

The Old Station Nursery, Lincoln College Newsletter
Nov- Dec 2010



We are now all well into the swing of this term and Christmas is just around the corner, so watch out for the inevitable invasion of glitter and all things sparkly that herald the festive season. We hope you will all be able to spend some time at nursery during the run up to Christmas, to join in some celebrations and see all the great things that are going on. Don't forget you are always welcome to come and see what your child is doing at nursery; I appreciate that work commitments can make this really difficult, but if you have a spare hour at any time and would like to come and join in with a session, please do ask your nursery manager.

During the last couple of months we have been rolling out the baby room project known as 'Beginning with Babies' across the company; all our settings have now taken part in the inspirational training with Mary Barlow in Grantham and have come back with ideas to improve the environment and routines for the babies in their care. We are now also trying the 'Fun on the Floor' programme too, which will help to extend this learning into the 2 year old rooms. If you want to learn a little more about the training, do have a look at www.thetotempole.co.uk; they also have an excellent on-line shop, which includes some fabulous resources for young children. All our nursery baby room staff enjoyed spending some of their budgets in the shop when they visited and we have the lovely wooden kitchens in most of our baby rooms now.

We always get some really lovely comments and thanks when families leave nursery, but in case you are really pleased with something in particular or just want to say 'well done' to the staff who look after your child, we have introduced some special 'well done' cards which should be in the reception area of all the nurseries. If you would like to give someone a pat on the back, do fill one of these in and give it in to the manager, it will be passed on to that member of staff and will also be recorded for their next appraisal. I hope this will help staff to feel valued; we also have several internal ways of recognising great performance and are always looking for new ways of doing this.

During the last month about 20 of our room supervisors have attended a new company training course, where they spend a day with each other learning about leadership and management, customer service and how to

run staff appraisals. We ran a pilot course in Abingdon and one in Lincoln and are now using the feedback from the supervisors to fine tune the course. We will run the next round of courses in February and hope this will really help us to develop our staff teams at every level.

After a long administrative challenge, we finally have our direct debit scheme set up. I hope you all received our letter explaining this and a direct debit form; if you have not, then please check that your nursery manager has an up to date e-mail address for you, so we can make sure you receive regular mailings without having to dig them out of the bottom of your child's bag. We hope you will take advantage of the direct debit system as it should make life much simpler all around and make nursery fees one less thing to have to remember. If you are using Employer Childcare Vouchers to pay some part of your fees, please remember to note this on your direct debit form too. Don't forget, if you sign up before Christmas we will give you a free copy of our book, 'All Aboard', which has lots of ideas to fill the weekends and holidays.

One of our former UK nursery managers has recently moved to Kenya whilst her husband is serving there with the RAF. She approached us to ask whether we would consider supporting a local centre for children of Masai families, who have disabilities and need extra support. She was amazed by what a difference the Kajaido Centre made to the lives of these children and decided to try and help. We are delighted to be working with the A.I.C. Kajaido Child Care Centre, both to raise funds to support their work, but also to allow the children in our nurseries to understand how different the lives of children in other parts of the world can be. Hopefully by now you will all have received a leaflet about the project and may have decided you could help our initial Christmas appeal by sending a very small toy or gift in, which will be packaged up and sent off to the centre later this month. If you'd like to find out more about the project, have a look at www.aick.org. We hope this will be a really positive relationship and help our children to learn about the world in a very personal way.

Best wishes,
Sarah Steel Managing Director

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NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. Where has this year gone? I can't believe that we are busy planning our Christmas events already!

We're pleased with the look of the nursery since it has been decorated – it feels so much lighter. We are now trying create more of a home from home feeling.

Dates: Our pre-school children will be having their Christmas party on Tuesday 14th December. If your child does not normally attend on a Tuesday afternoon please do bring them in to join us. You can drop your child off at 2.00pm for the party and then collect them at 4.00pm. We hope that Santa may be able to coordinate a visit to us on this afternoon too!

