

Allerton Children's Centre Newsletter

Spring 2012

Issue 4

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome to our new look newsletter and we hope you will enjoy reading it. We have a few changes to our schedule for the New Year as well as some new events.

Mondays

Our Mums and Dads group will continue to meet on Monday mornings. Why not come along to meet some like minded people and, you never know, you may pick up a new skill.

Tuesdays

Janine, our Jobcentre Plus adviser, will now visit on Tuesday mornings. Please book an appointment by contacting us through any method outlined below. Stay and Play will take place all day. This will include a Jazzy Feet toddler dance session in the mornings and Story in a Box during the afternoons. We have organised some SocaTots junior football and fitness sessions on Tuesday afternoons. Our Mums and Dads group will be conjuring up some deliciously simple soups over lunchtime.

Wednesdays

Our popular 60 Minute Movers exercise class continues on Wednesday mornings, followed by Cook and Eat - simple healthy snacks with Kelly our specialist. We will be having a further Stay and Play session in the afternoon.



Thursdays

Invitations for our new morning Parents@Play course have been sent out. Baby Time continues on Thursday afternoons. Look out for special sessions on yoga, massage and weaning.

Please turn to pages 4 and 5 to see our weekly schedule and to page 8 for a summary of our special events.

How to contact us:

Telephone: 01274 493089 (Centre) or
0743 578 9162 (Church)

Email: allan.s@leytop.bradford.sch.uk

Write or call in:

Allerton Children's Centre, Avenel Road,
Allerton, Bradford, BD15 7PQ

Call in:

Allerton Methodist Church, Greenbank Road

Our Mission Statement

Allerton Children's Centre aims to provide good quality education and lifelong learning that will have a broad and lasting impact on the children, their parents and the wider community.

Together we will provide a brighter future for our children.



Autumn Round Up

Our Autumn programme of events started with an Eid party in September to celebrate the end of the month long fast of Ramadan. Members of our ESOL (English for Speakers of other Languages) class brought special foods to share in a party atmosphere. We also had face painting and traditional mehndi art demonstrations.



Bookstart Bear visited Allerton Library in September and gave out reading packs to help develop reading in the home. He also came in December for story time and activities as part of his winter tour.



October saw scary Halloween activities in Ladyhill Park including face painting, fancy dress, pumpkin carving, apple dipping and decorating spider biscuits, all rounded

off with a party and night walk.

Mums and Dads took part in a face painting workshop run by our resident artist, Anne Milner. The session unearthed some hidden talent with spectacular results.



Children and parents from local primary schools joined us in early November to plant daffodil bulbs in Ladyhill Park. Look out for a wonderful display



from March onwards. A big thank you to Cllr Valerie Binney who arranged for the supply of bulbs.

We worked together with Bradford Under Fives Association to provide a Number Rhyme Challenge day for families in our area and from across



Bradford District.

On Children in Need day we 'showed our spots and tried to raise lots'. We took part in dotty activities, made dotty buns and raised over £40 to help children less fortunate than us.

Autumn Trip to York

The last Friday in November saw 2 coaches leave the Children's Centre for a day trip to the famous St. Nicholas Fayre at York. The visit was kindly funded by Bradford West One LAP (Local Achievement Partnership) and was free to all Centre users and their families. It also included a lunch at McDonalds! Visitors were free to 'do their own thing' and wander around the city to soak up the historic atmosphere or even to shop.

One of our younger users has written the following article (with a little help from dad).

On Friday me and my dad went on a big bus to York. I saw some big trains at the museum and had a ride

on a train called Thomas, then we went on a bridge over a big river. We went to a market in an old building and one outside and looked in some



shops. I bought some presents and had a McDonalds for lunch. We did some walking and saw some old buildings. It rained but I still had a good day and fell asleep on the way home.

Daniel Whitcombe.

Christmas Events

At the time of writing our Christmas celebrations were only just getting underway. Our Mums and Dads group had a wonderful morning, learning from professional cake decorator, Jayne Carter, how to decorate



Christmas cakes. Jayne had baked lots of mini cakes and showed the group some handy techniques. They went on to form a production line and completed quite a few to be sold for church funds.



A finished cake

Our annual Shiny Day proved to be a big success with children taking part in 'shiny' activities such as digging for treasure and making bright collages.



We had a number to m b o l a and rhymes stories and singing. Trips across to Ladyhill Park resulted in donkey rides and a visit to Santa's

grotto where two elves were busy making toys. (But not too busy to give out presents!). Our thanks go to Kath and Pauline for all their hard work.

A call for actors went out to star in our Nativity performance, A Christmas Shelter. No experience was necessary but actors had to be aged between 0 and 5! Many responded, were auditioned and (all) chosen as rabbits, robins, foxes and squirrels (as well as a few shepherds, kings, Marys and



Josephs). Children from the Reception classes at St James' and St Matthew's Primary Schools joined us for the performance at church to help



the younger ones to sing all the songs. The show was performed in front of the monthly church Tea and Talk senior citizen group.

