

The Old Station Nursery, Lincoln College 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**

As you will be aware, we have been undergoing several changes within the nursery over the past few weeks; Alison has transferred to the Marina site on a temporary basis and I will be replacing her in the office and we are pleased that Susan has now been made acting deputy manager, so a big well done to her! We have also recruited a new pre-school leader - Leanne Walker. Leanne has worked within the company before as a deputy and as a manager, but has decided that she would like to get back into the rooms. She has been qualified for 10 years and has her own son, Owen who is now 15 months old. Owen has also joined the nursery in the Little Stars room. Leanne will be working Monday to Friday 8am until 4pm, so if you have any questions or queries please feel free to talk to her.

We have now completed the redevelopment of our top outside area and we are having a great time discovering all the new things up there; especially the tunnel which leads into the sand pit! If you would like to take a look, please ask and we would be proud to show you.

I hope that you will all now know that we would like to email out all monthly invoices. If you have a new email address or we haven't got an email address for you, could I ask that you give it to a member of staff as soon as possible so we can ensure that we can implement this new system. If you need to remain on the paper invoice system, please let us know.

I would like to thank all of you who have been so positive and understanding about the temporary closure of the nursery in July/August. If you still need to let us know about your childcare arrangements during this time, please do as soon as possible. We are really keen to help you as much as we can with getting you the nursery arrangements that you need. We are already looking forward to returning to a fresh new nursery on August 9<sup>th</sup>! Once again, thank you.

**Pre-school**

Our pre-school children have been showing a lot of interest in Dr Who recently, so we decided to make a short topic out of it. We have now, therefore, built a Tardis, drawn Dr Who pictures and made many other Dr Who related items! We are now looking to introduce a new topic based on the children's current interests - if you have any ideas please let us know.

We would like to ask parents to bring in any photos of close family members, people who are special to your child and any pets etc. Your child will have an

opportunity to show these pictures and they will then be put into your child's learning journeys.

We now have 2 fish in our room, who are called Dennis and Mennis. The children help us to feed them and look after them by cleaning them out. They are very enthusiastic about their role with this to date.

We would also like to say Happy Birthday to James (22<sup>nd</sup> May) and Jak (4<sup>th</sup> June).

Thank you, Leanne, Emma and Rachel

### Little Stars

In our Little Stars room we have recently welcomed Matilda who is settling in really well and who is getting to know the other children.

Max, Blake, Matilda and Oliver G's birthdays are all in May so happy birthday to them and we hope they enjoy(ed) their special first birthday.

We will be saying goodbye to Kerry who is going on maternity leave at the end of May and we would like to wish her the best of luck and hope everything goes well. I'm sure Kerry will be in to see us with her new baby during her leave.

With promises of better weather ahead, can I ask you all to provide your child with their own labelled sun cream and sunhat so we can enjoy any sun and play outside.

Thank you very much, Susan, Kerry and Katy.

### PAYMENT OF NURSERY FEES FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE

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.

### 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

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### 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.