



AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2009



Dear Parents

Welcome to Jake Reynolds who has just started with us. We also have Scarlett Murray joining us in December. We welcome both children and their families and hope you enjoy our nursery.

Sessions for Next Term All children who are 3 by 1 Jan 2010 are now entitled to up to 15 hours free at nursery. (5 sessions or equivalent!) Please complete the form at the bottom of this newsletter or speak to me ASAP if you would like extra sessions for your child next term.

We have experienced a drop in numbers this term. The afternoon sessions are really quiet particularly and I am worried about this. I think this is in part due to low birth rate year and in part due to the recession. I am currently looking into advertising but of course the best advert is word of mouth from you. Please spread the word to any friends or neighbours who you think may be interested to help us get our occupancy levels up! I am also looking at visiting toddler groups etc next term to promote the nursery. If you know of any groups that would be suitable can you let me know? Thank you.

Staff Names

We have recently discussed staff names as a team and would prefer the children to call us by our first names from now on. We realise that for some existing children (and parents!) this may be confusing so we will answer to either in the meantime.

Appointments, Promotions and New Faces!

I am pleased to announce that several of the existing staff have been promoted. New Structure as follows:

Louise Raja (EYP level 6) Manager, Safeguarding Children Designated Manager
Bev Howlett (NVQ 3) Deputy. Safeguarding Children Designated Person

Sarah Morris (NVQ 3) Senior Key worker Green Group, Health and Safety Co-coordinator

Martin Haynes (Fast track NVQ3 due to complete 2010) Senior Key worker Red Group and Special Educational Needs Co-coordinator.

Jackie Golding (NVQ 3) Part time Key worker (Fridays) Yellow Group
Gurwinder Singh (NVQ3) Key worker Blue Group

Helen Otero (NVQ3 completing 2009) Part time Key worker Yellow Group (Mon – Wed and Fridays from January onwards.
Caroline Beaumont and Diana Mariotti (NVQ2) Nursery Assistants.
Inga Neseemann (Speech Therapist) Special Educational Needs Assistant.

Vivien Redwood and Zena Davies will be helping out with cover if staff are either sick or on training courses. Both considering a career in childcare and have previous experience of working with children.

Helen and Gurwinder are both tied into notice periods at their previous jobs but I have managed to get them part time for now! Gurwinder will be full time from start of December. Helen will be increasing her hours in January as she has longer notice periods to serve.

I would like to congratulate Bev, Martin and Sarah particularly on their new appointments. All 3 consistently put in so much effort at the nursery. I know several parents recently have commented on these staff and how much work they really do put in. I am sure you will join me in wishing them every success. Due to increasing paper work requirements involved in running the nursery Bev will be stepping up in terms of leading the team when I am not at the nursery so we will both be leading on a part time basis. If you would like to know exact hours for any of the team please speak to one of us and we will be happy to share this with you.

Jackie Golding is sadly leaving at Christmas as her own child minding business continues to grow. The children will be saying goodbye to her at the end of term. I would like to thank Jackie for all her hard work; she will be much missed.

Mrs. Bonner and Mrs. Day

Thanks for everyone who called in at the leaving party on the Friday before half term. Both ladies were really touched at how many faces new and old called in to wish them well. The Mercury took photos which we were told would be in the mercury w/c Fri 13th November.

Christmas Fundraising - Tea Towels

Caroline Beaumont and Bonnie Marriott have been in at nursery helping the children to draw self portraits over the last few weeks. These have been sent off to make a Christmas Tea Towel for the nursery to include all of their self portraits! This will make a lovely keep sake or gift for family members. The tea towels will cost £5.00 with £1 from each sale going to the nursery. Please fill out the form below if you would like to order any tea towels.

Halloween Party

A really fun evening – and a sellout event!!

Thanks to all parent committee helpers who put in so much work. Louise and Helen – the soup was delicious thank you! Also thanks to Vanessa Wade for organizing the raffle and DJ, to Toby for the marvelous dance floor, Sarah B for her lovely decorations on the deck, Kirsty for the face painting and lucky dip and Anne and Kirsty for doing such a great job with the tickets. The children worked hard making pumpkins and biscuits the week before. Thanks also to parents who brought in food on the night.

Many of you said this was a fantastic event and we could see you all had a great time! The Parent Committee will be meeting in January to talk about our next fundraiser. We will keep you posted!

Stretch and Grow Trial

On Friday 27th November we have Daniella from Stretch-n-grow coming in to give a free demonstration. Stretch n Grow are a world leading health and fitness programme designed with children in mind! Their aim is to give children a complete health foundation on which to build their future habits, confidence and self esteem. The Friday afternoon children will all be taking part in this session anyway. If anyone else would like to come along and join us for the free demo please fill out the form at the bottom of the letter or let Louise or Bev know. Parents are welcome to stay for the session also. We will be asking for your feedback in deciding whether we will have Daniella back on a regular basis.