We were also delighted that the Lord Mayor, Councillor Mrs Naveeda Ikram, accepted our invitation to watch the performance.

Despite a few minor hitches, the children performed admirably and the audience thought it was marvellous.

We also produced Nativity performances for St. James' and St Matthew's Primary Schools.

A Christmas Farewell

We said a fond farewell at Christmas to Charlotte Furniss, one of our Early Years Practitioners. She has played a huge part in our success and has served the families of Allerton well. Charlotte will be taking up a post at St. Matthew's Catholic Primary School in the New Year so many of you may still have contact with her. We wish her every success in the future.



ALLERTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE

	Monday	Tuesday
AM	<p>9.00 - 11.30</p> <p>Monday Mums & Dads <i>Crèche provided</i></p>	<p>9.00 - 12.00</p> <p>Job Centre Plus (by appointment) <i>Crèche provided</i></p> <p>Under 5s Stay & Play</p> <p>Jazzy Feet Toddler Dance Session at 11.00am</p> <p>Café lunch Simple Soups etc at 11.30am.</p>
PM		<p>12.00 - 15.00</p> <p>Stay and Play with Story in a Box at 2.15pm</p> <p>Socatots at 1.30pm</p>

ACTIVITIES HELD AT ALLERTON METHODIST CHURCH,

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>9.00 - 11.30</p> <p>60 Minute Movers Exercise & Health Morning at 9.00am <i>Crèche provided</i></p> <p>Cook and Eat With Kelly at 10.15am</p>	<p>9.00 - 11.30</p> <p>Parents @ Play course <i>Crèche provided</i></p>	
<p>13.00 - 15.00</p> <p>Under 5s Stay & Play</p>	<p>13.00 - 15.00</p> <p>Baby Time Especially for Parent & Baby incl. Yoga (12/1 and 2/2) Massage (19/1) Weaning (26/1)</p>	

Spring Matters

Ley Top Primary School Spring Term Dates

School starts on Wednesday 4th January 2012 and breaks for half term on Friday 10th February. Pupils return on Monday 20th February until Friday 30th March. Allerton Children's Centre will be closed for training on Wednesday 4th January. We will be running activities in Ladyhill Park on Thursday 16th February and will be organising a trip to Eureka! Children's Museum in Halifax on Friday 17th February.

Family Support

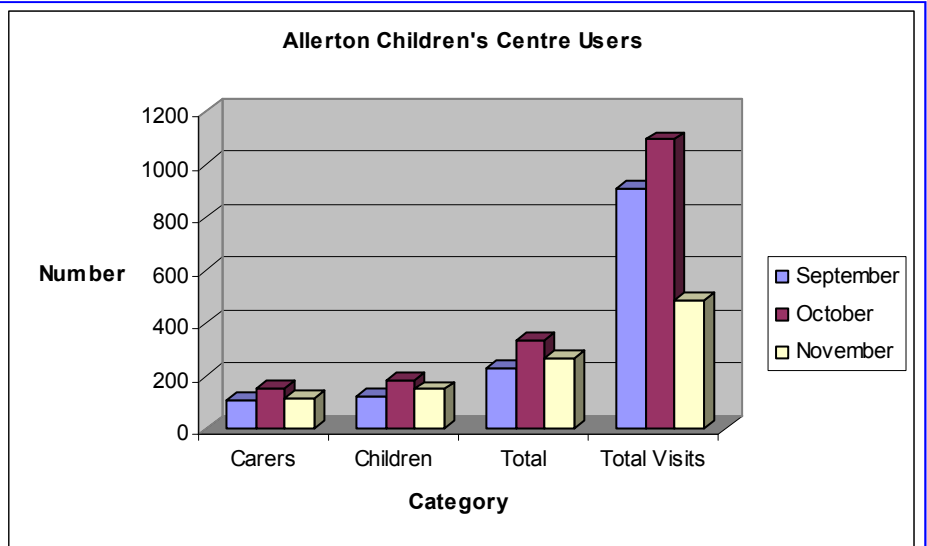


Many of you may already know Gail Barraclough our Family Support Worker, and if not you've probably seen her zooming around in her trusty little yellow car! As well as the fun and exciting sessions we offer we understand that there are people who for various reasons need help and support through difficult times and often very sensitive issues in their lives.

Gail has many years experience in working with families who are in need of help. This could be as simple as needing a few parenting tips or problems with relationships. Gail has a network of contacts and resources and is available through the

Centre Users

The number of users of the Centre over the 3 months from September to November are shown on the chart to the right. This is broken down into adults and children visiting at least once, together with the total number of visits for all users each month. It is important that you regularly make use of our facilities to reduce the likelihood of funding cuts.



FREE Early Education for all 3 & 4 year olds

Is your child missing out?

Do you know?

All 3 & 4 year olds are entitled to free early education 15 hours a week 38 weeks per year.

Why is Early Education good for your child?

- Helps to develop increasing confidence
- Children learn to share and be with other children
- Children take pleasure in learning new skills through play

**Contact Bradford Families Information Service on 01274 437503
Urdu/Punjabi Helpline no. 01274 431252**

Use it or Lose it!

