

Cluster News

March 2010

Issue No.4

For all of our children, parents, carers, families and the local community.

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CONSULTATION - listening to your views

As mentioned previously a huge thank you to all of you who took the time to complete and return an Extended Services Questionnaire, especially as they were quite long and in depth! Here is a very brief summary of the results across the cluster.

Family Learning - there was quite a lot of interest in fun family learning with Bike Maintenance, Healthy Eating, First Aid and Gardening being the most popular so we will look at arranging some sessions across the cluster in due course.

Childcare/Safe place to be - Initial responses from parents/carers across the cluster indicate that a variety of services are currently being used to provide child care/safe place to be before and after school and during school holidays; this includes child minders, out of school clubs and activities, family members, organised camps etc. Parents/carers were keen to have more information about what out of school activities and services are available so we will be doing our best to find out and let you know - this will be done via notice boards in school, newsletters, signposting to providers etc. If you have any specific requests, eg, finding a local childminder, library homework club etc please contact The Families Information Service on 01604 237935 or the Extended Services Co-ordinator on robertsk@roadesschool.northant.sch.uk or 07919 400838.

Not all of the schools in the cluster have on-site breakfast, after school or school holiday clubs so the feedback we received will be used to identify where there might be sufficient, sustainable take up and an appropriate provision to meet the need. More detailed research and analysis will be undertaken and it is likely that additional, more specific questionnaires will be circulated to some parents of the cluster schools in due course.

Adult Learning - most people indicated that they did not currently have a need for Adult Education classes. Enquiries for such activities are signposted to Northamptonshire County Council's Adult Learning Team (Tel: 01604 237418) or Learn Direct on 0800 101 901 from 7am to 11pm 7 days a week.



Ashton Primary School



Blisworth Primary School



Collingtree Primary School



Roade School Sports College



Hardingstone Primary School



Hartwell Primary School



Roade Primary School



Stoke Bruerne Primary School



Hackleton Primary School

Additional School Clubs - There was a little interest in additional clubs/activities being provided at lunchtime or after school. In respect of the suggestions we put forward the numbers of places likely to be taken up are too low to make the activities viable at this time. The Extended Services Co-ordinator will liaise with individual School Heads to see if/what other options might be available. Watch this space for information.

Parent Support - there was some interest in parent support programmes and information, mainly around First Aid, Internet Safety, Numeracy and Literacy so we will look at arranging some sessions across the cluster in due course.

There was quite a lot of interest in taking up the offer of providing access to an interactive website to support parents who want to help their child with learning and development. As a result we are looking to trial the 'Parents as Learners' interactive website either in one of the cluster schools or for a focus group of up to 100 parent volunteers across the cluster; either way it is hoped that parents of children there will test the package and feedback as to how useful, user friendly etc. it is. Watch this space for more information on how this will be rolled out and evaluated.

On behalf of the cluster Roade School Sports College are planning to host an event on Monday 12 July 2010. The aim of the event is to bring together support and advice services currently available to parents, carers and the wider community, under the following topic areas:

- financial support and grants/funding
- health, wellbeing and community safety
- parental support and advice

It will also provide an opportunity for parents to find out about out of school activities and clubs in readiness for when the school's break up for the summer holidays. More information to follow nearer the date.

*for grandparents,
parents & carers
of students of Roade
School Sports College
(and their siblings)*



*Wendy Watts, Parent Support Advisor at Roade School Sports
College invites you to drop in for a cup of coffee and an informal
chat*

*Parents Pitstop - Every Monday (term time)
Conference Room - 9.15 to 10.30am
Main Library - 7 to 8.30pm*

*Stratford Road, Roade
01604 862125/ mobile 07917 875320*



Advice and support

CONSULTATION - Collingtree

Questionnaires for Collingtree Primary are now available on line, we really would appreciate it if you could take 10 minutes of your time to fill them in and let us know your views, you can complete the survey online until 30 April 2010, the links are:

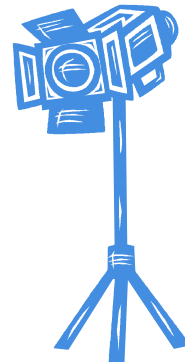
Collingtree Primary

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6K6DC9M>

We will publish a summary of the results in the next edition of Cluster News.

