for his first big running event – taking on the Run Bournemouth [Kids' Kilometre](#) - this Saturday - for [Autism Unlimited](#).

Luca's dad Elliott, 28, said: "Luca has always loved watching me run and loves running himself.

"When he decided he wanted to run in a 'proper race,' we suggested it would be great for him to try and raise some money for charity at the same time.

"Luca was recently diagnosed with autism, and we are hoping he will be starting at Autism Unlimited's Portfield School in Parley from next year.

"I have done sponsored events for Autism Unlimited before, so Luca decided he would too.

"He is an incredibly active boy, so doing a run seemed like the most apt event for us to do together. We will be doing the Kids' Kilometre race, which children run with a parent, and we're really looking forward to it."

Luca, from Wimborne, started 'training' in the summer and ran a mile straight off.

"He's actually already run 5k, so we know the 1K won't be difficult for him," said Elliott. "He asks to go out running most days.

"We run together holding a cord, which is fun."

"Luca is very excited to be doing a 'proper run' with his daddy," agreed his mum Lianna, 26.

"Our friends and family have been very generous with their sponsorship, and he has already reached £350. It's great to know we are already contributing to the school which will be supporting him in the coming years."

Autism Unlimited empowers autistic children, young people, adults, and their families through bespoke education, independent living skills, advice, and expert guidance. The charity manages Portfield School for primary and secondary school students in Parley, and Portfield School Sixth Form and Futures for young adults in Christchurch.

Siún Cranny, CEO of Autism Unlimited, said: "I'd like to express my huge thanks and gratitude to Luca, his daddy Elliott and the other runners already taking part in Run Bournemouth for Autism Unlimited this coming weekend. They are our absolute heroes, and we can't wait to cheer them on!

"It's not too late for other people to sign up to one of the events and fundraise for us too. So, please consider being a part of Team AU!"

Luca can be sponsored at: [Elliott Forsey is fundraising for Autism Unlimited \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Elliott-Forsey)

Run Bournemouth takes place during the weekend of October 12-13 and comprises a mixture of six youth and adult races from 1k up to the Half Marathon. Anyone can register to run in support of Autism Unlimited at: [Run Bournemouth - 12th/13th October 2024](https://www.runbournemouth.co.uk/)

Picture captions:

IN TRAINING - Luca Forsley, three, and his dad Elliott will be running the Kids' Kilometre at the Run Bournemouth event for Autism Unlimited.

www.autism-unlimited.org

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