

The Oaks, Quedgeley & The Beacon Children's Centres

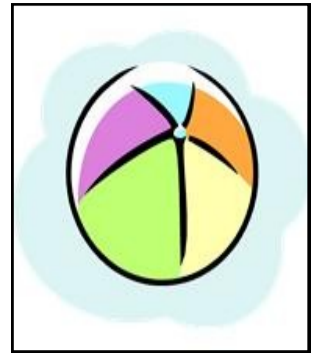


The Beacon
Children's
Centre



Sure Start
Children's Centres

Welcome to our Summer -
Autumn newsletter 2011



The Oaks Children's Centre
Holmleigh Road
Tuffley
Gloucester
GL4 0RN

Tel No : 01452 526856

Fax No: 01452 526856

Email

theoaksc@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Website

www.theoakschildrenscentre.co.uk

Opening Times

Monday to Friday
8am - 6pm

Centre Manager

Stephanie May

Family Services Manager

Marge Morgan

Curriculum Lead

Ruth Davis

Finance & Information

Officer

Louise Read



Coffee and Chat

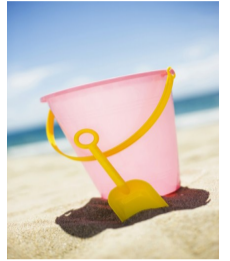
Why not come along to our coffee and chat sessions to share your thoughts on how your centres are developing? - The next session for this is the 14th September 2011 at 09.30 - 10.30am. The session will be in the Crèche so children are welcome to come along.

Weston Super Mare Day trip

24th Aug 2011

£3.00 per seat (regardless of age)

Coach leaves 9.00am prompt. Coach leaves WSM 3pm prompt.



We are organising a Day trip to Weston Super Mare there will be 2 coaches, one from The Oaks children's centre and the other going from Quedgeley Library (Tesco's car park). The coaches will leave at 9.00am prompt and will leave WSM at 3pm. The cost of the seats are £3.00 per person, regardless of age. Spaces are limited so please book as soon as possible. Payment must be received at time of booking. Tickets will be on sale week commencing the 11th July and are available from The Oaks reception. There will also be a member of staff in each group in all three centres of that week selling tickets (excluding Sparklers and Little Fishes). Please bring a picnic and drinks, sun hats, sun tan lotion, picnic rug or something to sit on, and a waterproof.

There is no alcohol to be consumed at any point on the trip, under any circumstances.

Centre Updates

Welcome to the summer newsletter for 2011. So much has happened already this year within the three centres. January to April saw a lot of work go into getting The Beacon centre in Kingsway up and ready for it's grand opening. It was fantastic to see so many new parents coming in to look around.

The staff, Partnership Boards and Managing Body have also been working on the Business Plans for all three centres setting out 8 priority areas for us to work on until March 2012. These are:

- Revitalising the Partnership Board for The Oaks and supporting the Partnership Board for Quedgeley and The Beacon centres
- Supporting opportunities for Adult Learning
- Working with health partners to improve the numbers of mums who choose to and continue to breast feed, to help more parents to quit smoking, to promote healthy lifestyles and to support parenting skills
- Promote as many opportunities as possible to develop and increase young children's communication and language skills. This will be through staff supporting parents during groups and training opportunities for pre school providers including childminders.
- Providing opportunities and information for parents to keep their children safe in the home and outside.
- Continue to offer advice and support for families experiencing concerns about their finances and level of debt
- Offer opportunities for adults to gain work skills through volunteering with the centres
- Measuring how well we are doing in making a difference to families and children across the three children's centre areas.

We are developing ways of getting your input to help us measure the difference our services have made to you and your children. From September we will be asking you to complete a very simple diagram which will ensure we are offering you the right services. We will ask you to have a look at this diagram again later in the year to see if we have helped to support you and your children in these areas.

We have been taking account of the feedback you regularly give us and have revamped our programmes for the centres from September. **Please check the insert out with the details, as days and times of some groups have changed.** Some changes are: Under two's will be starting a little later now to give new mums a little more time to get to the sessions. Young Parents group at The Oaks is now in the afternoon and the group at The Beacon will start at 10am. Stay and Play at The Oaks on Tuesday will now be in the morning and at The Beacon will be on a Tuesday afternoon. New groups starting: Dads' group at The Beacon on a Monday afternoon.

