

Roves Farm Family Outing—Spring 2025

Our trip started with some glorious British rain but that didn't dampen our spirits. The children eagerly boarded the coach while parents put their prams away with the help of our driver Spencer. On our travels children saw tractors, lorries and diggers. On arrival we saw the sheep and lambs running across the field to get their breakfast, many of the children shrieked and called "sheeeep" with excitement.



Once everyone was off the coach the families received their yummy packed lunches and we walked through to the entrance. Luckily the rain had stopped when we arrived so some families went to visit the goats while others ran straight for the indoor play barn. While the children explored the play barn equipment and slides some of the parents were able to sit down and enjoy a hot drink from the cafe.

Many of our younger children enjoyed the sensory room and the dedicated baby soft play area with their mummies and daddies. Around noon some of the families got wrapped up in their coats and wellies and attended the 'Meet the Piglets' event.



In the afternoon they held a play session in the barn for the children to join in with music, songs, games and stories so all children were kept busy! In the animal barn children were able to meet and stroke Stevie the corn snake! They were also able to give the lambs bottles of milk and stroke them, some of the more nervous children admired from a far. The last activity of the day included petting the rabbits and feeding the goats. Some of the children pointed out how "greedy" the goats were.

Some of the children were very nervous to touch and feed the animals but with praise and encouragement from parents they had a go and were beaming with pride afterwards. As children exited the barn they washed their hands and it was then time to make our way back to the coach. As we drove through the country roads the children waved bye to the cows, sheep and ponies. The journey back to The Family Haven was very quiet with sleeping children and parents.



Baylee Willerton - Nursery Deputy Practitioner

Games on a Budget



Marian Marsh paid us a visit and taught us some games to play with our children.

These games cost very little money and encourage listening, concentration, turn taking and patience! A few of the games we played were Never give up (learning left and right), Kim's game (memory game), Aiming (hand eye coordination and recognising numbers and adding).

Marian also kindly provided us with a list of seven more games and instructions so that we can play the games ourselves and our children.



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Weston—Super—Mare Summer 2025



We were incredibly lucky with the weather for this day-trip. The day was overcast in Gloucester but in Weston it was only slightly cloudy at times. We had bright sunshine peeking through for most of our visit. The warm summer breeze did make it quite a tropical day!

To begin a lovely easy day-trip the bus arrived early, which meant we could organise families on the coach in plenty of time, without having to attempt getting everyone on in a long queue, which makes for a rushed departure. Everyone was on time, which was also lovely for the families that had diligently arrived in plenty of time. Chris our coach driver from Marchants coaches was very helpful and accommodating of the family's needs. Mothers' Union kindly paid for the coach for this trip.

We ensured everyone knew to use the bathroom before we left but Chris kindly looked at the situation; that a large cohort of very young children and offered to stop on the way if needed. Luckily this wasn't an offer we used. The roads were relatively quiet, and so we arrived in good time, and surprisingly the tide was in. This gained all the children's attention through the coach windows before we even came to a stop.



We all agreed the time we would leave Weston; making a majority decision does help ease any tensions around having enough time at the beach and not having it spoil it by leaving too early, as many said they wanted to enjoy the warm sun on the beach.

We helped parents to organise their belongings; getting pushchairs set up, bags full of buckets and spades were brought along by parents. We had chatted previously about what you could take, as some parents have been previously; they shared that their children enjoyed digging in the sand, which prompted an array of toy construction bags coming out from under the coach. We handed out the picnic bags that had been prepared for the families by our Cook. The families look forward to being handed paper bags, filled with fresh fruit, yogurt, and bottles of water along with crisps, cheese rolls and dried fruit packs. Any spares from families that were unable to attend last minute were shared out between the larger family groups. Nothing was wasted.

We helped parents to get their bearings; some were quickly googling where they could go. We helped them by showing all the different attractions available. We also helped parents plan for lunch, if they preferred somewhere sheltered away from the sand. It was lovely watching all the children giggling excitedly, ready to run down to the beach. Most wanted to get to the water's edge, many were later seen splashing and running through the shallow waves.

We spent some time on the pier, helping families navigate where to take younger children, as some were a little apprehensive when entering this rather loud and bright area. They were soon at ease when they could see little rides suited to small children. Some were seen following Dan, the Grand Pier Mascot as he made his way through the indoor area and around the top of the decks.



Parents were seen on the pier as well as the beach. We have a lovely community of families this year and several were seen together supporting each other, helping other children to find sand toys amongst the many bags of offerings. We did see lots of amazing sand castles being made and children utilising their empty water bottles to fetch sea water for the moats. Everyone was happy and excited to be there.