SPOTLIGHT - SCHOOL CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Collingtree Primary School are pleased to announce that Crazy 4 Kids are now offering an after school and school holiday club (with escorted transport from the school to Grange Park). There are a range of activities open to the children from sports activities, cookery, arts and craft to specialist drama and dance evenings. For more information contact Julie on 07545 267056 or e-mail info@crazy4kids.co.uk



Road Primary School recently invited expressions of interest for Companies to set up and run an after school club and a school holiday play scheme, possibly a breakfast club in the future, watch this space for more news.

LIBRARY VISIT (Transition Project)



Six Young Librarians from Hardingstone Primary School visited the library at Road School Sports College to experience the library on a typical day and see the techniques Library staff use to keep things running smoothly, plus the chance to take part in a treasure hunt style challenge. As the visit coincided with "National Storytellers Week" there was also access to 'StoryBee', a website where professional storytellers spin wonderful tales.

ARE YOU ENTITLED TO FREE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND INTERNET ACCESS?

Get on in school
Get online at home

Home Access helps low-income families (or foster carers for looked after children) to get access to a computer and the internet to get online at home. If you are a low income family in receipt of free school meals for your child,

Income based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income support, Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and an income of less than £16,040, Guaranteed Pension Credit (not Savings Credit), Income-based Employment Support Allowance OR support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 you could qualify for a grant to buy a computer and/or a minimum of one years' internet access.

The programme is aimed at those that need it most and targets families that do not have access to a computer or the internet at home. Depending on what you need, the grant allows eligible applicants to buy one of the following packages:

1. Full package (a computer, one year's internet access, service and support)
2. A computer with service and support only
3. One year's internet access only

You may qualify for a Home Access grant if you are a parent or guardian responsible for and living with a child in full time education (in school years 3 to 9), provided that you/they have not already had a computer from a Home Access Grant or similar programme, such as Computers for Pupils.

If you think you qualify for a Home Access grant (or if you are not sure and want to check) please call the Home Access Grant Helpline on 0333 200 1004 to get an application form.

If you are a foster carer for Looked After Children in years 1 to 13 then you could also get a Home Access Grant, for information or call the Home Access Grant Helpline on **0333 200 1004** to get an application form.

Delivered by

Becta leading next generation learning



DOES YOUR CHILD ATTEND CLUBS OR ACTIVITIES?

Things to think about and/or ask about when choosing a club, activity or service

The questions below may help you decide if a club, activity or service is likely to be well run and safe. The person named as the contact for each club, activity or service should welcome questions about their activities and be able to give you the answers.

Some of these questions will apply to almost all organisations. Some are more relevant for organisations like youth clubs or centres or a sports club for young people.

Things to consider/ask (no specific order)

- If it is an activity-based setting such as sports coaching or tuition is it registered on the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register so eligible parents will be able to get help with the costs through Working Tax Credit.
- Are the staff and any volunteers suitable? It is good practice for all staff to be checked by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) if they come into contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults. Are CRB checks up to date, can they be viewed?
- Are they happy for parents, children and young people to visit, meet those in charge and see activities?
- Do staff have appropriate training and experience and are they responsive to the needs of users of their service? For example, do they check references?
- Do they get parents' written permission before taking children and young people on outside visits, adventure activities and trips?
- Does the service expect the parents/carers to participate in, or be present during the activities or delivery of the service?
- Is the building safe and secure? What are the fire precautions and evacuations procedures?
- Does the service have policies and procedures in place to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults? How do they expect their staff and volunteers to behave towards children and young people? (This may be a written Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers so that everyone knows what standards of behaviour to expect. This might cover things such as physical contact with children, comforting children, accompanying children to toilets, addressing bullying, etc.)
- How can children, young people and their parents or carers voice their concerns? Services should tell you what to do if you have any worries or complaints.
- How does the organisation keep everyone safe while taking part in their activities? Is there a health and safety policy, a First Aid kit, a qualified First Aider and procedures for recording and notifying accidents? If there is an accident what happens? Is the organisation insured?
- How many leaders or adult helpers and volunteers are there for each activity? (Normally there should be at least two adults present for any activity or meeting to operate safely). Many organisations have national governing bodies, which also provide quality information on staffing ratios and other aspects of the activity.
- If appropriate, you should check out routines for feeding and administering medication (and toileting if appropriate).
- Is there a commitment to anti-discriminatory practice? How do staff ensure that users are free from bullying, shouting, racism, sexism or taunts regarding disability?

