

2015, CCC Newsletter Spring 2



Welcome to our latest newsletter.

NEWS FROM THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

From the Trustees

The trustees would like to express a very big thank you to Richard Ulllyott, who after 14 years service as a trustee, is stepping down from his role as a company director. Richard has been involved in helping the Centre grow from a small portakabin to the purpose built facility, with extra out of school facilities, as it is today. Richard has held various roles, including Chair and Company Secretary. He has supported the Centre heavily with his computer expertise and ensured we were one of the first local nurseries to have a website. Richard has given his time to fundraise, garden, clean and work with the children (to name but a few jobs) in order to help us continually strive to grow the Centre to ensure we offer the highest level of childcare we can. Thank you Richard, you will be sadly missed, not only by the trustees, but by the management team, staff and children. We wish you every success with your new ventures and we will keep you informed of our journey to 'Outstanding'.

Carol Hill

With the 1st March marking the start of Spring, we are planning our Spring focus across the Centre. It's the usual time of year for World Book Day and Red Nose Day so please take time to read the details in the 'Information for All Rooms' section to find out what we have planned and how to become involved.

We will also be starting work on our outdoor areas to ensure they are fully usable as the warmer weather approaches. We would still like to change the Butterfly Room grassed area to artificial turf and therefore if anyone has any contacts in groundworks that may be able to support us with this project then please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Our thoughts also turn to holidays at this time of year, and therefore if you are planning any holidays and wish to receive your holiday deduction entitlement, please notify the office of your dates, and we can make the adjustments on the next invoice.

Sarah Baker

Thank you for your support over the first half term. All the Children have settled well back into their nursery routine and we have had some great support with Home learning participation from parents which really supports children's development. It was great to see so many parents attending parents evening, thank you for this support and for filling in the questionnaires, I will report feedback as soon as I have analysed the information.

ACTIVITIES IN THE CENTRE

Baby Room

Over the last half term, the babies have enjoyed carrying out our planned winter activities such as exploring coloured ice. We brought snow inside to allow them to investigate, feeling the cold on their hands. Our book for winter was about a small penguin which we read to the babies and using props from our new story sacks, we brought the story alive for them. We also made our own winter scene pictures, using black paper and chalks.

We have been singing lots of new rhymes during our initiative of Chatter Matters, including 'The Little Rabbit' and 'Hickory Dickory Dock'. For our shape topic we used our light board to explore different 2D and 3D shapes. We then extended the learning by encouraging building using different shaped boxes.

During the next half term up to Easter, we will be investigating ICT toys, music and movement and having fun on World Book Day.

We hope you had fun with your child baking and making play dough for their home learning. We look forward to receiving this back and hearing all about it.

Michelle Wood
Baby Room Co-coordinator

Caterpillar Room

What a wonderful start to the New Year.

The Caterpillar children have been getting busy with fun and exciting topics. We started off the year looking at winter. We explored the winter weather and how to keep warm using our weather bear. We explored ice and snow, winter animals and how to keep safe.

Our next topic which has been enjoyed by all children is our space topic. We have loved the story book 'Aliens Love Underpants'. A big thank you to all parents and children for the wonderful designer underpants for our home learning work, they are all wonderful. We have been learning planet names, looking at sizes of planets (big, medium and small), we have also enjoyed singing '5 little men in a flying saucer'. In our role play area we have enjoyed adventuring into space pretending we are on a space rocket going to all of the planets, and going to see Mr Moon.

What is next?

Over the next few weeks we will be focusing on ICT and moving toys, we will be using laptops, cameras, and wind-up toys and looking at magnetic movers. We will also be having an active week looking at music and movement and using our 'Busy Feet' pack to incorporate imaginative thinking while moving. We are also going to have a 'Fantastic Fairy Tales' theme exploring imaginative play through knights, dragons and princesses.

Well done to all of our children for doing a brilliant job in our chatterbox challenge. Thank you to everyone for their generous sponsor money which has helped us raise a large amount of money to support children with Speech and Language delays.

Thank you.

Emma Thistlewood
Caterpillar Room Coordinator

Butterfly Room

During this term so far the Butterfly children have enjoyed exploring our two themes of Winter and Space. Throughout the Winter topic, we have been exploring the properties of snow and ice and the children were able to explore some real snow which they loved! We talked about the importance of keeping warm, the weather changes in Winter and the animals that we may see both in our country and overseas. The children really enjoyed making bird feeders with lard, seeds and yoghurt pots and hanging them from the branches watching the birds feed off them.

The children thoroughly enjoyed our topic of Space. We made a spaceship role play area, in which they pretended to be spacemen and alien. We also enjoyed telling the story of 'Whatever Next'

with props. We would like to say a big thank you for all your home learning to support this. The children have enjoyed seeing their pictures up on the display and their rocket models on the table.

