

The Old Station Nursery, Waterside 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

Hello and welcome to our May-June newsletter. Hopefully now that the weather is getting warmer we will be able to enjoy spending more time outside. We have just had a new canopy fitted in the outside area which will doubtless be fabulous for shading the children. Notwithstanding, can I remind you all to provide your child with a named sunhat and sun cream now that the weather is getting warmer.

I would like to formally extend a warm welcome to Jackie, our new deputy manager and pre-school leader. You may have seen Jackie around the nursery – please do stop and say hello.

All of the staff have been working especially hard recently implementing improvements to our environment and provision. If you have any feedback, it is always welcomed.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all of the nursery session times; a morning session is 8.00am – 1.00pm and an afternoon session runs from 1.00pm – 6.00pm. If you are late collecting your child there will be a £10 fee to cover additional staffing costs. If you arrive early with your child you can not leave them until 8.00am due to the nursery not being insured until 8.00am. We also need to ensure that we are fully staffed and prepared to open at 8.00am. To swop any sessions or leave the nursery we require 4 weeks notice in writing. May I also remind you that fees are due by the 7th of the month; unfortunately if fees are not paid by the 7th you will incur a £25.00 late fee charge. Many thanks for your cooperation in these matters.

We have introduced a new IT system within the nursery this year to improve our administration systems. An integral part of this will be the sending out of all invoices by email. It is therefore essential that we have a current email address for all parents. If we currently do not have the correct information, please can you pop into the office and let me know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Now that we are only using the one entrance, if you have a buggy please can you fold it down – we are finding access difficult and this is clearly an issue in case of a fire.

There is now a folder situated in the entrance where we would like you to can sign your child in and out of the nursery. This will help us to know who is collecting your child at the end of the day.

We raised £10 for brain injured charities when the staff and children took part in a PJ day - thank you to everyone who took part.

Race for Life. On 23rd May, Eileen, Jackie and Stacey all ran 5km whilst Donna, Kathy and Becky completed 10km for Race for Life. If you sponsored (or would like to sponsor retrospectively) a member of staff to help raise money for Cancer Research then please bring in your sponsorship monies as soon as possible. They all did really well.

Thank you, Donna

Little Stars room

We'd like to wish a Happy Birthday to Riley, Adam and Samuel who are all turning 2 in May/June. We are sad to see Riley, Adam and Samuel transfer into the pre school room; they'll be missed but we are sure that they will enjoy their time there. We also say goodbye to Izzy who is leaving for the summer but returning in September and Goodbye to Ryan who is sadly leaving because Mum has finished her studies.

Following the staff attending the 'Beginning with Babies' course, we have been implementing changes to make our room more homely. Mary Barlow, the course leader, will be paying us a visit this month to see our new resources and give us feedback and any further ideas on how we can continue to improve our provision. Following the revised room layout and the opening up of the room, the children have really enjoyed looking out of the window and watching the world go by! It has given a more home from home feel to our baby room and given the children more space to play.

You may have noticed some real vegetables being used in our play – follows on from the interest that the children showed in peeling, while we explored eggs throughout Easter. This all helps us develop fine motor skills.

We now have a class mascot named Zak. If you have any exciting outings planned then you are welcome to take Zak along too – but please do take some photos with him in to place in our story book to share with the other children.

Notes from Little Gems room

We would like to welcome Izzy, Jack and Eva to the pre school room.

Many changes are taking place in our Little Gems room at the moment; we have had a fresh coat of paint, a de-clutter and a move around of furniture and resources. Over the next few weeks we will be receiving some new toys and equipment to add to our room. We are also currently reviewing our daily routine to ensure that we have plenty of opportunities to play outdoors as well as indoors. To allow us to make the best of our new routine, we will now be serving breakfast until 8.45am and then it will be put away. If your child requires breakfast in the morning,

please ensure that they arrive before this time. To enjoy outside play, please can you ensure that you send you child in with appropriate clothing and footwear for summer, including a named sun hat.

Over the next few weeks our theme is 'Goldilocks and the three bears'. Some of the activities we plan to do are comparing sizes, discussing feelings, finding out more about bears and exploring the different textures of porridge - both cooked and uncooked. I'm sure that it will prove to be lots of fun!



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.