

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Eastbrooke Road
Alton
Hampshire
GU34 2DR
01420 87675

www.bushyleaze.co.uk

Sept 2015

Dear Parents,

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our new families and to those of you returning to Bushy Leaze. If you have any concerns regarding your child, especially over the initial period, please do not hesitate to chat to a member of staff. Your child's happiness and safety are very important to us and we like to build a strong relationship with all our families.

Our centre has a large staff team and many professional partners. As well as our Nursery and Children's Centre staff we are lucky to have an Outreach Team based at Bushy Leaze. We also have students and visitors who come to look at the Centre and learn about Early Years Education and Inclusion. Regular additions to our team are our Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Educational Psychologists and Physiotherapists.

Congratulations!

Our congratulations to Jess and Chris, as they were married during the summer break. Some of you may know Jess, as she has been running 'Bushy Tales' at the Centre. We wish them a long and happy life together.

Congratulations to Darren Hiscutt, who some of you may be aware is one of our Governors. His wife, Claire, gave birth to James on the 20th July. We offer our best wishes to the family on their latest addition.

Becky Worthington also gave birth to Rhys on the 19th August. We wish her family all the best following the latest arrival.

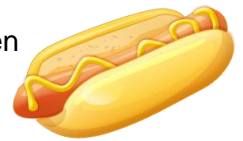
Congratulations to Ellie-Mai and her family following the arrival of her baby sister, Lola, who was born on the 9th September.

The Children's Centre

Team run a variety of groups both here at Bushy Leaze and in community venues. Currently drop-in sessions for parents and toddlers to attend are held at the Alton Buckle Community Building on Mondays from 9.15 – 10.45 a.m. and the Little Den on Wednesday afternoons from 1.30 – 3.00p.m. Other groups run daily and places must

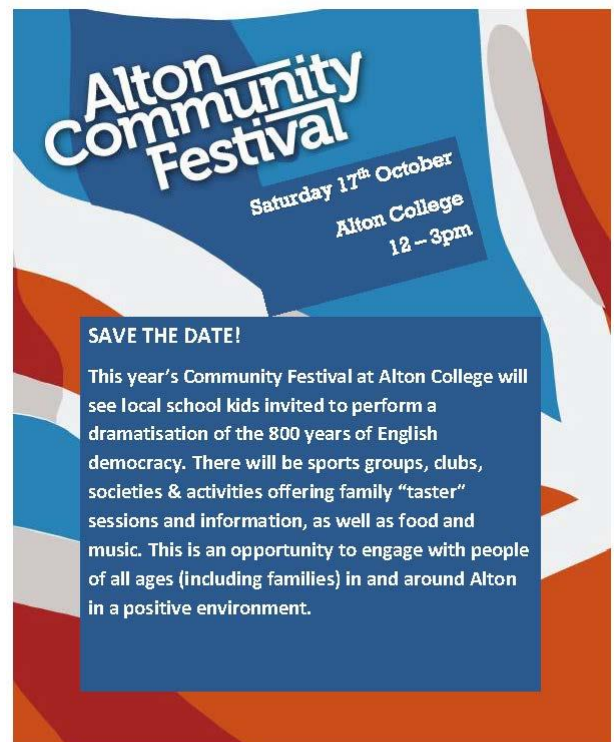
be booked. Please contact Heather, Tammy or Louisa for further information or visit our website. One session which is popular is Dads Matter, which runs on the first Saturday morning of each month. Dads and other male carers can come along to have breakfast and play with their young child/ren at Bushy Leaze.

Sign up for this in advance to be sure of a sausage sandwich. £3.00 donation on the day.



The Alton Buckle Family Support Team work with families and children aged 5-19 and are located at The Alton Buckle Community Building at Wootey Infants School. As well as being the base for this team, the building will be a venue for Parenting Courses, Family Learning, Bushy Leaze Parent and Toddler Group, after school and holiday play provision, and other community led initiatives.

The Family Support Team may be contacted through Bushy Leaze or are available on **01420 542873**.



Alton Community Festival
Saturday 17th October
Alton College
12 – 3pm

SAVE THE DATE!
This year's Community Festival at Alton College will see local school kids invited to perform a dramatisation of the 800 years of English democracy. There will be sports groups, clubs, societies & activities offering family "taster" sessions and information, as well as food and music. This is an opportunity to engage with people of all ages (including families) in and around Alton in a positive environment.

