




Dear Parents,

We hope you and your children are continuing to enjoy all the activities and groups Bushy Leaze has to offer.

You may have noticed a couple of new faces at the centre over the past week or two. In our previous newsletter we informed you that we have been given the opportunity to work closer with MIND and we are pleased to let you know that Lynn Bennet is now hot desking at Bushy Leaze on a regular basis. It is with sadness we will be saying farewell to Sharon Farrier, who has been our Early Support Keyworker co-ordinator. Sue Lang we are pleased to say has been appointed as her successor. We wish to take the opportunity in wishing them all the best in their new posts.

 Thanks to Jen Hammersley The National Cycling Charity (CTC), have kindly donated 3 new balance bikes to Bushy Leaze. They will be arriving later this month. In all Jen managed to secure balance bikes throughout all the local Alton schools for Year R classes.

### Friends of Bushy Leaze

FOBLE have been extremely busy over the past few weeks, what with a successful cake sale and with preparations going on behind the scenes for the Summer Fayre, which will incorporate Bushy Leaze celebrating 20 years of being at its current site. I am sure over the coming months you will be hearing more from FOBLE with regard to what they are doing and requests for help and/or donations. Please keep an eye out for further notices.

FOBLE are still working on putting a recipe book together and you still have time to hand in your recipe at reception. All will be greatly received.



Some members of FOBLE and parents helped with a very successful Burns Night, which was held at Eggars School. This year the Burns Night committee decided, for the first time, to raise funds for a local group/organisation and

we are pleased to say Bushy Leaze was the beneficiary. Our thanks must go to Luath Grant-Ferguson and especially to Jill Worth and her fabulous team who catered and waited on tables throughout the evening. Ann Blackman attended the event and said what an enjoyable evening it had been. The money raised was put to good use during the half-term holiday, as a willow tunnel has been constructed for the toddler garden.

### Congratulations!

As you may remember a rather large bear had decided to take up residence at reception for a few weeks. We are pleased to say Athena Mensah won it by choosing the lucky number 40.



### Alton Lions

You may have noticed the arrival of a large egg and lion at reception, which once again signifies the launch of Alton Lions annual Eggstravaganza. In order to be in with a chance of winning either the chocolate egg or the lion you must try to guess the name of the lion, which is £1.00 per go. The money Alton Lions raise will be donated to Bushy Leaze. The draw will take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, just before Easter.

## CONSULTATION

The Hampshire County Council consultation to establish a new integrated Family Support Service (FSS) 0-19 (0-25 for SEND) is now live and runs to May 3<sup>rd</sup> (9 weeks). The proposals include Bushy Leaze being one of only 11 children's centre buildings being retained as hubs for Family Support Services in Hampshire. However, under these proposals most universal Children's Centre activities will cease.

All of us are encouraged to 'find out more and have your say' by visiting the website [www.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services-consultation](http://www.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services-consultation). Your views are important! Over the coming weeks, there will be opportunities for parents to ask questions and make their views known, through Parents' forums at Bushy Leaze and a Hampshire CC drop-in event at Alton Community Centre on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 9.30-11.30am. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, please speak to Ann or Patti.



For parents worried how much sugar is lurking in food and drink you can now download a free Sugar Smart App by visiting [www.nhs.uk/Change4Life](http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life)



As well as Bushy Leaze celebrating being on its current site for 20 years, Eagle Radio is also celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday throughout 2016. With this in mind they gave local charities and organisations the opportunity to apply for a special grant as part of their celebrations.

The special award celebration took place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at The Elvetham Hotel, Fleet. Both Patti and Linda attended and were happy to receive one of the grants for £500.00 which will help to resource the new toddler garden. In all, Eagle Radio donated £10,000 to 20 grateful recipients. Eagle Radio Trust was founded in July 2007. To find out more, please visit [www.eagleradiotrust.co.uk](http://www.eagleradiotrust.co.uk)

## OUT AND ABOUT



With the days getting brighter and longer and with the Easter holidays fast approaching you may be wondering where to take your children. Bushy Leaze always tries to advertise local events, but if you are thinking what else the County has to offer, please visit <http://hampshireattractions.co.uk> for more ideas. If you click vouchers you will find details on discounts available on some of the top attractions, including the Watercress Line.

If you are thinking of going further afield and are going by train do not forget to pick up your 2FOR1 leaflet at your local train station. You may wish to visit the website to plan ahead – <https://www.daysoutguide.co.uk/2for1-london>

If you wish to make the most of the local Sports Centre, Leisure Cards are available to those receiving benefits. If you wish to establish if you are entitled to such a card, which allows discounts, please ask for an application form at Alton Sports Centre. The application form provides details of who can apply; what you need to provide and how it works.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Some of you may have noticed that parking at Bushy Leaze continues to be a problem. Unless you have a disabled parking permit or a special pass from us, **please do not park in the disabled parking bays or turning circle.**

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## Dates for your Diary 2016

Easter Holiday from  
Fri 25<sup>th</sup> March – Fri 8<sup>th</sup> April

*Inset Day* Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Summer Half Term holiday from  
Mon 30<sup>th</sup> May – Fr 3<sup>rd</sup> June

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Summer Fete**

*Inset Day* Wed 20<sup>th</sup> July

Summer Holiday Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> July – Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> September

**We have extended the deadline for nursery places for September 2016. If you are or you know anyone who is interested, please pick up an application from Louisa or Tammy**

