

MACS NEILSTON

March 2015 Newsletter



Our Mission Statement: "We will provide a professional care service where children, young people and adults will be listened to, valued and respected equally"

Project Manager: Elaine Croll

Depute: Sharon McKenna

Playcarers - Karen, Marie, Fiona Millarkie, James, Fiona Baird

Dear Parents/Carers

This is our spring newsletter where we would like to update you on the many activities the children have been involved in and new and upcoming activities, as well as the progress within the project regarding our staff.

Dates for your Diary - The schools close at 2.30pm on Thursday 2nd April and we will provide an earlier service on this day. Easter weekend is Friday 3rd to Monday 6th April and then we have a holiday service running from both Kirkhill Primary in Newton Mearns and St. Josephs Primary in Clarkston. If you require care during these holidays please contact our Head Office. Schools then return Monday 20th April.

'Coffee and a Chat' – We will be organising this for after the Easter holidays and will notify everyone of date. This will give parents the opportunity to meet other parents, speak to staff and view the project work. The children love to bake for this occasion too.

Childrens Activities – Knitting has become one of the childrens favourite activities with Marie teaching both boys and girls to knit or take part. Some of the children are almost finished their 'risky play' badge and we will be speaking to the children to decide which badge they would like to start next. James is enquiring about a visit from one of the Community Safety Officers to give a talk to the children as part of their risky badge, as well as all children who are interested.

We will be starting up sewing with the children and if any parents have spare material, threads, etc., these would be really appreciated. We will be working with the school again soon helping with the the eco garden which the children love to take part in. We purchased new sports equipment, skipping hoops, hula hoops, skipping ropes, bean bags, soft indoor balls and will be looking for tennis rackets and balls and footballs to add to the equipment.

Floor Books – Remember to browse the floor books which showcase the childrens work and feel free to add comments or suggestions.

Local Community Facilities - the **swimming**, which is on a Thursday, has now been offered to children who are 8 years old and able to swim unaided 2 lengths. If your child is new to this activity there is a permission form to be completed explaining the cost and times. We are encouraging children to use this facility as it would be sad to lose this activity by the pool not being available for us.

Please turn over /...

The Library trips on a Wednesday have also been enjoyed by some children, and children have asked if we can go another day. We are therefore looking into another day and will advise you once this is confirmed.

Staff Training - James and Fiona are about to undertake a course in Heartstart to be trainers which will mean we will have more staff available to teach the children. James and Fiona have also completed a course in 'Respect Me' which is about helping children understand about bullying, respect, diversity and different cultures. Sharon and Fiona Millarkie will be delivering an inhouse training to all staff on 'play therapy' to enhance our knowledge of how play can be used to help children express their feelings through play.

August 2015 New Term – If your child is in Primary 7 going on to High School or is currently in High School, we can still provide after-school care for them. If you would like to retain your place with us from August 2015 can you please email general@macs.uk.com. If you have any siblings starting in August and you have not been offered a place, again can you email us. If you have siblings who will be starting school in August 2016 can you also advise us to allow us to predict our numbers for next year also.

Help us to evaluate our service! - We are preparing an online questionnaire and we will email you the link for this to be completed next week. This allows us to evaluate the service we provide and to ensure we are considering everyones views and suggestions. We will feedback to you all, which will form part of our development plan.

MACS Website – Remember to check in on our website which has up to date information as well as photos of our project and what the children have been involved in. If you have any suggestions of further information which would be helpful to you then please let us know.

Getting in Touch with Us

If your child is not attending MACS as they are off school, sick or otherwise, or if someone else is collecting your child, please contact Sharon on her mobile and leave a message for her.

Neilston Landline 0141 570 7259

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