

National Recognition for Elmscot Group



December
2013

Autumn once again brought national recognition for the Elmscot Group. In September we reached the finals of the Nursery World Awards 2013 in 4 categories: Nursery Group of the Year, Working with Parents (Woodlands), Practitioner of the Year (Lucy Yarnell of School's Out, who has recently transferred to Hale) and Newcomer of the Year (Jess Berry, Elmscot). Eight members of the team attended the Awards Night at the Grand Connaught Rooms in London and it was a fantastic outcome -congratulations to Jess who won her award and who, as the judges put it, 'was a very clear winner'. This is a fantastic start to her career in early years care and education and we are proud to include her as part of our team.



Pictured with host and broadcaster Ore Oduba is Jess Berry (second from right) with Manager Jo Stretton and judge Nancy Stewart.

As we go to print, another team of six are on their way to the last national early years awards this year: Nursery Management Today 2013. Last year, Hale won Best Outdoor Learning Environment and this year Rachael Lyons, Hale's Manager, was invited to be on the judging panel. Here we are again finalists in 4 categories: Best Outdoor Learning Environment (Woodlands), Best Nursery Chef (Helen Krawczyk, Woodlands, who bravely tackled a gruelling day-long cook-off competing against 4 other finalists), Best Nursery Nurse (Amanda Grogan, Hale) and Best Nursery Manager (Rachael Lyons, Hale - and no, she wasn't able to sit on the judging panel for this one!).

We will announce the outcome on Facebook as soon as we can after the event in London on 30 November.

forthcoming events

◎ TEDDY COLLECTION FOR CAFT

All settings, throughout December. All new/nearly new Teddy Bears needed for CAFT please!

◎ HANUKKAH

Wed 4 Dec, Elmscot & Hale, Mon 2 Dec, Woodlands: Understanding this Jewish miracle of the Hannukah oil, lighting the menorah and eating traditional doughnuts.

◎ CHRISTMAS PRESCHOOL SHOWS

Elmscot Oak 'Humph The Camel' Tues 10 Dec (4pm)
Hale Owl 'An Easy Cheesy Nativity' Mon 9 (4pm) & Tues 10 Dec (2pm)
Woodlands 'Away in a Manger' Wed 4 Dec & Tues 10 Dec (4pm): Children practice really hard for these performances and we hope you can come. Please see notices for more details.

◎ CHRISTMAS PANTO TRIP

Tues 17 Dec, Woodlands (Squirrels & Owls): To see Charlie & Lola's Extremely New Play at The Waterside.

◎ CAROLS BY TORCHLIGHT

Wed 11 Dec, Elmscot, Hale & Woodlands: A fun twinkly experience in the dark! Please could each child bring a labelled torch please.

◎ CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thurs 12 Dec, Hale; Thurs 12 Dec, Woodlands;
Wed 18 Dec, Elmscot, all 2-4pm: A special visit by Father Christmas with a presents and super party games.

◎ TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Tues 17 Dec, Hale; Thurs 19 Dec, Elmscot & Woodlands: A Festive Feast for children and team alike with roast turkey and all the trimmings, followed by Christmas Pudding and custard. Hats, crackers and music all set the scene!

◎ WINNIE THE POOH DAY

Fri 17 Jan, Elmscot, Hale & Woodlands: celebrating AA Milne's birthday, children can bring their favourite toy or book and dress up as their favourite character. We'll be making honey sandwiches for a Teddy Bear Picnic Tea.

◎ AUSTRALIA DAY

Mon 27 Jan, Elmscot, Hale & Woodlands: flag making, song-singing and kangaroos...

◎ JACKSON POLLOCK'S BIRTHDAY

Tues 28 Jan, Elmscot, Hale & Woodlands: creating our own splatter paint masterpieces

◎ CHINESE NEW YEAR

Fri 31 Jan, Elmscot, Hale & Woodlands: Chinese food tasting and dragon dancing to celebrate the Year of The Horse!

◎ VALENTINE'S DAY

Fri 14 Feb, Elmscot, Hale & Woodlands: Children are invited to dress in red for today's activities.

◎ INTERNATIONAL POLAR BEAR DAY

Thurs 27 Feb, Elmscot, Hale & Woodlands: Create our own fluffy polar bears and talk about their habitat and environmental issues.

◎ PANCAKE DAY

Fri 21 Feb, Elmscot, Hale & Woodlands: Don't miss this day!

Quarterly update for parents at Elmscot, Hale and Woodlands

Out & About...

We post about our activities each week on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ElmscotGrp



Harrison from the Hedgehogs room at Woodlands has done a great job filling up the planter with soil and helping plant Irises and Crocuses

Harry and Cayden visited Hale library and picked out some books to read back at Hale Day Nursery!



Annabel from Hale was fascinated by the creatures on a recent trip to the Sea Life Centre



James, Rose, Charlie, Isaac and Olivia from Elmscot work together at the 'Build-a-Bear' workshop in Trafford Centre and bring a new friend back to Nursery



The children from Elmscot's Oak Room join the teddy bears to share a picnic

& at Nursery...



Having fun with the Halloween Slime... Eleanor and Jessica from Otters at Woodlands love getting very messy

Mae enjoyed exploring the textures of the messy Halloween activities at Hale



The children from Hedgehog and Badger at Hale enjoyed picking their own pumpkins at our local Richard's Greengrocers



Team effort... William, Luca and Rocky from Woodlands Pre-school loved carving our Halloween Pumpkin after walking to the local garden centre to buy it

Ellis showing great manipulative skills at Elmscot





After a delicious lunch it's time to brush! Niamh and James from Woodlands Hedgehogs have got the technique spot on.

Evie, Lila, Daisy and Luca from the Pre-school room at Woodlands took advantage of the lovely sunny autumn afternoon to take their painting activity into the garden.



VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Take a look at our Facebook Page for the Nurseries and School's Out. This portal broadcasts activity and event updates several times each week so parents can see the extent of what we do in a way which printed media cannot achieve. We post photos (with parental permission) and children's names are never used. **So please 'like' us and get to know us better at www.facebook.com/ElmscotGrp and Twitter @elmscotgroup**



SCHOOL'S OUT
Holiday Clubs
 Outstanding Childcare for children aged 3-14
 "what do you enjoy..?"
 There is so much to do!
 February Half-term 2014: 17-21 Feb
 Holiday Clubs located at:
 Bollin & Cloverlea Primary Schools
 Ofsted Outstanding 2011-2017
 Elmscot's Out, Will Green P/S, 2012
 School's Out, Heyes Lane P/S, 2010
 School's Out, Navigation P/S, 2011
 School's Out, Gorton P/S, 2011
 School's Out, Bowden CofE, 2012
 QUALITY COUNTS
 Trafford Healthy Club Award
 www.schoolsoutgroup.co.uk schoolsout@elmscot.co.uk 07931 345856

ELMSCOT GROUP PARENT CHOICE AWARD 2013



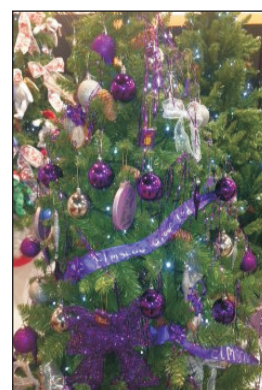
To recognise and reward exceptional team and individual commitment, this Christmas sees the annual Elmscot Group Awards at Tatton Park on the 14th December. There are 10 award categories including best Kitchen Team, Best Childcare Team and best Indoor/Outdoor Learning Environments to name a few. The entire team are involved in the nomination process and the winners receive prizes such as extra holiday or cash to purchase equipment of their choice for their settings.

Most important though to the team is the Parent Choice Award. Over the last few weeks, parents have been invited to submit nominations explaining how their favourite staff have made a difference. 103 nominations were received, nominating 47 members of the team across the group. It will be a tough decision! The Winner will receive £100 to spend on their room or Club and will be announced on Facebook after the Awards. Thank you to all parents who took part - all your comments get to the team and they mean a lot.

THE LOWRY'S FESTIVAL OF TREES

Francis House is a local charity supporting children with short life expectancy. To raise funds, staff from Elmscot, Hale and Woodlands took up the challenge for the 4th time to create a spectacular Christmas Tree to auction to the public at the Lowry Outlet Mall.

