

# SEE YA LATER, KIDS!

She enjoyed the local sangria

## SUN, SEA AND SOCIAL SERVICES

These mums were after an adult-only break. So they flew off and left their kids behind...

**P**acking some sunscreen, swimwear and dresses, one single mum from Cheshire couldn't wait for a week of sunshine and sangria in Spain.

The mum of three had an unusual itinerary lined up for her Spanish getaway – her friends were competing in an international bodybuilding competition, and she was going to help them prepare and watch the event.

With her bags packed, she was all set.

There was just one snag. She'd failed to arrange any childcare for her brood.

She had appealed on Facebook for someone to look after her kids, but no one had responded.

Still, the mum – who can't be named for legal reasons – wasn't going to let that get in the way of her holiday.

So she simply left her three children – aged six, eight and 16 – home alone, and headed to the airport.

But her plans were derailed somewhat when her youngest son told his teachers that he and his siblings were at home unsupervised.

Alarmed, they quickly alerted social services.

Unsurprisingly, this wasn't the mother's first

run in with social services.

Four years prior, her youngest, then three, was found wandering the streets alone at night while she was at an equestrian event. And shortly before her jolly to Spain, she left her two youngest in the car while she went to the gym.

When social services got wind of the mum's whereabouts, they contacted her and asked her to come home.

But she refused and said she would send someone to the house to look after the kids.

She gave social services the details of a woman who was later found to be unsuitable (as she had been investigated for child sex abuse in the past), and then faked email chats with another friend, which falsely claimed that she was set to look after them.

When social services realised no one was coming for the

The kids waited at home



children, they stepped in and took them into care.

In time, the mum pleaded guilty to two offences of child neglect and attempting to pervert the course of justice at Liverpool Crown Court, and she was sentenced to a year in jail.

Judge Robert Trevor-Jones told her in court, 'You showed persistent failure to perform your parental duties and a breach of the trust the children would have had in you, and you then covered it up.'

'You were asked to come home at the earliest opportunity, but you declined and remained until the expiry of that week, displaying callous, self-centred indifference to the position of your children – a thread that runs through this case.'

Gareth Roberts, defending, said the mum realised that she 'has made a massive mistake'.

Liverpool Crown Court



They flew off into the sunset

Hello world  
Welcome to  
Birmingham Airport



She left from Birmingham Airport

## MUM'S GONE WALKABOUT...

all the messages from both the police and her parents, deactivated her social media accounts, and refused to return to the UK until her holiday was done.

Police found the children in a dirty house that smelt of cat urine, and the six of them were placed in emergency foster care.

When she did finally return from Down Under – after insisting on staying for the full six weeks – the mother was arrested.

In time, the case went to court.

The feckless mother faced six counts of wilful abandonment, and she pleaded guilty to all charges.

She was handed a six-month prison sentence, suspended for two years.

Judge Murray Creed declared, 'You've cared for them against a difficult background. You didn't appreciate you'd done anything wrong and were not prepared to return.'

The children were sent to live with their grandparents, and the unnamed mother fell pregnant with her seventh child shortly after.

out to them as she made her way out of the home.

Then, the 43 year-old mum made her way to Birmingham Airport to catch her flight, which her online lover had paid for.

The eldest of the six kids, who was 14, was left to care for his siblings, including the youngest, who was just three.

Police were alerted after the eldest called his grandparents just four hours after their mum had left the house.

However, the mother ignored

AUSTRALIA

Destination Australia



**D**ragging her bulging case to the front door, one holidaymaker from Birmingham was excited for her once-in-a-lifetime trip to Australia.

She was set for a six-week trip Down Under to visit her boyfriend, who she'd met online.

Only her checked luggage wasn't the only baggage the loved-up lady had – she was a single mum to six kids.

But deciding her brood would cramp her style, she decided it was better to abandon them so she could enjoy a child-free romantic break.

So, sneaking her suitcase out of the house, she told the kids she was simply off to Asda for the weekly shop.

'I'll be back in a bit,' she called

## WEDDED BLISS, PARENTAL MISS

**W**eddings are a great excuse to get the family together – and lots of us love to see little ones all dressed up in their finery and having a boogie on the dance floor.

But one Salford mum decided she wanted to celebrate a relative's nuptials without her kids present, so she could really let her hair down.

Only the wedding wasn't in a register office and pub down the road from her home, so she couldn't just rope in a trusted teenage neighbour to watch her children for a few hours.

No, this wedding was being held hundreds of miles away in Africa.

When the mum failed to make any childcare arrangements for the kids, rather than abandon her plans and send her apologies to the bride and groom, she decided to go anyway.

The unnamed mother left her children, aged 10 and 13 at the time, to fend for themselves while she jetted off to Nigeria for three long weeks.

She boarded the six-hour flight without sparing a thought for her offspring.

It is understood that the siblings continued going to school while she was

abroad. At least they'd get a square meal there.

But when someone discovered the two children were home alone, they alerted Greater Manchester Police to the situation.

When officers visited the family home, they found it untidy, and there was little food or heating provision.

Concerned for their welfare, the children were placed with foster parents.

Upon learning that children's services and the police were involved, the neglectful mother cut her trip short and flew back.

When she arrived back in the country, she was arrested at London's Heathrow Airport and questioned, before being bailed.

She was later cautioned but did not face prosecution.

Both children have now since left foster care and have been reunited with their mother.

A spokeswoman for the council said, 'We are continuing to work with the family.'

We hope she's not planning any more solo trips, for her children's sakes.

Their home was found untidy and unheated



The mum packed for the wedding

