

CCC Newsletter- Summer 1, 2015



Welcome to our latest newsletter.

NEWS FROM THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Carol Hill

Sarah and I recently attended a briefing session regarding new Government funding initiatives for the Early Years. They have introduced the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) which is funding paid to the setting to support the learning and development of eligible three and four year olds. This premium will help us as a setting provide additional support for your child enabling us to access additional training and resources.

A child will be eligible for the Early Years Pupil Premium IF...

They are three- or four-years old and receiving 15 hours of Government funded early education in ANY provider, AND they are either:

In a low income family. Their parents are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:	Have been:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Income Support• Income-based Jobseekers Allowance• Income-related Employment and Support Allowance• Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999• the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit• Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)• Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• looked after by the local authority for at least one day• have been adopted from care• have left care through special guardianship; and• children subject to a child arrangement order

Based on the above information, if you feel that your child may be eligible you will need to complete an online application form which will be available on Barnsley.gov.uk

In addition to this if you feel that your child could benefit from free school/setting meals for three and four year olds accessing Nursery Education Funding there are further details and an application form on Barnsley.gov.uk website.

Please feel free to discuss any aspects of this with Sarah or myself for further clarification.

Sarah Baker

It's been an exciting and fun filled half term with numerous event days to celebrate! We held a special performance on World Book day which saw the staff team and some children turn into budding actresses as they rein-acted the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Thank you to all those children who took part by coming dressed as a book character.

Next... we supported 'Red Nose Day' by making our faces funny for money, the children and staff team had a great time disguising their faces with different props and having their photos taken for us to then sell to raise money for Comic relief

Finally... we held our Easter bonnet competition. All the children and parents worked really hard and as a result all the entries were fabulous. However as hard as it is we can only have a limited number of winners. Details of the winners have been communicated to each Room Co-ordinator, should further details be required.

The management team and practitioners are looking forward to this terms play and learning opportunities which will include a focus on New life/Spring, Reasons to read, Spectacular Science/Creative arts, Fabulous food, Amazing Animals, Summer and Minibeasts, Dinosaurs and Transitions to school.

ACTIVITIES IN THE CENTRE

Baby Room

Firstly, we hope you all had a lovely Easter and enjoyed lots of delicious eggs and had a great time with family and friends. For those of us at Nursery, we had lots of fun making Easter baskets, exploring chocolate smelling Playdough and generally experiencing all things associated with Easter.

Now spring has finally sprung, we are looking forward to planting our flower seeds to put out into the garden for summer and also we are beginning to freshen up the baby garden after the long winter.

Over the coming weeks we will be looking at how important books are for babies and the importance of reading to them as often as we can, as well as getting creative with different media, music and movement and role play.

As the weather has been very kind to us of late, can we ask that all babies come with their sun cream, sun hats and some form of foot wear , as we will be spending many happy hours outdoors.

Thank you.

Michelle Wood
Baby Room Co-coordinator

Caterpillar Room

Getting busy with the Caterpillars

The Caterpillar children have been very busy exploring music and movement and 'Fantastic Fairytales.' We have been looking at our favourite fairytales and have used props and creative play to make the stories more interactive. For music and movement, we have been taking part in lots of group games using the parachute, ribbons and outdoor play , together with looking at how to make loud and quiet sounds using various instruments.

Our Current Topic

We are currently learning about springtime. We are looking at the weather changes using our 'weather bear' at group times. We are also looking at growing and planting where we will be setting up our own growing area to learn about caring for living things and to watch how much they grow. We have a little 'Garden Centre' in our role play area where the children can pretend to be shop keepers and can have a go at planting pretend seeds.

What is next?

We will be focussing a week on 'Reasons to Read', where we will be looking at stories, rhymes, poems, letters and words within our environment, making our own stories and getting creative and messy indoors and outdoors around some of our chosen books. During May 2015 our main topic will be 'Creative Arts'. This will cover Art and Design, Music and Art in Nature.

Reminders

Just a quick reminder regarding sun cream and hats - if you could please provide a sun hat and sun cream that will be kept in your child's bag for each session please. Also could we please ask that if your child attends for breakfast, could you please provide a toothbrush cover so we can let all children brush their teeth after breakfast.

Thank you for your continued support.

Emma Thistlewood
Caterpillar Room Co-ordinator/Deputy Childcare Manager

Butterfly Room

During the last term, the Butterfly children have enjoyed exploring various fairy tales such as Jack and the Beanstalk. We have enjoyed carrying out creative activities such as making a beanstalk, making wizard hats, magic wands, making witches' potions and using our senses to explore messy play. During Easter, the children made rice crispie buns, they went on Easter egg hunts, played in our role-play garden centre and went on a walk to look at spring flowers and to feed the ducks.

We are currently learning about Spring. We are going to be planting and growing sunflowers and looking at their life cycle as well as looking at new life. The children will also be using their creative skills to draw and paint flowers for our display boards.

Over the next term we will be working on letter and sounds. The children will be taking part in group sessions and taking part in activities such as listening walks, sound stories and sounds from 'Mrs Brown has a box'. These activities will develop your child's auditory skills and develop their recollection of different sounds in the environment. The staff and children have also been looking at golden rules in nursery to promote good behaviour. We have discussed **being kind** and doing **good listening** at nursery and at home. We would appreciate if you could discuss this at home and talk about what is kind or unkind and about listening to children and staff.

