We wanted to take the opportunity to say…

Hello to …
Bernice Britton from St Loyes who will be offering support to access training and employment.
Justine Kurton and Sophie Plummer who join Radstock Nursery as Early Years Assistants.

Goodbye to …
Laura Dando (Business apprentice) who was working and training at Midsomer Norton Children’s Centre leaves to take up further training opportunities.
Danni Creed from Radstock Nursery who leaves to be a full time mum.
Natasha Harris (Early Years Assistant) from Radstock Nursery who leaves to work in a school.
Kate Boyes, teacher at Radstock Nursery, who leaves to work in a nursery school in Bristol.
Kathryn Myers (Job Centre Plus) who is moving to a different role within the Job Centre.
Judith Sellers and Judith Heath (Health Visitors) who will be moving to work in Bath and Keynsham respectively.

We wish them all the best in the future.

Congratulations to …
Emma Lyle (Senior Early Years Practitioner) who recently got married and is now expecting her first baby.
Andrew Good (Senior Early Years Practitioner) becomes Lead Outreach Worker with responsibility for child school readiness, working with fathers and will work in the Children’s Centre and nursery.
Becky Horler (Senior Early Years Practitioner) from Radstock Nursery who is expecting her first baby.

All the children who graduated from nursery and are now ready for school - we hoped you had lots of fun at nursery and will enjoy school just as much.

Welcome back to …
Laura Langan from Radstock Nursery who returns after having her baby.
Charlene Timperley from Radstock Nursery who returns from her maternity leave.
Tracy Matthews who returns to Radstock Nursery to offer Children’s Centre Co-ordinator hours alongside Kelly whilst Kirsty is on maternity leave.

Good luck to …
Kirsty Bayford from Radstock Nursery and Emma Lyle who leave to have their babies.

Thank you…..
A huge thank you to all the volunteers and staff who have supported our groups and shown a huge commitment to improving the lives of families.

If you have any comments or suggestions surrounding any of our services or wish to find out more, please contact Somer Valley Children’s Centre Services on Telephone: 01225 396660 Email: somervalley_childrenscentre@bathnes.gov.uk

Children’s Centre Services
Early education, childcare, health and support for children and their families.

Welcome to the latest edition of Children’s Centre News for the Somer Valley area!
Catch up with the latest groups, events and Children’s Centre news from around the area.

A parent’s story after attending our First Aid sessions

“My little boy managed to pull a pan of really hot water onto himself, even though I had taken steps to keep it out of his reach. Because I had done a First Aid course, I knew exactly what to do, even though I was really frightened. This meant that, although he had to go to the Burn’s Unit at Frenchay Hospital, he didn’t have to have much treatment and won’t have any scarring. I would encourage every parent or carer to do a First Aid course if they get the chance. The fact that I knew what to do in the first instance, really helped my little boy and then the paramedics and hospital teams to be able to do their job with no added complications to deal with.”

Children’s Centre Parent – June 2013

Four Emergency Paediatric First Aid courses for parents and carers took place in the Somer Valley in the early part of 2013, supporting over 40 parents to gain confidence and knowledge about what to do in an emergency. We have secured further funding to train up to 80 more parents and carers, with two hour courses taking place in various Children’s Centre venues in the Autumn. If you would like to know more, please contact Judith Parr on 01225 396660.

Radstock Children’s Centre Nursery Celebrations

In July, 13 of the children from Radstock Children’s Centre Nursery graduated from Nursery. They wore their caps and gowns and had a lovely day in the sunshine. We’re so pleased for them and are sure that they will have lots of fun and do well at school.

The nursery was also celebrating achieving a Good grading at their latest Ofsted inspection especially after dealing with the disruption of continuing building works. The nursery would like to thank the parents, children and staff for their continued support during this time.

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Parents Voice

The Parents’ Voice meetings are open to any parents, grandparents or carers that would like to help to shape the service that Somer Valley Children’s Centre provides. We want to meet the needs of local families and need your help to understand what you would like from us.

We always welcome your points of view and will listen and respond to the comments and suggestions that are put forward.

