

The Old Station Nursery, Filkins 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

HEAD OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS:

Operations Managers:
Emma Pittam – 07973 798050 or
opsmanager@theoldstationnursery.co.uk

Paula Leeson – 07791 806502
opsnorth@theoldstationnursery.co.uk

Sarah Steel – 07725 049744
sarahsteel@theoldstationnursery.co.uk

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Welcome back to term-time children. I hope everyone had an enjoyable Easter break and is ready for the busy summer term ahead. We have lots of exciting activities planned for the next few weeks. Nursery numbers are now extremely high; when Old Station Nursery took over Filkins in Sept 2007 we had 17 children registered - we now have 53 nursery children registered and 10 After-School Club children. I would like to thank everyone who has recommended us to family and friends over the last couple of years - please continue to do so!

Easter Holiday Club

A big thank you too, to Charlotte, Antonia, Katy and Kerri for another successful Holiday Club. The sessions were very well attended and I can see that some lovely activities took place. Kerri even managed to take the children to Carterton Park during a quieter session in the first week. Holiday club is always great fun for the children – do consider it in the future.

Staff Changes

Fiona joined us this term to be a Key Person to some of our younger children. Fiona holds a Certificate in Early Years Practice, Level 4 qualification and has several years experience working with Under 5s. She has 2 children of her own and is currently studying for a BA in Early Years.

Topics

This half-term we have been looking at Mini-beasts, along with our child-initiated topics. The pre-school children will be visiting Cotswold Wildlife Park for their annual outing in May, hoping to see some exotic insects and creepy-crawlies in the Insect House.

All About Me

Please could you all fill in and return to us a new All About Me form to enable us to update our records and plan for your child's interests. I also have up-to-date Key Person Profiles for parents/children who have a new Key Person this term if you have not already received one.

Extension Opening Ceremony

Thank you to all the parents who came to the official opening of our extension. We are delighted with this new facility, which is currently being used as a construction area, complementing and extending our indoor provision. This integrated indoor-outdoor environment allows the children to access outdoors whenever they wish, contributing to their health and well-being and stimulating all areas of development.

Do come and have a look at the area if you have not already done so.

Parents Consultations

Formal appointments with parents will be held during the first week back after half-term, commencing 7th June. Staff will make 10 minute appointments available to you nearer the time; as nursery is currently so busy, appointments will be evening only this year. As always, please do not hesitate to speak to either myself or your child's Key Person if you have any concerns or if you wish to inform us of your child's latest interests. If you would like staff to include your own observations from your child's development steps, please return the completed forms to your child's Key Person as soon as possible.

Barnardos Big Toddle Thursday 24th June

We will be walking around Filkins village again this year, raising money for Barnardos. If your child does not attend nursery on Thursdays, they are welcome to join us, but will need to be accompanied by an adult. We hope to leave nursery at 11am.

Sports Day Wednesday 7th July, 11am

Sports Day this year will be extremely hectic! We have never had to involve so many children in a Sports Day, but I would like everyone to be included. The provisional plan is that the preschool children and the older 3yr olds should compete in all the races, with the younger children joining in an initial race if they want to and then maybe one other race later on during the proceedings. The actual races usually last half an hour, which is I feel will be too long for the younger children to sit still on their rugs and watch as a group, but it would be lovely for them to watch with Mummy and Daddy. If your child is not in on a Wednesday morning session, they will need to be under their parents' supervision. We will complete the proceedings with a picnic lunch on the field - again children accompanied by parents please.

Packed Lunches

Please could I remind parents to place a cold pack in lunch boxes as the weather (hopefully) warms up? Could you also please **not** include any nut products in packed lunches.

Spare clothing

Please could you check your child's bag to ensure clothing is appropriate for the time of year? I would also be grateful if any remaining wellies could be taken home. We do have spare wellies in nursery should they be needed for any activity.

Emergency Contact Details

Could I remind parents to keep Nursery informed of any change to your child's emergency contact details, such as new mobile phone numbers. Thank you.

Notable forthcoming dates

Pre-school leavers trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park Wednesday May 26th.
Individual parents consultations for parents - all week

commencing 7th June.

Barnardos Big Toddle for all children - Thursday 24th June.

Sports Day - Wednesday 7th July starting at 11.00am.

Term Dates for term-time children

The immediate dates for term-time children are:
Spring first half-term finishes Friday 28th May 2010 and resumes Monday 7th June.
Holiday Club will run from Tuesday 1st June - Friday 4th June.
No nursery on Monday 31st May due to the Bank Holiday.

Many thanks for you continued support throughout the year.

Louise



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.