

SUPPORTING CHARITY

Red Nose Day is always a popular event at Nursery; in March, the Elmscot Group raised a phenomenal £1245 for Comic Relief. Thank you for supporting our initiatives.

Elmscot will be donating £40 in June to the Dental Playbox Scheme as it is National Smile Month. For Hale parents, there is an upcoming event for your diaries: **AFTERNOON TEA, 17th June**, in aid of Genesis Breast Cancer Prevention. Posters are up in Nursery with more details.

Elmscot Group leads Best Practice

Parents may be aware that we have several specialist teams across the Group where staff from different settings with similar responsibilities work as a team to develop and lead practice in areas such as Special Educational Needs & Disabilities, H&S, Behaviour Management etc. Elmscot Group's EYT team of 11 Early Years Teachers attend many conferences and training courses to ensure we offer children the best possible early years education. Recently, the EYT team have attended:

Be Inspirational - Ideas for supporting partnership with parents held by MMU

Early Years Conference Trafford – working with other professionals to improve provision across Trafford

Early Years Conference North West – we operate 3 working parties focusing on Enabling Environments, Wellbeing and Music in the Early Years

Our teaching team have also created our own Elmscot Group working party to develop Maths & Schema provision across Elmscot settings by developing training and resources.

team training

Members of the Nursery teams have attended the following training since March:

©**Equality & Diversity**: Jenny, Emma, Jess C, Amy Holly, Justyna, Caroline

©**Paediatric First Aid**: Jenny, Claire, Rachel, Jess, Amanda, Emily, Heather, Antonia, Steph, Dee, Mia, Clair, Laura

©**ICT**: Lucy, Saraya, Emily, Amanda, Nicola

©**Safeguarding Level 1**: Greg

©**Safeguarding Level 2**: Jess, Francesca, Jenna, Justyna, Jess C, Chloe, Becky D, Lea

Nursery Development

At **Hale**, after some to-ing and fro-ing, we finally have a much-needed new surface for the 12 space car park. The children have also welcomed two new Guinea Pigs, Lola & Spikey.

Getting prepared for the summer, **Woodlands** have been concentrating on their garden, looking at all the areas and what the children really enjoy doing whilst outside. They have moved the Mud Kitchen and Dinosaur Area to create bigger, more suitable and better equipped spaces. The Writing Area has moved into the outdoor classroom under the awning where there is also a new Water Play Area. In the main garden, Woodlands are currently developing a new Music Area and Investigation Area for the children to enjoy.

Elmscot is currently developing activity bags that can be shared between nursery and home for you to complete with your child. These have interesting resources and come with activity suggestions. Lots of parents have already enjoyed using them and we look forward to sharing more activities.

Elmscot have also recently purchased new ICT resources which the children are having great fun using. This includes a light panel - with accessories such as real x-rays, colour changing board, recordable devices and listening station. You may have seen the photos on Facebook!

EXTRA curricular EXTRA value EXTRA ordinary		
Free extra-curricular sessions run by specialist professionals		
	Woodlands, Wed (Owls)	Children develop their knowledge and understanding of the world as they become aware of other languages.
	Elmscot, Mon (Maple) Elmscot, Tues (Willow) Woodlands, Tues (0-2s) Hale, Wed (0-2s)	Jittabugs explore the baby's senses including touch, vision, sound and smell using bubbles, mirrors, scarves, feathers, parachutes, balls, fabrics, puppets, musical instruments & more.
	Woodlands, Thurs (2-3s)	Drama4Tots provides fun and creative drama sessions inspiring young imaginations.
	Hale, Wed (2-5s) Woodlands, Mon (2-5s) Elmscot, Thurs (Beech)	At Stretch 'n' Grow, children learn about how their bodies work, whilst joining in fun physical activities.
	Elmscot, Wed (Oak)	Little SuperStars' fun and active sports sessions to develop coordination, flexibility and balance.
	Elmscot, Tues (4-5s) Hale, Mon (4-5s) TBC Woodlands, Thurs (4-5s)	Hands-on learning outside the classroom in a wild natural environment promotes healthy child development including confidence and self-esteem; communication and language; physical development; motivation and concentration; citizenship and creativity.

