



Charity No. 283326

Banwell Buddies Newsletter

Term 3

10 January
2010

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Welcome back

Banwell Buddies would like to properly welcome you all back to Playgroup, we thought we'd hold off on the newsletter last week so not to bombard you with paper straight away!

For those of you who are new to Banwell Buddies, welcome to Playgroup and also welcome to your first Newsletter. This is not a regular feature, more ad hoc if anything. But it will give you important information, so please ensure you read it. If you have an email address, this can be sent to you via email, this also helps us keep paper down, you will find a mailing list join form below.

Details of whom is on the Voluntary 'unpaid' Committee is on the back of this newsletter, with details about the need for members.

Winter Closure procedure

Well I'm not sure if anyone noticed, but its been a tadge cold over the last week, with something called Snow getting in the way.

Unfortunately due to the Snow and Ice, we had to close most of last week. This was due to mainly the Ice and snow preventing our Qualified Staff being able to get in. Unlike Schools, preschools work on a ratio basis depending on the amount of children in for the day, depends on the amount of Staff required.

North Somerset sent out last Tuesday (which we were unable to get to you all as we closed Wednesday!), a recommended winter procedure for all Schools and Preschools.

They were that we had to contact North Somerset Council with details of our closure, they will then put the info on the Radio and on their website, parents were not to contact schools/preschools directly to find out. This unfortunately meant every family in North Somerset took them up on the offer, and crashed the North Somerset Website!

In future, we will continue to follow this procedure, so please always listen to the radio and check the NSC website for details. As a secondary precaution, we have now printed off details of which child is in on which day, we can then if necessary contact each family for that day. These details are to be dealt with by the Committee. I hope this will improve our winter procedures.

Snow Clearing

A special thanks to the following from taking an hour out of their day to pop up to playgroup and clear the snow from outside the building yesterday (Sunday) afternoon:

Rhian's Dad, Mum and Sister

Hannah's Dad and Mum

Lola's whole family!

Maddie's Mum

Sam's Dad

James's Dad (yes.. Thanks me.. Lol)

And a special thanks to Ty's dad, who came up on his new mobility scooter from Ellborough (personally I think it needs a limiter on it.. Haha)

Welcome to our new addition in the office

Banwell Buddies would like to welcome our new photocopier to the office. We are sure it will be a welcome addition to the team, I know I'm pleased with it so far, and I'm sure our administrator, Sarah Harris, will equally be pleased with it.. So welcome Mr Photo Copier.

Important Diary Dates

At the moment, we have no upcoming events. The next newsletter will hopefully be more informative!

Banwell Buddies Mailing List

Name:

I am the Parent/Carer of :

I would like to be placed on the Mailing list in which I will receive various forms of correspondence via email. I however do understand there may still be the occasional paper form of correspondence placed into my Childs box.

My email address is as follows:

Signed:

Please place in letterbox outside office once completed.

Committee

Chair—Vikki Fitzpatrick

V. Chair—Kathryn Mitson and Emma Allen

Secretary—Gareth Thomas

Treasurer—Sasha Allsopp

Members—Bethan Ball, Vicky Bishop

Who are we? We are parents of children currently at Playgroup, we are parents who want to ensure that Banwell always has somewhere for 2-5 years to go. .

What do we do? None of us get paid, we though are expected to run the playgroup like a business. Gone are the days of the committee being solely fundraising.

Who's in Charge of the Playgroup? The Chair is the person in charge of the whole of the playgroup, but the day to day running of the staff and children is the leader. Ideally, you shouldn't be seeing any of the Committee in the Office, but like any business occasionally you have to get things organised for such matters like Ofsted Inspection, or meeting up with North Somerset representatives or dealing with parent/staff issues.

What are the main Roles of the Playgroup? Chair, Secretary and Treasurer; without these three persons in place, the playgroup is not allowed to run.

Chair as stated above looks after the whole of Playgroup,

Secretary organises meetings and takes minutes at such events, other duties can include newsletters and dealing with correspondence, helping the treasurer if needs be (not a requirement but is one of the signatories).

Treasurer deals with the finances of the group, ensuring bills are paid, staff are paid etc. Ideally needs to work alongside Secretary as when cheques go out two signatures are needed at all times. But generally everything is done online as often as possible to make it easier.

V.Chair these are not necessary, but are helpful for those who wish it. Currently Banwell Buddies decided to have two V.Chair due to the impending maternity leave Vikki will be undergoing soon!!

The Committee as a whole oversees the running of the playgroup, this generally includes fundraising, updating policies, ensuring staff are happy, ensuring parents are happy, dealing with complaints of any form, getting playgroup ready for any inspection needed (good or bad.. You never know!), dealing with staffing issues (appraisals for instance) and more importantly ensuring basically we can remain open!

What happens if we don't have enough Committee Members? The minimum requirement under the constitution (Preschool learning alliance constitution 2008) we adhere to, for a Committee to operate is five members (60% must have a child at playgroup), this must include the three main roles (chair, sec, treasurer), if you can not get this amount, the playgroup is not legally allowed to open until it is met.

The future? Banwell Buddies are looking into a closer cooperation with the School, but this can not be guaranteed any time soon, so therefore the future is up to those that will have children at playgroup from September onwards. Why September onwards you ask.. Well I'm afraid, the majority of people on the current committee will be stepping down due to our children moving onto School. A couple of us may stay on and help any new committee of course (guide them where to look and what to do), but only in a member role, and only if the minimum requirement is met first as to avoid being pressured to continue in the main roles.

Previous Parents have worked hard to secure the building your child now goes too, please don't let it be taken away due to lack of Committee. It seems daunting, but once you know where things are and how things are done, its not that bad trust me.. Some of us have been on the Committee continually for 6 years now!

Why Wait to join

We have spaces available for the Committee, so why sit there thinking, I'll join at the next AGM, you might as well get a head start and start looking at what occurs in our committee, rather than join and not know what is going on! After all what better way to learn, while the old heads are still around!