If you would like to stop receiving this Newsletter please call 01452 526856 or 01452 728995 to be removed from our Mailing List. Thank you.



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Some useful Websites & Numbers

Why not take a look at some of these useful websites

The Oaks

www.theoakschilchildrenscentre.co.uk

Tel - 01452 526856

One Space

A site for Single Parents

www.onespace.org.uk

Family Information Services

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=6395 -

Telephone - 0800 542 0202

Parentline Plus

www.parentlineplus.org.uk

Telephone - 0808 800 2222

Children over 5

Please do not bring children over 5 to our term time group activities. We have had occasions recently where parents have brought an older child who is off school because they are unwell. I think you will all appreciate that if a child is too ill to go to school then they should not be brought into the children's centre, and we would appreciate your co-operation with this. Thank you.

Please help us save the environment & money

Can you help?

As you can imagine with Budget cuts and the fact we are now running three Children's Centres, we send out over 1000 newsletters every time we do a print run, if we could save some money (stamps, printing etc) and the environment, this would help us greatly in our budgets. We are asking for people to put their names on a list for us so we can Email out the next newsletter to you, we will format it so that it is easy to read and can be printed off (if you would like to print it). Please contact any of the Admin Team on 01452 526856 (The Oaks) or 01452 728995 (The Beacon) and we can add you to our new email list. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.



Staffing updates -

It is always sad when staff leave us. Unfortunately due to funding cuts Richard Edwards and Emma Christopher (Extended Service Community Family Workers) were made redundant at the end of March. They were both an important part of our team and helped to strengthen links with the schools in the Tuffley area. We wish them both every success in their future roles.

Amy Parton (Administrative Assistant) went on maternity leave last year and has now decided not to come back at the end of her leave. Debbie Hamilton covered part of the maternity leave but left us for a permanent post in March.

We have now appointed Eloise Fennell to the role (8:30 -2:30) and she will start towards the middle of July and will divide her time between The Beacon and The Oaks. We also welcomed Raphaelia Perry and Kevin Jones two new afternoon administrative staff who started in May and work part time across The Oaks and The Beacon.

We have also welcomed Melanie Health and Penny Woods as Early Years Practitioners. Mel works Tuesdays to Fridays across The Beacon and Quedgeley Children's Centres and Penny works full time at The Oaks .

All our new staff are working hard to be as up to date as possible with what the centre services can offer families. Please be aware they may not know the answers to everything but will do their best to be able to find a man or women who can!

Parent congratulations - we have had several

courses running over the past few months, congratulations to all who have completed -

Holistic Course -

Marni & Phillipa

Maths course -

Jackie, Nicole, Donya, Maya & Edyta

Incredible Years -

Ellie, Lucy, Becky, Clair, Sharne and Elly

Baby Massage - Mandy, Nicky, Sharon, Jade,

Lisa, Emma, Trudy, Rachel, Shilpa & Kate

Congratulations to one of our parents Callie, who has been nominated for the 'most creative hair stylist of the year' award.

Toy Library

09.30am - 11.00am

The toy library is now open to **Childminders, Foster carers & Local Toddler & Playgroups.**

You may just drop in and borrow some toys or you can 'Stay & Play' with the children (under 5's only). If you wish to Stay and Play there will be a charge of £2.00 per family unit.

The Oaks

1st Wed of every month starting on 7th September.

Quedgeley

2nd Wed of every month starting on 14th September.

Volunteers

Louise and Ruth are working with current volunteers and developing a team to work alongside staff within sessions and groups at the centre. You do not need to have any experience but you may have skills that you would be able to share with us at the centre.

We support our volunteer team by offering training and development opportunities if requested, and some of our volunteers have been given the chance to change career direction and have moved on and left us to gain employment.

If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer, perhaps to support staff in a crèche session, or the admin team with general admin duties or reception cover, or in any other ways, then please contact either Louise or Ruth who would be happy to talk it through with you.

