

The Old Station Nursery, Faringdon 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**

We have had a busy few weeks developing certain areas of the nursery. One of our main projects at the moment is the garden; we are trying to look at the communication, language and literacy aspect of the Early Year's Foundation Stage (EYFS) and how we provide this in our outside space. The girls plan for activities in this area using equipment from inside the nursery, the garden is then set up each day offering a different range of experiences. We have also had signs made to show the names of the equipment and the different areas the children play in. These have been a great success and the children are really enjoying pointing out letters that may be in their name and those of their friends.

If any parents are keen gardeners and have any unwanted gardening magazines, we would love to take them off your hands. We could then use these in the garden to complement any growing activities that we organise.

**Parent Questionnaire**

Many thanks to all parents who filled in and returned their parent questionnaire. We have had some lovely comments as well as some really good and useful ideas and suggestions. I will be forwarding them on to Sarah and Emma so that they can read them. We will then send out a letter and share the comments and any planned changes with you all.

**Other News**

Last September I was very kindly invited to sit on the panel at the Nursery World conference. This was to discuss the EYFS 'one year on'. This gave ourselves and other providers a chance to discuss the successes that we had had within our own settings and we looked at issues that were a common concern for all. It was a really useful and informative conference and has given me great food for thought! This September the conference is looking at the EYFS 'two years on' and I have been invited back to discuss within a workshop how we communicate with parents, beyond day books and questionnaires. I am very excited to be invited again and with permission I would like to mention some of the comments you have made on your questionnaires. If you have any other thoughts or ideas on how the nursery could communicate better or share information regarding the care and development of your child, then please do let me know.

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, I attended a meeting with Heather Hambridge, the Head of Faringdon Infants, in April and we discussed the

transition procedure for September. The school will email out details of all the introductory sessions for children starting in both Sunflowers and Reception. The sessions were staggered last year and they will be doing the same again this year. However, there will be more notice of what your child will be doing and they have promised to email correspondence letters to me so that I can help and advise you if you remain unsure of what time your child will be finishing their settling in sessions. Please speak to me if you have any concerns or queries.

Please could I also remind all parents to ensure that their children now come to nursery with a labelled sun hat and labelled sun cream. We are still hopeful for good weather!

Regards, Liz

## Notes from the rooms

### Under 2's Area

The under 2's topic this month is 'Our families'. For this topic we are creating a family photo wall with pictures from home, so please bring in your photographs as requested as it would be lovely if all our children could have a special photo frame on the wall.

Sadly we have said goodbye to Alfie. He has only been gone a few days now and it seems like a lifetime as we are missing his morning hugs so much. However, we are pleased that he is getting on so well in his new room and making good friends. We are pleased to have welcomed Florence to our unit recently - she has settled in very well and very quickly. It is lovely to have new faces to welcome and for the other children to have new relationships to build.

We have 2 display boards in the play room which are for you to contribute any development notes about your children or any important dates in your family diary i.e. nanny's birthday, baby due date, anniversaries. This is a way of incorporating you into your child's nursery life and also so we can help your child make cards for any special occasions. Please ask any of us to show you the boards - it would be really helpful to have your input.

Many thanks, Kayleigh

### 2-3's

This month our topic is transport. We have been talking about what forms of transport we use and Archie told us about going on an aeroplane which was very exciting. Megan also told us all about when her Daddy goes 'far far away' on an aeroplane! We have been busy making cars and trucks in junk modelling and also drawing our favourite form of transport for our display. We also enjoyed going to the Library bus to find books to do with our topic. We are going to make cars in the garden using the crates, tyres and number plates which I am sure will be great fun.

We would like to welcome Jessica and Katie who have settled very well into 2-3's and also Alfie who has moved up from under 2's.

Many thanks, Rachel

### 3-5s Pre-school

We have had a busy few months in pre-school and this newsletter gives me a chance to welcome several few new faces to our room; I would like to say a big welcome to Liam, Holly, Daniel, Lily, Sam, Owen, Isabelle and Tyler. They have all settled into preschool really well and are already making lots of new friends.

We have been working hard on our current topic - 'time'. All of the children have enjoyed learning to recognise numbers and matching the time to the room's routine. Some of the children can tell the time and they catch everyone who walks through preschool and tells them what the time is!

We have spent a lot of time in the garden when the weather has permitted. We are hopeful that the warmer weather will come back and we are looking forward to the next couple of months where we will be looking at 'Bugs and Insects'; the children will be able to explore the new discovery area in the garden and find hidden bugs etc. We will also be doing a topic on ICT, looking at how things work. If you have anything interesting at home that we could investigate, please do bring it in. Any contributions to this topic would be gratefully received.

Parents' Evening - I would like to thank parents for attending our recent parents' evening. This gave us a good chance to discuss your child's progress and to make plans for September when some of our older children move up to Sunflowers and the Pre-school Hut. If you were unable to make the parents evening and would like to have a look at your child's learning journey and discuss their progress, please let Jodie or me know.

Room Changes - over the past few months our numbers have risen. In order to accommodate all our children, Lisa and Nicky have been providing extra support during our busiest times in the day. Pauline will also be lending a hand and supporting our 2-3 year olds who are moving up into pre-school. Because this can be a daunting experience for some, we felt it appropriate that they should have a familiar face present whilst they are making this transition whenever possible.

Jodie is now running the Buckland After School Club from 3-6pm so Lisa and Pauline will be working in her place. This will not change the level of care and education that we provide for your children.

On a sad note, Kim has decided to leave us and pursue a career as a nanny. Kim has been with us for a long time and we are sorry to see her go. We wish

her all the best. (Thankfully we have Kim for a few more weeks yet!).

As always, your child's key person is your first point of contact. However, if you have any concerns or queries, please do speak to myself, Kayleigh or Liz.

Many thanks, Mel



### **PAYMENT OF NURSERY FEES FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> June, but the whole process has taken longer than we had hoped and will not now be ready until 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.ndna.org.uk) and click on the 'parents' link.