Advanced Safeguarding (NDNA): Rachael

©**Active Play**: Amanda

©**Food Safety & Hygiene**: Antonia, Jenny, Chloe, Rachael, Emma, Kelly D, Vicky, Claire, Joy, Fehmida

©**Let's Look at Schemas**: Jess C, Becky D

©**Leadership & Management in Early Years Level 2**: Frances, Marina

©**SEND Training**: Jenna, Amy, Ami, Frances, Chloe, Kelly

©**CAF**: Jenna, Justyna, Amy, Holly, Ivana, Jess

Thank you to all the team members for their outstanding commitment in keeping their training up to this high standard.



Trafford
Early Years
Healthy Setting Award



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Elmscot recognised in NDNA Nursery of the Year Award



George and April from Elmscot's Oak room organise colours on the light panel: ongoing investment is key for Elmscot Nurseries

The last 12 months has been a year of many achievements for Elmscot Day Nursery in Altrincham, being finalists and winning awards nationally, locally and within the Elmscot Group of childcare settings itself, as well as achieving the OUTSTANDING grade in their latest Ofsted inspection. Elmscot Day Nursery was recently considered, along with 176 top Day Nurseries from around England, Scotland and Wales, for the National Day Nursery Association (NDNA) Nursery of the Year 2015 awards, nominations for which rely solely on parent testimonials.

As Elmscot was then shortlisted as a finalist, the NDNA paid Elmscot Day Nursery an unannounced visit to inspect their setting 'through the eyes of a parent.' The panel of judges were very impressed with Elmscot's high standards, their involvement in NDNA's quality improvement scheme and how they engage parents and grandparents.

Even though Elmscot wasn't chosen as the regional winner for North of England, it was such a tight decision that the judges decided to present Elmscot with a specially created 'Highly Commended' certificate as congratulations for their hard work. Elmscot will be the only nursery across all categories nationally to receive this new award!

Elmscot's Manager, Justyna Ogrodniczek, was delighted with the recognition from the NDNA, stating "We are not going to stop here - we continue to develop and improve our already outstanding practice and are already sharing our expertise and good practice within the broader early years sector, benefitting even more families. We would like to thank the NDNA for creating the 'Highly Commended' certificate for us and recognising how important excellent childcare is to us."

Quarterly update for parents at Elmscot, Hale and Woodlands

forthcoming events

Child Nutrition Parent Workshop

9 June

Places are limited so please register in advance.

Queen's Birthday

13 June

Making crowns and enjoying a Tea Party!

Genesis Afternoon Tea

17 June, Hale

Mums are invited to join us for a fundraising treat.

Father's Day

19 June, Hale & Elmscot; 22 June, Woodlands

Dads are invited to join us for cooked breakfast/afternoon tea...see nursery for details

Summer is Official

22 June

A full day of activities (including lunch) in the garden.

Wimbledon

29 June

Baking scones, making lemonade and trying tennis!

School Uniform Day

2 July, Hale; 8 July, Elmscot; 16 July, Woodlands

Reception Starters show off their new uniform.

Preschool Graduation, School

Leavers' Party & Photographs

Dates displayed at nurseries

For children starting Reception in September: all are invited to attend, even if not your regular session. A commemorative group photo will be taken. See Nursery for more details.

Parents' Evenings

14 & 15 July, Hale; 21 & 22 July, Elmscot; 27 & 28 July, Woodlands

For all parents. More details at Nursery.

Eid al Fitr

17 July

For a traditional sweet breakfast, we'll be celebrating with pancakes today.

National Friendship Day

4 August

Making friendship bracelets.

Edinburgh Festival

7 August

A day of musical and dramatic activities.

Sports Day

13 August, Hale; 29 July, Elmscot; 17 August, Woodlands

Children & parents are invited to celebrate our sporting achievements! See Nursery for more details.