* All volunteers would need to go through CRB Clearance.



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Staff Congratulations -

To Louise for her Assessors award, Jodie and Debbie completed their NVQ 2 in Business & Admin, and Marge completed her NPQICL. (National Professional Qualification in Integrated Centre Leadership)

Smoking Cessation

Would you like to give up smoking? Would you like a support worker to help you through it so you're not alone? Sharon Brown (Community Family Worker) is our Smoking Cessation champion and she can help you on the road to becoming smoke free.

Why not book an appointment to come and see her on 01452 526856



Dads' Group

Do you live in Tuffley, Quedgeley or Kingsway? Are you a Dad, Granddad, or Male Carer? Why not come along to our Dads' group?

Come and meet new dads in your area. We currently have approx 14 dads who come along with their children and attend regularly.

We are also launching in September a new Dads' group on a Monday afternoon at The Beacon Children's Centre from 12th September. This will run every week.



The Oaks Dads' Group

Second Saturday of every Month

£2.00 per session

10am - 12pm

Next Dates are as follows

09th July, 13th August, 09th September,
08th October, 12th November &
10th December

The Beacon Dads' Group

Every week on a Monday

£2.00 per session

1pm - 2.30pm

This new group will start on Monday 12th of September and will continue every week thereafter.



Quedgeley Children's Centre
Bristol Road
Quedgeley
Gloucester
GL2 4PE

Tel No:

01452 883953

Email

quedgeleycc@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Opening Times

Please see the times on the door of the Children's Centre (within the Library) to see when it is open.

Flutterbugs

Are you looking for places for your 3 year old?

Flutterbugs is a new Playgroup in Quedgeley. They are holding an open day on **Sat 9th July** at Quedgeley Community Centre, School Lane from 12.30pm - 4pm.

There will be face painting and refreshments, why not go along and see what they have to offer? For more information please call Lucy Brown on 07828 008949.

Little Squirrels

Newborns - Crawlers (0 - 12 months)

Wednesdays at Quedgeley Children's Centre

Under 6 months - 09.15am - 10.15am

Over 6 months - 10.45am - 11.45am

Little Squirrels' is a friendly, relaxed session where parents and carers interact and play together with their children and make friends. We offer activities and opportunities for children to learn through play whilst having lots of fun. This may give parents new ideas for playing at home and helps them gain knowledge of areas of learning and development. We end with a song and rhyme time and all have fun joining in. Each child will have a Learning Journal which records their time at Little Squirrels.



Race for Life



3 members of staff entered the Race for Life in aid of Cancer Research UK at Gloucester Park on the 19th June. Congratulations to Sue Marshall, Sharon Brown and Jenna Wood for completing the course.

Is your family safe from fire? Do you have a working Smoke Alarm?



Have you discussed an escape plan with your family?

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service are offering **free** Home Fire Safety Checks in your area. For your free visit call **0800 180 41 40** or alternatively complete a form in reception at The Oaks, The Beacon or Quedgeley Children's Centres, and we will forward your details to the Fire Service for you.

Haresfield Playgroup

Haresfield playgroup run a pre-school session out of Brookthorpe village hall and have vacancies for children to start in September. The sessions run on a Mon Wed Thurs and Friday 9.15am -12.15pm and take children from 2year and 6 month to find out more please call Katy Price 01452381382 / 07974381072 Or Corrie Playleader 07791448346

**The Beacon
Children's
Centre**

The Beacon Children's Centre
(previously Kingsway CC)
Valley Gardens
Kingsway
Gloucester
GL2 2AR

Tel No:
01452 728995

Email
kingswaycc@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Opening Times
While we are setting up The Beacon
the opening times will be variable.
Please look on the Children's Centre
door for times.

Children over 5

Please do not bring children over 5 to our term time group activities. We have had occasions recently where parents have brought an older child who is off school because they are unwell. I think you will all appreciate that if a child is too ill to go to school then they should not be brought into the children's centre, and we would appreciate your co-operation with this. Thank you.

