



Newsletter September 2017

Welcome and Farewell

A very warm welcome back to everyone and welcome to families and children who are joining us. We are looking forward to getting to know you and to playing with, caring for and educating your children. Twenty Seven of our Preschool children left to start School this month. It is sad to say goodbye to them, many of whom started with us as babies and so we have known them all of their lives ! They have left us as eager learners and confident little people so we know they will each do well in "big school." We say a sad farewell too, to Hannah Stark, who having been with us for 6 years, will be working as a Specialist T.A. in a school for children and young people excluded from mainstream school.

Improvements

As you will have noticed work to the front of the building is continuing. The hedge, pillars and fencing are being replaced with new hedging, tall railings and new pillars. An ageing party wall is being replaced, the storage shed reinforced and the old buggy shed replaced. Work is expected to continue for at least another two weeks. During that time the Harris fencing and the green screening will remain but all of the children will play on the blue absorbafall until the project is signed off. Please enter and leave through the front door and not the garden gate until then.

New Web Site

This is almost complete and so far is looking very good ! It will now be compatible with mobile phones, tablets. I pads as well as desk tops. So you will be able to access dates, up coming events and information whichever device you use. Until then this information will be on paper. We would welcome your feedback when the website goes live.

Policy Reviews

We review our policies regularly in keeping with changes to Early Years legislation and evaluation of our own practice. These are working documents to which staff and Parents/Carers sign to say they will adhere. Recent reviews include the PREVENT Duty, British Values, Funding, Safeguarding and Complaints Policies. All policies are available for you to read in Reception and Management and staff will be happy to talk them through with you.

Collecting Your Child at the end of the Session

Morning sessions finish by 1pm and afternoon attenders arrive from 1pm. Afternoon sessions finish by 6 pm. The terms of our Child Care Registration with the Local Authority do not allow us to look after children when we are closed. According to the

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EYFS Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements, by which OFSTED inspect us, if a child is not collected on time Ofsted judge it to be a Safeguarding incident and expect us to comply with our Uncollected Child Policy. Unless there is an emergency please do not arrive late. Your child's Key Person will be eager to feedback to you all that your child has done and achieved that session and needs at least 5 minutes to do so. Even if the Key Person is on lunch or has finished her shift she will have discussed your child with her colleague and will have written down the feedback for her to read to you.

30 Hours and Funding Arrangements

This information was given on the last news letter, will feature on the website but will still be available as a hard copy in Reception. Viv has been working with the Local Authority on the development of their funding site. She has been working with individual Haven families since May to enable them to access the new funding models. Please talk to Viv about 30 hours, 15 hours and 2 Year Old Funding.

Events

Week beg 25th Sept Harvest As well as craft and cooking activities we will ask for collections of male adult clothes and toiletries to give to the Prebend Street Centre.

28th September 6 to 7 pm Parent/Carer Welcome Evening (Each Room) Not just for new children. Ask questions. Come and see how we plan learning, what themes we will be covering this year and how you can be involved in your child's learning and development. Preschool parents collect the calendar of events prior to School Transition.

October 10th School Admissions opens. We will give you information and guidance about the process.

From 6th November. Diwali. All babies and children will take part in activities. We will ask you to visit to talk to the children about where you go what you wear and do to celebrate Diwali

Thursday November 30th Parent/Carer Consultation Evening 6pm to 7.30 pm Book a 10 minute appointment to go through your child's progress report and spend time looking through your child's EYFS Development Book.

Thursday 14th December Carol Concerts 10.30 am and 2.30 pm Two tickets per family will be available in December to attend either of the concerts. Parents/Carers are invited to Santa's Grotto to chill (!) with a hot drink and biscuits half an hour before the concerts start.

Friday 15th December Father Christmas 10am Bring an inexpensive present for Father Christmas to give to your child

Monday 18th December dress up for Games and Parties morning and afternoon

10th January 7pm to 8 pm Workshop for Parents/Carers of Tweenies and Tip Toppers Sleep and Behaviour are common challenges at these ages. You tell us which you would like to be the theme of the workshop or 2 workshops if you prefer.

21st February Unesco International Mother Language Day We will learn songs in other languages and will ask you to come into The Haven and read a story or rhyme in your child's home language to

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your child's group.

1st March World Book Day You can borrow reading books from our Reception at any time. Each term Bedford Library give us a new collection. We request a range of books including dual language stories. On **World Book Day** we will do a **Book Swap**. Bring in your child's good quality books that he/she know longer wants and swap them with other childrens; books.

8th March School Transition Meeting. It is most important that Parents/Carers of children who will start school in September 2018 attend this meeting.

Week beg 26th Easter We will tell the Easter story in a manner suitable for the age group and talk about what families do to celebrate Easter. Please visit your child to talk to the group or provide photos and resources for us to show them.

3rd May Parent Consultation Evening 6pm to 7.30 pm Book a 10 minute appointment to go through your child's progress report and spend time looking through your child's EYFS Development Book.

11th May 2.30 Mothers Day Celebration and Tea. Join your child for songs and sandwiches and cake.

15th May National Smile Month. We will invite you to take part in developing your child's awareness of healthy eating and oral hygiene.

Friday 15th June 2.30 Father's Day sporting activities and Tea.

Wed, 27th June Sports Day10.30 am and 2.30 pm

Saturday 7th July 11 pm to 1 pm Family Fun Day and Leavers presentation certificates.

Dates

Only 30 hours funded sessions for 3 and 4 year old are stretched across 49 weeks. 15 hour funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds is term time only. There is no Funding on Teacher Training Days.

http://www.bedford.gov.uk/education_and_learning/schools_and_colleges/school_term_and_holiday_dates.aspx

August 2017. Haven re opens Tuesday 29th

(no funded sessions until September)

September 2017 Funded sessions begin on 4th September.

No 15 hour funded sessions Monday 23rd to Monday 30th inclusive

December 2017 No 15 hour funded sessions Wednesday 20th to Tuesday 2nd January 2018 inclusive

January 2018. Haven opens 7am /8 am Wednesday 3rd

February 2018. No 15 hour funded sessions Monday 12th to Friday 16th inclusive

March 2018 Bank Holiday Friday 30th

April 2018 Bank Holiday Monday 2nd. Haven Closed Tuesday 3rd

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Haven Re opens Wednesday 4th

No 15 hour funded sessions Wednesday 4th to Monday 16th inclusive

May 2018

Bank Holiday Monday 7th and Monday 28th

No 15 hour funded sessions Tuesday 29th May to Monday 4th June inclusive

June 2018

No 15 hour funded sessions Tuesday 29th May to Monday 4th June inclusive

July 2018

No 15 hour funded sessions Monday 23rd July to Monday 3rd September inclusive

August 2018

No 15 hour funded sessions in August

Haven closed Monday 13th to Monday 27th inclusive