



Spring is on its way ! Lets get outdoors !

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In 2011 we started enhancing our outdoor environment by beginning to change the layout of the gardens, to provide more 'natural' areas, containing more trees, plants and places for 'mini beasts' to make their home. Focus has been placed on all child care settings to provide a wider variety of outdoor experiences for all ages of children, to enable them to 'get outdoors' and use their natural desire to explore, and learn from play. The Early Years Foundation Stage has always encouraged practitioners to use the outdoors more fully, allowing children to freely engage in, and with the environment. We have begun creating spaces which promote this

ethos, offering 'wild' areas, 'mini beast' areas, 'growing & planting' areas, and hopefully a sensory garden to be completed by the end of the Spring Term. All these exciting plans take time, and as soon as the ground warms up a little, we can continue with the new resources, and planting of the live willow, which will be a fabulous resource for all children to enjoy. We hope that our babies as well as the older children will enjoy the new play areas at the back of Willow House, which hosts a decking area, story corner with beautiful chair, and stools to reflect the natural environment, which has a canopy to erect towards the



It's nearly time to get planting, and to get the children outdoors enjoying their natural environment.

end of the Spring. We will be putting in musical panels, raised planters with fragrant plants and flowers, and landscaped garden to facilitate wheelchair access. A live willow tunnel is planned, which offers exciting imaginary play opportunities.

Special points of interest:

- OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT
- 2YR FUNDING PROJECT
- AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN
- WE WELCOME MRS BEV BUTLER AS A NEW PART TIME ASSISTANT MANAGER WORKING MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS FROM MARCH, ACROSS THE NURSERY AND ALL- STARS TO ASSIST DANIELLE, JENNIFER AND JANET IN SUPPORTING ALL STAFF

AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

AHDC—Aiming High For Disabled Children is a charity which has been set up by Government to help support those children and families who may need additional support in the care and education of their children. We have been very lucky to secure a grant, which will enable us to furnish the bedroom in Willow House, on the ground floor, to allow any child who

may have mobility difficulties, to utilize our short break/respite facility. We already have registration for overnight and respite care for ALL children, up to twelve at any one time, and this will now ensure that our service is fully inclusive. We will be awaiting delivery of specialized equipment very soon, and should be able to offer our service by Easter time. Please remember

that we can provide sleep overs, party or themed nights for groups of up to twelve children, making good use of the lovely Willow House facilities. Children will need to be booked in to facilitate suitable and qualified staffing. Please enquire if this service is of interest to you. **Our Friends of Pine Lodge**, have charitable status, and we hope to further utilize this to raise

2yr Old Funding Project for 2012



A Baking session (using play dough) demonstrating fine motor skills

The Government introduced a grant scheme for 2year old children, along the same lines as the 3year old grant, but at the present time, only for children and families who are in receipt of financial support, or who have a child/children who need additional care for family or social reasons. If there are any

families who may need additional support from us who currently attend the Nursery Group, or whose child may be approaching two years of age, please speak to Maxine or Janet who will be only too pleased to provide you with further information and the forms needed to complete to apply for the ad-

ditional places. The hours offered are a maximum of ten each week, and can be used fairly flexibly across all sessions, again please speak to Maxine for any details you may wish to clarify. Children who do not currently attend the Nursery can also be welcomed and accommodated.

ALLSTARS OUT OF HOURS CLUBS

**NEW MANAGERS FOR
OUR OUT OF HOURS
CLUBS.**

**HASLINGTON ALLSTARS
AND MABLINS LANE
ALLSTARS**

As most of you will already know, we have three out of hours clubs, Due to personal circumstances, Emma who is the Manager at Haslington will be leaving us from the end of March, and Chantel from Mablins Lane school finished

at half term. We have appointed Carol Anne as the Manager at Mablins Lane Allstars, with Emma Maxfield as her Deputy, and with Emmas replacement at Haslington, yet to be appointed, with Michelle Snelson as the Deputy.

All staff have much experience, holding a level 5 or above, and we welcome them to our Clubs, and hope that all children and parents will welcome them to, hoping they have lots of fun with us !! Timetables for the holidays are now available.