4's Club Graduation ceremony and Christmas Celebration 17th December 10.30am

Tobie Prentice's mum Donna (who also happens to be a dance teacher) has kindly agreed to help us prepare a short performance by the 4's club children for the graduation ceremony which will take place on Thursday 17th December at 10.30am. This will be followed by the children going up to school "graduating" and being presented with their portfolios as a keepsake of their time at the nursery. There will be refreshments afterwards and all 4's club parents are invited to come along at 10.30 to see the Christmas Performance and the graduation.

4's Club Next Term

4's club is on a Thursday morning and just for the children who are in their nursery year (i.e. for this term children due to go up to school in either July or December 2010). It's aim is to help prepare the children for school and extend their friendship groups, also to build their confidence, knowledge and self esteem.

The following children are due to leave next December and will automatically be added to the register to start the 4's club in January. *Please speak to Louise if you DO NOT want your child to join the 4's club.*

Mathew Brooks, Olivia Reynolds, George Hicks, Megan Miller Cranko, Francesca Baker Pearce, Jessica Scott, Tiffany Hamilton Thompson, Eddie Houghton.

All children already in the 4's club who do not leave in December will remain in the 4's club.

End of Term Party Fri 18th December 10-12noon

This will involve party food and games and a visit from Father Christmas! All children welcome but if your child isn't normally in on a Friday please speak to Bev or Louise and we can add them to the party list. If you would like to help please speak to Bev. No parents with babies thank you! A Rota will go up near the door the week before for food for the party. PLEASE NOTE NURSERY WILL BE HELD IN THE MORNING ONLY ON THAT DAY AND THERE WILL BE NO AFTERNOON SESSION.

Term Dates

Spring Term

Tues 5th Jan –Thurs 1 April

Inset Day Mon 4th Jan

Half Term Mon 15th Feb – Fri 19th Feb

Summer Term

Tue 20th April – Fri 23rd July

Inset Day Mon 19th April

Half Term Mon 31 May – Fri 4th June

Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May

Parent Feedback

Thanks to all of you who completed the feedback forms in the last newsletter feedback was as follows:

Uniforms

The royal blue polo shirts seemed to be the favourite option. Most parents felt they should be optional at this age. We are looking at new suppliers next term with a view to changing what we have and the uniform will remain optional. Current uniform will still be fine to wear also.

Pets at Nursery

Whilst many of you were very positive about this idea, several flagged that it may not be fair on the animals being transported between nursery and children's homes every week. The hall committee and other hirers also had some concerns over us having pets on the premises. We will therefore not be having any pets at nursery in the foreseeable future.

Questionnaire I said in the last newsletter that we were sending out a questionnaire. We have now started on Herts Quality Standards (a prestigious kite mark award for quality within nurseries) where a questionnaire would be part of the process. I have decided to hold the questionnaire for now we are further into HQS. We have a consultant in to assess our setting on 27th Jan as the next step for HQS. I will keep you posted and hope to get a questionnaire out early next year.

Further Improvements at Nursery I have had the builders out to quote for extending the deck and adding a Wendy house. We have met with the hall committee as well to discuss how this will be viewed by other hirers taking into account their requirements also. The builders have now gone away to come up with a proposal to suit all parties. I will keep you posted on if / when any work will be done. I have been assured this can be done during term time without disrupting our existing outdoor classroom.

Borrowed Clothes Please return any borrowed items of clothing. We are short of girls trousers and boys and girls pants at the moment! Any donations welcome!

COATS AND HATS Please label COATS AND HATS as it saves so much time when we are getting the children ready for outdoor play. Please do send in warm coats during this cold weather as it does get really cold especially in the outside classroom.

Enjoy the rest of the term and thanks for your continuing support!
Kind Regards,

Louise Raja and the nursery team.

Sessions for January 2010

Please note sessions are available Mon, Tue, Wed Thur and Fri 9-12 and Mon, Tue, Wed and Fri 12-3. There is some flexibility on these hours (please discuss with Louise if you would like to know more about flexible hours). Maximum hours per child over age of 3 on Jan 1st are 15 hours per week.

Name of Child.....

My child currently attends the following sessions. (Please state day and am / pm

I would like to add the following sessions starting in January 2010.

*Please return to Louise's drawer on the hatch at nursery or email her if preferred.
Greatamwellnursery@googlemail.com*

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Stretch N Grow Health and Fitness for Children Trial

Friday 27 November @ 2.15pm – 2.45pm

Please return only if your child is not in on a Friday afternoon but you would like them to join the trial or if your child is in and you would like to come along and join them for the session.

I would like my child to attend this trial,

I would like to join you for this trial (Name)

Nursery Christmas Tea Towels

Please return money (cheque or cash) with order. Thank you.

I would like to order..... (Please insert number required) nursery tea towels @ £5.00

Total Value of Order: