



A Sure Start Children's Centre

# Haven Herald

## Welcome (back) to Haven

Welcome to the first edition of the Haven Herald. This is the first of what we hope will be a regular communication to parents and Centre users. With so many things going on here, it is difficult to keep everyone informed about what is going on so we hope this helps in some way. Please also remember to visit our website [www.haven.hants.sch.uk](http://www.haven.hants.sch.uk).

We also extend a welcome to our new parents and Centre users—we hope you enjoy using the Centre.

As always, please do let us know if you have any queries. We look forward to hearing from you.

We have been busy over the summer improving the Centre. As well as new carpeting in some parts of the Centre, we've been delighted to open a new sandpit in the Hive garden as well as our new 2 storey deluxe playhouse inside the Hive. We are sure the children will love these new additions.

Our Children's Centre continues to offer a wide range of new and established courses as well as favourites such as PUFF Club and Baby clinic. Please look out for leaflets around the Centre or check out the website for the latest activity programme.

Our nursery is as popular as ever—if you or a friend will be looking for a child-care place, please contact us as soon as possible to ensure you don't miss out on a place.

This year also sees the launch of our Forest School (more below) and we hope that all Centre users will benefit from this exciting development.



Haven Forest will be well used this autumn

## Forest School

This autumn sees the official launch of our Forest School. We have transformed what was a piece of wasteland into a fantastic learning and play environment. Best of all, it's right here on site at Haven. Our Deputy Head, Karen is now a

fully qualified Level 3 Forest School Practitioner, and oversees all of the Forest activities. All of our children will have a chance to regularly access the Forest and we are certain this will be of great benefit to all. What is a Forest School you

may ask—it is perhaps best described as 'an inspirational process that offers children the opportunity to achieve, develop confidence and self esteem, through hands on learning experiences.' Watch this space and the website for more details—or just ask Karen!

## Haven Nursery School and Children's Centre

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### Diary dates

- ☺ INSET Day Friday 11 November (Whole Centre closure)
- ☺ Half Term 24-28 October
- ☺ End of Xmas Term Friday 16 December
- ☺ Santa Walk at Stanley Park —Saturday 10th December—from 10am. Look out for more details.
- ☺ Carols in the Car Park and Festive Fun —Tuesday 13 December 2011 from 6pm. Look out for more details, but be sure to save the date!!

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## Can you dig it?

We have all been excited about our brand new sandpit in The Hive garden. The sheer size of it will mean that even more of our children can benefit from the learning and fun of play with sand (and water, and mud!).

As we all know, finances are tough at the moment, so we were pleased to have built the sandpit and made other garden improvements using only our own in-house expertise and labour, as well as the fantastic assistance from some of our parents.

Over the summer, the children that have been here have enjoyed watching the digger create the big hole for the sandpit followed by it's

steady transformation into a 'working' sandpit.

We had 15 tons of sand delivered to fill the sandpit and transporting it from the lorry to the sandpit was no mean feat!

We are sure the sandpit will be enjoyed by all the children and we will continue to make improvements to this area as well as the rest of the outdoor environment.

Having gained valuable experience, we hope to create a new sandpit in



The Nest garden in the near future.

We will also be investing in providing appropriate shade to the sandpit(s) as soon as we can.

A big thank you to Kevin (Site Manager) and Mark (Caretaker) especially for their hard

work, and also to everyone else who helped out.

## Christmas Countdown

Christmas at Haven is a wonderful time and we hope you will be able to share in one of our festive events. The highlights will be **'Carols in the Car Park and Festive Fun' on Tuesday 13th December**—a brass band will play carols while parents and children join in and who knows, Santa might even pop along too! Refreshments and festive snacks will be available as well as face painting

and hopefully some craft stalls with gift ideas for you. This is a great community event and we hope you can come along. All monies raised will be invested back into the Centre.

Our **'Santa Walk' on Saturday 10th December** is another festive favourite where the man himself leads us around Stanley Park singing Xmas classics before all retire to the Al-

verbank Hotel for a warm drink and hopefully a children's entertainer!

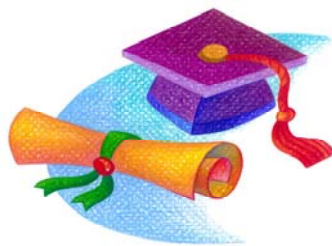
We hope you and your child(ren) will enjoy and support these events.

**'Carols in the Car Park and Festive Fun' - Tuesday 13th December from 6pm**

## Never too old to learn!

Our Children's Centre offers a range of courses and activities, in both positive parenting skills and personal development. Please ask for details.

Our staff also engage in continuous learning as we aim to provide an even better and more



Learning for all at Haven

effective service.

