

Newsletter

Summer 1 2017



Welcome to our latest newsletter.

NEWS FROM THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Carol Hill

Following our successful OFSTED inspection, I have turned our business focus to planning for the changes to 30 hours free childcare from September 2017.

As you maybe aware, the Government has proposed changes to Early Education Funding for 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017. Currently all families in England with 3 and 4 year old children can access 15 hours of early education per week during term time. From September 2017, working families in England with 3 and 4 year old children can access an extra 15 hours of early education funding, giving a total of 30 hours in term time.

We can now confirm that we will be offering the 30 Hours Entitlement from September 2017. Parents and carers need to be aware that this funding is offered for 38 weeks per week as set by the local authority. We will be offer the funding in blocks of 5 hours from 8-1pm, 1-6pm and full days from 8-6pm during set term times. The early riser session is still available for those families wishing to have access to the Centre from 7.30pm. A fee of £2 will be charged for meals taken within these sessions. Therefore a child who attends for 3 full days will be charged for 6 meals per week. Parents/carers do have the option to bring a packed lunch if meals from the Centre are not required. Any sessions over and above the 30 hours and outside of the 38 weeks will be charged at the published session rate.

For those families who are already in receipt of early years funding or are due to claim from September 2017, we have already sent out letters that detail our plans for the 30 hours and provide details of how to apply and check eligibility.

Our plans moving forward are to send letters out at the beginning of the term before your child is due to claim (term before the 3rd birthday) to advise families of how to apply and provide opportunities to increase sessions up to the 30 hours ,subject to availability. Families are not able to check eligibility until children reach 2 years and 39 weeks old and therefore this is why we have adopted this process. We are not able to hold sessions for 30 hours per week that are based on families receiving the extra funding until it is confirmed that the funding will be claimed as this could leave us with people booking sessions and then not taking them up , if they are not eligible for the funding.

As the scheme is new, we will provide as much information as we can as it becomes available and we will adapt the process as necessary as it evolves.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by emailing carol@cawthornechildrenscentre.co.uk

Sarah Baker

I can't believe we are moving into our summer months! Let's hope that we have lots of fine weather and sunshine so that we can make the most of our outdoor environments. We are busy preparing our gardens ready for summer so that we can ensure our outdoor environment's support children's physical development, giving them opportunities for play on a larger scale and allowing them to explore the natural world around them. We hope to be experiencing lots of planting and growing over this term too!

Ofsted inspection

As most of you are aware we had our Ofsted inspection on the 7th March and we were over the moon with the outcome of 'Outstanding'. Every member of our team has worked so hard since the last inspection to develop the quality of the care, education and partnerships we offer to children and their families. We are constantly looking at ways we can improve and will continue to do so. We would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to all of you who have supported us over the years and also to those of you who had your voice heard on the day of inspection. We were overwhelmed by the positive comments and feedback given to the inspector both verbally and in writing. Here's to another few years of hard work and dedication to further improve and maintain our 'Outstanding' judgement.

ACTIVITIES IN THE CENTRE

Baby Room

Hope everyone has had a lovely Easter! The babies have been enjoying lots of Easter fun with creative activities including decorating our own eggs with paint and printing some Easter chicks. We practised our pouring and mixing skills by making Easter nest buns and also our fine manipulative skills by squashing, squeezing and rolling the playdough to make egg shapes. We have also had lots of fun hunting for eggs and playing with the chick masks. As we continue with our topic of Spring, this week we will be looking at growing. Babies will be planting cress and broad bean seeds and getting busy with the soil and plant pots in our garden centre role play area. We will also be looking at how we grow bigger. As the weather is nicer we will be hoping to enjoy more of our outdoor area, so could we please ask that babies bring shoes if they have them and appropriate coats. Thank You.

Michelle Wood
Baby Room Co-coordinator

Getting busy in the Caterpillar Room

The Caterpillar children have enjoyed discovering new topics over last term. We have been learning about our community which has involved lots of visits from people who play an important role in our community such as a doctor, teacher, post person and a pilot. We also enjoyed a visit to the local post office where the children loved learning about parcels and letters. We then enjoyed re-enacting the role of a post person in our role play using the real stampers and stickers used in a real post office.