Friends of Bushy Leaze – is our parents' forum and group for fund-raising.

FOBL will be holding their AGM on Tuesday 22nd September from 11.00 a.m. – 1.30p.m.

All are welcome to come along to Oak and Acorn. Coffee/tea and biscuits will be available and if you wish to come along with a packed lunch for your child you will be most welcome. It will be lovely to see you, even if you can only spare a few minutes. This will be a good time to see what FOBL offer and to get to know one another. Friends of Bushy Leaze will also be holding a Christmas Fair on Tuesday 8th December between 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Please make a note of this in your diary, as it will be lots of fun to attend. Nearer the time details will be available if you wish to help or contribute towards the day.



Our school **photographer** will be visiting Bushy Leaze on Thursday 5th and Friday 20th November. The photographer will be taking

photographs of children who attend our Nursery on the Thursday. On Friday he will be available to take photographs of babies and toddlers who attend the various groups run by the Children's Centre. Further details will be provided nearer the time, but keep these dates in mind.

Photographs will be back in time for Christmas and a photo would make an ideal present for family and friends. As well as individual photos our photographer is happy to do family groups.



The National
Autistic Society

Parents and carers of children and young people with Autism/Social Communication difficulties

The Alton branch of the National Autistic Society (NAS) regularly meets at Bushy Leaze from 9.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon. They will be meeting on the following Fridays:-

2nd Oct, 6th Nov, 4th Dec, 5th Feb 2016, 4th Mar, 6th May and 1st July

If you have any queries, please contact

07824 372034

Drinks and Fruit

Nursery snack time is a wonderful way for young children to learn more about healthy eating and social skills. Each session has a special time when the children sit together and share a selection of fresh fruit and a drink. We know that fruit helps children keep healthy and we recognise our role in promoting a healthy diet.

In Reception there is a fruit bowl, for your donations. If every child were to bring in two or three pieces of fruit a week then we would have some each day to share. We also welcome donations of £1 each week (into the pot on the reception desk) to go towards the cost of snack time (any money left over will go towards our regular "special" events!) Fruit is also welcomed in the toddler groups run by the Children's Centre.



Birthdays

Nearly all our children will celebrate a birthday during their time with us. We know how important these times are for young children and we want to make them feel as special as we can on their special day! We have birthday traditions established at Bushy Leaze and if you would like to add to these by sending in some special fruit or snack to share please do so.

Clothes and Shoes

Just a reminder for nursery families – please send your child with a spare set of clothes in case of accidents. Also, sensible footwear is essential for outdoor areas, especially to get the best use of our adventure trail. Children play outside all year round, as the weather becomes cooler please make sure your child has a coat with them every day, and wellies if necessary!

Absence

If your child is unwell or unable to attend Nursery for any reason, please ring the office as soon as possible, choosing option 2. If you are going on holiday, please let Louisa, Heather or Tammy know the dates in advance. Please note, if your child has been sick or has suffered with diarrhoea, please keep him/her at home for 48 hours after the last episode.

Special Needs Information Day is being held on
Saturday 17th October 2015 at
Horndean Technology College, Barton Cross,
Horndean, Waterlooville, PO8 9PQ from
10.00a.m. – 3.00p.m.

A wide variety of exhibitors, workshops and information talks on topics relating to behaviour, speech and language difficulties, autism, changes to DLA, etc. will be available on the day. Parents, carers and young people will be able to book free places on the workshops and talks of their choice. Refreshments and food will be available to purchase, and there is plenty of parking on site. Entertainment will be provided to children who are accompanying their parents to the event. For further information, please contact Elaine Fish on 01962 833029 or email Elaine.fish@hants.gov.uk

A **Gateway Card** is for children and young people with disabilities or additional needs. It is free and gives access to activities, play schemes and buddy schemes. If you wish to have any further information please contact 01962 846399 or go to the Hampshire Gateway website www.hampshiregateway.info

Policies

Please note that Hampshire County Council has a **NO SMOKING** policy on school premises and this includes the car park. Unfortunately we are also unable to allow dogs on the premises.