If you attend sessions and register with the children's centre we are less likely to be affected by the government funding cuts. If you would like to receive information electronically please send your e-mail address to allan.s@leytop.bradford.sch.uk.

Children's Centre. You can be assured that you will always be treated with respect and discussions are completely confidential.

PLEASE call Gail on 01274 493089 if you feel you need help or advice on anything!

Spring Events

Monday Mums & Dads

The views and opinions of our parents are very important to us. To ensure your views are heard why not come along to our 'Parents Forum'. This is an opportunity for you to make suggestions or comments about how the centre operates and the kind of things you would like to see happening in the centre and the community. The group meet on **Mondays from 9.00am until 11.30am** at Allerton Methodist Church and there is a crèche provided.

The group also provides the opportunity to share our parents' skills and talents. Each week parents provide a variety of workshops. These have included, ways to help your child in school, cake decorating, and mehndi art.

Come along to find out more and learn some new skills!



jobcentreplus

Janine, our Jobcentre Plus adviser, holds an appointments service at Allerton Methodist Church on **Tuesdays from 9.30 am until 11.30 am**

Janine can help with any issue regarding work, benefits, preparing for interviews and training.

For further information call into the Centre, the Church or call Janine on 01274 336625.

Keep Fit

Do you find yourself out of breath chasing the kids round the garden? Or do you just want to shed a few of those Christmas pounds you put on?

If the answer is yes, then why not join Gail in our

'60 minute movers'

exercise and health morning

This session runs every **Wednesday starting at 9.00am** at Allerton Methodist Church. There is an exercise session catering for all abilities and a crèche provided for under 5s, including active physical play. Straight after keep fit Kelly, our Cook and Eat specialist, will be producing simple healthy snacks for participants.

Tuesday Fun Days

Tuesday is fun day at Allerton Methodist Church. We start off with a Stay and Play session in the morning followed by Jazzy Feet toddler dance session. Our parents group will be making a lunch of soup and freshly baked bread. Weekly flavours will include; tomato, vegetable, Chinese Noodle (to celebrate Chinese New Year) and carrot and coriander.



After lunch we continue with Stay and Play. On most Tuesdays Socatots is back by popular demand. Socatots is an exciting football and fitness activity for children from crawling to

school age.

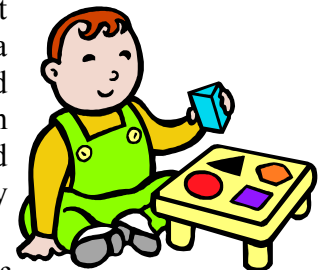
We end the afternoon with Story in a Box which will include favourites like; Gruffalo's child and Cinderella.



Baby Time

Every **Thursday from 1.00pm until 3.00pm** it's all about babies!

This is an informal drop-in session at Allerton Methodist Church for parent and baby. There will be a variety of fun and stimulating activities on offer including rhymes and singing, soft play and baby yoga.



There will be members of the team on hand to offer support and information on baby related issues such as weaning, sleep patterns, routines etc.

It's never too early to introduce your baby to different sounds, textures, smells as well as other children and adults. It all helps with their development. Give your baby the best start in life!

Look out for the special sessions on; Yoga, weaning and massage.

We look forward to seeing you there.

SPECIAL EVENTS DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

All take place at church unless otherwise stated

	<p>Socatots Junior Football For children from crawling to school age.</p>	<p>1.30 -2.15pm Tuesdays from 10th January to 6th February</p>
	<p>Community Cohesion Day Come and see how our partner agencies can help you.</p>	<p>9.30-11.30am Tuesday 17th January</p>
	<p>Pantomime in a Bag Cinderella, as presented by our children and parents as 'Stars of the Stage'.</p>	<p>9.30-11.30am Thursday 19th January</p>
	<p>Garment Repair Join our Mums and Dads group to brush up on sewing skills and garment alterations.</p>	<p>9.30am Monday 23rd and 30th January</p>
	<p>Early Years Foundation Stage Gathering Day Local schools will join us at Ladyhill Park to build and race Dragon Boats. (Your child's school will give you details closer to the date.)</p>	<p>Tuesday 24th January</p>
	<p>Big Story Tell in the Park We are having a story morning at Ladyhill Park, followed by lunch. Bring your teddy bear in the afternoon to see Bookstart Bear and have some bedtime reading.</p>	<p>From 9.30am Tuesday 31st January</p>
	<p>Big Number Day Join us to have a fun time with numbers—Maths activities for everyone.</p>	<p>9.30-11.30am Friday 10th February</p>
	<p>Fit Families Help to keep fit and have fun with our active games for all the family in Ladyhill Park. (For parents and children up to age 11)</p>	<p>1.00-4.00pm Thursday 16th February</p>
	<p>Family Trip to Eureka! Why not come along on our free trip to Eureka! Children's museum at Halifax. (Funded by Bradford West One LAP)</p>	<p>Friday 17th February</p>