The children love traditional stories and loved a week all about 'The 3 Little Pigs'. We had a focus on feelings, construction and mathematical language, through various activities such as story/group time using props both indoors and outdoors. Using straw, sticks, foam bricks, and our problem solving skills we worked together to create and build the 3 little pig's homes. We have also been looking at the season 'Spring', we have looked at Spring colours, being on the farm and weather. We will continue this theme looking at growing and planting. We will be growing cress and broad beans concentrating on looking at changes over time and the care needed for living things.

Reminders

Can we please remind all parents and carers that the time is coming for warm weather and we would recommend that you provide your child with a sun hat and sun cream in their bag daily, also to continue to bring a jacket in case of any rain showers so we can all still enjoy outdoor play.

It is advised that you provide your child with a **Labelled** water bottle and this can also be brought daily in your child's bags.

We would just like to say a huge Thank you to all of our parents for your great feedback in the questionnaires.

Thank you
Emma Thistlewood
Caterpillar Room Co-ordinator

Butterfly Room

The butterfly children have really enjoyed our learning themes over the last term. They particularly enjoyed our People Who Help Us topic as we had lots of different visitors in nursery telling us all about their occupations and what they do. We had visits from a pilot, the hedgehog hospital, and Steph brought in her cat so we could talk about how we look after different pets. We also visited the post office in Cawthorne and the children were able to weigh parcels and take stamps to post their own letters.

Recently we have been learning all about the season of spring, talking about the weather, animals we see, new life and life cycles and plants and flowers. We went on a walk around the village and the children did some pictures of the things they saw related to springtime. We have made a lovely display in our room all about it. All the children have also planted their own sunflower seed in a pot and we are taking care of them and watching them grow. When they are tall enough we will be replanting them outside in our garden. We would like to say a big thank you to Eva's mummy for bringing the equipment in for us!

Our current focus is to develop children's skills and progression in the area of mark making, in particular for boys. We have looked closely at each individual child in relation to where they are at in their physical and literacy development and have carefully planned activities to support these stages. This is a project we are working on with school and we have some new exciting resources such as large wheelie painters and splatter painting sets to use! We are also beginning to work on school transition now the children are starting to find out what schools they are going to. We will be contacting schools and asking for photographs of teachers, classrooms etc so we can make transition booklets to look at with the children. We will also be implementing the beginnings of the Read, Write, Inc phonics programme with the school leavers as this is what the children will be doing when they start school.

Can we please remind all children to bring indoor and outdoor shoes for nursery. Also as the weather will hopefully be getting warmer soon can we also ask that each child brings a hat and suncream with their name on.

Thank You

Becky and Launa
Butterfly Room Coordinator

Out of School Service

Welcome back to all children and parents; hope you've all had a wonderful Easter break. May half term is approaching fast; we are looking at going to the Butterfly house to explore the enchanted forest and experience a magical fantasy world and discover tiny pixies dwelling and fairy hideaways with fairy guides on hand to help explore the forest. Please book early to avoid disappointment. We have recently bought a pet hamster for the children to help take care of and play with. The children decided to all choose a name for the hamster and then select three names out of a hat; they made a group decision to call the hamster Coco. The children love to watch Coco run around in her ball.

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

We have also planned the sessions we can offer the Butterfly children who move to Cawthorne school in September. All confirmation letters have been sent out and waiting lists updated.

If you are planning to send your child to Cawthorne from September 2018 and would like to consider places at the out of school club, please complete an application form to be placed on the waiting list. We are very full and mainly have new sessions only when existing families leave us.

Thank you and hopefully see you soon.

Kayleigh

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL ROOMS

Holiday allowances 2017 - 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.

The holiday deduction will be offered by including a credit note with the invoice. Please deduct the amount of credit from the invoice when making the payment.

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. Please see information on the first page regarding the additional 15 hours entitlement from September 2017.

Nursery Funding 2018/2019- we have received notification from the local authority that there are 41 weeks in the financial year 2018/2019 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.

The non funded additional week for the Summer term 2018 will be wc 21st May, Autumn term 2018 will be wc3rd September and wc 22nd October 2018 and the final one being wc 11th February 2019.

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

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

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.

Parental feedback and questionnaires – Sarah Baker

Thank you to everyone who attended parents evening. I hope you found the time with your child's Keyperson informative. We were pleased with the questionnaire responses and they have given us some areas to improve and feedback to be proud of! We had 32 completed questionnaires and the results will be available in the foyer for you to see over the next couple of weeks. In all 4 area headings we have between 79% and 94% of people strongly agree with questions and between 3% and 21% of people agree with questions. We have no one who has strongly disagreed with any questions and only 3% (One person) who has disagreed with a question. More detailed analysis together with quotes will be available in the foyer soon.

