



04 October 2018

Dear Parents/carers,

Where did the summer go? We're quickly back into the swing of the school term with half term fast approaching (check out our half term programme) but it's worth reflecting on the busy CASS summer programme. As well as all the usual crafting and baking favourites we had visits to Cockermouth Parks, Harris Park bowling and Cockermouth Mountain Rescue, a visit from a police dog and a super-busy fun day with bouncy castles and outdoor games.

For the autumn term, in addition to our huge range of indoor and outdoor free-play activities, we will be running our themed daily activities as advertised in our weekly flyer.

We are also very excited to announce that CASS has been awarded a grant from the Engineering Education Grant Scheme to run a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) programme to coincide with the UK Year of Engineering. The programme will be a development of the STEM club we ran in the spring and summer term earlier this year and we have lots of exciting activities planned that will build on key concepts from key stage 1 & 2 science, using practical kits ranging from basic renewable energy through to programmable Lego Mindstorms robots! Keep an eye on our Facebook page or the CASS website for more details.

A date for your diary – the CASS AGM will be held on Wednesday 14th November in the Castle Bar at 7pm. All parents and carers are welcome to attend to hear about the ways in which CASS is run by a dedicated staff and a volunteer management committee. CASS cannot operate without its management committee and we really need some extra support. In particular, at this time, we are in need of a health and safety officer, a marketing officer and additional fundraising/grant support. You can volunteer as much or a little time as you like. By our nature we all have busy family lives and we value even the smallest of time contributions you may be able to offer. If you'd like to talk to us beforehand, Julie can provide contact details.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and for the enthusiasm and energy of your children, they really do make the CASS experience one to be proud of. Please continue to spread the word and help us continue to attract new families to benefit from, what we believe is a truly unique childcare service.

We will shortly be running an 'introduce a friend' campaign where you will get a free session when you introduce a new family that registers and books their first session. Again keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for further details.

Finally – you may have noticed a reference to www.easyfundraising.org.uk on the bottom of your CASS invoice. As a charity we are growing more and more reliant on alternative funding and this is one way in which you can raise money to support CASS at absolutely no extra cost to yourself. Once you've registered to support CASS, when making an online purchase simply check on the Easyfundraising website (or smartphone app) if the retailer subscribes and if they do they will make a donation to CASS. Typically donations range from 1.5-5% of your transaction amount or a fixed amount for some deals. With Christmas fast approaching (sorry) we'd like to ask you to think about routing your online spending through Easyfundraising to help CASS.

Yours,

Rob Griffiths
Chair - CASS Management Committee

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