Safety First

To try and keep everyone at Bushy Leaze as safe as possible, please can you take care in the car park and remember the following:

- No dogs in the car park
- No smoking in the car park (even in your car!)
- Always supervise your children and keep to footpaths as much as possible
- Don't let your children climb on fences or in trees
- Don't let your children eat the plants
- Keep the accessible spaces free for those with blue badges
- If possible reverse into spaces along the fence line, but go forward into accessible bays
- Do not park on yellow lines or on the hatching. If there are no spaces, please

park in Eastbrooke Road, Nursery Road or Chautsingers.

- Keep the main gates closed
- Use the right car seat/booster in your car

If you need any help or further information call at Reception. Let's work together to keep children safe

Please help make Bushy Leaze a "**nut free**" zone. We have children who attend the Centre who have a serious, life threatening allergy to nuts. Please ensure that biscuits, sandwiches etc. do not contain nuts. We want all families to feel that the Centre is inclusive and that their child will be safe and secure with us.

We are also aware that at this time of year tree nuts are to be found in the local area around Bushy Leaze. We would appreciate your support in children not bringing hazelnuts, etc. into the Nursery. Thank you

Reminders

If you have not already done so and your child has just started at Nursery, can you please let Tammy, Louisa or Heather see your child's birth certificate.

If your telephone/mobile phone number changes, please let a member of staff at reception know as soon as possible. We need to be able to contact you in an emergency.

You may have seen a **Purple folder** on the front reception desk. Please feel free to look through it and help yourself to any of the information or leaflets that may be of interest.



Bowen

Bowen Therapy is a drug-free, non-invasive, hands-on remedial therapy, which helps the body's systems rebalance and promotes healing. It is a very gentle treatment, which most people find relaxing and de-stressing. It can also be helpful for many conditions in the body. We are very fortunate in having a Bowen Therapist, Barbara, volunteering at Bushy Leaze each Wednesday. If you or your child would like to have a 15–30 minute taster session of the Bowen Technique we are offering this on Wednesday 30th September at Bushy Leaze.

If you are interested, please contact 01420 87675 by Friday 25th September stating if you would prefer a morning or afternoon session and remembering to leave a contact number. Barbara will then text you on Tuesday 29th with your appointment.

If you wish to find out further information, please visit www.bowen-therapy.co

APOLOGIES

Due to Hampshire County Council Guidelines regarding Social Media, please do not be offended if staff do not accept friend requests from parents on Facebook.

Starting School in September 2016

Will your child be 4 years old between the 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016?

From 1st November 2015 you can apply:

- online at www.hants.gov.uk/admissions where you will also find information about schools in Hampshire; **OR**
- using a paper application form available from a Hampshire infant or primary school.

Schools make individual arrangements for open events in the autumn term. You are encouraged to make use of these opportunities to gather information before making an application.

Application deadline is Friday 15th January 2016

Please be aware that every year some children lose out on a place at their local school because their parents miss the application deadline.

Please visit any Hampshire infant or primary school or a Children's Centre for help with the application process, or by calling 0845 603 5623. Alternative formats can also be obtained by calling from this phone number.

Calls to 0845 numbers will cost between 4p (local rate) and 6p (national rate) per minute for BT customers. Calls made using other service providers or mobiles may cost more. Alternatively call 01329 225375 - standard and local rates may apply to this number.

If you wish to find out about dates schools are available for tours during the next few weeks, please keep an eye for notices at Bushy Leaze reception or contact the relevant school to book an appointment.

Dates for the Diary

Tues 22nd September – FOBL AGM

Sat 17th October – Alton Community Festival – Alton College 12 – 3pm

Mon 26th – Fri 30th October – Closed for Half Term

Mon 2nd November – Inset Day - CLOSED

Thursday 5th November – Photographer for Nursery

Friday 20th November – Photographer for Children's Centre families

Tues 8th December – Christmas Fair

Fri 18th December - Final day of term and shorter sessions for Nursery children

Christmas Holiday

Mon 21st December 2015 – 1st January 2016

Mon 4th January 2016 – Inset Day – CLOSED

Tuesday 5th January 2016 - Start of Spring Term

Tues 3rd May and Wed 20th July 2016 will also be Inset Days - closure