Eventually we all made our way back to the coach. Lots were looking a little tired and took time to sit along the ocean front wall. We regrouped in time for the coach to pull up and our coach driver helped to organise all the prams and pushchairs underneath. Many children were happy to share what they had done as they climbed the steps of the coach. Lots of sandy feet, which our driver assured us was fine. It was a beautiful day at the beach with many families sharing how wonderful the day had been. As usual, the coach was quieter on the homeward journey.

Spring Celebrations—2025



Throughout April and May we enjoyed the growth of the garden; observing the new life as it grew. The children enjoyed our mini project when we received our little container of caterpillars. The children were eager for the growing to occur, watching the pot daily as we placed it onto the table for all to share in the joy. We weren't as successful as previous years with the transformation into butterflies. Only a few made the journey and were able to flutter outdoors across the garden to freedom. The children continue to be amazed by this wondrous transformation, as are we with the way the children react at each step along the life cycle journey. To extend their interest, we set provocations that engage and inspire additional interest in the play surrounding them.



The floaty materials that have inspired children to dress as butterflies; dancing to melodic music whilst twirling around the room. They have enjoyed discovering other creative materials to enjoy producing pictures of caterpillars, and butterflies along with sharing a favourite book by Eric Carle – 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. This book was shared among all our cohorts. The children were engaged right from the beginning. We are lucky to have previously purchased a whole story sack of resources to share when bringing this book to life. From soft toys, 'tip and fit' wooden puzzles, along with all the named fruits for sorting, matching, and grouping. We are able to bring so many learning intentions into one storybook.

EID Party



We held our annual Eid party on Friday the 13th of June. The families brought in some delicious food to share. We had a selection of both sweet and savoury items from sticky orange cake and homemade doughnuts to lamb curry, biryani, falafels and stuffed vine leaves. Despite the terrible weather forecast, it was hot. Parachutes were put up in the garden to create shade and sun cream was used in abundance!



Gail, kindly provided her skills to draw henna and Claire and the nursery team kept the children entertained with music from our song bag and bubbles. In total, we had 19 parents and 19 children attend. Overall, it was another fabulous Eid party and we look forward to next year.



Fundraiser's Article



Applying for funding is notoriously competitive at the present time, with many charities facing increasing demand and fewer available resources. We are therefore grateful to have recently received funding from both The National Benevolent Fund, The Rotary Club and the Trusthouse Charitable Foundation. Their contributions are helping us continue our work with vulnerable families.

As a small charity, we do not receive any core government funding, apart from limited funding for eligible vulnerable two-year-olds under the Early Years Entitlement. This means we are reliant on the generosity of charitable trusts and foundations, as well as individual donations, corporate partnerships, and legacy giving. Each contribution, no matter the size, plays an important role in enabling us to deliver our services ranging from early years support and nutritious meals to parenting advice, mental health support, and emergency aid for families in crisis.

Ongoing support from our funders allows us not only to maintain day-to-day operations but also to plan for the future, respond to changing needs, and develop new initiatives that promote long-term resilience and wellbeing among the families we help.

Gail Jones
Deputy Manager / Fundraiser

Greiner Bio-One, Work Experience

Day 1 of work experience at our corporate sponsor Greiner Bio-One.



Flavia and Blessing embraced the opportunities given to them; learning about the family business from its starting point to now (in the fifth generation). We were shown the products that the company makes and the new technology that can be used alongside to make taking blood easier for patients. They gave us a tour of the warehouse which was immense! We had a talk with Marie who has worked in many of the departments and spoke about being flexible and a team player, which can then make you indispensable- good career advice

We had lunch with the whole staff team and chatted about the different departments and the Greiner Bio-One staff asked about The Family Haven. After lunch, we learnt about marketing and graphic design. The team at Greiner Bio-One made us feel really welcome. They hope to offer another work experience opportunity in October.

Day 2 of work experience at Greiner Bio-One

The experiences offered were: Customer service, Virtual account management CV and Linked in workshop and then a working lunch!

Day 3 of work experience



Flavia and Blessing visited the areas that they were interested in; These included a visit to EESI Electricians to learn about the training path to become a qualified electrician. Learning about the warehouse ordering, distribution systems and the finance systems at Greiner Bio-One. The staff at Greiner Bio-One could not have been more friendly and supportive. They gave advice on skills, courses and different career pathways. The lunches each day were amazing too! The smiles on day 3 demonstrate that the whole experience has been wonderful.

Thank you to Flavia and Blessing for taking up the opportunity, well done!

Claire Leighton-Family Support Worker



Quote of the Month

“We can do anything we want as long as we stick to it long enough.” –
Helen Keller

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

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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