

Easter Party Days



We organised our Easter parties over three days, a little party each afternoon. The children were so excited in the mornings, knowing they were going to be making things, baking and joining in with lots of Easter activities. The team had organised several different types of activities to accommodate all ages and abilities. We decorated Easter cards, made chocolate Easter nests and we decorated eggs. We sang our favourite song this year 'chick chick chicken' and we have been flapping our little wings very enthusiastically. One snack time we enjoyed eating some Easter nests that we had made and ended our day with great big chocolatey smiles.

During each party, we were fortunate to have a member of staff dress up as the Easter bunny and hop around the playground hiding eggs for the children to find, he was spotted each day and waved at the excited children. We then went on our very own Easter egg hunt and enjoyed eating the chocolate eggs with our friends. Our time was spent playing egg and spoon games and farmyard small world. We would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who donated the chocolate Easter eggs for the families.



We came first in Tesco Community Grants vote



We are delighted to announce that the Family Haven has come first in the Tesco Community Grant vote in Gloucester winning the top prize of £1,500. We have also been awarded an additional £500 from voting in the Stroud stores. We would like to say a massive thank you to Tesco, Groundwork and everyone who took the time to vote. The money will be used to provide nutritious hot meals for vulnerable families.



Tesco Community Champion, Theresa Fisher presented the Family Haven with the £1500 cheque with young children and to help them to understand how a healthy diet can be achieved on a low income.



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

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Our Family Trip to Raglan Farm Park 2022



Our trip to Raglan Farm Park on the 24th February started with all families eagerly boarding the coach from The Family Haven at 9:30 am. The children excitedly chose their seats whilst parents waited for wristbands to be handed out. On the way to Raglan Farm Park some of the children enjoyed calling out things they could see from the horses and sheep in the fields to diggers and daffodils alongside the road.

When we arrived the staff at the farm took us to our reserved picnic benches in the big barn and handed out carrots to the children so that they could feed the animals. Some families went straight outside to see what animals they could find and others went onto the soft play and slides. The children got to meet lots of animals at the farm such as cows, emu's, sheep, Shetland ponies and many more. A few of the children were lucky enough

to hold the lambs and some of the families even saw a lamb being born.



During lunchtime it was lovely to see many of the families sitting together to enjoy their food. In the afternoon there were blue skies and sunshine so the parents ventured off into the muddy fields with their children to explore the trampolines, zip lines and bikes. When it was time to leave all the parents helped each other to round up their children and make their way back to the coach. The journey home was very quiet as many of the children had fallen asleep after their very busy day on the farm.



Young Gloucestershire



We were invited in February to visit Young Gloucestershire for a stay and play day. It was set up by the young adults that Young Gloucestershire supports. We began our morning by walking through the docks to get to there. On the way there many of the children noticed the boats and discussed how big and small some of them were.

When we arrived we were welcomed by Josh who introduced us to the group of young adults. They were very smiley and friendly. They first took us to their dining room to give

the children some snacks that they had prepared. The children got to eat some apple, orange and biscuits. Once the children had finished eating they were taken into the main room where there were three areas set up. The first area being a cosy corner with books, beanbags and teddies; second area being the messy table with lots of paint and glitter; and the third area being a sensory corner with sensory bags, bottles and musical instruments.



The young adults seemed to really enjoy playing with the children, one member of the young Gloucestershire group said this was the favourite part of their course and another member said taking part in Young Gloucestershire has helped him become a better parent which was lovely to hear. For lunchtime all the children sat together at the dining table and enjoyed sandwiches, fruit and biscuits. By the time the children had finished it was time to say goodbye. The group sat down with the children to thank us all for coming and they handed out colouring books for the children to take home. The children were very excited and happy to show off their new colouring books to the nursery staff.

Our Family Spring Trip to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm



We organised a trip during half term for our families on the 14th April to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm in Clevedon. Noah's Ark Zoo Farm is a wonderful place with over 100 species of big zoo animals, indoor play areas plus a children's playground. We began our morning handing out free lunches to the families before they eagerly boarded the coach from The Family Haven at 9:30 am. We had 16 adults and 35 children plus two staff members who supervised the trip. Everyone was excited in anticipation about all the animals they were going to see. The children sat and behaved very well during the coach ride and were spotted lots of animals such as horses, sheep, cows in the fields.



Once at the Zoo everyone excitedly got off the coach. We saw a wide range of endangered species such as crocodiles, lions, elephants, Rhinos etc. that the children found very interesting.

Everyone was amazed to see the different wild animals and farm animals. The children also had lots of fun playing in the different playground areas.

They enjoyed the giant Elephant slide in the Elephant Eden play area and the Wallaby Hill, which is a huge outdoor wooden adventure playground.

There were more outdoor areas for the children to enjoy but unfortunately we could not do all of the areas because of the time we had before heading

back to Gloucester. However, we are hoping to be able to do another trip this summer to Noah's Ark as some of our families could not come on this one as there was no space left on the coach. They will be first on our list for the next trip.



Most of the families sat together to have their lunch creating a very friendly communal atmosphere. After lunch, Ben and Baylee took some of the children and tried to complete the Great British Wildlife Maze and Mini Maze. In order for them to continue through one part of maze to get to another part, we had to answer many questions correctly relating to Nature. It was great fun and we had lot of laughs. The parents and children had such a great time they did not want to leave.

We would like to say a **HUGE THANK YOU** to Gloucestershire County Council HAF (Holiday and Food Program) for providing the funding in order for our families to go on the trip and for the free lunches.



Farewell to Gary Forsythe, our Handyman



Gary started volunteering at the Family Haven as our Handyman back in 2013 coming in to the building twice a week. Sadly, he decided he had to hang up his tools on the 29th of April 2022.

The staff were all very sad to see him go. His wonderful sense of humour, his jokes and the conversations we

had. There was never a dull moment when Gary was in the building. He was always ready to help, fix things, paint and do whatever was needed. All we had to do was ask him and he was right there.

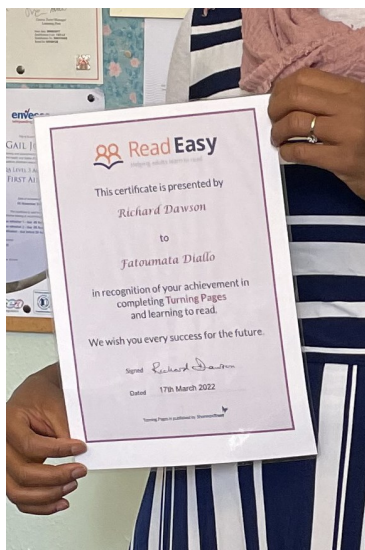
He has given great support to all of the staff. Gary also had a lot of consideration and caring not only to the staff but also to our families, helping them with any DIY questions they had. You could always rely on Gary every Monday and Friday to bring all the staff chocolate bars.

We **THANK YOU** Gary for all your dedication, hard work, friendship and support you have given us throughout the years. You have made a lasting impression on those of us who were lucky enough to know you. We will all certainly miss you.

Your (Angels and Ben, big smile) would also like to say a big **Thank you** for the flowers and the very nice letter which was delivered to the Family Haven.

We all wish Gary all the best in his future activities.

Congratulations to Fatoumata Diallo



The Family Haven would very much like to congratulate one of our mums Fatoumata Diallo for her achievement in completing Turning Pages and learning to read. Well done Fatoumata.

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/

When you "Leave a Legacy", you're enriching the lives of other people and supporting and sustaining charitable work for future generations

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

"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."



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