

MACS NEILSTON

Autumn 2014 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 (Michelle on mat leave)

Dear Parents/Carers

We are now fast approaching winter and with this in mind we will be changing our activity planners with the childrens' help so please feel free to browse our floor books and planners to see what fun activities are on offer.

Traffic Light System - as this system will be in place until January 2015 and delays for everyone entering Neilston being inevitable, we would appreciate all efforts to collect your child by 6.00pm when our let for the school finishes.

Dates for your Diary - Children in Need is Friday 14th November 2014. We will be speaking to the children to decide what activities they can do during the week to raise funds.

Festive Holidays - schools close on Friday 19th December at 2.30pm and we will be offering an earlier service for after-school care on this day, closing as normal at 6.00pm. We will be running a holiday service during the festive period and booking forms will be included with your November invoices to be returned by closing date of 15th November. The service will run from Kirkhill Primary on the following days - Monday 22nd December, Tuesday 23rd December, Wednesday 24th December (close 4pm) and then Monday 29th December, Tuesday 30th December and Wednesday 31st December (close 4pm).

'Coffee and a Chat' - we would like to invite our parents of Primary 1 and Primary 2 children to come along on Thursday 30th October from 5.00pm until 5.45pm. This will give you the opportunity to meet other parents and speak to staff.

Care Inspection - we recently had an inspection by the Care Inspectorate and we would like to thank children, parents and our staff who took part in evaluating our service and giving feedback. Overall we were given 5's for all areas which is 'very good'. The report is being finalised at this time and once this is finalised we will leave a copy on the parents' desk for you to have a browse.

Activities and Resources for Children - there was a vote among the children to decide whether to purchase an Xbox360 or PS3. The decision was an Xbox360 which we have purchased, with this being available for our Primary 5 and up children.

We will continue when we can with the eco garden, but in the meantime Marie has given out certificates to the children who have helped so far.

Please turn over for more /....

We will be working on a new badge this term which is 'Risky Play'. The children who would like to work towards this badge will have a list of activities to complete and this will be made available to you through our Floor Books. We will be starting with a new 'fire pit' we have purchased and the children will have the opportunity to learn the safe ways to use the fire pit as well as toasting marshmallows.

We had introduced the Yellow T Shirts with MITS on them. This stands for MACS In Training and the logo was designed by a child at our St. Joseph's Project. Some of the children were happy to wear these to be helpers but not everyone. We took this into consideration and have had badges with a magnetic strip made for children which avoids holes in jumpers or polo shirts. Staff have badges the children can wear if they prefer these.

Our Local Community Facilities - the **swimming**, which is on a Thursday, had been a great success but recently there has been a lower number of children taking up this activity. We would be disappointed if this facility was no longer available on a Thursday for the children and have been discussing what we could do to encourage the children to use this. One of the suggestions was that we take snack money along with us and allow the children to choose a small treat from the machine on the premises. Can we also ask that you remind your child to bring their swimming things with them on Thursdays. We would appreciate your feedback which you can give by either speaking to Sharon in the Project or by emailing general@macs.uk.com

The Library trips on a Wednesday have also been enjoyed by some children, but again we would like to encourage more children to go along. The children are back at the Project by 5pm on a Wednesday. We will look to see if there are other days available to use the Library in case children are missing out if they are not in on a Wednesday.

Staff Training - James has completed his Food Hygiene Course. Sharon and Fiona will be completing a Play Therapy Course the week of 20th October. James is also due to complete his First Aid Training in November.

Help us to evaluate our service! - we are looking at ways to be able to evaluate our service and one of the ways we are suggesting is by asking you a question each month. The other option is to send out an annual questionnaire. We would appreciate your feedback on which method you would prefer or if you have any other suggestions. Can you speak to Sharon in the Project or email us at general@macs.uk.com

Bad Weather Conditions! Can we please ask parents to consider the weather conditions and to allow enough time to collect your child/children by 6.00pm. Alternatively can you advise of another collector who could collect if you are delayed by bad weather. Remember to ensure your child has all their belongings when leaving MACS, such as gloves, scarves, etc.

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.

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