Opening Ceremony

On Tuesday April 5th we held the opening ceremony for The Beacon Children's Centre. It was a wonderful day attended by local dignitaries, organisations and most importantly lots of children and their parents. Councillor Jackie Hall cut the ribbon and had her photo taken by The Citizen with families at the entrance of the centre. Thanks you so much to everyone who came along and joined in all the fun. We also had some great feedback from you about what you wanted from the new centre and we hope you will see some of these reflected in the September programme which is included with this newsletter.



Partnership Board

How do you become a member of the partnership board?

Article by Debbie Lailey chair of Quedgeley and The Beacon Board

The Partnership Board for the Quedgeley and Beacon Children's Centres involves representatives from various organisations across the area. Health visitors, librarians, PCSO's and Housing association representatives join with the centre staff and local parents to help ensure the centres are providing for the needs of the communities they serve.

As a parent of a young child and a resident of Kingsway I have found it very rewarding to be involved in the Partnership Board. The opening of the Beacon Centre in Kingsway has been a huge boost for the area and the centre offers lots of different activities for parents, carers and young children to do.

The Partnership Board supports the staff as they seek to provide the right activities for families in our area. If you think you would like to be involved please contact Steph on 526856



The Beacon Stay & Play

Every Tuesday (from September)

1pm to 3pm

£2.00 a session per family

The Beacon Stay and Play is a friendly, fun drop in session for 0-4 year olds and their parents where all ages can play together and make new friends. There are a range of activities such as home area, play dough, trains and cars, sand, water and painting. We sit together to enjoy healthy snacks and children try new foods. We end with a song and rhyme time and all have fun joining in. Why not come along and meet new people in a relaxed environment.



Little Fishes

Every Friday (from September)

Term time only

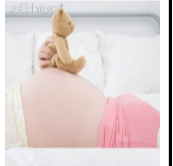
10am - 11.15am

Little Fishes is run by Kingfisher Church and includes singing, musical instruments, bible stories, craft, free play time, refreshments and chat! Everyone is welcome and the session is free.



YAPS (Young And Pregnant/Parent group)

The YAPS group is now up and running at The Beacon Children's Centre in Kingsway. It takes place on Friday mornings from 9.30-11.30am. If you're a parent, or a parent-to-be aged 20yrs or under come along and meet us. We have lots of fun and do lots of different activities. If you would like to come along or have a friend that may like to come contact Julie on 07825 861611 or call The Beacon on 01452 728995



Mama Latte

Thursdays

10.30am - 11.30am

Mama Latte is a place for you to meet other local mums and find information and support in a relaxed, child friendly environment. All of the BfN Helpers and supporters are local mums who have breastfed their children and received at least 12 weeks of training to support other mums with normal breast feeding experiences.

Well Baby Clinic

The Well Baby Clinic runs at The Beacon from 9:15 - 11:00am. This is a drop in session with a Health Visitor Nursery nurse. You can attend this session regardless of what Surgery you are registered with.

Sparklers & Surgery @ The Beacon

Quedgeley Baptist Church has recently started a toddler group on Wednesday afternoons at The Beacon called Sparklers.

Alongside this they are offering a confidential listening 'ear'. The Pastoral Surgery will provide people with an opportunity to take time out and talk with Pastor Phil about those things concerning them. It is good to make space in our busy lives to listen to one another:

Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed. (Proverbs 15:22)

Pastor Phil and Elaine Grubb live on Kingsway

Snacks and drinks

We follow healthy eating guidelines with snack times in groups. We offer milk or water to drink and a range of options such as fruit, cheese and breadsticks to eat. During these sessions we would really appreciate you not giving your children sweets or other snacks and encouraging them to have the drinks on offer. When children start pre school and move onto school these are the only drinks that will be offered and it's really important to get these good habits started as young as possible. Thank you for your co-operation.



Knightstone Housing - Starting

30th June from 1.15pm - 3pm. Every other week we will have Knightstone Housing in for sessions on Housing and Debt issues.

Parking at The Beacon

Please be aware there is No Parking for The Beacon Children's Centre. The Centre is in a position where it is hoped that parents can walk to us. If however, you do need to bring a vehicle we would suggest you park with care and consideration to local residents. Please take great care as there are many roads with double yellow lines within the area.