

The Old Station Nursery, Waddington 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

Already it is the last summer term for some of our children as they get ready for school! The teachers from St. John's Primary School in Bracebridge Heath have already visited us and visits from other local schools are currently being arranged with Gemma. We are trying to arrange a time with All Saints School that we will be able to take the children to ourselves. This is a busy time of year for the teachers but we will keep you informed if we are able to arrange a visit.

In our last newsletter I told you about the impact that our 'Beginning with Babies' training had had on our rooms. Since then, we have had a visit from Mary Barlow - the inspiration behind the course - to evaluate how we have progressed over the last few months. We were thrilled to hear that she was very impressed by the transformation that has occurred in both the Caterpillars and Ladybirds room. The environments feel more welcoming and relaxed with open ended resources for children's creativity and natural exploration. The children's interests are met through appropriate adult support and enhancement of the continuous provision. Thank you to all the staff who have worked so hard to enable these rooms to develop.

Our other project is the Outdoor Training that Paula and I have been doing with the Early Excellence Centre. The next session for this is on the 10th June so do keep an eye on the notice board to see what our next set of resources will be. I'm sorry that I shall be handing this fabulous project over to Gemma Robinson, who will be able to see it through to completion in April 2011, because I am pleased to announce that I am pregnant and will be leaving on maternity leave at the end of October.

Sarah has already mentioned that from September, all children will be entitled to 15 hours of government funding the term following their 3rd birthday, instead of the current 12.5 hours. Instead of the 2.5 hour sessions we provide presently, we will now provide 3 hour sessions in the Little Gems room and children will be able to claim up to 6 hours funding per day. Please see the leaflet that you received recently for more detailed information and complete the booking form if your child is attending pre-school in September. Thank you.

Dates for the diary

Graduation photographs for pre-school children: 11 June. This is an opportunity for your child to put on their party frocks and shirts! If your child is not

normally in on this day, please feel free to bring them along for the photograph. The time will be confirmed for the morning closer to the date.

Fathers' story week: 14 - 20 June. We would love for any dads to come in and read to the children. Please speak to your child's key person if you are able to spare any time.

Parents' evening: 24 June. Please arrange a convenient time with your child's key person.

Pre-school sports day: 7 July. This will be in the morning but exact time to be arranged closer to the time.

Graduation for school leavers and the end of term: 21 July. Many of our children will be leaving nursery as they start school in September. We wish them all the best and hope to see them when we go and watch the All Saints Primary School nativity play at Christmas.

Best Wishes, Maxine

Caterpillar Room

We would like to welcome Faith and Finlay to our room. They have both settled very well and we hope they enjoy exploring the room and having lots of fun with us.

Sam is now working full time in our room until October and will be enjoying getting to know you all and your babies. Please feel free to have a chat and get to know Sam.

We have been extremely busy making improvements to our room. We have thoroughly enjoyed making these changes and the children seem to have adapted to them well. We are going to introduce more plants to the room, and have a basket of logs in front of the fire place for your babies to explore. If you have any ideas for the development of our room, please chat to a member of staff; we are always open to new ideas and suggestions. The babies have been enjoying exploring the room – finding 'surprise' objects in boxes and bags, such as logs, twigs and fur cones to explore, lycra to stretch and balls to roll along and reach out to touch. We have also really enjoyed making dens for your babies to crawl through.

We are going out for walks most days now that the weather has improved - let's hope it is here to stay! Please do provide your child with a named sun hat and sun cream.

Many thanks, Vikki, Mary, Helen and Sam

Ladybirds

Hello from us all in Ladybirds. Firstly we would like to say good bye to Georgia, Alfie and Fletcher who have moved up to the Butterfly room. We wish them all the best and hope they settle in well. We need to say a

big hello to Harley who has joined us from the caterpillar room - he is settling in well.

We are still implementing changes we to our main room so it looks more like a living and dining room. We have a nice new rug on the floor and a sofa where the children are really enjoying sitting and looking at books and resting.

We have also changed our bedroom so it is now more cosy for the children. They have mini head boards above the sleep mats and also a nice cosy bean bag area for the children who don't want to sleep but just rest instead.

We would also like to say a big thank you to the parents who have provided slippers for their children. The children are enjoying recognizing their own slippers and putting them on in the morning.

All the best, Ladybirds

Butterflies

We would like to welcome Georgia to the room who has just recently moved in from the Ladybirds room; she has settled in really well and is making lots of new friends. We are looking forward to Fletcher and Alfie moving through from the Ladybirds room too.

We are now putting the toys on to blankets to encourage the children to play with the toys in different areas so that there are not toys all over the room; this makes it safer for the children to walk around as they are less likely to fall over the toys and hurt themselves. We have recently implemented a new cosy area within the room which is working really well - the children love their new books so they are now using the cushions and reading the books to themselves and each other.

We are in the process of making the sleep room a very calm and cosy area for the children to relax and sleep in. This room will also be used for quiet group activities. We are looking at converting the loft into a den for the children where they can play and use their imaginations; if you have got any nice materials that you could spare then we would be very grateful for donations.

Little Gems

For our summer term we will be focusing on 'going to school'. This will involve lots of number and letter games, both indoors and out, and learning to sit 'like boys and girls at school'.

Dancing with Gemma has now moved to a Monday morning so more children can join in with dancing and singing.

In May we wished happy birthday to Ana and Tilly, in June it will be Reece's turn!

Recently we hosted a visit from Sarah from the NHS health promotion team, who talked to the children

about road safety. Please discuss this with your child at home to refresh their memories - we all know how important this is.

We've had Harvey join us this term – we would like to welcome him and his family to nursery - all the children have been helping Harvey find his way around and helping him settle in.

Finally, hello from me. I am the new team leader in Little Gems - my name is Dawn and I look forward to getting to know you all better. If you have any questions please do come and ask either Julie, Sue, Sam or myself and we'll be only too happy to help. Thank you.

Little Tigers

A big hello from all the children and staff in Little Tigers; we hope you are all well and enjoying the bit of sunshine we have been getting.

The children in Little Tigers have been focusing on bugs and mini-beasts lately so we changed the discovery zone into a bug and reptile zone. Gemma has also been bringing in different bugs for the children to explore; super worms, locusts and crickets to mention a few! We all got a chance to hold and touch these bugs with mixed reactions... Tigers also took part in a bug hunt which proved to be both great fun and very messy.

Now that the weather is getting warmer, the children have been talking about holidays and the seaside, so we have changed our role play area into a beach zone and our theme is going to be based around summer holidays and days out. Please feel free to bring in any photos you may have from your days out/ days at the seaside for the children to share.

Fathers' day is coming up so we will be taking part in some crafts and making a few surprises too.

Dance will now be on a Monday morning; so far this has worked very well and is a great way to start the week.

We have had a special lady from the NHS come into pre-school to talk about 'being safe' - outside and near roads, talking about all the different dangers and how not to talk to strangers. The children really enjoyed this and got chance to take part in some role play. A very worth while visit.

We have some hellos to say - to Theo, Felix, Kyla, Ben and Max; we hope you all enjoy being in Tigers.

And lastly, we are all very sad to be saying goodbye to Louise. She is leaving The Old Station Nursery to go to work with vulnerable children. We wish her the very best of luck and hope she can still come in to visit. The children, staff and parents will miss you!



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.