



Parish Hall, Hillside Lane, Great Amwell, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 9SH
T: 01920 870493 M: 07770 963701
greatamwellnursery@googlemail.com

Autumn Term 2007. Newsletter No 2



12 November 2007

Term Dates

Spring Tue Jan 8th - Thu 20th Mar Half Term: Mon 11 Feb - Fri 15th Feb
****MONDAY 7th JAN IS AN INSET DAY AND NURSERY WILL BE CLOSED ****
Summer Mon 7th Apr - Fri 18th Jul Half Term: Mon 26th May - Fri 30th May

Please note that we have no further inset days this term. Please note also that term ends on 14th December NOT 21st as was stated in an earlier newsletter.

Fours Club We will be speaking to parents of those children who will be joining the 4's club shortly asking you to confirm your place. The 4's club runs on Thursday mornings. NB Your child will join the 4's club when they are "rising 4" (i.e. in the term of their 4th birthday) NOT one year before they start school as we have decided that this is a more appropriate time for them to start. Please speak to Mrs. Bonner if you have any queries regarding your child's start date.

Visit to the Garden Centre by the 4's club went well and Miss Mewes has put together a photo board of the trip which is by the front door. Thanks to all the parents who came along and we hope you had fun too!

Autumn Plan 2007 giving details of the curriculum leading up to Christmas were given out by Mrs. Bonner just after half term. Please let us know if you did not receive a copy. Please note the dates where we asked for Parent helpers and let us know if you are able to come in.

Child Parent Reviews We have introduced a Child/Parent Review which keyworkers will be starting to complete now. This involves the keyworker consulting with parent and child to gain their feedback on their time at nursery. We will be asking the children what they like about nursery, what are their favourite toys, who do they like to play with. The answers / comments will help us to plan and evaluate what we do. Let us know any thoughts on this idea. Thank you!

Computer Our computer is on it's last legs. Does your office have a redundant computer they could donate for the children to play with? Please let us know if you can help as ours

keeps breaking down and is unable to read some of the educational CDs we have for the children.

Computer Table Thank you to Pavlina and Stephen Forrest for donating a table to replace our old one which was also on it's last legs.

Parents Evening Wednesday 28th November 7-9.30pm. This is a chance for a 1:1 catch up with your child's key worker(s) on how they are doing at nursery and also to see their portfolio. A rota will be up nearer the time by the front door so that you can book a time to see your key worker.

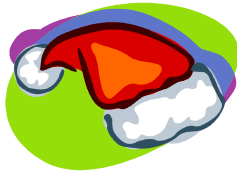
****Phoenix Cards**** will be at parents evening too so don't forget to bring your money along with you! Vicki always has a great selection of seasonal cards, advent calendars, wrapping paper etc and a % of money raised will go toward the nursery toy fund.

Labeling We are still finding many coats/hats/ nursery sweatshirts un named and it is very difficult for us to work out what belongs to who when we have 20 of them jumping around us desperate to go out to play! (You get the picture we hope) PLEASE label everything. Lunch boxes and book bags need to be labeled on the OUTSIDE also.

Extension to the Hall looks as though it may finally be going ahead possibly starting as soon as Christmas. This will give the hall more storage space, a larger kitchen and disabled toilets to the front of the hall. Disabled access is being provided leading round to the back fire doors also. We need to clarify what exactly is being done at the back of the hall before the outdoor play area can be constructed this has led to a delay in the Outside play area being built also. We will keep you posted.

Breakfast Club is unlikely to start in the near future due to lack of interest. Thank you for your feedback though.

A Father Christmas is needed for our end of term celebration but everyone we have asked so far has looked panic stricken and gone running in the opposite direction! Mrs. Raja has a costume and cushions can be provided if necessary so being slim is no excuse! Please speak to Mrs. Raja if you or anyone you know could be our Father Christmas this year.



(Costume provided!)

Fees If you have opted to pay in 2 installments your second installment is now due. Mrs. Raja will be issuing reminder slips shortly. Please can we have fees in ASAP. Thank you.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers We used this years collection to get some "Bee Bots"; programmable robots that the children can use to help them learn navigation and spatial awareness skills. We are using them at 4's club on Thursdays so please feel free to come in and have a play with them they are great fun! We also bought a healthy eating meal game. The children really enjoy playing waiters and waitresses, taking each other's orders and

serving each other food. Thank you for collecting the vouchers and keep the Tesco ones coming in too!

Christmas 2007



Thurs 6th Dec 4's Club Christmas Play

The younger children (i.e. preschool age) will *not* be taking part in the play this year. We felt that in previous years the play put an unfair pressure on the younger children and some of them found it too much. It was also very difficult to rehearse as they were all in on different days, so this year the play is for 4's club children only and we will rehearse during 4's club. On the day of the play please bring your child in for 9-9.30. The play will start at 10am. Could we have 2 parents to do refreshments please and 2 to help the children get into their costumes.

Camcorder We have a camcorder and need a volunteer to record the play for us this year can you help? Please can parents NOT bring their own camcorders as this can be intimidating for the children? Also we have DVD editing package for use on any PC to make the recording into a DVD; would anyone like to be our editor this year?

Tea Towels The children have done some wonderful self portraits which we have sent off to go on a Nursery Tea towel. We have chosen a Christmas Snowman design (the design is on the parent board if you would like to see what it looks like). The tea towels are priced at £4.95 with £1 from the sale of each tea towel going towards the Toy Fund Please fill out the order form at the bottom of the newsletter and return to nursery to order.

Christmas Raffle Chris and Paul Houghton are organizing a raffle this year on behalf of the Parent Committee to raise money for the Toy Fund. Tickets will be sent home with the children on a sale or return basis. Thank you for your support.

Wed 5th Dec Manic Ceramics of Hertford are coming in to make Christmas Tree decorations with the children. These were beautiful last time and make very special keepsakes or presents for family / friends. The decorations are £3 each and you can order up to 2 for each child. Please complete the form at the bottom of the newsletter with your order. 3 parents needed in the morning and 3 in the afternoon please. (It is a manic day!) If your child is not in on Wednesday but you would like them to come in for this activity please speak to Mrs. Bonner.

Thurs 13th Dec Christmas Party 9am-11.30am. A children's entertainer has been booked. Party dress optional. We will be organizing a festive snack for the children. If your child is not in on a Thursday but would like to join this event please speak to Mrs. Bonner.

Friday 14th Dec Christmas Celebration NURSERY OPEN 10am - 1pm ONLY today. Fancy Dress or smart party dress optional. Party food lists up for you nearer the time. Father Christmas will be visiting if we can find him, any volunteer helpers speak to Mrs. Bonner

please. All Parents / siblings will be invited in at 12pm for some carol singing and festive nibbles to celebrate and the children will collect their presents from Father Christmas.

Nursery Email please note that we have had big problems with the lycos account and are moving to a new address greatamwellnursery@googlemail.com Please can you update your email address books and use this new address from now on.

Thanks and enjoy the build up to Christmas!

Mrs Raja and the nursery team.

Christmas 2007 Order Forms

Tea Towel Order

Child's Name: _____

No of Tea Towels @ 4.95 each _____ Total Money Enclosed _____

Manic Ceramics Christmas Decorations

Child's Name: _____

I would like my child to make _____ number of decorations @ £3 each and enclose a total of

£ _____ Name of Parent / Carer : _____