A parent that attended the last meeting said

“I was really upset at the closure of a group but now I understand that this is only a small part of the work that you do to support lots of families that need you”

The next Parents’ Voice meeting is on Tuesday the 10th September 11am – 12.30pm at Westfield Children’s Centre. To enable as many parents as possible to attend we provide a crèche but we do ask that you book a place for your child (contact Elaine on 01225 396858)

Keep in touch and up to date with the Children’s Centre

We’re going to be keeping you up to date with what’s going on in the Children’s Centre area via our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bathnesvcc so please have a look, like our page and let us know what you think.

You can also find information on our website at www.bathnes.gov.uk/childrens-centres or e-mail us at Somervale ChildrensCentre@bathnes.gov.uk or contact us on 01225 396660 or 01225 396858.

Radstock Babyfeeding Drop-in

This new group is a Babyfeeding Hub offered to parents aged 25 and under on Fridays 12.30 – 2pm Radstock Children’s Centre

Younger parents in Somer Valley have been enjoying sharing a healthy lunch with their babies and toddlers at a new Babyfeeding drop-in at Radstock Children’s Centre. Here is what they say ‘I’ve made some new friends’ ‘Healthy food – my baby likes most of it!’ ‘I’ve got more ideas for meals!!’

If you are a parent aged 25 or under with a baby or pre-school child, or pregnant, feel free to join us for lunch from Friday 6th September.

You will be able to find information and support for all aspects of feeding your baby, breastfeeding or bottle feeding, mixed feeding or expressing, returning to study or work and lots of ideas for when your baby starts to eat family foods at around 6 months.

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding you can buy cost-price bras which are designed to be comfy during pregnancy and breastfeeding. (If you are 19 or younger, your first bra is free.)

The Babyfeeding Hub also offers antenatal courses and extra support for feeding by text, phone or home visit once your baby arrives.

Courses

Antenatal courses for parents under 20. Next course Wed 4 September to 25 September at Radstock Children’s Centre. (4 x 2.5 hour sessions)

Understanding you baby’s feeding behaviour courses for parents aged 25 and under. Next course 16 and 23 September – venue to be confirmed. (2 x 2 hour sessions)

Find us on Facebook for more information or phone Catherine on 07990 914568

www.facebook.com/thebabyfeedinghub

Celebrating achievements

Our staff as well as professionals from other organisations, local preschools, nurseries and childminders across the Local Authority attended the Councils Celebration of Achievement awards evening recently. This was to acknowledge the valuable work that’s being done and the difference that they are making in children and families lives.

A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE!

Harri’s Adventures

Harri, our Children’s Centre mascot, has been a very busy hippo so far this year and had some wonderful adventures. Harri has been up in a hot air balloon, camping with Cub Scouts, been on holidays to Americ and France and also attended the Council’s Celebration of Achievement evening.

Harri loves getting out and about and making lots of new friends and would love to go out again soon. Whatever your child and family like to do, Harri likes to do too - going the park, the shops or feeding the ducks.

If you would like to take Harri out on an adventure, please speak to a member of the Children’s Centre team or call 01225 396660. If you do take Harri out, we’d love to have some pictures, a story or a drawing of what you and Harri have done so that they can go out on display and in an adventure diary.

HENRY (Health, Exercise, Nutrition for the Really Young)

The new HENRY course starts on Thursday 3rd October and focuses on helping parents provide the best start for their babies and young children. The course focuses on parenting skills, increasing children’s emotional well-being and self-esteem, practical information that will help the family eat more healthily and become more active.

To find out more please contact Jed Parsons 01225 396660.

Volunteers

Our team of 17 wonderful volunteers met in June to celebrate the fact that so far this year they have given us 1005 hours of their time and supported 218 group sessions. We would like to thank them for the huge support and difference that they make to our groups, parents and carers and children.

If you’re interested in volunteering within either the Children’s Centre or Radstock Nursery, please give Jed Parsons a call on 01225 396660.

WOW!

Did you know….

In a typical week across Somer Valley Children’s Centres nearly 800 people come through our doors. This means that in an average year, we provide access to groups, support, information and advice on 40,000 occasions! Now include all the families who come to nursery and outreach visits to families, it’s clear that lots of families are accessing our services. We look forward to welcoming even more of you in the autumn.

Well done everyone!