HSGA Summer Play Scheme 2011

Hi Everyone,

I thought that I would let you know about the summer play scheme that we ran for 2 weeks this year. It was a great success and over the 2 weeks we had 66 children aged between 4 – 15 years through our doors.

We had transport from Stott's as we didn't encounter any problems (always such a relief at the end of each week when all the young people are home safe and happy)! Our drivers helped out a lot and were very cheerful and lovely with the children. We went all over on the buses once the children had been picked up in the morning.

Some of the places we went were the Odeon cinema, UK Superbowl, swimming, Bradley Woods Scout Camp where we did activities such as archery, wall climbing, low ropes and a picture trail and we had a BBQ there. Some of the children went to Laser Zone as well and we all went to the Zone.

We were based at Longley School and had lots of fun with a face painter coming in and a record number of children having something painted on their arm or face. Highlight of the week for me though has to be on the Thursday of each week when the ice cream van came up the driveway playing a tune. The faces of the children was great and to see them queuing up and waiting for their turn patiently was magical. It is something that we will definitely look at doing next year.

We had lots of volunteers helping us out; they were each paired up with a child and it never ceases to amaze me how much time and energy they all give to 'our' children. The volunteers just receive out of pocket expenses and they work their socks off and many of them come back to us year after year, I am really grateful to each and every one of them, they all made sure that 'our' children had the best time ever.

The team of staff were amazing too, we had a high number of staff for the number of children we had and they worked brilliantly as a team, supporting one another. A huge thank you must go to them for being so brilliant on my return to the play scheme after 2 years off. I thoroughly enjoyed it and I'm looking forward to the next one.

A final word regarding the play scheme is to say that all of the activities that the children go on and all of the staff we have costs a lot of money and this year we have spent approximately £29,000! It is well worth it but a huge amount of money to find. Hence, next year the voluntary contribution will be more and we will be having a wish list for people to donate items that we need for the children on the play scheme.

Finally; a massive thank you to all of the children, for being truly adorable and delightful and to parent/carers for trusting us with your very special children. THANK YOU

Sophia Saleem

Playscheme Co-ordinator