Over the coming weeks we will be exploring ICT skills, accessing the computer and using the educational programmes on the I-Pad. We are also going to be looking at the story of Jack and the Beanstalk to celebrate World Book Day retelling the story with puppets and props and having a Giants tea party! We will then move on to our imaginative theme of Fantastic Fairytales! ,retelling traditional stories and doing fun activities around them.

We would like to say thank you for your continued support with our home learning activities. These are very valuable to us as a Key Person and the children enjoy seeing their work on display.

Becky Lofthouse.
Butterfly Room Coordinator

Butterfly Room to Out of School Club -Could we ask all families that when you receive notification of your child/ren's primary school place, please let us know as soon as possible and to confirm your requirements are still the same as those on your application form. This will enable us to start allocating places from the waiting list. We will write to you outlining the sessions we have available and enclose an acceptance slip which needs to be signed and return with a deposit. Our expected date to confirm all places is during the first week of May.

Carol Hill

Out of School Service

Now the nights are getting lighter, the children are enjoying playing outdoors, playing hide and seek, off ground tigs and den building. If you would like your child/ren to wear outdoor shoes (other than school shoes) and have not brought any, you are welcome to do so. Inside, the children are enjoying playing board games such as scrabble and twister to name a few.

For our future planning, if you have any cereal boxes, cartons, material etc that we can use for junk modelling we will gladly take them off your hands.

September 2015 onwards:- For the children that currently attend and have permanent places, can you please let us know if you would like us to try and accommodate any changes in sessions from September so we can make the changes whilst sessions are being allocated for the new starters. Otherwise, we will assume that you wish for your child to continue with their current allocated sessions and no further action will be required.

For children that currently attend and have places allocated on a term by term basis, we will notify during the first week of May if we can still continue to offer these places. As a reminder, we only offer after school sessions in Butterfly room to children in reception therefore we will need to try to place the current reception year group in the log cabin and this will be dependent on spaces freed up by the older leavers.

We have had a fun filled February holiday club, celebrating Pancake Day and Chinese New Year. We had a fantastic trip to Magna, exploring all 4 areas. The children particularly enjoyed the water and fire area and they enjoyed the outdoor play area , taking part in a group workshop called "Rubbish Recycling". They worked together to group different items ,and at the end received a pencil made from recycled cd cases as a prize. We are working on the Easter itinerary at the moment and expect this to be posted out w/c 2nd March.

Amy and Katherine
Out of School Coordinators

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL ROOMS

Holiday allowances 2015- We offer 2 weeks of your child's weekly pattern at 50%, between January - December. To ensure this is adjusted on your monthly invoice please can you either complete a holiday allowance form which can be downloaded from our website or put your requested dates in writing. Once received, the deduction will be made on the next invoice that is produced. Invoices are produced by the 15th of month, for the month in advance.

Also, in addition, we do offer the option to take leave for the six week school holidays. It is a requirement to take the full 6 weeks to receive this holiday deduction. Notification for this should be made in writing by 15th June 2015, to take effect with July invoicing.

Nursery Funding - New Entitlement Reminder -For those parents whose children turn 3 years during the coming year, Nursery Funding will become available the term after their 3rd birthday. Cawthorne Children's Centre is able to offer sessions to enable your child to receive this entitlement. Each child at present will be able to access 15 hours funded care each week, during term time. There are specific criteria that need to be met to access all 15 hours, with the main one being attendance at the Centre over 2 days per week. Sessions can be accessed between 8am and 6pm each day. Therefore if your child is approaching 3 years, and you would like to look at changing sessions in order to maximise their entitlement to nursery funding, please do not hesitate to call into the office and speak with a member of the management team.

Fee Payment Reminder: - To clarify our policy on receipt of payments.

We prepare invoices on the 15th of the month for the month in advance. We then require payment for these invoices by the 30th of the month, or an agreed date close to this for those in receipt of childcare vouchers through their pay. If payments are not received and kept up to date after 3 consecutive months, then we will issue a final notice and request to pay in full within 7 days. If this request is not met, we will discuss termination of sessions and take action to recover the debt. Should you be unable to pay fees at any time, please contact Carol Hill in the first instance to discuss options that are available. Thank you.

Chatterbox Challenge Update :We have had a great outcome from our Chatterbox Challenge, raising over £517. Thank you to all of you who helped contribute to this total. The children had a great time during the Chatterbox Challenge week, they learnt new songs, sang and danced, had a tea party and took part in many of the 'Ben and Holly's little kingdom' themed activities.

World book day-5th March -On Thursday 5th March we will be celebrating World Book Day across the centre. We have planned a magical story event presented by the staff team who will bring the characters of Jack and the beanstalk to life!

Additionally to this please support this wonderful event by helping your child to choose their favourite story character and dress up.

We are also holding a giants tea party for lunch which will consist of lots of delicious party type food.

