



**Helping vulnerable families
to a brighter future
since 1988**

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The Family Haven is getting a much-needed facelift.



Lucy, Gail, Vicky, and Gary had a very busy Friday pulling up the old carpets getting ready for the new ones to be fitted on Saturday. It was hard work but well worth it as the new carpets look amazing. The old carpets were in such bad shape and truly ready to be replaced. We would like to say thank you to Weavers Carpet Shop Ltd for all the work they have done. Also, a big thank you to David Wilson Homes who donated £1000.00 for the new carpets.

Over this past 18 months we have been able to give the inside of The Family Haven some tender loving care it truly needed.

Trip to the City Farm



On Thursday 29th of April, we planned a trip to the city farm giving the parents plenty of notice for all parents to pick the children up from the farm. The parents were given maps if they had not been to the farm before. We told the parents they would be welcome to come if they wanted to. The children were very excited. After lunch, we set off making our way to The City Farm where the children talked nonstop. Some of the children who don't say a lot through the day really came out of themselves and chatted all the way about what animals we were going to see, the noises they make and the different colours of the animals.

When we arrived at the farm, some of the children really became scared of the animals but with gentle encouragement and reassurance, they became more relaxed. The children went in to pet the rabbits, which they enjoyed. We all sat down with the sheep so they would come over to us. One little boy started to sing at the top of his voice Old MacDonald had a Farm and some of the other children joined in.



We went in to see the chickens and one little girl really took an interest in them trying to stroke them and talked about the different colors. The children went into the chicken house, and they were allowed to collect two eggs each to take back to the nursery for their snack. The little girl was so proud of herself and carried her eggs around for quite a long time, holding them very carefully so they did not break. When the child's parent came to collect her, she was so excited about her eggs. She told them all about what she had done at the farm. We gave her the eggs to

take home and she said she would have them for her tea. Since Covid the children have settled back into the nursery really well, like they haven't been away. They have adjusted quickly back into the routines of the nursery but outside of the nursery, the trip to the farm some really struggled with different surrounding and environments where others really came out of themselves. We will definitely need to plan more outings in different environments and surroundings and encourage the parents to attend with their children for the first couple of outings so the child feels safe, secure and confident for future outings with the nursery.

National Pet Day

National Pet Day this year we had a very special visit from a rabbit called Peter which was kindly borrowed from The City Farm. We spent the day watching it, feeding it and giving it big cuddles. We thought it was very funny when he started hopping around the garden. This gave us the opportunity to care for an animal and learn how to be kind and gentle when handling him. One of our pre-schoolers spent fifteen minutes quietly stroking the rabbit on her lap alongside a member of staff. Her body physically relaxed and calmed as she continued. This was a lovely way to calm and regulate any emotions that she had been feeling. Later in the week we had a visit from a chicken which was also a very exciting day. One little boy spent the day sat next to the cage chatting to the chicken using his own sounds. It looked as though the chicken understood and was responding in conversation.

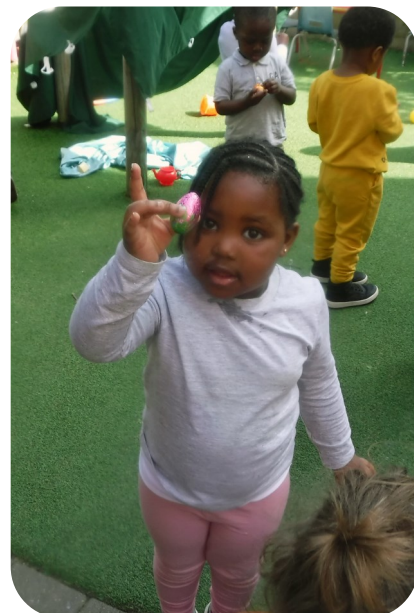


Easter 2021



Hop Hop Hop... here comes the Easter Bunny. The Easter bunny paid us some special visits again this year. We watched it hopping around the garden whilst waving and hopping up and down ourselves with excitement. We then went on our very own Easter egg hunt and enjoyed eating the chocolate eggs with our friends.

