

The Old Station Nursery, Linton 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 now have the Chip & Pin machine up and running. This will hopefully make life quicker and easier when paying bills. Transactions only take a minute or so.

We held our Chatterbox challenge on the 28th April. Thank you to all of the children and parents that took part in the event; it was a great success and the children enjoyed singing all of the songs that they had worked so hard to learn in the week running up to the event. Please could you collect any sponsorship money and hand it to Wendy so that we can send it off.

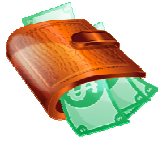
We have been busy following the story of the mother duck who nested in one of our tyres in the toddler garden. She nested, laid 8 eggs and then waited and waited ever so patiently for them to hatch. Despite the commotion of the children nearby, she guarded those eggs until her babies hatched and then she and her ducklings waddled off into the sunset and down to the reservoir on camp – do take time to stop and look at some of the photographs displayed in nursery!

We are going to be saying a sad farewell to Sarah and Sophie from the pre-school. They will both be leaving us on the 1st June 2010. I know that you will join us in wishing them farewell and good luck. We will also be very sad to be saying goodbye and good luck to all of the children who will soon be leaving us to go to school. We know that you will all be a great success.

We are continuing to recruit new staff and have successfully interviewed many candidates so far and have made some offers. We are now awaiting acceptance replies.

We are taking part in the Barnardo's Big Toddle on the 29th June @ 10:30. It will be a sponsored walk around the camp to raise funds for Barnardo's. After the walk we will be having a picnic on the grass. Parents are more than welcome to join us for the walk and the picnic if you would like to.

We are very excited to have received funding to get the nursery completely redecorated (by the end of June all being well). We plan for this big job to be done with the least amount of disruption as possible, one room at a time. We will keep you informed of the details nearer the time and hope that you can see the benefit of this taking place as much as we do.



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.