Here is Woodland's 'Winter Wonderland' Tree (left), Elmscot's 'Elmscot Group' Tree (centre) & Hale's '12 Days of Christmas' Tree (right). If you visit the Lowry before 9 December you can place a bid to win one for Christmas and support a very worthy cause.





COMMUNITY MATTERS

The Children's Adventure Farm Trust

CAFT is a local charity providing fun days and respite breaks for terminally ill, chronically sick, disabled and disadvantaged children from the North West. The Elmscot Group raised **£1956** for them this year. It's daily Christmas parties at the farm at the moment and Elmscot Group volunteers are once again helping on 9th December (see 2012 below!), when children from Pictor School in Timperley will be attending.



**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

Elmscot & Woodlands raised £70 through cake sales and coffee mornings. Grateful thanks to all parents who donated the very delicious cakes and biscuits!



EXTRA curricular EXTRA value EXTRA ordinary

Free extra-curricular sessions run by specialist professionals

Italian Language & Culture	Mon, Woodlands (Preschool)	Children develop their knowledge and understanding of the world as they become aware of other languages.
JittaBugs Baby Sign & Play	Mon, Hale (0-2yrs) Mon & Wed, Elmscot (0-2yrs) Tues, Woodlands (0-2yrs)	We explore the baby's senses including touch, vision, sound and smell using bubbles, mirrors, scarves, feathers, parachutes, balls, fabrics, puppets,
Drama 4 Tots	Thurs, Woodlands (2-3yrs)	Fun and creative drama sessions inspiring young imaginations using interactive storytelling, mime, characterisation, movement and music, costume and props.
Stretch n Grow	Mon, Hale (2-5 yrs) Wed, Elmscot (Beech) Fri, Woodlands (2-5 yrs)	Children will learn about how their bodies work, whilst joining in fun physical activities.
French Language & Culture	Thurs, Elmscot (Oak)	Children develop their knowledge and understanding of the world as they become aware of other languages.

Teddy Bears Wanted!

Do you have any unwanted, unused or nearly new teddies at home and want to make space for Christmas? If so we can rehome them at CAFT! All children enjoying a respite break at the Adventure Farm are given their own teddy to take home - sometimes the only toy they have. So please donate teddies to any nursery and we will send them where they are needed. Thanks.



team training

Since September, staff have attended the following training, usually undertaken after a normal working day and so the team members involved deserve credit for this. Most courses are delivered in-house by qualified external specialists, some are offered by Trafford CYPS.

Reflective Practice: Anna, Frances, Hayley, Jo, Leah, Marina, Rachel, Becky, Laura, Francesca, Natalie, Claire, Alex, Jess, Chloe, Nicola, Amanda, Joadie, Lucy, Nicola, Jo, Claire, Joanna, Gemma, Jean, Michelle, Katherine, Bobbie, Jess, Joy

Safeguarding: Catherine, Harriet, Rachel, Frances, Jo L, Ania, Jo S, Joy, Hanna, Michelle, Kathy, Joanna, Saraya, Alison, Nancy, Natalie, Joadie

Caring for Under Twos: Philippa, Leah, Anita, Laura,

Francesca, Natalie, Jody, Claire, Alex, Jess, Chloe, Rosa, Grace, Nancy, Minnie, Amanda, Nicola, Sandra, Joadie, Janty, Zoe, Diana, Carla, Claire, Emma, Gemma, Jean, Kanta, Katie, Michelle

Interaction with Children: Ania, Anna, Miriam, Ivana, Vicky, Jo, Philippa, Chloe, Rachel, Leah, Sharon, Harriet, Natalie, Jody, Claire, Jess, Chloe, Abby, Abbie, Nicola W, Amanda, Sandra, Zoe, Joadie, Saraya, Carla, Claire, Joanna, Clare, Gemma, Jean, Katie, Michelle, Katherine, Bobbie, Kathy, Jess

Early Years Foundation Stage: Natalie, Saraya, Grace, Nancy, Chloe, Diana, Janty, Jody, Minnie

Stretch & Grow Workshop: Whole Elmscot team

Family Common Assessment Framework: Carla

Impact of Domestic Violence on Young Children: Carla