National Beach Day

26 August

A beach party and sand play (so remember to bring swimwear!)

Nottingham Carnival

31 August

Enjoying a carnival atmosphere, with salsa dancing and Caribbean food.

Transition getting ready for 'big school'



Elmscot Preschoolers with their grown-up book bags, all thoroughly excited and ready for their primary school debut.

Transition describes a period of change for a child when moving from one set of circumstances or environment to another. At this time of year, it is used particularly in relation to getting pre-school children ready for primary school.

Of course, for many children, this is not a managed process – it simply happens. So why do Elmscot nurseries put so much effort into managing this change? Firstly, it helps a child (and their family!) to settle better into their new environment because they have become familiar with it. It also helps the new teacher to seamlessly pick up where we left off, offering children a continuous learning experience. A good relationship between nursery and school promotes communication post-September if necessary.

In June, once we know the schools our preschoolers are attending in September, we invite those Reception teachers to visit the nurseries to meet the children in their own environment or, if more convenient, then our teachers visit the schools. In this case, we photograph the classroom and the new teacher to show the child back here at nursery.

These privileged detailed hand-overs are opportunities rarely afforded to parents: with prior written parental permission, our teachers discuss your child's development and discuss each child's development file. We discuss any particular habits, medical or allergy information, their likes/dislikes, their friendships and siblings. Just prior to your child starting Reception, the new school is sent a final copy your child's Transition Report and Tracking Sheet. If there is anything parents want us to tell school to help their child we do this during these visits – such as a new baby/family illness.

Our managed transition process builds strong links between local schools and Elmscot nurseries, making the process a smooth partnership, with the goal being the wellbeing of the child in question.

Managing Transition at Elmscot

Display Boards
Pictures of new schools/teachers
Pictures of the children linking to their new schools

PE Sessions
To practice changing independently and quickly into PE Kit
Parents are notified of dates/times

Uniform Days
A chance for children to show their new uniforms
Parents are notified of dates/times

School Readiness Sessions
To fulfil specific school requests for what children need to be able to do ready for Reception

Book Bags
The same system as primary school so children learn to use their bags
Messages for parents are put in the bags

Our Nursery Gallery...



Emily and Willow enjoy creating their junk modelling sculptures at Hale



Sophie draws her family for Families Day at Elmscot



Maddox, Noah, Anna and Isaac from Otters at Woodlands are having lots of fun navigating boats in the bubbles and shaving foam



Owl children make the most of a rainy day at Hale

Alfie painting with the animals outdoors at Hale



As part of learning about Minibeasts at Woodlands, Aidan from Squirrels is creating his very own worms out of noodles



Charlotte and Sophia explore our growing vegetables with Jean at Elmscot



Leo enjoying his homemade smoothie at Hale



Noah, Annabelle and Eleanor from Hedgehogs at Woodlands are being 'snowed' on from the blossom trees

Children from Elmscot's Oak Room went to choose our new guinea pigs from the pet shop



The children from Squirrel room at Hale are planting vegetables in the nursery allotment



Theo from Rabbits at Woodlands is enjoying finding objects in the shredded paper and then hiding them again



Ted and Dan sail away in the pirate ship they built at Hale



William and Sarassa making healthy ice lollies at Hale



SCHOOL'S OUT

Holiday Clubs

Outstanding childcare for children aged 3-11

"Busy kids, happy kids!"

Summer 2015: 13 July-28 August

Holiday Clubs located at:
Altrincham Preparatory School
Bollin Primary School
Cloverlea Primary School
Worthington Primary School

www.schoolsoutgroup.co.uk schoolsout@elmscot.co.uk 0161 980 0003

Eleanor exploring the water in Rabbit room, Hale



Ned concentrates whilst building his tower of blocks



Lyla from Elmscot transferring pom poms between containers



Jack makes interesting marks with different transport resources



The children from Owls at Woodlands in the park on a Teddy Bears' Picnic

