



March 2019 Newsletter



Schools OUT Ofsted inspections

We are delighted to announce that the Schools OUT Holiday Club in St Neots received a 'Good' in its recent inspection by Ofsted. Schools OUT in St Ives was also awarded a 'Good' in its inspection in August last year. We would like to thank the staff at both clubs for continuing to provide a fun-filled and action packed club for the children to enjoy every school holiday.

For your information, below are the details of the managers at both clubs, along with their contact telephone numbers.

St Neots: 07841 867427

Manager: Michelle Bailey

St Ives: 07720 086855

Manager: Lily Steward

If you have any questions or comments about either club during the holiday period, please pass these on to the club manager in the first instance.

May Half Term and Summer Bookings

The booking site will open for both the May half term and the summer holidays once the Easter holiday has ended. We aim to have everything loaded up for booking by Friday 26th April – please check the booking site on this day.

The link to access the booking site is <https://davidson-roberts.childcare-online-booking.co.uk/>

Clothing

Please send your children to Schools OUT with clothes that are appropriate for all weathers – we all know how changeable the British weather can be, especially in the spring/summer months. We do go outside at both clubs during the day and we would ask that children wear clothes suitable for messy play and sporting activities, as we do get very active! When the sun is shining please remember to apply sunscreen before sending your child to Schools OUT, and please send them with a sun hat too. Please name all items of clothing – we do collect a lot of lost property during the holidays and if items are not named we are unable to reunite them with their owners – thank you.

Finally, please also ensure your children bring a named sports water bottle with them. These can be refilled throughout the day and are an essential piece of kit!

Swimming

We have an hour-long swimming session at both of our clubs each day during the holidays. Children are asked to bring their swimming costumes and a towel to join in these sessions. All children are asked to take a swim test and only those who can safely swim four widths of the pool without any aids are allowed into the deeper end of the pool. All other children are required to wear arm bands or tummy bands and stay in the roped off section in the shallower part of the pool. The children have access to floats, noodles and balls during the swim session. Both pools are manned by the leisure centre life guards and the Schools OUT staff are also in the water with the children. Some of our staff are qualified swimming instructors and we see some great advances in children's water confidence and swimming ability over the holiday periods.

If children do not want to join in the swimming session for any reason we always have one member of staff available to sit with them and offer other activities at the pool side.

Attendance at Schools OUT

Schools OUT realises that regular attendance by children is very important in order that they may become confident with a regular and consistent schedule. This includes not only coming to every planned session, but also arriving on time.

If your child is sick or cannot attend for some reason, please call us on the club phone number as early as possible.

If we do not hear from you after one hour after your child was due to arrive at the club, the club Manager or Deputy Manager will contact you to establish why your child is absent. All absences will be recorded appropriately.

If we are concerned about the welfare of a child we reserve the right to contact appropriate services.

Fees remain payable during periods of absence, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed.

The above information is contained within our Attendance Policy. All of our policies are available to view at all of our clubs – please ask the club Manager.

“Loose Parts”

We have introduced “Loose parts” sessions to both our clubs with huge success, and will continue to run these sessions over the coming holidays. Loose parts are about real word learning for all children. They are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. They are materials with no specific set of directions and can be natural or synthetic. The children enjoy being creative with loose parts, and have produced some imaginative pieces already.

Information about your child

If your child has additional needs, a medical condition, a broken bone etc., this information needs to be added in the relevant box in their profile on the booking site. If something changes after you have made a booking, please contact the Schools OUT office on 01767 688713 so that we can arrange for the appropriate staff or changes to be made at the club.

Packed Lunches

Following the visits from Ofsted to our clubs in 2018/19, we would like to stress the importance of healthy eating at Schools OUT.

We encourage the children who attend our clubs to think about their food choices and to eat healthily. We provide water, juice and fruit throughout the day.

If you are sending your child with a packed lunch, **please do not send any items that contain nuts as we have children with severe nut allergies at both of our clubs.** If you wish to send snacks for your child(ren) to enjoy during the day, please could these be healthy options to reflect our encouragement of healthy eating. Thank you.

Collection Passwords

Please note that children will not be able to leave our clubs unless the adult collecting them gives the correct password, as per your user account details. If you are collecting a child for a friend, you will need to know the password for that child as well as for your own. This is for the safety of all the children at Schools OUT and we appreciate your cooperation.

Uncollected Children

If you are unable to collect your child from Schools OUT for any reason, please call the club and inform them that you will be late.

Should we not hear from you and your child remains in club after the time they are due to be collected, we will call the 2nd and 3rd emergency contacts you have provided us with to see if they can collect your child. They will need to know the collection password.

In no circumstances will the child be allowed to leave the premises with anyone other than those named on the Registration Form unless expressly directed by a parent/carer

If the child is still uncollected one hour after the setting is closed then we will apply our safeguarding procedure as set out in our safeguarding policy. We will contact social services team for advice.

Mobile Phone Policy

At Schools OUT we have a strict mobile phone policy. To ensure the safety and privacy of all the children who attend our clubs, we do not allow mobile phones to be taken into the clubs.

This applies to parents as well as staff and children who attend, and also includes devices such as tablets and iPads, or anything that has a camera facility on it. This is to ensure

the privacy of all children at our clubs and also because we are unable to take responsibility for items such as these.

If you are unable to reach the club on the above number, please leave a message on the central office number 01767 688713.

Thank you once again for all your support.

Internet Safety

We are very aware that children of all ages access the internet for a variety of reasons nowadays. We do spend time at our clubs talking to children about staying safe on the internet. If you would like more information, please visit <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

Hope to see you soon!

Social Media Policy

It is company policy that our staff are not permitted to be friends with parents of children who attend our clubs on any social media platform. Please do not be offended if our staff decline your friend requests.

Vacancies

We are always on the lookout for enthusiastic, friendly staff to work at our holiday clubs. If you know of anyone who has experience working with children, and who may be interested in working at Schools OUT, please send an up to date CV to info@schoolsout-cambcs.co.uk. We offer good rates of pay and flexible working, and expect our staff to undertake training such as child protection and first aid. We look forward to hearing from you!

Emergency contact numbers:

If you need to speak to the staff at either of our clubs here are the contact numbers:

St Neots 07841 867427

St Ives 07720 086855