Remember...

- Parents and carers have a right and a responsibility to ensure that their children are safe at all times.
- Listen to your children and ask questions about their activities.
- Services have a responsibility to be open and welcoming and to share information about themselves and their activities.
- Speak to other people who have been to the club, activity or service you are thinking about going to. They can give you an idea about what it is really like.



DIRECTORY

With the Easter holidays approaching why not check the Extended Services Directory for information and suggestions for holiday clubs and activities – in the meantime see the back page of this Newsletter for a sample of what might be available. An updated version of the Extended Services Directory is available to view online at Roade School Sports College's website – www.roadeschool.northants.sch.uk (click on 'about us' then 'Salcey Cluster of Schools'). If you would like an electronic copy or a hard copy of the Directory (including large print version) please contact Karen Roberts at esdirectory@roadeschool.northants.sch.uk • via post to Roade School Sports College, Stratford Road, Roade, Northants, NN7 2LP • or phone 01604 862125 extension 101 or mobile number 07919 400838 (Mon - Wed).



PASS IT ON

Youth Opportunity Fund - £100,000 up for grabs for youth projects in South Northamptonshire. Nearly £100,000 is available to youth projects across the district as part of the County's Youth Opportunity Fund. The cash is up for grabs for projects which benefit young people in the community. If you are aged between 13 and 19 and have an idea for an initiative that will benefit young people in your area, money is being offered to you to get your scheme started and to get others involved. For a shot at receiving the money, simply fill in an application form and send it in.

South Northamptonshire Youth Council will decide which initiatives should take the next step forward to receiving the funding. Successful schemes in the past include Youth Bus, Big about Music, Youth Shelters and Holiday for the Disabled. Application forms are available on the South Northamptonshire Council website http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/community_living/253.htm, or from the Youth Opportunity Fund Co-ordinator, Laurie Berruto. e-mail: laurieberruto@hotmail.com

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 31 March 2010.



Sport Unlimited - £116,000.00 available for local sports clubs and organisations to run activities for young people

As part of a national scheme funded by Sport England. Local Authority Sports Development Teams have joined forces with local sports clubs and groups for 'Sport Unlimited', which aims to provide free, or low cost activities to encourage young people aged 10 – 19 from Northamptonshire to do more sport, more regularly.

From badminton and boxing to dance, netballing and trampolining, there are a whole host of activities on offer, and they take place at various leisure and community centres around the County. Activities are delivered by local sports groups, including Northampton Town's Football in the Community Team and Northampton Saints RFU

If you are from a local club or organisation and want to apply for funding to organise activities for young people in your area or find out more about the scheme contact Joanna Danvers on 01604 236254 or email jdanners@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Also



Cash 4 Clubs is a sports grants scheme which gives clubs a chance to win **grants ranging from £250 to £1000**, whether it be to improve facilities, purchase new equipment, gain coaching qualifications, or generally invest in the sustainability of their club. The scheme supports community sport and promoting an active lifestyle. Grants are awarded on a discretionary basis. Any Sports Club can apply as long as they are registered with their sport's National Governing Body or local authority. Funding can be requested for anything that will add to the sustainability and effectiveness of the sports club. To apply complete the online application form at anytime, available at <http://www.cash-4-clubs.com/apply-for-a-grant>

CONGRATULATIONS

... to Kids Stop (Blisworth Primary School) and Crazy 4 Kids (Collingtree Primary School) who were both successful in their bid for Sainsbury's TOP Activity resources each worth £450. The project is part of South Northants & Daventry School Sport Partnership's exciting new programme of 'alternative' sport and physical activities aimed at After School Clubs for young people aged 7-11.