Parenting support – We are all too aware that being a parent can be as challenging as it can be rewarding! There are many aspects of parenting that are not always easy and often we need support from our family, friends or professionals. At the Children's Centre we would like to do everything we can to support anyone who feels they need it, either just with passing advice, a listening and supportive ear, finding out information, passing on leaflets or through signposting to other specialist professionals. We have a range of leaflets in the file in the foyer that give advice on certain aspects of parenting issues, children's development and learning and development. We also have a copy of 'what to expect when' which has been developed by the Department for Education to help you as a parent/carer find out more about how your child is learning and developing during their first five years, in relation to the EYFS and to know what to expect during these vitally important years by focusing on the seven areas of learning and development which are covered in the EYFS. <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2015/03/what-to-expect-when-a-parents-guide/> Please do not hesitate to approach your child's Keyperson or Room coordinator for advice or support.

Sports Day 2017 – Friday 16th June 5-7pm. This year due to commitments we have for weekends throughout June and July, we will be holding our annual sports day on Friday 16th June. We have an exciting evening planned and parents need to bring their running shoes ready for the parent events! All children will have a chance to take part in a couple of races and these will be held room by room. Caterpillars will race first so will need to be ready on the school field no later than 4.45pm and then Butterfly children will race at approximately 5.30pm. If your child/ren are not in nursery on this day, please bring them at the stated times as they will be allocated races to take part in, unless you inform us that that they will not be attending. If any children who attend our Out of School Club/Holiday club or older siblings are attending then they will race after Butterfly races at approximately 6pm. We would recommend that you bring camping chairs and rugs for use during the sports events on the school field as we have a limited number of small chairs available. We hope that you will all join us back at the centre for fabulous food and refreshments from the Café for you to enjoy as your Friday night tea. We will also have some fundraising activities, which will include a raffle (all the prizes will be on display in the foyer before the day). If you are unable to attend and you wish to buy raffle tickets, please call into the office the week before.

Parents Evening for School Leavers –Wednesday 19th July 2017 6-8pm. This evening will give families of children in Butterfly room who are leaving for school the opportunity to meet with their child's key person and receive an updated summative report.

End Of Term Celebrations- We are currently planning our end of term celebrations for Butterfly room and we keep you informed of our exciting plans once they are finalised.

Staff Changes- Since our last newsletter, we are pleased that Katy Summers has returned to the Centre to work with us on an as and when basis. Katy left us 5 years and was our Deputy Manager. She now will be working in the rooms with our children and families and she brings with her a vast knowledge and experience in the early years.

Jodie Hill has left us to start her maternity leave. Jodie has worked tirelessly during her pregnancy and we will miss her. We wish her all the best as she prepares for her new arrival.

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 26th	N/A	Pre-school finishes for Spring Bank
May 26th	N/a	Out of School finishes for Spring Bank
May 29th	Closed	Spring Bank Holiday
May 30th-June 2nd	N/A	Holiday Club for Out of School
June 5th		Pre-school recommences Out of School recommences
Friday June 16th	5-7pm	Sports Day
June 18th	N/A	Fathers Day
June 23rd	N/A	Inset Day Cawthorne School
Change of Date June 28th	9-3pm	Tempest Photos All children plus Graduation Photos for school leavers.
July 19th	6pm	Parents Evening for School Leavers
July 28th	N/A	Pre-school finishes for Summer break
July 25th	N/A	Out of School finishes for Summer break
July 31st- 2 Sept	N/A	Holiday Club for Out of School
August 28th	Closed	Bank Holiday
Sept 4th	N/A	Pre-school recommences(subject to final confirmation)
Oct 27th	N/A	Pre school finishes for Half Term Out of School finishes for Half Term
Oct 30th- Nov 2nd	N/A	October Half Term Holiday Club
November 6th	N/A	Pre-school recommences Out of School recommences.
November 6th	9.30am	Tempest Photos
Dec 22nd	N/A	Pre school finishes for Christmas
Dec 22nd	6pm	Centre closes at 6pm for Christmas
Tues 2ndJan 2018	7.30am	Centre reopens for New Year
Monday 8th Jan 2018	N/A	Pre school sessions re commence.

Best Wishes,

Carol Hill,
Business Manager