

The Old Station Nursery, Wragby Road 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

Well, what a busy term! Firstly I would like to congratulate the staff for the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection. The nursery was awarded an overall good with an aspect of outstanding. Well done and thanks for all your hard work, keep it up! The report is available for you to read on the website and I would welcome any feedback.

Baby room

I have now settled into the baby room well and am enjoying working with your children. I have been working closely with Vicky and Jo in making changes during the past few weeks to try to make the room look more homely. We are thrilled to have Mary Barlow visiting us on 27th of May – Mary is the inspiration behind all of our changes – we are looking forward to her feedback and suggestions on how we can continue improving the room.

We are planning a feature wall display in the living room in the next few weeks. The children have really enjoyed playing in the new home corner; some have even been doing the washing up! The discovery zone has been very popular and they have loved playing with the lentils and the custard; we have also had fun playing with vegetable peelings, gloop and shredded paper.

We are thrilled to see some better weather now - picnic teas out on the grass are proving very popular.

Finally, happy birthday to Alexander who has now moved down to the Tweenie room - we will miss you but we are sure you will have lots of fun in your new room. Big happy birthdays to Celia, Sammy and Harry who are turning 1 soon, and also to Sophie and Hannah who will be turning 2. We hope you all have a lovely day. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Ethan and Mia who have both started with us over the past month and have both settled in very well.

If you have any questions or queries then please don't hesitate in asking myself, Vicky or Jo.

Louisa, Vicky and Jo

Tweenie room

We would like to welcome Olivia and Alexander to the Tweenie room - they are enjoying making new friends. You may notice some changes happening in the coming weeks; we are working hard to de-clutter and re-arrange the room to maximise the space and activities available to the children. We are also trying

to follow in the foot steps of the baby room and make the environment more cosy and homely. We will be introducing 'Matilda' as a new addition to the group – the children will take it in turns to take her home for the weekend – we look forward to reading about all your adventures together.

Tracy and Natalie

Pre-School

As most of you will have seen by now, the last few months have seen some fundamental changes - both in terms of staffing and the layout of the room. The beginning of March saw the laying of the new floor and the re-decoration of the room; creating a much lighter and cosier play space for the children. Towards the middle of March pre-school said goodbye to Ian as pre-school room leader as he moved into Kids' club, and an introduction to myself Sam Turner.

I have come to the Old Station Nursery from a village pre-school where I worked for three years. In that time I acquired a level 2 and 3 in childcare and I have just finished the first year of a Degree in Early Childhood. By now, I am sure most of you will have met me - I will be taking over Ian's key worker group, so if you have any questions regarding this please do ask. Over the coming months I look forward to getting to know the children better and supporting their development.

Heather and I are currently working on layouts and routines. Heather has been working on the outdoor area, and has done an amazing job working with the children to create a vegetable plot and developing other key areas. The children are certainly enjoying the free flow of being able to go outside when they want to. As we are spending a lot more time outside with the weather finally picking up, I please ask that all children could be provided with supportive footwear; flip flops and similar types of shoe make it difficult for children to balance and move freely.

Please feel free to speak to myself or Heather about any queries you may have.

Sam and Heather

Kids' club

Firstly we welcome Tashanna and Nikkita from Chad Varah School - they have joined us after school, and also Kian from Eastgate School. They have all settled in really well.

Ian has now joined us too and is a big hit with the children. With the improved weather, we have been able to spend more time outside, something that the children love - especially climbing in the tree and running up and down the hills!

Finally, I would like to remind parents to provide details of what childcare they require in the half term holiday; please let me know as soon as possible. Dates are 1 – 4 June. The summer holidays will soon

be upon us too where we hope to be able to go on outings to the park etc.

Tracy and Ian



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.