South Northants and Daventry School Sport Partnership



Help a Child to Read Volunteer Reading Help – Confident children Literate for Life

For an information/
application pack or if
you would like to find
out more please
contact:

**Reading Volunteer
Help, Barratt House,
Kingsthorpe Road,
Northampton,**

NN2 6EZ Tel: 07912
392289

Our website
www.vrh.org.uk has
more information
about Reading
Volunteer Help

**Do you have time to spare?
Help transform a child's life by
volunteering with us.**

We are looking for an adult to
volunteer as a reading helper in
schools in Northamptonshire. We
provide full training package and
ongoing support.

All we ask is that you commit to a
minimum of 3 hours per week
during school hours and you stay
with us for one complete
academic year. We can promise
in return that you will find the
experience of helping a child to
find the gift of reading both fun
and rewarding.

**Want to Know more about childminders and childcare
options? Registered Childminders can offer * flexible
home based childcare * wrap around care for children at
nursery, pre-school or school, including collecting your
child from school * specialist childcare for children with
special educational needs and disabilities.**

**OFSTED Registered Childminders are * Police and Health
checked * fully insured * trained in First Aid, regularly
inspected by OFSTED to ensure that they comply with
standards Whether you are a registered childminder, a
parent looking for childcare, or interested in
becoming a childminder to find out more
contact Northamptonshire Childminding
Association on 0845 838 3724 or visit
www.childmindingnorthants.org.uk**



**The Families information Service at Northamptonshire
County Council provides**

**information on all registered
childcare. Contact them on 01606
237935.**



SureStart

Centres can be found at:

Gloucester Nursery
School, Cambourne
Close, Northampton,
NN4 8PH
Tel: 01604 762251

OR

Hanslope Primary
School, Long Street
Hanslope MK19 7BL
Tel: 07534 960124

Services and provisions for Parents-to-be and
families with children under 5 years of age
living in the community. We aim to give the
best start to every child and family. The
Centres provide:

- A warm, welcoming and friendly environment for adults and children;
- Opportunities to meet other parents and children;
- Opportunities to gain new skills for home, for work or just for fun;
- An up-to-date information service regarding Childcare and services available within our locality and beyond;
- Links with childminders;
- Stay and Play sessions;
- A book library and story sacks to borrow;
- Family and Parental support;
- Health support and advice;
- Specialist health and education services
- Signposting to adult learning;
- Access to Job Centre Plus

HOLIDAY CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

With the Easter break approaching why not check the Directory for information and suggestions for holiday clubs and activities – www.roadsschool.northants.sch.uk In the meantime here is a sample of what might be available.

