

News from Merryfields

A busy winter for us with lots of days out and activities for the children. Visits included trips to Odds Farm, the theatre, cinema, sports centre and local park and indoor activities included art, crafts and Jo Jingles music sessions. Perhaps the highlight of the winter was our 'King for a Day' event. Merryfields were successful in applying for funding from the Arts Bank 2015 project, a national initiative to support 30 projects by providing an Arts and Crafts workshop. The theme for the workshop was 'What would I do if I were King for a day'. As usual our children and young people had some wonderful and imaginative ideas; including being a handyman, looking after lots of dogs, eating chocolate all day and a particular favourite not going to school for a day!



Welcome.

Goodbye

Since the last newsletter Ali, Matthew and Waqas have moved on from Merryfields; we wish them well for the future.

Congratulations

To Helen on completion of her Level 3 Children and Young Peoples Workforce Diploma and to Binish on her recent marriage. Our congratulations also to Stuart on his temporary promotion to Service Coordinator, a role which will allow him to develop his knowledge and experience as part of the senior team. Stuart has worked at Merryfields for several years and brings considerable skill and commitment to his new role.

Thank you

Nat West Bank Marlow and Instron of High Wycombe who kindly provide Easter Eggs for all of our children.



Improvements to the building

The foyer has now been redecorated with the addition of an organisation tree with photographs of our staff. This sits alongside the wonderful canvas that the children completed last year and which were featured in the last newsletter. On the subject of decorating, a huge thank you to Joe for helping to paint Sunbeam Unit lounge. Joe is one of our young people who loves DIY and he has done an excellent job. The next stage of the redecoration and improvement project is to personalise the children's bedrooms. We are inviting the children to choose from a range of bed linen, soft toys, cushions, and posters and also to bring any items from home which are not too precious and could be left at Merryfields.

Ofsted Inspection

As many of you will know we were recently inspected by Ofsted. Thank you to all of our parents and carers who completed the Ofsted questionnaire and provided such valuable feedback. We are pleased to say that we received an overall rating of good for the service that we provide. We see the inspection as a chance to recognise what we do well and an opportunity to look at how we might do things differently. The inspectors recognised this approach and commented upon our openness and positive attitude towards the inspection.

Bucks Activity Project

Summer Holidays

The planning is complete, and you should all have received the booking forms if you are on a holiday option. The deadline for returning your booking form is 15 May. If you miss this deadline, please still return your bookings and you will be placed on the waiting lists for your choices, if there are not enough available spaces.

Bellfield House

Bucks Activity Project has a new venue in High Wycombe. The weekend clubs and youth clubs will be running from this venue and the venue will be available to hire for members of the public once we have settled in. We are hoping to exchange keys later this week and the Wycombe based clubs will have a venue that they can call and make their own.

Website Update

This is now live and can be found at <http://services.actionforchildren.org.uk/bucks-activity-project>. There have been delays in getting the online booking system up and running and we also didn't want this to impact on the busiest time of the year, the summer holidays. Online payments and bookings will soon be available which will make booking and paying so much easier for many! Currently you can register online, look at what is going on and find out more about each of the clubs and activities. Staff have also been asked to provide photos of themselves which will hopefully help parents and children recognise who they are working with.

THE GROVE NEWS



The young people at The Grove have been enjoying lots of activities. This has included picnics, visits to the library, meals out, going to the zoo and seeing the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace. We have also been doing lots of cooking and baking, craft activities and playing in the garden.

Everyone enjoyed participating in "Being a King for a Day" we loved the banquet, wearing homemade crowns and creating canvas artwork as part of the celebrations.

The young people have chosen paint colours for the decorating that will take place soon. They also chose their own bedding and will be accessorising the bedrooms once they are decorated.

In March we said farewell to Rosie and Georgina.

We welcome Jasmine, Jason, Chantelle and Katherine and hope they enjoy their stay at The Grove.

Lastly congratulations to Saba and Lisa who have completed their level 3 Diploma.

We also welcome our new staff Charlotte, Susan, Tara, Joy and Amelia.



KING FOR A DAY

