



Burhill Children's Centre

March 2016

Well that was the Winter.....

It seems unbelievable that only a short time ago we were all preparing for Christmas and the dreaded cold snap. I think we were very lucky this year not to have snow although there are many days this may have been better than the constant rain!

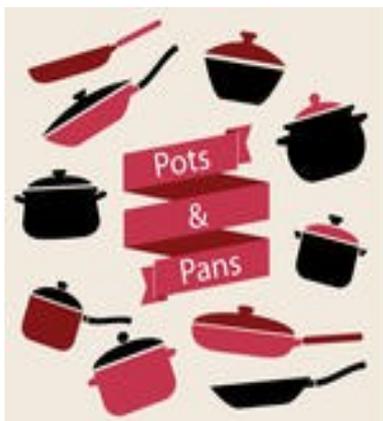
Our outside area has been changing over the winter, the playground has had a new Climbing frame and safety surfacing installed. Our planter is looking very bright and cheerful with our flowers and bulbs, please encourage the children to water the flowers. There are watering cans next to the water butt. It really helps us if you and your children can tidy up after you have played in our outside area, we will be putting in a "parking system" for the cars and bikes soon.

The garden is open every day, we are open between 9am - 3.30pm just pop into reception to sign in.

We are planning a mud kitchen and outside music area which we hope to furnish with 'non plastic' items, we are seeking the following:

- ♦ Old pots and pans with or without lids
- ♦ Wooden spoons and metal utensils
- ♦ Baking trays etc.

Please let us know if you have anything suitable.



shutterstock · 304584794

EASTER OPENING - We are open as usual for most sessions- but there a couple of changes, please check out the website calendar or pick up a list in the office.





Have you visited our sensory room yet?

To use the room:

Families whose children have additional needs or disabilities can use the room on an open booking system, if we have yet to offer you this option please let us know. We can also take referrals from other agencies who are supporting your family if you are out of area.

All other families should see our timetable for their child's age group 'drop in' opportunity. Currently these are 0-1's Wednesdays 2.30 -3.30pm. Over 1's Tuesdays 2-3pm. (from 5/5/16 this will change to Thursdays 2-3pm) We would also draw your attention to our room guidelines: **Sessions will be limited to 15 minutes - 2 toddlers or 4 non moving babies at any time.** Please use your session to play with your children, so they can make the most from their time. A full list of guidelines are displayed in the sensory room. **We cannot take bookings at other times.**

Our new timetable is available for 11th April - 27th May

We have revamped the way we present our timetable, we'd be interested to hear your feedback. We have taken out the weekly table and have instead taken each day in turn. This terms timetable is **GREEN**, pick one up or see the website.

• **During MAY & JUNE we may be short staffed so please take note of session changes on the timetable and website. You can always call us before you leave home too!**

NEW class — HENRY (Health Exercise Nutrition for the Really Young) - speak to Helen for more information about this 9 week course.

Our **Baby Massage** courses have proved so popular these will remain a permanent offer on our timetable. Open to everyone with a waiting list for out of area parents. Following feedback from some of the mums that attended we ran a Saturday morning hour for dads in January. As this was such a success we are now offering a second course on **Saturday 16th April 9.30—10.30am Booking Required.**



Have you seen our new outdoor chalk boards? Ask in the office for some chalk

Fire safety checks

Have you picked up a card to book your home safety check by the local fire station?

FACEBOOK

Unfortunately we are unable to have a facebook page but Some of our inventive mums have set up a page called **Walton & Hersham mums** please join this group they post lots of useful dates and ideas.

Clothes & Equipment Pass on scheme

We have moved our pass on scheme to the end of our outdoor area in our lovely new covered unit.

This scheme is always really popular but it takes up a lot our time to keep organised. So please help us by bringing only good quality, clean items as below:

- ◆ Children's Clothing for **under 5's only**
- ◆ Maternity clothes
- ◆ Complete toys & games for **under 5's only**

If you have large equipment please ask in the office if we can link you up with someone seeking the same equipment so you may pass it on before bringing it to the centre.

PLEASE - no bottles, bottle sterilisers/steamers and No household items or men's clothes!

Help yourself to anything you think you can make use of and if you require something we do not have let us know and we'll try and find it for you.

And finally... if you could spend even just 5 minutes unpacking a bag into the correct box we would be so grateful.

Breast Feeding - All the Children's Centre's in Surrey are joining the health authority in training staff to UNICEF standards. The aim is all expectant & new mums will know that there is support available at their local Children's Centre. Currently mums can struggle to find help when they need it. Sally can give breastfeeding support having been trained previously, but by the end of the year all members of our team will have received training.

Breast Pump Hire - We have just purchased 4 new pumps for our Breast pump hire scheme. The scheme continues to be very popular Feedback has been great and in most cases Breast feeding has been established or continued longer then initially hoped. The pumps are available in one month hire periods for £10.

Would you know what to do?

Recently I was in a local café. I heard a loud splash and then a scream, when I turned around I saw a baby that had been safely strapped into a high chair at the table. The parent had gone to collect some sugar but had left the drink, the baby had reached out and tipped a cup of scolding hot coffee all over them... The parent went into shock and had no clue what to do. If you don't know what should have been done then please come to one of our [first aid classes](#).

Our classes run every other month on a Saturday morning 9.30 -11.30am our next dates are:

14th May - TBC /JULY - 10th September - 12th November

This course is suitable for all members of your family including grandparents and baby sitters. One two hour session on a Saturday morning £20.

Why can't my friends come too?

This is a question we are asked a lot when it comes to our sessions here at Burhill.

We are classed as a part time Centre but with careful management we open the Centre every day. We have a Centre manager Sally who works full time and then Helen our Out-reach worker & Donna our information officer both work 18 hours a week. All of our sessions are planned to bring us in line with the Core Purpose for Children's Centre's. We need to ensure we are able to meet the needs of our most vulnerable community members and users along with our wider community. Each local Centre has both local and nationally identified needs that we work to support. In the Burhill area one of our focuses is the support and integration of families with children 0-2 years. There are other groups locally that aren't post coded that you can go to with your friends, ask us if you would like to have their details.

And Finally, it's your turn...

We always like to hear your feedback, it does make a difference. Part of the leadership for the centre includes a community Advisory Board, we would really like another parent to join to represent our users. Currently we have Dave Clarke, Amelie's dad on our board, he'd gladly tell you more about it if you're interested. So if you could give up 2 hours, 3 times a year to attend meetings please talk to Sally.

Volunteering —We currently have Claire, Diana, Nick & Tracey who all volunteer for us. Their help is invaluable, if you have time and would like to join them let us know.