- Country Parks often have family based activities for more information contact Northamptonshire County Council on 01604 236236 or visit <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Leisure/countryside/Pages/Events.aspx>
- Crazy 4 Kids offer activities during school holidays Tel: 07545 267056
- Danes Camp Leisure Centre's 'Fun Zone' offer activities Tel: 01604 837300
- Hackleton Out of School Club, Hackleton offers activities during school holidays Tel: 01604 871299
- Kids Stop Courteenhall Road, Blisworth offers activities during school holidays, Tel: 01604 858 414
- Northampton Borough Council's sports development unit has organised an exciting range of sporting activities to keep children of all ages entertained and active over the Easter holiday. Each course is being run by a qualified coach and will teach everything from the basics to the techniques used by sports stars. Further details and application forms are available by contacting Chris Rockall on 01604 837774
- Northampton Museum and Art Gallery are offering various drop in craft sessions (10 – noon and 1 – 3pm entrance £1) Tel: 01604 838110
- Schools Out, Yardley Gobion offer activities during school holidays Tel 01908 542460
- The Forestry Commission organises events and activities all year round, to find out what is happening in our region between March and April visit <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/recreation.nsf/LUWebDocsByKey/EnglandNorthamptonshireNoForestSalceyForest> This Easter why not try the Forest Tots Easter Walk (suitable for all ages , Tue 16 Apr 12.30 to 14.00 – adults £4, children £2) – book in advance – Tel: 01780 444920
- The Nene Whitewater Centre is looking at the possibility of providing raft building, kayaking and Ringo activities for over 7's (subject to sufficient numbers) – for more information Tel: David Ferguson on 01604 634040
- There are often fun activities in libraries for children and families during half term and holidays contact your local library for more information.
- Towcester Leisure Centre offer activities Tel: 01327 322480

Local professional sports teams often offer coaching and/or activities for children during school holidays (and during term times)

- **Northampton Saints RUFC** Tel: 01604 599113/116 or visit https://bookings.rugbycamps.co.uk/index.php?action=view_camp&campid=935 offering a Rugby Camp for 7-16 year olds - Tue 6th Apr 10 - Thu 8th Apr 10 at Rugby School.
- **Northampton Steelbacks Academy** Tel 01604 514455 or visit <http://northantscricket.com/index.php?mod=steelbacksacademy&area=nc>
- **Northampton Town Football Club** usually holds holiday activities. For more information contact the Holiday Course Hotline 01604 683765 or visit <http://www.ntfc.co.uk/page/CommunityDetail/0,,10425~1844857,00.html>
- **MK Dons** are running Easter courses (*Football & Multi Sports*) For more information contact 01908 622888 or email peter.mcguane@mkdons.com or visit <http://www.mkdonstrust.co.uk>

CAMPS AND RESIDENTIALS

www.kingscamps.org

www.supercamps.co.uk

www.doit4real.co.uk

<http://www.rockuk.org/centres/frontier-centre>

Northamptonshire County Council's Families Information Service offer assistance and advice on a range of services including Holiday Clubs and/or Activities. For help and information please ring **01604 237935 (weekdays 9am to 5pm)**, e-mail [**earlyyears@northamptonshire.gov.uk**](mailto:earlyyears@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

Alternatively **DirectGov** has a useful search service which helps you find details of Holiday Clubs and/or Activities via a postcode search – visit [**http://childcarefinder.direct.gov.uk/childcarefinder**](http://childcarefinder.direct.gov.uk/childcarefinder)



Road School's Commitment to Sport, the Arts & Education

The Willison Centre, Roade School, Stratford Road, Roade, Northants, NN7 2LP Tel: 01604 864581

E-mail: [**willison@roadeshool.northants.sch.uk**](mailto:willison@roadeshool.northants.sch.uk)

* 4 Badminton Court Sports Hall * Children's and Adults Sports Courses including Coach Education Programme * Full disabled access to all facilities * Full Size Astro Pitch and Half Size astro turf * Indoor heated 23m swimming pool * Life Fitness Bodyworks Fitness Suite * Term Time & Holiday Sports Courses & Swimming Lessons (age 3 +)

* A number of Clubs using The Willison Centre as a venue offer sporting activities for Adults outside of school hours * A number of Clubs using The Willison Centre as a venue offer Term Time, Out of School and/or Holiday activities for Children

The Willison Centre is committed to making the most of sport, arts and educational opportunities for all, both for students at Roade and its contributory schools as well as the community at large and offers a wide range of sports courses throughout the term and holidays. Facilities are available for hire, including a floodlit Astroturf, full-sized sports hall, swimming pool and fitness suite.

Or visit
[**www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk**](http://www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk)
for other ideas.