Due to the change in weather, (sunnier and warmer), we would like to remind parents to ensure that their child has sun cream and a hat in their bag or at nursery. A note has also been put up on the Butterfly room door to remind all parents to please provide a toothbrush protector, if a toothbrush protector is not provided then unfortunately we are unable to brush your child's teeth.

Launa Skelley
Butterfly Room Coordinator

Butterfly Room to Out of School Club - Now that primary school places have been allocated for our children, we will be able to start to plot sessions that people have requested for our after school service for September. Amy Johnson and myself have set aside Friday 24th April to start this process. We will work through the waiting list, in date order of received applications, and offer places that we have available. Once finalised, each family will receive a confirmation letter that will be required to be signed and returned with a deposit to secure the place. Where places can not be offered, children will remain on the waiting list and this is reviewed regularly when changes occur. Please be patient with us during this period, as we work through the lists and prepare the relevant confirmation letters. The aim is for us to have all letters issued soon after 1st May 2015.

Out of School Service

The children have enjoyed taking part in focussed activities especially the "I'm a Celeb" & "The Cube" challenges.

Now the weather is being kind to us, we will be enjoying the outdoors more and taking advantage of using the school field (this will be after tea, when all the school children have left the playground). We will be encouraging the children to join in team building activities, any ideas are greatly received.

If you still wish for your child/ren to wear outdoor shoes can you please let us know and we can make sure this is implemented when going outdoors.

If you are looking at cancelling a session, can you please let us know at your earliest convenience, in particular an after school session as this could effect our numbers and rota and we could also offer this place to another family who is requiring an extra session.

Now the school places have been allocated to the pre school children we are looking at allocating places for breakfast and after-school club. To our existing families ,can you please let us know if you wish to reduce or change a session and we can try our very best to accommodate all families.

Holiday Club

We have had a very busy and quick two weeks for the Easter holidays. During the holidays, we went on two exciting trips, Firstly to the Chocolate Factory in York, where we learnt about where chocolate came from and the process on making chocolate. We tried the chocolate at different stages, including the beans to a cold chocolate chilli liquid to chocolate flakes and finally to a piece of chocolate. The children made their own chocolate lolly-pop and the staff did manage to make one too! The second trip was bowling and then to the cinema to watch Sponge Bob. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the film experience, including the pick and mix and popcorn. Bowling was quietly competitive between both children and staff. The children enjoyed cheering when a team member got a strike or spare, especially for Charlotte!

During sessions at the Centre, the children enjoyed Easter games, the outdoors, from making dens as a group to mud pies in the sensory gardens. They also enjoyed walks around the village and playing at Cawthorne Park.

May Holiday Club Planning will be out by the first week in May. Please book early to avoid disappointment as trips do book up very quickly and are offered on a first come first served basis. If you have any ideas for trips please let us know as we enjoy trying new places and trying new experiences.

Amy Johnson
Out of School Coordinator

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.

Parents Evening Questionnaires - Thank you to everyone who provided us with feedback by completing our questionnaires after Parents Evening. Sarah is working her way through the responses and will be providing a summary of suggestions and ideas as soon as this is complete.

Sports Day- It is nearing the time of year when we all like to put on our running shoes for our annual Sports Day. This year we have set a provisional date of the morning of Saturday 27th June. We will have races on the field, games and crafts at the centre with tasty refreshments. We hope that you will all join us for this event and further details will follow.

Transitional Parents Evening School Leavers - We will be planning a parents evening in June/July for those children that leave us in the summer to start school. If you could let us know where your child has been offered a place, this will help us plan transitional arrangements. A date will be finalised and communicated in due course.

Tempest Photography- We have booked Graduation photos for Butterfly room from 9.30am on Monday 29th June. This will then be followed by Individual Photos for all rooms. If your child is in nursery this day, they will automatically be taken for photos. If they are not in nursery and you would like them to have their photograph, please can you book a time on the booking sheet that will be posted on the office door wc 22/6. Many Thanks.

Suncream -We have issued a letter on the 9th April regarding our procedures in applying suncream. If you have not received a letter please see your child's room coordinator as we need to ensure all children have a new sunscreen/protection ready for the summer months.

Natural Resource Request :-We are running low on certain resources that support lots of the play and learning opportunities for Maths, Literacy and Creative activities. If you have any of the following items at home that you could give/donate to us we will be very grateful:

Large/Medium buttons, cotton reels, pebbles, ribbon, material, tubes (not toilet rolls), shells

baskets, piping, natural sponges, pans/metal pots, utensils, wooden curtain rings.

Red Nose Day- Thank you to everyone who supported us with our red nose day activities. We raised £61.50 for this worthy cause.

Gates and Doors - Please can we request that parents and carers support us in keeping all children safe by ensuring that room doors are closed behind you, when leaving the room at drop off or collection. Also with regards to the main front door, this should only be opened by a parent and carer to ensure children are not allowed unsupervised access to the outdoor main path. Once outside, we would ask that parents and carers take time to bolt the gate at the end of the path on entry and on exit. As a team, we do try to ensure the gate is closed if we see it has been left open but as you can appreciate, we are busy inside looking after the children and managing the centre's day to day business. Many Thanks.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The following provides detail of forthcoming events and key dates:

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 19th	N/A	Inset Day Cawthorne school- No Out of School Clubs
June 21st	N/A	Fathers Day
June 27th	AM	Sports Day on the School Field
June 29th	N/A	Tempest Photography Graduation Photos Butterfly Room Whole Centre Individual Photos.
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.**