

Cawthorne Children's Centre

Newsletter Autumn 2014 (1)



Welcome to our latest newsletter.

NEWS FROM THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Carol Hill

We would like to welcome to the Centre, all the new families who have started with us with the onset of the new term. We hope that everyone enjoys their time with us and we will be working hard to effectively support all children's' learning and development through the provision of a range stimulating activities. As a management team, we always strive to improve the service we offer, and with this in mind if anyone has any feedback for us please do not hesitate to call into the office.

We have said a 'sad goodbye' to many children who have left us this summer to start their new journey to school. We have been overwhelmed by the lovely cards and gifts the team have received and would like to thank everyone for their kind words and thoughtfulness.

We are planning our autumn programme at the moment, so please look out for key diary dates for our Christmas activities during the coming weeks.

Thank you.

Sarah Baker/ Catherine Toy

Having had a lovely summer with lots of improvements made in our garden areas, Catherine and I are now looking forward to this new term with a focus on the quality of teaching and learning, opportunities to support progress and development, trips and events including our 2014 fantastic Christmas nativity!

Our overarching topic/theme this half term is 'People who help us' and as part of this planning we have organised lots of exciting activities and events. We would love to hear from any parents who could support the learning in this topic by coming in and sharing their profession or any voluntary work they may do. For example, medical, emergency services professionals or community workers, shop owners or teachers etc. We would like the children to benefit from as many 'real' experiences as possible. If you think you can help us please see a member of staff or call into the office.

Interest sheets will be given out for parents to fill in at the beginning of this term, these forms give us some very valuable information that helps us offer individual planning tailored to your children's needs and interests so please help support your child by giving us as much information as possible.

As part of funding raising we have organised Skye Cycle who run a recycling scheme where you send in unwanted clothes, shoes, handbags, toys, household items/wares and general bric-a-brac and in return we are given 45 pence per kilo which we will use towards new resources such. Baby room would like a new mirror for the babies, Caterpillars would like some matching games and Butterfly room would like some new mathematical resources. Any help towards this scheme will be greatly appreciated. The collection will be on the 15th October but we will store any bags here if you need to bring them in beforehand. Bags will be supplied as soon as they arrive or you can use black bin liners.

We are excited to announce the start of our new Brilliant Baking Club! Carol our cook will be leading this in both Caterpillar and Butterfly room. Every child will have the opportunity over a term to bake/cook with Carol as part of her organised sessions. Carol will not only focus on the baking/cooking itself but also teach children about tools they need, ingredients, measurements,

capacity, weights, the cooking process and healthy eating. Sessions will also promote and incorporate mathematical language, colours, shapes and festivals etc.

ACTIVITIES IN THE CENTRE

Baby Room

Throughout the summer the babies have enjoyed lots of outdoor fun in the padding pool, alongside creative and messy play outdoors as the weather has been very kind to us. You may have also noticed over the last month we have redesigned our outdoor area for the babies, making it more of an extension of indoors i.e. a quiet cosy corner to look at books or sing, a music area with instruments, a colour wall of balloons, counting lines and lots of nature pictures and objects of interest to look at over by the garden. We will also be creating a small world tyre area over the coming weeks, so this is all very exciting and the babies are loving it, so let's hope the weather stays nice.

As some of you may have noticed we have had the baby room decorated. Hurray!! To add to this at a later date (hopefully in the very near future), we will also be adding new flooring, which we will be a combination of laminate and carpet. We are all looking forward to the new and improved baby room, and we are already planning new and fun activities over the autumn term coming up.

Michelle Wood
Baby Room Co-coordinator

Caterpillar Room

Getting busy with the Caterpillars

The Caterpillar children have been busy over the summer term. We have been very creative through messy play, exploring different malleable materials such as sand mousse, textured play dough and gloop. We have been looking at summer and holidays and enjoying the lovely weather by having lunch and dinners outdoors where possible. We have been exploring different types of music and creating our own sounds through making our own musical instruments. We have also planned and carried out many baking activities.

What is next?

We will be starting a new mathematical programme, which is designed to promote early stages of counting and reciting numbers and will cover shape, space and measure. We will also be focusing on a communication and language programme which will be based on communicating with each other through focussed activities and group play. These activities will be displayed on our planning board.

Our next topic is all about ourselves and our families and we will be looking at family trees, who we live with and our homes. We will focus on ourselves through self portraits and personal likes and dislikes. We will be planning messy and creative activities, both indoors and outdoors and we will learn about the different festivals that are coming up this term including harvest, bonfire night, Diwali, Halloween, Hanukkah, and Christmas. Our activities for each week are displayed on our notice board in the Caterpillar room.

As the weather will turn wetter and cooler during this term, we would like to ask that you provide wellies and thicker coats for our outdoor play and activities.

Thank you

Emma Thistlewood
Caterpillar Coordinator

Butterfly Room

The Butterfly children have enjoyed playing outside during this lovely summer. We have planned walks in the community, looking for numbers and talking about the different sounds we could hear. In our garden area, we have found many frogs jumping around and we have loved getting messy in our mud kitchen.

