



NURSERY NEWS SPRING TERM 2009

Dear Parents

The second half of term is here already and finally it looks like the weather is starting to improve!!

Starters and Leavers: this half term we were joined by Anoushka, Finlay, Francesca, Mathew, Francesca, Alfie, Tiffany and Ryan. A warm welcome to all these children and their families. The next half term will see Louis and Jessica start with us; welcome to our nursery!

A sad farewell to Aneurin (Nye) and his family who leave us just after half term also. We will miss you!

*****The Early Years Foundation Stage Update*****

This new curriculum became a statutory requirement for all nurseries and reception classes in the UK in September 2008. For us it has provided an opportunity to review our practice, planning, activities and resources we provide for the children. I wanted to keep you posted on some of the things we are doing to ensure your children get the best possible start at our nursery. Here are a few of them

Mrs Howlett has been appointed Quality Coordinator (but will also continue in her role as SEN Support Worker). Mrs. Howlett came from a setting that achieved Ofsted Outstanding at their last inspection. She has lots of great ideas and will be working with me and the team to constantly review and improve our environment at the nursery. She is now in very early each morning to ensure we get a good set up and start to the day. I know many of you have noticed and commented on how welcoming the nursery looks at the start of each day now so a big thank you to Mrs Howlett for her input already and welcome to the team.

Staff Job Titles: All the staff are now Early Years Educators. This reflects more accurately what they do as their roles become increasingly more skilled and more professional. The key workers and colour groups will remain unchanged for existing children. Mrs. Mariotti and Mrs Golding will be assisting with this and will take on the key worker roles for some of our new starters from now on. Speak to Mrs. Raja if you have any queries about this.

Outdoor Area The EYFS requires children to be outside as much as possible. We are working hard with the children to improve and decorate our outside area and have added numbers, height charts, road markings, washing line, hoop la, skittles new sandpit, tents plus some welcome donations from parents such as the slide.

Grant for Outdoor Classroom Approved !! Some of you will remember we asked you to fill out a form regarding priorities for our outdoor area last term. This information was used in a bid for a grant to further improve our nursery. I am pleased to say that we have now been awarded a grant to Transform Outdoor Play Space from Herts CC. I have ordered a large, high spec canopy to cover the length of the Outdoor Classroom. It is green, turreted, waterproof and free standing. It has features such as filtering out UVA rays for the children. We will also be ordering a Parent Notice Board to go outside as requested by you. This will give you something to read whilst you wait at the door to drop off or collect your children!

I have provisionally been given dates in March for installation of the canopy. I have also got permission from the Parish to put gates into the gaps in our field, to make it more secure and useable for our children. I also plan to add a gate at the other end of the decking to enable the children to get more use out of the field. Depending on money left we would also like an additional shed for more storage space, a small sensory garden, a mini beast area or a planting area. I will keep you posted! Feedback / further suggestions welcome.

Caterpillars and Butterflies. We have recently trialed splitting the children into age groups for activities such as story time. This gives us smaller groups and allows more input from children. It also means we can make certain activities more age appropriate. The caterpillars are the younger (pre school age) children. The butterflies are the older (nursery year) children. The list of the children in each group is on the planning board.

New Planning Documents I have introduced these this term and we are pleased with them so far. They give us more flexibility to change the plan to fit with the children and a chance to review and evaluate how successful each week / day has been. The Planning Board is hanging at the window inside the nursery. Do take time to look at it. It tells you our theme, and all the different activities we are providing every day to meet the different areas of the curriculum. The children are leading more in terms of what they enjoy and what they tell us they want to do more of. Do let us know what you think of the planning board and documents. Thank you.

Staff Training I continue to invest in keeping us all trained and up to date. The team have attended several events recently and more are planned including latest developments on Safeguarding Children, Linking Letters and Sounds, and Creativity and Critical thinking . Miss Mewes continues to make good progress with her Early Years Foundation degree. Mrs Bonner, Mrs. Mentor and Mrs. Howlett will all be attending training / meetings around Special Needs and Inclusion this term.

Congratulations to Mrs. Mariotti who was awarded candidate of the year by Ware College for completing her NVQ!! Also to Mrs. Golding (who is also a

child minder) who achieved NVO 3 and was awarded a Good with several Outstanding areas for her child minder inspection. Well done to you both!

Policies and Procedures We are reviewing our procedure manual completely. We hope to consult with the parent committee on the new procedures at our next meeting with them. Once approved the new procedures will be on the Website and also in the Parent Folder near the front door.

Other Nursery News:

Themes Next half term our themes are The Senses and Easter. We have attached a wish list to this letter of items we are looking for that you may be able to provide. Any items of interest please bring them in!

Naming Please label all items sent in to nursery. Toys, wellies, lunch boxes, coats etc. Please ensure gloves and hats come in every day in this cold weather. The children love playing with water, rain, snow and ice and we need them to be dressed for this. If your child is prone to getting messy or has accidents change of clothes in their bag should also be provided.

Wellington Boots – thanks to all who have sent these in. We are sorry we cannot store them on the premises but with over 50 children on the register we just do not have the room in the cupboard. The children really love to splash in the puddles and stomp through the mud so please do continue to send them in.

The fruit bowl Continues to be popular with the children so don't forget to send in a piece of fruit each week. We have livened up snack time this term and the snacks for each week are on the planning board. The children have also helped more in preparing them (i.e. fruit kebabs, traffic light jelly) Please don't forget to bring a piece of fruit in on the first session each week for snack time. Thanks!

Music Project Miss Mewes would like to remind all those who have not yet returned consent forms for their child to be involved in the music project she is doing for Uni to please send them in by the end of February.

Junk Modelling We would like to plan this in early next half term so please send in cereal boxes, yoghurt cartons, milk carton tops and anything else that the children can use to make models. No egg cartons allowed though. Thank you!

Term Dates Our last day of term is Friday 3rd April. Both the morning session and afternoon session will run as normal.

Summer Term: Tues 21 April – Friday 17th July

Half Term: Mon 25th – Fri 29th May
INSET DAYS: Mon 20th April and Mon 1st June.

Termly Reviews There is no parents evening this term but your child's key worker will be giving you a termly review to keep you posted on their progress and the opportunity to take your child's portfolio home and share it with them should you wish to do so.

Odd Jobs We have several minor jobs that require a handyman. If any parents would help (very basic woodwork and repairs) please let me know asap.

Fees Anyone who has chosen to pay in 2 installments – fees are due this week. Please speak to me if you need a reminder invoice on money owed.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support. Enjoy the next half term!

Mrs Raja and The Nursery Team.

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WANTED!! Spring Term Part 2 CAN YOU HELP US??



THEMES : The Senses and Easter

- Bags for life, Toy cash till (1 or 2 only)
- Toy money, Old handbags and purses
- Any natural materials : sea shells, wicker baskets, drift wood, starfish (not alive!) bark, twigs,
- Anythings that will link in with themes of touch smell, taste, sight, sound.
- Wicker baskets
- Bags of texture materials
- Feely books, Kaleidoscope
- Hand whisks, Any books on the dentist / opticians
- Hearing aids, Sunglasses – old glasses, children's sunglasses.
- Materials to make texture dominoes
- Any posters suitable for role play or quiet corner
- Anything to do with the Opticians.
- Magnifying glasses, Bug jars or pots
- Anything with flashing lights (torches lanterns) that are safe and do not need to be plugged in
- Old sheets / blankets to make dens