

Forest Bank and POPS celebrate EID and Black History Month

HMP Forest Bank and POPS have been organising Family Focused Visits for the last twelve months. The prison recognises that Family Focused Visits mean fathers can re-establish or continue to maintain bonds with their children and families. This is part of the resettlement process of helping prisoners return to normal life on release. For many children normal family life stops when a parent is imprisoned.



Prison Staff and the POPS Visitor Centre Coordinator.

The POPS and Prison staff at Forest Bank have worked hard to organise these special visits. Prison visiting can be a daunting process for children in particular, so a lot of effort has been put into making the process as child friendly as possible within the necessary security requirements.

The Family Focused Visits are run every three months and have had themes such as Halloween, Easter or Christmas. It was decided by Forest Bank and POPS that an Eid Family focused Visit would be a good idea. The event was then promoted in advance at the Visitor Centre and inside the Prison by the Imam,

The event was a great success there was a Halal buffet and lots of activities for the children including arts and crafts and face painting. Salford Book Start attended and the children were lucky enough to be given Treasure Packs containing books and reading folders also containing books. The local newsagent very generously provided goodie bags for all the children. A talented member of POPS staff who works in another prison attended the event and henna painted peoples hands and feet. Families, prisoners and staff all enjoyed the event and thanked the Prison and POPS with letters and cards.

As October is Black History Month displays were put up in the Visitor Centre and right along the corridor that leads to the Visits Hall. The display shows famous Black People throughout History until modern day.



Lesley Ward

Family Services Manager