

The Old Station Nursery, Wragby Road 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 Kajaido 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. Kajaido 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

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NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

I can't believe that we are writing our final newsletter of 2010! I'm sure you will agree that this year has been jam packed and there are still lots of great things happening all the way up to Christmas when we finally break for what we hope will be a wonderful Christmas.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the parents who volunteered their time to assist with the Kids Club trip to see the Red Arrows (I'm not sure who was more impressed by the outing!). It was an exceptionally fun morning where we were shown around the hanger by one of the engineers who allowed us to have a close up look in the cockpit, and this was then followed by a tour of the museum (which is open all year and is free to all members of the public). The children experienced the sound of an air raid siren and there were lots of "cool's" and "wow's" as we browsed the displays of wartime model aircraft. I am hoping to arrange a visit for the pre-school children next summer.

I would also like to thank all of you who contributed to our "rag bag" appeal; your donations have helped charities all over the world and have helped us raise over £100 for the setting. This has been used to purchase new books for pre-school and we are now saving for a tortoise for the baby room, so if you are having a clear out before Christmas, pop it in and we may have a new addition to the nursery in the New Year! Thank you again for your support.

We will be closing for Christmas at 1.00pm on Christmas Eve and will be re-opening on Tuesday 4th of January.

Christmas parties will be held on Wednesday the 15th of December and our yummy Christmas dinner with all the trimmings on Wednesday the 22nd of December.

On a more mundane note, I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that fees are due on or before the 7th of every month. This has been made even easier to achieve now that the company has a direct debit scheme set up. Don't forget that if you set up with direct debit before Christmas you will be given a free copy of our book "All aboard" which is packed with great ideas on how to keep your little ones busy over the holidays.

I hope that you have now booked your slot for parents evening on 24th of November. If you are not able to attend please feel free to arrange a more convenient time with your Childs key person.

The baby room

What a busy couple of months we've had! We would like to welcome Ada, James and Joseph, all of whom have all settled in well. We have had to say good bye

to Jayden and Tommy who have moved down to the Tweenie room where they are having fun.

A particular favourite of the babies at the moment has been fruit tasting; we have given them pomegranates, peaches, plums, pineapple and lemons to try and the children have also enjoyed the smoothies that we have made - yum!

Please can I remind you all pack, hats, gloves, scarf's and waterproof coats and wellies so we can make the most of these rainy days. The children love to go outside, rain or shine and learn lots in the out door environment so long as they are warm.

It is never too young to start taking care of your teeth and here in the baby room we are introducing teeth brushing into our routine, so if you haven't already done so, please could you bring in a named toothbrush and toothpaste for your child. We even have a little song that we sing to reinforce the message (to the tune of twinkle, twinkle little star):

Here's my toothpaste, here's my brush
I won't hurry, I won't rush
Working hard to keep teeth clean
Front and back and in-between
When I brush for quite a while
I will have a happy smile.



That's all for now!

Louisa, Vicky and Jess

Tweenie room

During the last few weeks the children have been really interested in the story 'Goldilocks and the three bears'. Therefore, we have been making porridge and having picnics with the bears. To tie in with the three little bears, the Tweenie's made Pudsey bear cookies to sell on the 18th and 19th November to raise money for Children in Need. Thank you to all of you who supported this.

We welcomed 2 exciting new additions to Wragby on Monday 15th of November; we have been given 2 gerbils to look after and love. The children are presently choosing names for them!

Would you be able to bring in photos of your child playing outside at home, with siblings, yourself or family pets? They are to make up a display in the hallway. Keep a look out for it.

Thank you

Tracy and Nat

Pre-school

Firstly, we say hello to Charlotte, Kai, Freddie and Ruby who have joined us from the Tweenie room - so Happy Birthday and welcome.

This term has seen us investigating Divali and firework night. The children enjoyed trying Indian food and making their own salt dough tea light holders.

On the 19th of November, pre-school sold home made edible goodies to raise money for Children in Need. The pre-schoolers were encouraged to count the money and give change.

We are looking to arrange a trip to see a pantomime (any volunteers will be welcome). Dates to follow.

We recently visited the early excellence centre in Huddersfield and have come back bursting with ideas for the festivities – watch this space...

Goodbye for now and Merry Christmas.

Sam and Heather

Kids Club

On Monday the 20th we will be putting up and decorating the tree with the children's hand made decorations. We also have some keen junior master chefs in the making so we will be making lots of winter warmers - soup, baked potatoes and lots of festive treats.

Christmas dinner is on the 22nd of December and Kids club will be making and decorating a Christmas cake for the whole of the nursery for pudding!

The Kids club Christmas party will be held on Thursday 23rd of December; please can you bring in glad rags for them to change into in the afternoon.

Can I remind parents that we have very limited places available in the run up to Christmas so if you have not yet confirmed the dates that your child will be attending, could you let me know ASAP to avoid disappointment.

Finally, a reminder that if you recommend the kids club to other parents, friends and family and they take up a place, then you will receive £20 as a thank you!

Merry Christmas

Ian