

Summer 2016 (1)



Newsletter

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

NEWS FROM THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Carol Hill

With the summer term already in full swing, we are enjoying the opportunities for more outdoor play and hope the weather continues to be kind to us for this. The garden areas are looking refreshed after the winter, although as with every project there is always more that we would like to do. Inside the centre, we are reviewing our ICT provision and Sarah will expand more on this in her update. However I have been in touch with a company that can offer us the opportunity to lease an interactive TV, which would be a great asset to us and open up many learning opportunities for our children. Sarah and I are waiting excitedly for the company to come and demonstrate this equipment to us.

In this newsletter, there are the updates from each of the rooms and please take the time to make note of the events that we have planned up to the summer break. These include graduation photos, sports day and a celebration evening.

Sarah Baker

I am really looking forward to the Summer term, especially the exciting activities and events we have planned! My priorities this term are centred once again around raising the quality of our practice even further with a big focus on 'teaching and learning through play'.

Quality Improvement

As part of our continuous self-evaluation I devise with the team a Quality Improvement Plan which sets out the improvements we would like to make over the quarter. We feed in any parental feedback and the children's views. Some of the areas covered currently on the plan, include: further improving teaching and learning, improving our ICT provision, developing the use of open-ended materials both in the in and outdoor environments, adding depth and breath to our provision and teaching in cultural diversity and improving our outdoor areas.

Some of the feedback we received from parents indicated that they would like to be involved in our improvements so that they could help fundraise, source or donate much needed equipment or help physically with the environment. Thank you for this support, we would really welcome any help any of you could offer, for example: Our ICT equipment is limited and we are looking for a PC, second hand tablets, cameras or walkie talkies. We are always looking for donations of unwanted household items to support open-ended play opportunities such as kitchen pans, pots, wooden items, wooden/metal spoons, large cotton reels, pebbles, shells, carpet inner tubes, sieves, wooden curtain rings, ribbon, funnels, large buttons etc.

Our garden improvements are underway with some of the Butterfly room team giving up their time last Sunday to make a huge difference to the play and learning opportunities on offer for the children. It has been so rewarding to see the garden areas engaged with in such an exciting way. Children have clearly enjoyed the new areas and have been fully immersed in meaningful play and learning!

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent parents evening. If you couldn't attend then please feel free to re-arrange an appointment with your child's Keyperson. We have had a brilliant

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

response of people filling in our questionnaires and have received lots of positive feedback and some useful constructive feedback. The information from the questionnaires will be analysed and will be on display in the foyer shortly.

Policies and Procedures

I ensure that all the required Policies and Procedures that inform our practice are kept up to date and in line with changing legislations and best practice guidance. They are reviewed annually or sooner if needed. All the team are aware of and understand the importance of working within the policies and procedures and read them as part of their induction and after reviews. The policies and procedures are situated in the foyer in a red folder and they are also available to download on our website.

ACTIVITIES IN THE CENTRE

Baby Room

This half term we have been learning about Chinese New Year. We made red lanterns; we explored red sensory objects and tasted lots of Chinese food. We celebrated Pancake Day and Valentine's Day with our own role play cafe which had little frying pans in it, to make pretend pancakes. We also enjoyed tasting real ones made by Carol and Jane. For Valentines day, we also read the book "Guess how much I love you" and followed this up with an activity to ice biscuits with red icing and heart shaped sprinkles. On World Book Day we looked at the Hungry Caterpillar book, and we enjoyed tasting the food from this and made caterpillars from egg boxes. In the baby room we love to sing and dance, so when our topic was songs and rhymes. We really had fun, creating and moving to music.

Now that spring is here, we have been planting and looking after seeds to put in our garden. We have been veg printing, growing beans in our zip top bag greenhouses and smelling and tasting herbs. We are also enjoying our refreshed garden area now the weather is so much nicer. Over this next term we will be enjoying Spectacular space and science, healthy happy me, and summer time fun.

Please take a look at our new Schema's display outside the baby room and help yourself to a leaflet; it has lots of ideas and ways to understand how your child develops as they grow.

Can we also remind parents to provide their children with sun hats and sun cream at all times now that the weather is getting warmer.

Thank you
Michelle Wood
Baby Room Co-coordinator

Caterpillar Room

Getting busy with the Caterpillars

Our current topic

Our current topic is 'Step into Spring'. We are looking at the weather changes and we are having a big focus on 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 had a little 'Garden Centre' in our role play area where the children have pretended to be shop keepers and have enjoyed planting seeds. We have also had a farm shop which the children have loved. Children have planted beans which are currently growing really well on our window display. We want to say a huge thank you and a well done for all children's home learning of growing cress.

What is next?

Our next topic is going to be 'Spectacular Space and Super Science'. We will have a big focus on 'Tim Peak' and his mission to the space station. We will explore the planets and stars and look at one of our favourite books 'Aliens love Underpants'. We will also be looking at light and dark through science experiments and making our own moon dough.

We will be celebrating our Queens birthday and the Royal family. We will also be looking at 'Healthy Happy Me'.

Reminders

With the lovely sunny weather upon us, could we please ask that you provide labelled sun creams and hats. These can then be kept in your child's bag for each session.

We are in the process of developing our mud kitchen in the outdoor area; we would love donations of pans, sieves, cutlery (i.e. large spoons, whisks). We would also appreciate any donations of dressing up items.

Thank you for your continued support.

