



THE OLD STATION NURSERY, NEWARK 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

HEAD OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS:
sarahsteel@theoldstationnursery.co.uk
tel: 07725 049744 (Sarah Steel)
operations@theoldstationnursery.co.uk
tel: 07791 806502 (Rachel Attwood)
finance@theoldstationnursery.co.uk
tel: 01522 521758 (Jo Bowley)

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

Dates for your diaries:

11th April – Grandparents' Day

We would love for our grandparents to come along and spend some time with the children in the nursery to read stories, and chat about things that they used to get up to as a child. This would be a lovely opportunity for us to get to know our children's family and customs. Please come along 9 – 11am.

23rd May – Easter Games and activities fun day.

Please come along, we are holding an Easter egg hunt, Easter bonnet parade, and decorate a hard boiled egg with your parents. Prizes to be won! This will be a fun day all around, so ask staff for more information. Please come along 2 – 4pm.

9th May – Baby Room staff would like to invite you for a fun morning with the children, making shredded wheat birds nests. You will also get a chance to talk to your child's key worker about your child's development. Please come along 9 – 11am.

Facebook

If you are a Facebook user please join our Old Station Nursery Group, as we have uploaded lots of new pictures, so please have a look out for your child and have a read of what we have been up to. It is a public page, so if you are not a Facebook user, then you can still have a look.

Our Garden

As you can see we are now getting the garden ready for summer with lots of planting and growing going on which the children are really enjoying. We have now started our vegetable patch and have planted a few new flowers and vegetables. If you have any old tools or equipment, we would welcome any donations, as well as any gardening tips or advice!

Planting, Growing and Spring

We have been talking to the children at group time about spring, growth and development. We have planned lots of activities to help the children learn about new life in spring time. We are going to look at life cycles and growing vegetables. If you have grown any vegetables or plants yourself with your child and have any tips you would like to share we would love to hear them.

Parent Board

When you pick your child up, do take a minute to read our parent board. We are now in the middle of changing lots of documents so to keep you all up to date. Also, if you have any suggestions or questions please note them down and pop them in the suggestion box.

Learning Journeys

We have lots of new pictures around the nursery so please take your time to have a look to see what we have been up to. Also your child's learning journeys

have lots of new exciting pictures and observations, so feel free to ask your child's key worker to have a look and go through it with you.

Royal Wedding Anniversary

We would like to celebrate William and Kate's wedding anniversary on Friday 27th April, so please could you get your child to dress up as a king, queen, prince or princess and we will hold a royal tea party in our nursery garden. Many thanks,

The Newark Nursery Staff Team