Red Nose Day - 13th March -We are looking forward to 'Making our faces funny' for Red Nose Day. We are joining in with fundraising for this worthwhile charity by dressing up as jungle characters for attending nursery on Friday 13th March, this is to support the Early Years red nose day theme of David Walliams new book "The Queen's Orang-Utan". During the week commencing 9th March all children will have the opportunity to create a funny face by using lots of different dressing up items. You will then have chance to see our photo gallery and buy your child's photo for a donation to Comic Relief.

Toothbrushes :-As part of the daily routine at the centre we promote the use of tooth brushing after breakfast to help keep children's teeth healthy. We also promote oral health improvement through topics, activities and discussions. We have tooth brushes and tooth paste regularly supplied by Barnsley Oral Health department and use these brushes for the tooth brushing for those children who have breakfast with us. Unfortunately we don't have an appropriate storage system for storing tooth brushes hygienically so therefore we can only store tooth brushes if parents have supplied a box/case. These can be bought from most supermarkets or chemists. Please could you support us in promoting good oral health by bringing into nursery a suitable storage case as soon as possible. Until we have this we will be unable to allow children to brush their teeth.

Facebook communication :-We would like to remind everyone that we will continue with this additional method of communicating as we have had a good response from parents who use Facebook. If you would like to join our Facebook page then please send us a Facebook friend's request. We are not a full public group so only people who we accept as friends are able to view our full page and any detailed information. We are not accepting requests from friends of the family or people who no longer have children who attend the centre. We will not publish any photographs or first names of any children who we have not been given permission for.

Key Responsibilities: Just to remind everyone of key contacts in the Centre :

Carol Hill - carol@cawthornechildrenscentre.co.uk

For all matters relating to finance, holiday entitlement, invoicing, outstanding balances, child care vouchers, session changes, notice periods, out of school planning and nursery funding.

Sarah Baker - sarah@cawthornechildrenscentre.co.uk

For all matters relating to the management of children's care and education, policies and procedures, future developments/improvement of the Centre, safeguarding, health and safety, staff training and development and event planning.

Staff Update:- Reminder of changes this half term

Catherine Toy, our Deputy Manager, has started her parental leave from the end of January. Catherine is very excited to share that they have adopted an eight month old baby called Jacob. We wish Catherine , Ben and baby Jacob a very happy future together and I am sure they will be popping in to say hello over the coming weeks.

Butterfly Room

Becky Lofthouse, Room Co-Ordinator in Butterfly Room is leaving us on March 6th to start her maternity leave. We wish Becky every happiness as she awaits the arrival of her first baby. We will miss Becky very much and hope to see her visiting with her family throughout the year.

Launa Skelley will move from Caterpillar Room to Butterfly Room, to take up Becky's role during her maternity leave. Launa has worked at the Centre for over 8 years and is looking forward to challenging herself in this new role. Charlotte Lofthouse will continue as Deputy Co-ordinator in that room for this period.

Justine Sturgeon leaves us on 3rd March to pursue her career as a Family Support Worker. She has been a very committed team member and built excellent relationships with her key children and their families. I know they have expressed to me that she will be sadly missed.

<http://www.cawthornechildrenscentre.co.uk>

Thank you Justine, and we wish you every success in your new role.

Caterpillar Room

Stephanie Peace will take on a full time role as Deputy Room Co-ordinator in Caterpillar room to support Emma and her team, whilst Launa is on secondment to Butterfly Room.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The following provides detail of forthcoming events and key dates:

March 5th	N/A	World Book Day
March 13th	N/A	Red Nose Day
March 15th	N/A	Mothering Sunday
March 27th	N/A	Pre-school finishes for Easter Out of School finishes for Easter
March 30th- April 10th	N/A	Holiday Club for Out of School
April 3rd	Closed	Good Friday
April 6th	Closed	Easter Monday
April 13th	N/A	Pre -school recommences
April 13th	N/A	Out of School recommences
May 4th	Closed	May Day Holiday
May 22nd	N/A	Pre-school finishes for Spring Bank Out of School finishes for Spring Bank
May 25th	Closed	Spring Bank Holiday
May 26th-29th	N/A	Holiday Club for Out of School
June 1st		Pre-school recommences Out of School recommences
June 21st	N/A	Fathers Day
June 19th	N/A	Inset Day Cawthorne school- No Out of School Clubs
July 17th	N/A	Pre-school finishes for Summer break Out of School finishes for Summer break
July 20th	N/A	Inset Day Cawthorne school. Holiday Club for Out of School
August 31st	Closed	Bank Holiday
Sept 1st	N/A	Pre-school recommences
Oct 23rd		Pre school finishes for Half Term Out of School finishes for Half Term
Oct 26th-30th	N/A	October Half Term Holiday Club
Nov 2nd	N/A	Pre-school recommences Out of School recommences.
Dec 18th		Pre school finishes for Christmas
Dec 21-23rd		Holiday Club for Out of School
Dec 23rd	6pm	Centre closes at 6pm for Christmas
Jan 4th 2016	7.30am	Centre reopens for New Year

Best Wishes,

Carol Hill,
Business Manager