

Newsletter

Autumn 2 2015



Welcome to our latest newsletter.

NEWS FROM THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Carol Hill

As we move into the winter months, we have to review our planning for the possibility of snow and the disruption that this could bring. Therefore as a reminder for existing families and to share details with our new families, here is our procedure for adverse weather.

In the event of adverse weather at the beginning of the day, we will always set out and aim to open the Centre. However this is governed by the number of staff who make it in as we need to work within strict statutory ratios. Therefore we ask that you do not set out for the Centre until you have received notification from us that we are able to open. Once we have established that we are able to open, we will post this information on our facebook page and also regular updates throughout the morning. At least one staff member will be on site answering the phone from 7.30am but will only make a decision on opening once staff numbers are known. We will also use the Dearne FM school closures service, so please add this site to your favourites and monitor for our updates. Our text service is no longer in operation and therefore we recommend you use facebook as the preferred method of communication.

Where it snows throughout the day, we will keep watching the weather and make decisions about keeping open, based on safety of families and staff travelling home. We will communicate potential early closure using facebook and ask that children can be collected as soon as practicable during such times.

Where the Centre does not open, our policy to offer an alternative session, subject to availability, will apply, and no refunds will be offered unless your child attends full time. For services in Out of School club which is currently full, no alternative sessions are available, and therefore a refund will be offered.

Sarah Baker

We have had an exciting and fun filled first half to the Autumn term, learning through play and activities all about different families, our feelings, our bodies and senses. We are now underway with celebrating three festivals, Diwali, Christmas and Hanukkah. Each room has many wonderful activities planned to support the children's knowledge and understanding of these festivals and celebrate each other's similarities and differences. We have had some invaluable support from parents which we are extremely grateful for, so thank you. Children are now busy rehearsing for our nativity, they are using their best singing voices and acting skills ready to impress parents, grandparents and carers.

We have a new 'parents planning board' situated in the foyer where you can add anything at all that you feel your child may enjoy doing at nursery. This may be an idea to tie in with our topic/theme, it could be something your child is interested in, a messy activity (maybe you would prefer not to do at home!) or a baking activity. We have an extensive bank of ideas for each topic and for each weeks planning however we like to work together with parents and feel that this planning board is another way you can share ideas to enhance your child's learning. Please feel free to bring in any ideas on a post it note, paper or cut outs from magazines/internet and add them to the board and we will incorporate them into the activities provided for your child. Thank you for your continued support.

ACTIVITIES IN THE CENTRE

Baby Room

Firstly we would just like to say a big thank you for all the lovely sensory bottles that were made by parents and babies for us to explore in baby room. All the babies have enjoyed playing with them and have had lots of fun.

Now Autumn is here we have been having lots of fun with Halloween and Bonfire night activities, creating firework paintings and making scary cakes with playdough.

As we move into December, we will also be celebrating Diwali and Hanukkah so the babies can experience different celebrations and develop an appreciation for other cultures. Throughout the Christmas festivities, babies will be creating lots of art work for you to see in and around nursery as well as to take home, so we hope you will enjoy seeing all their hard work displayed.

As the weather is going to be turning colder in the coming weeks and months, can we ask that babies have warm out door clothes and if possible outdoor shoes as we will still be playing outside in the garden as often as possible.

Finally we would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and hope you all have a lovely holiday.

Michelle Wood
Baby Room Coordinator

Caterpillar Room

Getting busy with Caterpillars

The Caterpillar children have been busy learning about Autumn and Harvest; we have discussed weather, colours, and explored through sensory experiences. We loved playing in our sensory garden and making leaf prints and rubbings using paints and crayons. We have also looked at Ourselves, Families and Friends; looking at the different types of families and where we live. We have introduced our 'Golden Rules' through talking about friendship and being respectful of others, through sharing, using kind hands and using a timer to resolve conflicts. The children really enjoyed the group games and group sessions talking about emotions and actions.

We have been getting very messy with our Halloween topic. We have done experiments involving Lemonade and Bicarbonate of Soda to make explosions which the children enjoyed and could not stop talking about.

What's next?

Over the next half term our overall topic is 'Festivals'. We will be looking in depth at the various celebrations that take place around this time of year. We have chosen three celebrations that are of significance to the children attending our Nursery; these are Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. We will be celebrating each one, sharing customs and traditions.

A big thank you to the parents that have supported us in our knowledge and understanding of these celebrations and taking the time to provide items and activities that we can share and carry out with each other.

Notices

- All of our children will be learning new Christmas songs for our nativity that will be coming up in December, we are all very excited.
- A letter has been given out regarding nappy baskets. We will no longer be keeping nappies and wipes in baskets due to the amount of children now attending and the storage availability. We apologise for any inconvenience and ask that you provide nappies and wipes daily in your child's bag.

Emma Thistlewood
Caterpillar Room Coordinator

Butterfly Room

Over the last few weeks we have enjoyed our Halloween and Bonfire night with various fun activities. We liked carving our own pumpkins, dressing up as witches, skeletons, pumpkins and taking on a role in our play. The children enjoyed creative activities such as painting spiders,

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

pumpkins and bats. We read Halloween stories such as 'Room on the Broom' and 'Monsters Dinner' and used story props. We used many bright colours to make our bonfire and firework pictures and have enjoyed discussing our experiences from Halloween and Bonfire Night. During October half term we also loved going out in the village and walking to cannon hall. During our autumn walk we collected conkers and acorns and also we enjoyed posting letters in the post box and talking to the postman about where letters go.