Stepping Stones Programme at Allstars Clubs



A Canoe training day for the children undertaking the Stepping Stones Award

In September 2011, Kim Walker took over the Stepping Stones Programme, which is aimed at offering the older children from the Allstars the opportunity to engage in additional challenging activities which

may include a new sport like Canoeing as in the photograph, or being involved in a community project covering citizenship skills. Children can be accredited for their endeavours, working towards the final level

which may take them onto wanting to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Kim attends each club one day each week, and will be pleased to explain, or sign up any child who wishes to join this great

Willow House News

Since Willow House opened over a year ago, we have continued to make changes for the benefit of the babies who enjoy their day there. Our senior team of Nicky, Dawn, Emma, Helen and Michelle from Creche, will be continuing to develop their outdoor environment in the coming weeks, which

will include their decking area, and canopy over a story area (for all children) all weather play areas with music panels. We will be furnishing the ground floor bedroom for general overnight use, ground floor wet room, and a grand opening for all to view. We welcome Michelle to this group, and the lovely

homely environment Willow House provides. Please note the babies do sign language sessions, joined National Storytelling week when they all dressed up as book characters. **Could parents please note, the Jubilee celebrations are to be held in the village on 2nd June, if any parents would like to share this with us, or can just turn up and enjoy !**



Creche Group News

We would like to congratulate the new Supervisor Hazel Hilton of the Creche group, and her team Anwen, Sam, Emma for the transformation of the room, their new bathroom and changing area, and improved layout of the re-

sources. We have a slight problem with the wall in this room, and some remedial work will be carried out, hopefully as discreetly as possible in the very near future. We apologize in advance should this disrupt the children's day on occa-

sion. They will be joining the Willow House children in utilizing the new outdoor areas behind the house, with all weather surface to keep any little knees as clean as possible.



Nursery Group News

Again we would like to thank Kerry and her team, Kelly, Kerry Ann, Wendy, in the Nursery for their lovely room changes, and the support which they give to all of the children. They are fortunate in having ac-

cess to the outdoor classroom, and this will be laid out on a daily basis for the children to have open access throughout the day. Again, full outdoor suits are available for the children to pop on over their clothing, to

ensure they remain as clean as possible, yet enjoying 'getting messy' which we feel is most important when playing outdoors. Staff in this group are very supportive of the children's development in all areas.



Having a great time getting messy with paint !!

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ALLSTARS OUT OF HOURS CLUBS

WILLOW HOUSE BABY UNIT (0-21 months)

WILLOW HOUSE SHORT BREAK/RESPITE

CARE FACILITY (children 0-16 years including those with additional needs)

Extra Curricular Subject Areas Include:

Swimming	Outdoor exploration/gardening
Music, Dance and Drama	Story Area & Chair
Baby Sign	Mini Beast Areas/mini pond
Spanish	Children's Builders Yard
Visits and trips	Sensory Room & Garden



Children have great fun in the extensive outdoor areas, and making dens is a fabulous way of engaging children's imaginations

PRE SCHOOL & PRE PREPARATORY CLASSES -

Family Liason Officer

3+ Is enjoying their new team member Laura whilst Claire is in post-operative recuperation. We hope to welcome her back in the very near future. We will also be wishing Laura well as she goes onto maternity leave at Easter. Getting the children prepared for Pre Prep Class involves accessing the curriculum fully, and for the children to be developing sound relationships with peers, and also gaining valuable skills in self help and confidence in their curriculum, and environmental choices.

PRE PREPARATORY

Children in this class are encouraged by Emma, Louisa, Kelly and Debbie to gain confidence, work on mark making, and experience in self awareness and making choices. Self help skills are important in preparation for their transitions to main stream school, and to learn how to care for and assist others in their peer groups and the wider community. Speech and Language skills should now be fine tuned, to facilitate their choices and feelings, with lots of support if required.

FAMILY LIASON OFFICER:

We have a new Appointment within Nursery, Dawn Leeson, who is our new FLO, who is available to share her experiences with any parent or staff member who may wish to access outside services or be sign-posted to groups within Pine Lodge and Allstars, but also within the community. Please do ask Janet, Danielle or Dawn for further in-