Listed below are just some of the courses our staff are starting this year:

Julie Caldwell (Children's Centre Manager)—National Professional Qualification in Centre Leader-

ship

Kevin Gard (Site Manager)—Facilities Management

Phil Bowden (Business Manager)—Certificate in School Business Management

Chloe Parker (Nursery Practitioner)—Foundation Degree (Early Years)

Good luck to all!

# Is your child nearly 3? Free Early Years Entitlement

Children become eligible for the free entitlement from the beginning of the next school term following their 3rd birthday.

The free entitlement offers up to a maximum of 15 hours per week of nursery education over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year. The maximum free entitlement is for up to 570 hours per year.

In accordance with Hampshire County Council guidelines, the full free entitlement (15 hours per week) must be taken over no fewer than 3 days per week.

The take up of the free entitlement is agreed in advance and applies for

a whole term (3 month) period. Once agreed, hours/days cannot generally be altered during a term.

Currently, the free provision is only available during school term-time.

At Haven, the free provision takes place in our maintained nursery school, The Hive.

Parents can pay for additional daycare hours and meals to supplement the free entitlement during school term-time, and for full daycare dur-



ing school holiday periods. Care is available from 7.45am - 6.00pm. Fees are payable in advance. More details on our website.

Haven's Nursery School was rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted when last inspected in 2009.

All nursery children will get the chance to experience our Forest School, large outdoor areas (and sandpit!) and the array of other facilities on offer.

## Who let the dads out?

### Did you know?

The last Saturday of each month sees our Dads Group held here at Haven.

This is an ideal time for Dads (or indeed Grandads, uncles etc) to spend a bit of quality time with their child.

There's lots of activities for the children and their dads to enjoy, in a

very relaxed atmosphere within our large Hall and garden areas. A suggested contribution of £1.00 per session also covers the provision of bacon rolls and a cup of tea or coffee.

Why not come along and give it a try?

The sessions run from 9.30am—11.00am.

**Dad's Group—last Saturday of the month 9.30-11.30am. Just drop in!**

## Car Park

The car park at Haven is very small, and unfortunately we cannot provide parking for everyone. Our car park policy aims to make the car park as safe as possible, while still making it accessible for those most in need.

There are **8** available spaces with a **maximum stay of 10 minutes** for priority use by the following groups:

- Parents with under 3's (Nest)

- Parents of children with limited mobility and/or additional needs
- Hampshire County Council school transport
- Blue disabled badge holders

Please do respect these guidelines



Please respect our car park policy

and do not enter the car park if you do not really need to, especially at peak times (9am, 12pm, 1pm and 4pm). There is plenty of alternative parking available near to the Centre.

Please remember to obey the 5mph limit and follow the directional arrows.

## Haven Nursery School and Children's Centre

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### 'Excellence in Early Years'



*Haven's aim is to provide a supportive and encouraging environment, where opportunities are offered to challenge and inspire children and adults through learning that is accessible, meaningful and fun.*

Haven Early Years Centre opened in 1997 on the site of the former Bedenham Infants School. Following previous designation as an 'Early Excellence Centre', in 2004 Haven became one of the first 'full core' Sure Start Children's Centre in Hampshire. The Centre has grown dramatically and is now a vibrant, thriving venue at the heart of the local community and beyond.

In 2009, the Nursery School received its most recent Ofsted inspection and we were delighted to receive an 'outstanding' grading.

The whole Centre is managed by an integrated Senior Leadership Team with ultimate responsibility resting with the school governing body.

## Meet the Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Leadership Team at Haven are always trying to improve on the quality of the services and environment we offer.

**June Smith—Head of Centre:** June has been the Head since 2006 following previous roles as Operations Manager and Project Director at a Sure Start Centre in Cornwall. With a wealth of early years experience, June oversees all aspects of the Centre. June has 3 sons and a 1 year old grandson.

**Karen Hooper—Deputy Head of Centre:** Karen is a fully qualified teacher and has worked in the early years sector for many years. Karen has recently successfully completed a Level 3 Forest School Practitioner qualification and takes the lead on

all aspects of our on-site Forest School. Karen is also our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). Karen has 5 grown up children.

**Julie Caldwell—Children's Centre Manager:** Julie has worked for Haven since 1994 and was previously the manager of the day nursery. Julie oversees the running of our Children's Centre operation and the various support and services offered to local families. Julie has 2 children under 10, who previously attended Haven.



**Phil Bowden—Business Manager:** Phil joined Haven in 2010 following his previous career with HM Land Registry. He oversees the administration, finance, site and catering aspects of Haven. Phil has 2 young children aged 3 and 6 months respectively.

The SLT are extremely grateful to both parents and staff for their continued support in making Haven 'a magical place for children to be'. Please do feel free to ask if there's anything you'd like to discuss.

Meet more staff in the next edition!