The babies will be having a coffee afternoon on Wednesday 15th December from 1.30 till 2.30pm. Annemarie our music lady will be providing some Christmas music. Please feel free to come along.

I would like to thank all those who have returned your parent questionnaires. We are thrilled by so many of the positive comments that you have made. Thank you once again.

Christmas Eve - We will be open from 8.00am until 1.00pm on Christmas Eve. Please can all parents inform your child's key person as whether your child will be in for this morning or not, to enable us to plan our staffing. Thank you.

Staff updates: Jade has recently left on maternity leave. We welcome Jessica to our team in her place. Jessica is level 3 qualified, trained with Lincoln College and was a student with us so many of the children will know her already. She will be working in our pre-school alongside Leanne, Emma and Sophie.

We would also wish to congratulate Emma on

her engagement to Stuart.

Nursery hours: Can I please remind all parents that we open at 8.00am and close at 6.00pm. If you wish to bring your child in before 08.00am, you must stay with your child. On several occasions parents have left before 08.00am. Legally we are not covered prior to 08.00am – we need to ensure that our staff and rooms are ready for your child(ren). We can not provide care whilst preparing for the day. I'm sure that you can appreciate this.

Have you seen our digital photo frames? Every day the staff take photos within their rooms so that when you collect your child you can see what has been happening throughout the day. The children have been very keen to take photos as well! Please also look out for our 'wow moments' display in the nursery entrance which is updated regularly.

Lincoln College's charity this year has been the 'Pink Ribbon Campaign'. With one in nine people developing breast cancer in their life time and many more friends and family members affected as a result, it has become evident that the topic resonated deeply with those at the college. We have been asked to get involved and we will be organising an event to help raise funds for this charity. We will keep you posted to what our event will be. Watch this space.

On behalf of all the Staff, we would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year and thank you for your continuous support.

Best Wishes.

Alison

Pre-school

It has been an especially busy past few months, with lots of new children starting and the building changes going on around us. All of our new children seem to have settled in well and it's like they have always been here. We plan our activities based on the children's interests so if you know of anything that your child is really interested in, please come and share it with us.

We do try and get outside in all weathers so please could you remember to bring in wellies, a hat and gloves and an outdoor coat for your child – thank you.

With Christmas fast approaching, we will be basing our activities around this and 'Winter' until the end of term.

Can I remind parents that we are trying to

develop a family display in the pre-school room; in order to do this we need your help in bringing family photos from home. The children love to see their own photos in the wall so please help us with this.

Best wishes,
Leanne, Emma, Sophie and Jess.

Little Stars

We would like to welcome Caiden, Phoebe, Ashton H and Maggie to our room - we hope you enjoy your time with us. We have also seen some of the older children moving through to the big room - Jenkin, Alex, Jo Jo, Tommy, Owen, Riley and Drew. We will miss you all so much but you are not too far away for a hug!

We would like to wish a belated 1st birthday to Phoebe L, Yusuf and Sophie; we hope you all had a lovely first birthday. We also wish Tyler a happy 1st birthday and Tommy, Owen and Riley a happy 2nd birthday. We hope you all have a great day.

Katy is presently busy making a family book - if you would like to bring some family photos in we would really appreciate it.

Please remember that your child's learning journey is available at all times for you to take

home and have a look at to enable you to see what your child has been doing. Please also feel free to add any of your own comments and observations.

We are always here for chat if you have any issues - please feel free to come and see myself or Katy.

In the little stars room there is going to be a small change to our staff. The main people in the little stars room will be Susan, Katy and Rachel and Stacey will be covering our lunches.

Thank you for all your ongoing support – it really makes our days most enjoyable when we know we have your support.

Best wishes.
Susan, Katy, Stacey and Rachel

Our song of the month: 'Zoom Zoom'Zoom

Zoom zoom
We are going to the moon
Zoom zoom zoom
We are going very soon
5 4 3 2 1
Blast off