During the next half term our topic will be 'Let's Celebrate'. We will be learning about Diwali and Hanukkah as well as celebrating Christmas time. Our play and learning opportunities will include discussions about the topic, making lanterns and candle holders, making Rangoli patterns and Menorah's. Carol (our cook) will also be assisting us to make potato Latkes and vegetable samosas. We will taste this food and discuss our opinions.

Christmas is fast approaching and the children will be making many Christmas decorations and taking part in many Christmas activities such as decorating biscuits, making reindeer food and exploring sensory experiences. The centre will be doing a nativity/ singalong and some of the children in the butterfly room will have a small part to play. We have sent out a copy of the lines your children will be saying and the children who have not received a note will still be taking part in the singalong. It would be wonderful if you could support your child in practicing singing our songs and if your child has a part to practice their words

Note to all parents: could you please ensure that your child has slippers for indoors and suitable footwear for outdoor play.

Launa Skelley

Butterfly Room Coordinator

Out of School Club

Welcome back after the half term break. During the October holidays, we have had lots of spooky fun, with pumpkin hunts, decorating biscuits and making witches brews. Our trip to Euerka was fabulous and we explored ourselves and watched a gory Frankenstein play.

As the weather is becoming more wintry, please can you ensure children have spare clothes including shoes/wellies as we will be going outside as often as possible after school.

You may be aware that we use the plan, do and review system for our planned activities. We discuss with the group on a weekly basis what they would like to do in the club. If your child/ren have any hobbies or craft idea you feel we could use, please do not hesitate to share these with us and add a note of suggestion on the plan,do, review board.

As always, our service has a high demand, to help us with extra sessions, and to ensure we don't have to search for children, please can you inform us if your child(ren) will not be attending.

On a final note, we are planning to run a Christmas Holiday Club from Monday 21st December to Wednesday 23rd December. The itinerary will follow shortly.

Katherine Beal
Out of School Coordinator

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL ROOMS

Holiday allowances 2015 - As we approach the end of the year , just a reminder that 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.

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 with the pattern we offer being 3 five hour blocks. 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.

Nursery Funding 2016-2017- We have received notification from the local authority that there are 41 weeks in the financial year 2016/17 and therefore we have been advised we need to add in a further 3 non funded weeks during this year as the local authority only pay funding for 38 weeks. It has been suggested that we add on additional non funded week before the May half term 2016, October half term 2016 and the February half term 2017. Therefore we are sharing this information now to ensure parents/carers have sufficient time to plan for these changes to the normal patterns.

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.

Outdoor Play across the Centre :-As the weather is now turning colder and wetter please can you ensure that children come well prepared for outdoor play. Children need waterproof coats and wellington boots with hats and gloves. Outdoor play is part of our daily routine and will be offered every day even if the weather is a little wet or rainy/snowy. Outdoor play times will be assessed according to the weather and adjusted accordingly dependent upon the severity of the weather. Although we are happy to limit outdoor play for children whose parents do not wish for them to go out in certain weathers we cannot guarantee that individual children can be kept inside whilst other children are playing outside as we may not be able to deploy staff for this.

Christmas Party Week- Week commencing 7th December we will be holding a party every day, with different Christmas themed games and activities, and party food at snack time. Santa will be visiting the Centre throughout the week. For those children who miss his visit, he will be meeting and greeting families in the centre between 5-6pm on Thursday 17th December.

Christmas Nativity - The date has now been confirmed for Monday 14th December at 9.30am in Cawthorne Parish Church. We will send out further details regarding arrangements for the day a little nearer.

Easy Fundraising :- Reminder for Christmas Shopping - We would like to invite everyone to register with easy fund raising, to enable the Centre to benefit from donations that companies make as a result of purchases that you make on well know web sites. It is very easy to register and you can set a tool bar on your home page that tells you if a site you are visiting offers donations via easy fundraising. Sites include Amazon, Argos, Holiday Companies. It doesn't cost anything for you to join but the Centre benefits from the donation. With Christmas on the horizon, people usually look to the internet for shopping and we could therefore benefit from the purchases made at this busy time. Please take a look at easyfundraising.co.uk and should you require any further details, please call into the office. We have already raised over £200 using this site. Thank you.

Last Day for Payments December: - We will be carrying out our final banking for 2015 on Monday 21st December for payments due for January invoices. Therefore please do not bring any cash or cheques after this date as we have no storage facilities for them. If you wish to pay after this date, you can make a payment by digital banking. Please call into the office to ask for banking details should you prefer to use this method.

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:

Nov 13th	N/A	Children in Need Come dressed as your favourite hero
Wc 7th Dec	N/A	Various Christmas Party sessions with special visitor
Mon 14th Dec	9.30am	Nativity will be held in Cawthorne Church Date to be confirmed with Church
Dec 18th	6pm	Pre school finishes for Christmas
Dec 21 -23rd	7.30am-6pm	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.**