Over the next half term, our theme will be 'Ourselves and our family'. We will be exploring our family tree, talking about different members of our family and painting self portraits. We will also be learning about people who help us, identifying people who help us at home, nursery, and in the local and wider community. We are hoping for some visits from the fire service with a fire engine and the police service with a police car.

We are re-implementing both our letters and sounds and maths programmes to support the children in smaller groups with literacy and numeracy skills.

On Monday 20th October we are organising a trip for Butterfly children to the Civic in Barnsley to watch a family production called L'après-midi d'un Foehn. This production is a magical performance where colourful carrier bags are brought to life with the help of a Ballet master and currents of air. The dancing of the carriers are enhanced by the beautiful music of Debussy. More information will be sent home nearer the time. The trip will be open to all Butterfly children. Parents may accompany children who do not attend the session that it falls in and for those children already attending the session it falls in, we will provide transport to the event should parents require this.

Finally, can we remind all parents to provide outdoor shoes/wellies for the children to use in our outdoor areas as we are approaching the autumn/winter months.

Becky Lofthouse
Butterfly Room Coordinator

Out of School Service

Welcome back to all our existing children and families, we hope you enjoyed a great summer. Welcome also to our new children and families. We hope that you are settling well in school and are becoming familiar with the out of school club.

Looking back over the six-week break, we've really enjoyed a jam-packed holiday club. The children and young people particularly enjoyed science week, holiday week and trips to Filey and the media museum. We are busy now planning the October holiday club itinerary, and hope to publish this around the end of October. For any new families, an itinerary and booking form are sent out and these should be returned as soon as possible as places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Just a couple of reminders; please let us know as soon as possible if you don't require a session as we do have waiting lists on some days this year. Also if you are planning to collect your child from school and they are due to attend the club, please contact the centre beforehand, to ensure we have an accurate record of who we are collecting, as it is very busy in the school playground.

If your child requires breakfast, please arrive before 8:30am, as having it later is a rush before school. Finally, as the weather is now turning autumnal, please feel free to bring your child some slippers to change into in the shed.

Amy and Katherine.
Out of School Coordinators

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL ROOMS

Holiday allowances 2014- we offer 2 weeks of your child's weekly pattern at 50%, between January and 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. **Please note**, once the invoice has been produced; any notifications received will be deducted from the next invoice that is prepared rather than an amended invoice being sent you. This is due the systems we use not offering the flexibility for amendments.

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.

Easy Fundraising: - We have recently sent out to all families, a fact sheet about easy fundraising. 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.

Facebook/Twitter: - We would like to use social media as a way of communicating with families and to promote our Centre. We will not be using names and photographs without parent/carer consent. In the next few weeks we will be sending out consent forms that we would like everyone to complete and return to us.

Tempest Photography: - On 16th October we will have Tempest photography in the Centre for individual photos. If your child is in nursery, they will be taken for photographs. If your child is not in on this day, please book a slot on the record sheet on the office door, closer to the time.

Jo Jingles: - Our nursery music sessions recommence with Jo Jingles wc 1/9 and will be held every alternate Monday from 1pm across all rooms in the Centre.

Christmas Opening: - We have decided to close for Christmas on 23rd December and re-open on Monday 5th January 2015 rather than open for one day on 2nd January. Thank you.

Contacts: - Please can you ensure that we have the up to date contact details for you and your family. As we move into autumn/winter, with the possibility of adverse weather, we

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

need to ensure we can communicate effectively with everyone should the need arise. For all our new families we do use a Text service to advise of any changes to opening should weather prevent us from opening on time.

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: - We are very sad to announce that Michele Pilling will be leaving us on 24th October 2014. Michele has been with us for 7 years, working both in nursery and managing very successfully, the out of school service and holiday club. Michele is leaving to spend more time with her young family and also has great travel plans. We know that this will be disappointing news for many children and families but we plan to enjoy having her for this final half term, and hold celebrations in her last week as I know this is how Michele will want it to be. Thank you Michele, we will all really miss you and the door is always open should you want to return to work.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The following provides detail of forthcoming events and key dates:

Sept 1st	N/A	Inset Day Cawthorne school- No Out of School Clubs Pre-school recommences
October 15th	N/A	Collection of items for Skye Cycle fund raiser. All items to centre please by 9am.
October 16th	From 9am	Tempest Photography
October 20th		Butterfly Trip to Barnsley Civic.
October 27th	N/A	Wc 27 th October -Autumn Half Term No Pre School Holiday Club for Out of School
November 3rd	N/A	Pre School recommences Out of School club recommences.
December 19th	N/A	Pre School finishes for Christmas Break Out of School finishes for Christmas Break
December 22/23rd	N/A	Holiday Club for Out of School.
December 23rd	6pm	Centre closes for Christmas 2014
January 5th 2015	7.30am	Centre re opens after Christmas.
January 5th 2015	N/A	Inset Day Cawthorne School No Out of School Club Pre school recommences.
January 6th 2015	7.30am	Out of School Club recommences.

Best Wishes,

**Carol Hill,
Business Manager**