



Fathers' Friday

Fathers' Friday 2012 was part of the Celebrating Fatherhood campaign, which recognises the importance of fathers in children's lives, and is being run by Bath & North East Somerset Council and other organisations on behalf of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

If you'd like to take part in Fathers' Fridays 2013, then please get in touch with Bath & North East Somerset Council. We can provide you with template letters for parents, names of contact schools for ideas and links to resources. Fathers' Day is likely to be on June 23, 2013, so we suggest that you hold Fathers' Friday events on June 21 or 28.

Bath University made a film of Fathers' Friday at Moorlands School which will be shown at the future events for Schools and on the Celebrating Fatherhood website. They also produced research on the day across the Local Authority which is available on the website below.

If you want to know more about the range of support available for children and families contact Bath & North East Somerset Council's Family Information Service on **0800 073 1214**, fis@bathnes.gov.uk or visit www.bathnes.gov.uk/celebratingfatherhood

This leaflet about the Celebrating Fatherhood campaign can be made available in a range of community languages, large print, Braille, on tape, electronic and accessible formats from the Family Information Service.

Pictures courtesy of the [Bath News and Media Group](#), Somerset Guardian and Wansdyke Play Association.

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Fathers' Friday 2012 was a resounding success for those schools and settings that took part.

Read about the successes and start planning your **2013 Fathers' Friday**.

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**



**Celebrating
Fatherhood**

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Local Safeguarding Children Board

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Successes in 2012

Over 1,000 fathers and male role models took part in two successful Fathers' Fridays in June.

27 local schools, children's centres and nurseries were involved, as part of the Celebrating Fatherhood campaign. Fathers, or other significant male role models in the child's life such as uncles, grandfathers, and brothers, were invited to visit for all or part of the day, to see their children learning and at play.

Research conducted by Bath University tells us the days were successful with the number of fathers involved – which exceeded expectations everywhere – and the response from fathers, children and mothers. Teachers in all schools could also give examples of grandfathers, uncles, brothers and family friends who had attended and had been fully involved in children's lives for a day.



Schools and settings involved say they have seen a real improvement in relationships with parents, deepening existing contacts and meeting fathers they had never seen before. It's clear that there is real value in Fathers' Fridays and they're something we'd love to see develop in future. To find out more about how you can get involved in 2013, see back page.

Comments from dads:

"Really had a great day! Enjoyed joining in with my daughter and her friends. Thanks a lot. Same again next year!"

"Good to see my son and other children working together"

"We don't often get time to be this involved; it's so rare we get the chance to see what they're doing."

Comments from children:

"I think it's really good 'cos you get to spend a day with your dad and do things."

"I like Fathers' Friday and it's a good time to be with dad because he can come and see what you're doing."

"I like it when daddy comes to school 'cos he can have lunch with me."

Comments from Schools

Moorlands Infant and Junior School ran their event for the second year and had over 300 fathers.

"One dad proudly announced that he has adopted two daughters as he walked along the corridor with his own child and two other little girls who didn't have a representative at school. All the children were beaming from ear to ear and it lasted all day!"
Moorlands School

Wansdyke Play Association hosted a very successful day of play at Castle Primary School in Keynsham. Over 50 dads attended and took part in play sessions including making fires with twigs and limited fire lighting equipment; play ideas involving projectiles – things you can throw, fire, shoot and catapult; building dens and making up new games.

Southdown Junior were amazed that 45 dads or role models turned up for their day, having only expected 30!

"Absolutely brilliant – we had loads of dads, including some of our less visible dads, come along and they all really enjoyed the challenges we set them."

Oldfield Park Infants

"Due to work commitments many fathers have not been in to school before and therefore thoroughly enjoyed looking around and interacting with their children in the school environment."

Whitchurch Primary School

Combe Down attracted over 100 dads for Key Stage 1 alone! One father came back from London to take part in his daughter's day.

Personal invites from the children worked best to encourage fathers in and schools told us that with more planning time the day could have been even more successful.

