



THE OLD STATION NURSERY, LINCOLN COLLEGE MARCH - APRIL 2012

We have had a really busy couple of months here at our Head Office in Faringdon, which has seen Rachel Attwood join us as Operations Manager with overall responsibility for all of our nurseries. Rachel is a very experienced regional manager and has enjoyed visiting all of our sites and meeting the teams at each place. Between us we have enjoyed discussing all the things that we think we are doing really well, as well as identifying areas which we want to improve on, and this has led to a detailed action plan which we are now all working our way through!

At the same time, we have taken part in 2 pilot inspections with OFSTED, at our Linton-on-Ouse and Innsworth nurseries. As you may be aware, the Early Years Foundation Stage (the curriculum followed by all nurseries, pre-schools and childminders) is being revised and we are expecting the final version to be published next week, ready for implementation in September this year. OFSTED will therefore change their inspection framework to reflect the revised curriculum, so we volunteered to take part in their pilot inspection programme to find out more about the changes which will be made. It was a very useful exercise, if a little stressful for the teams involved, and Rachel has a list of changes which will come into force with the new framework and is now working with the managers to make sure they are prepared. I don't think this will make any visible difference to the children, or to yourselves, but will hopefully help us to continue to drive quality and offer the very best environment for your children.

We will share the highlights of the new EYFS once it is published and will have further updates on any changes as we move towards September, but do ask if you are interested in any particular aspect of it.

Best wishes,

Sarah Steel

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OPERATIONS MANAGER UPDATE

I'd like to start by saying a huge thank you to Sarah, Emma, Jo and all of the Managers and their teams for making me feel so welcome at Old Station Nurseries. It's been a whirlwind first few weeks, but I've enjoyed every minute of it.

It's been both a fantastic opportunity and experience, being part of the Pilot EYFS Inspection Framework and the teams certainly made us all proud when the Ofsted Inspectors visited Linton-on Ouse and Innsworth. We had some really good feedback about the quality of provision that the nurseries are delivering, and a few good pointers to support our ongoing Quality Improvement Programme.

I'm often asked by parents why we do not teach the children to write. Our role as practitioners is to support emergent writing skills and help children to develop the techniques required to support writing, once they go to school. We do this in several ways. Throughout the day, children are offered lots of opportunities to make marks in gloop (cornflour and water.....if you haven't already tried this at home, you really should give it a go!) sand, and with paints, chinks, paintbrushes and water and light boards. All of these activities support fine manipulative skills and development pincer grip, the basic skills to being able to write.

With older children who demonstrate an interest in writing letters, the staff are on hand to support correct letter formation. We know that a lot of parents like to support and encourage their children to start to write, especially their own names, but may we please ask that if your child is writing at home, that you encourage letters to be written in lower case only. This will really support your child's transition to developing their writing skills, when they go to school.

I'm really looking forward to meeting many of you as I visit the nurseries, and always welcome any feedback.

Best wishes

Rachel Attwood

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Hello and welcome to our latest newsletter. On a happy note, spring seems to be here and we do seem to be getting better weather which is always nice and hopefully we will have some nice sunny days ahead to get out and play in garden and go on some nice walks to the park.

Unfortunately, we are sad to say that our long-serving nursery cook, Nan, will be leaving us to retire. Nan's last working day will be on the 5th April. We are really going to miss her and the children will miss her delicious cooking, especially her biscuits! She is hoping to spend lots of time in her garden and with her granddaughter, Rosie. We are looking for a new cook and they will hopefully be spending some time with Nan from the 2nd April, so we will keep you informed.

Can I just say thank you to all of you who have provided indoor slippers or shoes for the children, these are a lot better and more comfortable for the children.

We are now collecting the Sainsbury active kids vouchers and the Tesco vouchers so if you are shopping don't forget to ask for them, they are a great way to get some new resources.

I am going to let Susan explain about a course which she has been doing. As you will see we are very lucky to get the opportunity of having the Growing talk sessions and I would like to say a big thank you to Susan and all the staff for taking it all on board and I can tell they are all enjoying it and hopefully it will help all the children to become very confident communicators.

On the 10th of April, we will be holding our Easter Bonnet parade, we will be doing lots of activities around Easter so if you and your child could make an Easter Bonnet and bring it into nursery we would love to see them and each child will get a certificate and a little present for taking part.

Lastly, we will also be holding a 'Stay and play' session in April, we are hoping that this will be on the 26th April so if you would like to come and have a play, then feel free to join us!

Thank you, and once again if you have any questions or queries please feel free to come and talk to me

Many thanks, Carly

Tots on Tour Training

As most of you are aware I have been on a 2 day training course with Tots on Tour. Tots on Tour are a well established organisation which enhances young children's communication development and supporting the people around the child e.g. yourselves, carers, older and younger siblings. We have been very lucky to be part of this training and we would like you to share it with us.

Tots on tour are coming to the setting for 12 weeks supporting us and showing us different ways to

enable all of our children to become confident communicators. The most important resource is you. To help children become skilful communicators we need to think how we engage with them, the words we use and also our body language. It is very important that we have fun together.

Over the next few weeks we will be introducing new activities, songs and a small group times. One of the favourite activities is a puppet called 'Mikey'. Mikey comes out to see us in our morning and afternoon greeting session. We sing for Mikey to come out so if your child comes out of nursery singing 'where oh where is Mikey', you know why!!!

Please keep an eye out in the pre school room as this where our 'growing talk' display board is which will be developing over the coming weeks. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Thank you, Susan

Baby Room

We would like to say a big welcome to Brooklyn, Max and Nigiz who have joined the baby room. We look forward to getting to know you and we hope you enjoy you time with us and have lots of fun. Also, it is very exciting that we welcome Jade and Kerry into the baby room, they have come from the pre school room, unfortunately, we will miss Katy who has moved into the pre school room but again we can still have lots of cuddles from her!

The time has come for Lily, Phoebe, Olivia, Joanie and Katy to move through into pre school, we will miss you and will still need cuddles from you, we hope you have fun in the 'big room'.

We are developing our home corner in the baby room so if you have any unwanted containers, especially containers with lids if you could save them and bring them into nursery for us that would be very much appreciated.

Our favourite song this month is 'Round and round the garden' which is great for you to share with your child and is good because we are going to be planting and refreshing our outside area in the coming weeks with a new shed, plants and things to explore.

Thank you,
Susan, Jade, Kerry and Cherrie.

Pre - School room

Welcome to all the children who have joined us from the baby room and also to Oscar and Louis who have joined the nursery, they all seem to be settling in very well and seem to having lots of fun. The children are still focusing on Superhero play and we often have batman, spider-man and even superman come to visit us at nursery!

The children are very interested in using the real tools and sawing up wood at the moment and building dens seems to be a big favourite at the moment too.

We still have French on a Monday morning and in this session we have planted some beanstalk seeds so hopefully we will soon have big beanstalks to climb up to find a giant! We have a Music bugs session on a Tuesday afternoon; this is when a lady called Sarah comes in with lots of props and new songs for us to learn. One of our favourite songs at the moment is 'twinkle twinkle chocolate bar' please feel free to ask a member of staff how this goes. Also, if you would like to come and join us in one of these sessions to see them progress, Please just let us know.

Thank you,

Leanne, Emma and Katy

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