

The Old Station Nursery, WASPS 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 Kajaïdo 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. Kajaïdo 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

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

Please find some administrative points from WASPS below:



We will be having our **Christmas party** on Thursday 16th December. If your child is not booked in on this day they are still very welcome to attend but we will require an adult to attend with them. Please let a staff member know if you plan on coming! (Any contributions for food will be most welcome but no nuts please due to allergies. Thank you).

With Christmas fast approaching, we will be doing lots of Christmassy craft activities with the children – if you have any fabric off-cuts or any old shirts, sheets, curtains etc... then we would be very pleased to have them. Thank you! We also welcome any games, puzzles or DVD's that you are clearing out at any time – we can always use additional supplies.

With the weather having turned really wintery now, please can you ensure that your child has warm outdoor clothing with them – a named coat, hat, gloves and scarf please.

We are now taking bookings for the week prior to Christmas and the 4th January (inset day) – come and get a holiday club form.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that you should NOT be bringing your cars down the side of the school past the wooden gates when dropping off or collecting your child/children – this is to ensure the safety of the children. I'm sure that you can appreciate that this is even more important during these dark evenings.

Please remember that if your child is off ill from school with sickness/tummy bug then they must be clear of any symptoms for 24hrs before coming back to WASPS.

Finally, please also note that should you wish to change/cancel your sessions you need to give 1 months written notice. You will continue to be charged until we receive proper notice.

Very many thanks,
Hayley