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Moorlands School

Thank you Sara, we had a lovely day and even if a child didn’t have someone there, they all benefitted at some point throughout the day whether it was in the classroom with their learning or outside at playtime. 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!

I have asked my office to also copy you some comments from our own book even though the majority will fill in the university one. Well done to you and your team. It really put the importance of fathers at the forefront. We look forward to next year.

Clare

Remarks from comments book:

“Great Assembly- wish I could have stayed longer. Great atmosphere in that school”

“What a great initiative! Well done Moorlands! It’s been a thought-provoking morning and I’m very glad to have been a part of it. Keep up the good work”

“Thank you got having me, really enjoyed it!”

“Very interesting”

“Thanks for a great time”

“Thanks. The sculpture making was fun”

“Great morning enjoyed playing trumpet in assembly. Enjoyed Mr Rocky morning with George”

“What a fantastic morning- an excellent assembly and some very enjoyable activities at both schools”

“Very Very enjoyable, really good to interact with the girls at school”

“Thank you very much for having me; really enjoyed the day especially enjoyed the chance to take park in the model making”

“Great morning. Nice and varied. Really wanted to see Leo being so well behaved... rarely experienced at home!! Ha-ha! Well done to the school/staff”
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“My cricketing technique has come on leaps and bounds this morning, thanks to some expert coaching from Mr Griffiths. Thank you!”

“Wonderful day, looking forward to next year”

“Very good- very enjoyable”

“Excellent opportunity to see all the children having a great variety of activities”

“Very good day. Lots of fun”

“Excellent- really enjoyed it!”

“Great Afternoon loved it”

“Excellent day. Looking forwards to next year”

“Great day, loved all the classes”

“Really good day”

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

“Enjoyable day”

“Fantastic Afternoon! Thank you!”

“A lovely Morning!”

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Whitchurch Primary

Hi Sara

We had 37 fathers attending. General comments as follows:

Possible longer day and lunch with the children
Children whos fathers were absent should have been given another project so as not to feel bad
Due to work commitments many fathers have not been into school before and therefore thoroughly enjoyed looking around and interacting with their children in the school environment
Possible parent/child project over a number of weeks - more opportunities requested
Mothers’ Monday was suggested by several fathers!

This is a brief overview of comments received. I hope this is helpful.

Kind regards
Paula Ware
Whitchurch Primary
Zebedees Bath

Zebedees Father's Friday when really well, although we did not have as many Father's attend as we hoped originally. Feed back forms are being collected and I will let you have these (I will keep copies as well) as soon as they are all in. Reminding Daddies this week.

Debbie
Zebedees Bath
Oldfield Park Infants

Hi Sara,

Last Friday was absolutely brilliant ~ we had loads of Dads who all really enjoyed the challenges we set them.

Some of our less visible dads came and we were really touched that the dad of one of our more challenging boys came in from Peasedown to support him ~ that alone made it all worthwhile ~ he was so chuffed to have his dad there and be part of something special.

Have attached an FF pic so you can see how busy it was!!

Jo
Jo Claridge
Oldfield Park Infants
Castle Primary School

Fathers' Friday at Castle Primary - WOW! What a brilliant day!

Wansdyke Play Association were invited to host a "Day of Play for a group of dads and their children at Castle Primary School in Keynsham. The day started with two workshops in "risky play" activities (ideas that dads can do again and again in their own time with their children for low cost). Around 50-60 fathers were firstly shown how to light fires in adverse weather conditions, with damp twigs and limited fire lighting equipment... They all managed it, and also all made themselves a cup of tea! Along the way they learnt the basics of risk assessing and managing fires and were able to show these to their children.

The dads and their children were then shown a number of play ideas that involve projectiles - things you can throw, fire, shoot and catapult! All the activities needed a lot of guidance from the dads there to make sure it was all safe for children, and they rose to it taking great care to show the children how to play in a fun but safe way! In the afternoon there was then a big play session, with children and parents freely choosing activities, making up new games, inventing contraptions, building dens and generally having lots of fun.

It was truly brilliant to see and the WPA Community Playworkers at one point said to each other - "We're not really needed here, the dads are doing all the playwork themselves". The day co-incided with Father's Day on the Sunday and also linked with the BANES Celebrating Fatherhood Campaign, details of which can be found here.

WPA hopes to take the day at Castle School as a great example of what can be achieved when bringing Play into schools. Many schools have struggled to engage fathers in children's school lives and WPA thinks Play might just be the way to do it!
Dear Andrew

Keynsham Library held a special story time to celebrate the important role fathers and father figures play in children’s lives.

The book “Monstersaurus” by Claire Freedman was one of many stories enjoyed by the families who attended. The event ended with the handing out of goodie bags which were kindly donated by the “Early Years” Service who continue to promote the importance of fathers.

A few new faces were there to hear the penultimate story time at the present library building. Everyone said how lovely it was to receive the packs, but more importantly, said how much they enjoyed the event and plan to join us for future activities at our temporary premises where we will continue to provide a library service to the area during the town’s redevelopment.

Regards
Kerri Brain
Library Assistant
Bath & North East Somerset Council
Fathers join children for Fridays at school

Fathers have been going back to school this week as part of a new initiative to encourage them to become more involved in their children’s education.

They took their children to play and at schools, children’s centres and nurseries on the two Fridays nearest Father’s Day as part of the campaign being run by Bath and North East Somerset Council.

Fathers, or other significant male role models in the child’s life such as uncles, grandfathers, and brothers, were invited to take part.

Activities organised included dads’ challenges, forest walks and outdoor play sessions.

Councillor Nathan Hartley (Lib Dem, Peadenown St John), deputy leader of the council and cabinet member for early years, children and youth, said: “One of Bath and North East Somerset Council’s key objectives is to ensure children get a good early start in life and are well prepared for adult life.

“The role of fathers is changing and increasing all the time, and it is important that they are involved in their children’s education.

“Often organisations think ‘mothers’ when they want to talk to parents about their children, but through Celebrating Fatherhood, and Fathers’ Fridays in particular, we want to encourage fathers to get more involved in children’s development and education.”

“Evidence shows that fathers, and other male role models, have a big impact on the quality of children’s lives – including boosting confidence and self-esteem, as well as benefiting their progress educationally.”

As well as Fathers’ Fridays, there are a number of other Celebrating Fatherhood events in June. Whilst dads are encouraged to attend any activities organised for families organised by the council and other organisations, specific sessions aimed at fathers and children will be taking place in the coming weeks.

Chew Valley Children’s Centre hosted a stay and play session last Saturday while on Saturday, June 30, there will be a session at Radstock Children’s Centre which will run between 11am and noon.

Nurseries and schools taking part in the initiative included the Chew Valley Children’s Centre, Radstock Children’s Centre and centres at Mid somer Norton, Paulton and Peasedown, Radstock Nursery, East Harptree Nursery and Pre-school and High Littleton, Westfield and Camerton schools.

By Angela Brennan
angela.brennan@westnews.co.uk

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