

The Old Station Nursery, Newsletter
May – June 2010



Welcome to our summer newsletter and it's great to see everyone looking happier now that it's warmed up a bit and we can all really enjoy being outside, rather than enduring it! Paula (our Ops Manager in Lincolnshire) and Maxine (our Waddington Nursery Manager) have been attending a series of training days about how to develop outdoor practice and to provide greater experiences for children outside. This has already included a staff training evening at Waddington which saw a lot of 'big kids' playing with water, guttering, funnels and hosepipes. We will be sharing the programme with all the managers through a series of staff training sessions and hope to see lots of new ideas across the nurseries.

We have been following the political developments with interest over recent weeks, as any new policy could have a real impact on how we deliver the free Early Years Entitlement, as well as possible new direction on training and qualification requirements. I've put a section in at the end of the newsletter to let you know how you can have your say in shaping new policy, so do complete the NDNA survey if you are able to. As always, we'll keep you posted on any developments that we are aware of. I mentioned the introduction of the 15 hours per week funding in my last newsletter; some of our nurseries are already delivering this as part of pilot studies, but all will offer it from September. Your nursery manager will let you know how this will affect your invoice and any changes to session times.

In the meantime, enjoy the sunshine, for as long as it lasts and don't forget to send a sun hat and sun cream in with your child, to allow us to keep them safe in the sun.

Best wishes,

Sarah Steel
Managing Director

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NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

At last the sunshine has arrived (albeit on and off) and we have lots of activities planned for the outdoors.

Each room is continuing to work very hard with their action/improvement plans. These are displayed in the foyer for everyone to see and individual room planning for indoor/outdoor activities are displayed outside each of the rooms.

Butterfly Room

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new children and their families as well as Steph to our team - she has recently joined us from Bumble Bees. The re-decoration of our room is now complete and the children are enjoying exploring the new environment. Kirsten is continuing with her NVQ Level 2 which she should complete within the next couple of months.

Bumble Bee Room

We would like to welcome Jo to our team – she has settled in well, bringing new and fresh ideas with her. All improvements to our room are now complete including the sensory room, which the children are making full use of, exploring every aspect of the room with the equipment provided.

Ladybirds (2-3's)

We would like to give a warm welcome to Kelly who is new to the team. She has settled in well and also to Louise, who has now joined us full-time. Liam is extending his qualifications and has started his NVQ Level 3. We are developing and extending our outdoor play with the 'Pots & Pans' area (to make as much noise as possible!) and to our garage/car wash with pipes, spanners, oil cans and cloths. We are extending our cooking activities by making our own tea and puddings which the children have been enjoying immensely.

Pre-School (Portakabin)

We would like to welcome Jo to the team. We are at present planning for the children's school visits to Cottesmore County Primary School which will start at the beginning of June. We will be experimenting with paint and techniques for painting - the results of which will be displayed. We will also be continuing with our planned cooking activities. With the improved weather we are also going to be developing our work in the garden, growing vegetables and planting flowers.

Pre-School (Sessional)

We would like to congratulate Sarah on achieving her Diploma in Pre-School Practice - she will continue to implement many great ideas for the children. We would also like to welcome Denise to the team; she has settled in well with both our team and our children. Our new planning is going well and we are in the process of re-designing our room to enhance the children's learning and development. Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to ask if anyone has any fancy dress/dressing up clothes and/or any Power Ranger type toys that they would be willing to donate? Thank you.

Kids' Club

The children's committee is now set up and is proving popular with the children. They are coming up with plenty of ideas and decisions on food and equipment/resources used throughout the week. The garden is progressing well so we are now hoping that the weather will be kind and bring it all along - we are at present growing raspberries, carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes and different types of flowers. The children's diaries are working really well in partnership with us, parents and school and are getting good feedback from everyone.



PAYMENT OF NURSERY FEES FROM 1ST JUNE 2010

As you may be aware, we are in the process of registering with the bank to accept payment by direct debit, as well as standing order and on-line bank transfer. We had hoped to have this in place by 1st June, but the whole process has taken longer than we had hoped and will not now be ready until 1st July at the earliest. We will therefore continue to accept cheques and cash until this date, but would encourage you to look at alternative methods of payment in the interim. We have now successfully installed card payment machines at most of our nurseries and where they are not available you can pay over the phone by card, so please do make use of this facility. We will keep you informed of the change over to electronic payments over the next month.



PARENT FACT SHEETS

We have recently started compiling a series of parent information sheets which are available to download from our website. This month we focus on 'Toddler Tantrums' and 'Biting in the Toddler Years'. Do keep taking a look because we will be adding more each month – we hope that you find these useful.



HAVE YOUR SAY TO THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT CHILDCARE ISSUES

There have been so many changes over recent years to how Early Years is funded and controlled by the Department of Children, Schools and Families. In the run up to the election the trade bodies who represent both the childcare sector and parents' interests lobbied hard to the 3 main political parties, to remind them what issues they considered should be at the top of the agenda for a new government. The National Day Nurseries Association, our main representative body, is now working hard to ensure that parents and nurseries are represented by the new coalition government. They have asked both nurseries and parents to complete an on-line survey to inform their initial briefings with the new government. If you would like your views to be heard (including those on how the Early Years Entitlement should be administered), then please do go to:

www.ndna.org.uk and click on the 'parents' link.