

The Old Station Nursery, Gainsborough 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 to the latest newsletter from all the staff here at Gainsborough. Although the weather has been very changeable of late, we are hoping that Summer will arrive soon and we can all enjoy the sunshine. As the weather gets warmer may I remind you of the importance of making sure that your child has a named hat and sun cream with them every day. Thank you.

It's nice to see the nursery so full and in particular our lunchtimes are getting very busy. As such, we do not have the space to keep all of the lunchboxes in the fridge, so please ensure that you put a cool pack in with your child's lunch to keep the contents cool.

May I remind you that fees are due by 7th of the month and that late payments may incur a late payment fee of £25.00. We are planning to send out the majority of our invoices out by e- mail from June; please ensure that we have a current email address for you.

Finally, as I hope you are aware, we are taking part in the Lincolnshire Healthy Childcare Awards; one aspect of this is encouraging children to eat healthily. Please support us in this and if you send your child in with a packed lunch, we ask that you do not put sweets or chocolate in their lunchboxes. Thank you for your co-operation.

From the Caterpillar room

Firstly, we would like to say Happy Birthday to Skye who will be 1 in May and to Riddick, Erin, Ollie and Emily who will shortly be celebrating their 2nd birthdays and moving up into the Butterfly room. Also, we'd like to say a big hello to Oscar who has joined us to play.

I have recently been on an 'Attachment and Holistic Development' course has given me a more in-depth understanding on how to make your babies feel more at home during their time in nursery.

Towards the end of June/beginning of July we will be holding our annual fun day and this year we will be incorporating the Barnardo's Big Toddle into the day. We will send out more details closer to the day but the theme this year is Pirates, so dust off your eye-patch and parrot!

From the Butterfly room

It has been all change in the nursery with the arrival of our new furniture, rug, kitchen, sand tray and art cart. I am sure you will have noticed how much bigger and airier the nursery seems now. Our next job will be to start replacing the older resources and adding some new ones to further enhance your child's time at nursery.

Please remember that your child's special books are on display in the nursery and any photos or comments from home that we can put into them will be greatly appreciated.

Louis's weekend breaks

Louis spent a weekend out at Mablethorpe with Anne and her grandchildren and has just gone off for another weekend with Sarah and her boys; I hear that they are going to Playzone. If you would like to have Louis at your house for the weekend then please talk to a member of staff. All we ask is that you take some photos of what Louis gets up to during his time with you so that we can put them in his Special book. As Louis is a very valued member of the group he can only go away for the weekend on a Friday and he needs to be back in Nursery on Monday.



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.

ARE YOU PREGNANT? DOES ANYONE IN YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY SUFFER FROM ECZEMA, ASTHMA OR HAYFEVER?

The University of Nottingham and Lincolnshire NHS Hospitals are running a fully funded BEEP study into preventing eczema in newborn babies. If you are

interested in taking part, please contact

Sarah Booker
Paediatric Research Nurse
United Lincolnshire Hospitals Trust
Lincoln County Hospital
LCTU
Greetwell Road
Lincoln, LN2 5QY

T: 01522 512512 ex 2771 F: 01522 543783
Or e-mail Sarah.Booker@ULH.nhs.uk



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.