

The Old Station Nursery, Marina 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 have been very busy making some changes to our nursery environment inside and out. We are also very lucky to have support from Carla, our children's centre teacher, who has been busy working with our staff to develop the nursery environment.

Over the next few weeks we will be having a sail put up in our outside play area; this will provide some welcome shade for the children when the sun does come out.

Please can parents / carers ensure that we have the correct email address to send invoices to - we are planning on sending all invoices out via email from this point forward. If any other contact details have changed please ensure that you inform your child's key person of these as well.

Nursery opening hours

Please can I remind you that we are open from 08.00am and close at 6.00pm. If you are running late, please do contact the nursery and let us know.

Parent questionnaire

Over the next few weeks we will be sending out our annual parent questionnaire. We would really appreciate it if all parents could take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire and return it to nursery by the end of June. We use the information that we collate from these to improve our services for your children – your input is invaluable.

Baby news

Kelly S gave birth to a little boy called Jack on April 1st - congratulations. Gemma C will soon be leaving us on her maternity leave – we look forward to hearing news of her new baby too. Lindsay will be returning to work in June after having her little girl. Lindsay will be supporting the staff in both rooms and we look forward to welcoming her back.

Learning journeys

Over the next few weeks we will be displaying all of the children's learning journeys; please do take a look at your child's learning journey and make any comments if you wish. Please feel free to speak to your child's key person.

Best wishes, Alison and Gemma.

Butterfly and Ladybird Room

We have implemented a few changes in the Butterfly and Ladybird room recently; Kelly R has now become the new senior nursery nurse for the butterfly side, as Amanda has decided to step down from the senior role. We hope that you have noticed that we have been adapting the Butterfly room to try and give it a more homely feel. The inspiration for this came from a course attended by a few of the staff, called 'beginning with babies'. To date we have made small changes within the bathroom, the discovery area and the role play area, which we have tried to make more homely by wall papering and having real life items such as fruit and vegetables and kitchen utensils. As well as these improvements, we are also revamping the sleep room into a living room. This has already begun, but there is a lot more to come too. We hope that the children enjoy the changes that we are making.

Zola, Freddie, Henry and Carmen all turn 3 in June (1st, 4th, 16th and 27th respectively) – we would like to wish them all a very happy birthday and hope that they enjoy their time in ladybirds once they have moved across. We also welcome James, Nathan and Caden into Butterflies from the Caterpillar room. The Ladybirds would like to say happy birthday to Edward who was 4 on the 2nd of May.

The Ladybird topic for the next 2 months is 'mini beasts' and 'summer time'. We will be going on bug hunts, talking about signs of Summer and experiencing lots of fun activities outdoors.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that if your child brings in toys from home, we can not be responsible for looking after them; please discourage your child from bringing their toys into nursery.

If you know your child's leaving date for school, please let Becca and Gemma know as soon as possible - this will help us to plan the next few months.

Best wishes, Kelly R, Amanda, Mags, Beck and Gemma C.

Caterpillar room

As you may have noticed, the Caterpillar room has also undergone some changes. Following on from the 'beginning with babies' course mentioned above, that we all attended, we have been shown new ways to enhance our room. We have decorated, put up fire place and provided the children with a lot more natural resources. We are very proud with how our room is looking at the moment and think it worth all of the hard work.

We would like to wish Rosie a happy first birthday. James, Tyler and Max will all be turning 2 soon – we wish them a happy 2nd birthday; they will be moving into butterflies - we wish them the best of luck and we will miss them.

Now that the weather is getting warmer we are going to explore plants and seeds. Hopefully the children will enjoy investigating the soil and having fun with digging. If any parents with green fingers would like to offer any advice we would be very grateful.

Best wishes, Emma, Vicky, Claire, Jess and Kayleigh.



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

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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 and click on the 'parents' link.