Emma Thistlewood
Caterpillar Room Co-ordinator

Butterfly Room

During our recent topic the butterfly children have enjoyed learning all about the season of Spring, planting and growing and also life cycles. They planted their own cress and bean seeds and have taken them home to watch them grow! We based our theme around the Jack and the Beanstalk story and the children helped to retell the story with different props. We did some lovely observational paintings and drawings of sunflowers for our display. For life cycles, we have been focusing on butterfly, chick and frog. We had our own butterfly house where the children observed the caterpillars changing to chrysalis and then to butterflies. They were so excited to release them into our garden and watch them fly away! The children are also practising their ICT skills using the laptop to access you tube on the internet to watch chicks hatching from their eggs. We will be singing frog number rhymes, matching frog numbers to lily pads and exploring sensory materials that look like frog spawn in our pond scene! Throughout this topic the children have been doing lots of sequencing activities, cutting and sticking the various life cycle stages.

Our next theme will be Space and Science where the children will have the opportunity to participate in lots of exciting, new experiments! We will also be making our own space station, rockets and planets.

As the time is approaching for our older children to move up to school, we will also be doing activities in preparation for this including a school role play area, reading stories about starting school and group discussions, looking at photographs of the different schools we are going to.

Please can we remind all parents/carers to ensure their child has a hat and sun cream now the weather is becoming warmer.

Rebecca Lofthouse/ Launa Skelley
Caterpillar Room Co-ordinator

Butterfly Room to Out of School Club - Now that primary school places have been allocated for our children, we have plotted sessions that people have requested for our after school service for September. We will aim to plan in some settling visits during the remainder of the term for those children that leave us in July and visits over the summer holidays for those children that leave us in August.

Carol Hill

Out of School Service

Recently the children have worked really well as a group to discuss what resources and activities they would like to have in the out of school club. Some of these we have been able to introduce immediately including a basketball net, wall mounted TV with TV channels and football nets. One of their ideas is to turn the outdoor play shed into a 'chill-out zone'. We are working on this and have sourced carpet for the flooring and polythene sheets for the windows. We would appreciate any donations of beanbags, cushions or throws that you no longer require.

May half term holiday club has now been published and if you require places, please can you fill in and return your form as soon as possible.

As the weather is becoming warmer, please could you provide your child(ren) with a sun hat and sunscreen, or complete a permission form for spare sun cream that the Centre has, to be used.

Finally, if your child(ren) do not require a place due to holidays, illness or any other cancellations, please can you inform us in advance so we can keep our registers up to date so we know who we are collecting.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL ROOMS

Holiday allowances 2016 - 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 2016, 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.

Reminder -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.

Tempest Photography- We have booked Graduation photos for Butterfly room from 9.30am on Monday 13th 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 30/5. Many Thanks.

Celebrating the Queen's Birthday- During w/c 13th June, we are planning a number of exciting activities to enable the children to join in the celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday. We will be making a card and posting it to the Palace. The home corner areas will be transformed into the Palace kitchens. We will be reading the story 'The Queen's Knickers' and we will host a garden party during sessions on Thursday 16th June with a special royal picnic lunch.

Celebration Evening- this year we are planning a celebration evening during the summer term for Baby, Caterpillar and Butterfly room. There will be the opportunity to look at your children's file, receive a report if your child is leaving us for school from the Butterfly room and look at a collection of the wonderful work the children have been doing. The date will be confirmed shortly for this and is expected to be early July.

Sports Day - A date to keep for your diary, Saturday 16th July. We will be holding our annual sports day. This event will be from 9.30am-12pm. The children will take part in races on the school field and afterwards there will be refreshments served in the Centre including bacon sandwiches and delicious cakes. We hope that you will be able to join us and there may even be a parent's race for those budding athletes.

Car Parking- Can we remind all parents/carers that the car park on-site is for use by staff at the centre only and should not be used when dropping off and collecting children. Also can we ask that when parking in the local community, parking is made with consideration to ensure drives are not blocked. We have had numerous complaints recently about this issue and we are trying to work with all parties to ensure it does not continue.

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 20 th	N/A	Pre-school finishes for Spring Bank- 2 week break
May 27 th	N/a	Out of School finishes for Spring Bank
May 30 th	Closed	Spring Bank Holiday
May 30 th -June 3 rd	N/A	Holiday Club for Out of School
June 6 th		Pre-school recommences Out of School recommences
June 13 th	9.30AM	Tempest Photos
W/c June 13 th	N/A	Celebrating the Queen's birthday
June 19 th	N/A	Fathers Day
June 24 th	N/A	Inset Day Cawthorne school- No Out of School Clubs
July 15 th	N/A	Pre-school finishes for Summer break
July 16 th	9.30AM	Sports Day
July 19 th	N/A	Out of School finishes for Summer break
July 20 th -Sept 2 nd	N/A	Holiday Club for Out of School
August 29 th	Closed	Bank Holiday
Sept 5 st	N/A	Pre-school recommences(subject to final confirmation)
Oct 14 th		Pre school finishes for Half Term 2 week break
Oct 21 st		Out of School finishes for Half Term
Oct 24 th -28 th	N/A	October Half Term Holiday Club
Oct 31 st	N/A	Pre-school recommences Out of School recommences.
November 7 th	9.30am	Tempest Photos
Dec 16 th		Pre school finishes for Christmas
Dec 19-23 rd		Holiday Club for Out of School
Dec 23 rd	6pm	Centre closes at 6pm for Christmas
Tues 3 rd Jan 2017	7.30am	Centre reopens for New Year

Best Wishes,

Carol Hill,

Business Manager