Our favourite song this year has been 'chick chick chick chicken' and we have been flapping our little wings very enthusiastically. We have also done lots of egg rolling, farmyard small world and made some very sparkly Easter cards for our families. We delivered these with so much pride. One snack time we enjoyed eating some Easter nests that we had made and ended our day with great big chocolatey smiles. After a year with lots of changes and rules we really enjoyed all of these special treats and had lots of springtime fun.



Updates of Lockdown Highlights



Lucy Pearce

Client & Centre Manager

Once again, we found ourselves in tier three on Boxing Day, thankfully this didn't have much effect on the provision we were already providing. We then went into tier four on the 31st of December and then a full lockdown soon after in January. Both The Nursery and Centre were still allowed to operate under the new guidelines, although it did mean that parents could only stay on site if it was necessary. We were due to have a client forum this month, but this had to be postponed. I had thought initially that we could do this virtually, but with many parents home schooling they had enough to balance during the day to be able to make the time to attend a meeting.

As time went on, many of the families that had chosen to stay at home due to the 3rd lockdown were finding it harder to juggle everything. By February we had some of these clients returning to The Family Haven. There were still some families that wanted to stay home until the restrictions have lifted and we continued to support these families with weekly telephone calls and any additional needs they had. By March, almost all the clients were returning to the centre.

We are now seeing more families each week. As well as registering new clients. After the latest government's announcement, we aim to reopen the centre fully as of Monday the 17th of May to welcome all the families. This means that they will be able to stay in the centre following the rule of six. We aim to use the larger room for five clients and the side rooms for up to two clients. We hope that once the restrictions are eased completely in June's clients will still be given the option of being in the main sitting room with many clients or to still utilise the smaller rooms.

Sadly, one of our clients passed away just after Christmas due to Covid-19. Understandably his sudden death had a huge impact on the family but the Centre and Nursery Staff worked together to offer emotional, financial, and practical support during this difficult time.

Thank you to Neighbourly and to Gloucester Fair Shares

We were contacted by Neighbourly, an organisation that helps businesses with community investment. They partnered us with Lidl in Kingsway who gave us a one-off donation of non-perishable foods such as tuna and rice with a long use by date to restock our pantry. We also received goods from the mother's union. Any surplus stock has been used to make up food parcels for the families.

Web site: <https://www.neighbourly.com/service/good-causes>

Reyaz Limalia from Gloucester fair shares had contacted us. They had received a grant from the council to give to families with children under the age of five that are struggling financially. For us this came in the form of supermarket vouchers. This was great news for our families as money and food are big source of worry and stress. We distributed the vouchers on behalf of fair shares to help to ease the burden and hope that the money they will save can be used for other essentials.

Web site: <https://www.fairshares.org.uk>

Mum's Testimonials

Thank you for the Asda E-Gift card, as a single mum to 2 kids this has helped me out as now I can get few more things for the house I've moved in so this will help to get food in for us. I'm really grateful.

Thank you

(Parent)

"thank you for the fruit and vegetables, all your help will not be forgotten when things go back to normal, you guys are amazing at what you do. BIG LOVE TO YOU ALL"

(Parent)

We welcome two new staff members

We welcome our new Fundraiser



Elizabeth Gough started with us on the 2nd of March. She has 13 years fundraising experience with charities such as CLIC Sargent and Meningitis now and has organised many fundraising events. We look forward to having her on board to share her knowledge and ideas with us.

We welcome our new Nursey Nurse



Baylee Myatt started with us at the end of February, and is settling in well. She has been a welcome addition to the team.

Farewell



We would like to say farewell to our Nursery Nurse Martha Cook, who has decided to move on. We wish her all the best in her new job and in her future. She will be sadly missed by the staff, families and the children.

The staff would also like to say a big thank you for the hard work and dedication Martha has given to The Family Haven.

Leave a Legacy



Imagine the difference you can make

Did you know that legacies are a vital source of income for charities? To find out more about leaving a gift in your will we have a page on our website with information we hope is useful:

www.thefamilyhaven.com/how-you-can-help/leave-a-legacy/

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>



Quote for the month

*"To the world you may be one person.
But to one person you
many be the world,"*



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