

Chinese New Year



Our week of Chinese new year celebrations in pre-school started with the creation of a Chinese kitchen role play area. Throughout the week we served noodles, rice, spring rolls and even 'smelly' seaweed to our friends and adults. Sometimes we gave them a spoon to eat with but it was very funny to watch them using the chopsticks. They made quite a bit of mess! One of our friends uses chopsticks at home with her family and tried to teach us how to use them. She was very proud to show us but was definitely better at it than we were. We made our own spring rolls. We filled them with vegetables and bean sprouts and then rolled them up. After they had been in the oven we ate them for snack and decided that they were very

yummy. Over the week we learnt that there are lots of dragon parades during the Chinese new year festival. Dragons are very exciting creatures so we decided to make some of our own. Some of us created dragons out of playdough. We gave them big googly eyes, sequins and match stick spikes. One of them even had a gold bow in its hair. Some of us took our dragons home to show our families, others hung them up in nursery as decorations. We were really proud to see them on display. We had lots of decorations for our Chinese party week, some of them were written in Chinese. To lots of us these looked like funny squiggles and shapes but a few of our friends speak Chinese at home and were able to help us read them. They taught us how to count to ten in Chinese which we thought was very clever. We had a really fun week celebrating Chinese New year. We learnt lots of things about people who have different parties, languages and food, which was very interesting. Learning all these new things helped us to remember that we are all different but are all very special.



Thanks to IT Schools Africa for their donation of a laptop for us to use. They do a great service and are able to help local charities as well as those abroad. If you have any IT equipment to donate we highly recommend getting in contact with them via their

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Inside this issue:

Trip to Roves Farm	2
Double Decker Bus	2
Personal Development	3
Parenting Classes	3
Congratulations Vicky	3
Cotswold Walking Challenge	4
In other news	4
Volunteering Events	4

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Trip to Roves Farm

On the 21st February we were lucky enough to have the opportunity to visit a local farm in Swindon, it was very lovely and the sun was shining all day. The parents and children were so excited on the coach and when we arrived they all waited patiently for their wristbands. There were a couple of parents that hadn't been on a trip with us before so didn't know what to expect – these two parents said how happy they were and it was a great opportunity for parents who don't have any transport or the money to give their children these experiences and were very grateful. While on the trip these two new parents stayed together and encouraged their children to play and make friends, which was nice to see.

The children had a brilliant time, they had lots of fun and were provided with lots of activities throughout the day as well as playing in the soft play, park and seeing the animals. The farm gave time slots for everyone to join in with feeding the different animals and taking part in a tractor ride. All the children made the most out of the day and it was nice to see all the parents interacting and helping each other. By the time we returned to the coach everyone was tired, which is an indication of an enjoyable stimulating day for them.



Double Decker Bus



As part of the Toddler group topic on transport, Gail's husband Steve drove a London Route Master Double Decker bus to The Family Haven. Whilst many of the children and their families rely on public transport this was a good opportunity for the children to look around the bus and its engine. Gail read the story 'Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus' whilst the children sat on the top deck, bringing the story alive and encouraging the children to join in. The story was also recorded so the children and their families are able to listen to it together and the children can talk about the day the bus came to nursery. Steve then took the children for a quick ride around the block where the children were able to see their local environment from a different perspective. They were all interested in seeing the park and the play equipment from above and used positional language to describe what they could see, for example one child said "we're higher than the trees." Giving the children experiences like this gives meaning to topics we plan and develops the children's interests. It enhances the children's learning whilst creating happy memories and we are very grateful to Alpha Colour Printers for lending us the bus.



Personal Development—Book Folding

Venture came in to do two more art therapy sessions with the parents. This time they did book folding to make the word 'love'. As they were quite time consuming the parents were shown how to do it then took them home to finish the folding. Two weeks later Venture returned to finish off the decoration. In total nine parents and one member of staff took part. Venture give up their time free of charge and only charge us for the materials. On this occasion we paid £4 per book. Nine parents took part in these sessions and many others showed an interest in having a go themselves. We are hoping to provide some more sessions in the future.



Congratulations Vicky



Vicky, our cook/healthy eating supervisor completed a three day, Level 3 Food Safety in Catering course. She found it quite challenging and after the first session she doubted she was up to the challenge. I am pleased to report that she passed with a distinction and is now level 3 qualified.

Parenting Classes



The latest parenting classes have come to an end. Over all this set of parenting classes were very well attended with some sessions only needing to be covered once instead of two or three times due to having such high numbers at the first group. The parents usually enjoy the practical sessions, but this time it was very difficult to get them motivated. Surprisingly the most active sessions were PANTS (the NSPCC initiative to prevent child abuse). The parents were very eager to know about how to speak to their children about safety and asked for handouts afterwards. The health and wellbeing talk was another popular session. It gave them an outlet to talk about their problems in a safe place. It was good to see them supporting each other, acknowledging each other's problems, sharing their own and offering helpful advice.

We continue to run some fun bingo sessions with the parents. They really enjoy these sessions as not only do they get very competitive but they also win chocolates, toiletries or toys. The groups are very mixed and the more capable parents help out the less able. As a change and a new challenge we have introduced some alphabet bingo. Whilst calling we use both the names of letters and the phonetic sounds, this helps all the parents get to know how to help their children when learning to read as well as particularly helping the English as a Second Language parents with their general written English.



Do you enjoy a sponsored walk?

Rotary@Kingsholm are holding a Cotswold walking challenge this year on Sunday 9th June.

If you are interested in taking part and raising money for us, Please contact Ian Glendenning at ianglendenning@blueyonder.co.uk or on +44 77836 704598.

Thank you for your support.

In other News

We like to keep up to date with the progress of our families after they leave us and this year we got some great news. One of our ex clients graduated with a 2.1 honours degree in BSc Adult Nursing. She secured her first post graduate position as a staff nurse at the Prince Charles hospital in Merthyr Tydfil. The whole family moved to Wales and are all doing well. It gives us all such a lift when we hear about our past families doing so well.

We worked in partnership with Adult Education to provide two courses of weekly English classes. The first was a spoken English course and the second was written English. Each course ran for twelve weeks with the final session being an exam. For the first course nine parents took part with six successfully completing and passing the exam. For the second course seven parents took part with five completing the exam.

Gloucestershire Fire Services came to do a routine fire safety check. We have not had one for quite a few years even though they are supposed to be carried out every two/three years. I'm very pleased to say we passed with flying colours.

We have had another successful year in the life of The Family Haven, we remained open every day Monday to Friday with the exception of 6 days. 1 day for staff training, 1 day for a deep clean and 4 days over the Christmas period. As always, our success would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the staff, trustees, volunteers and committed supporters. Thank you to all of you.

Volunteering Events

July 6th we need volunteers to run a stall at Tuffley Festival.

Please contact Debbie if you are interested in helping with these, or any other, events by email debbie@thefamilyhaven.com or phone 01452 528692.



We would like to say **THANK YOU** to Mr Jon John and the Lodge of Grace No: 8566 Masonic Lodge, Wotton-under - Edge who presented Lorraine Barrett, Centre Manager with a cheque for £426.00 which they raised for The Family Haven during a raffle they held on April 17th, 2019.

Become A Friend

Why become a Friend? As a Friend of The Family Haven you will be supporting the trustees and staff in helping provide the services our families so desperately need. Your regular subscriptions and offers of voluntary help are invaluable and support us in delivering our aims.

Call 01452 422971 for an application form or download it from <http://bit.ly/YtnESd>



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