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Spring Term 2008. Newsletter No 1



February 2008

Term Dates

Spring	Tue Jan 8 th - Thu 20 th Mar	Half Term: Mon 11 Feb - Fri 15 th Feb
Summer	Tue Apr 8 th - Fri 18 th Jul	Half Term: Mon 26 th May - Fri 30 th May

New Starters Thomas, Daisy, Bobby, Roxanna, Thea, Freddie, Fletcher, Mackenzie, Madeline, Tayla, Sam and Sophie have all joined us this half term. Tobie, Archie, Adam and George will be joining shortly after half term. We welcome you all and hope you enjoy your time at our nursery!

HAVE YOUR SAY! Early Years Admissions Consultations Herts County Council are inviting the views of all parents on proposed changes to nursery admissions and the start dates for nursery and reception children. The changes include proposals that all children start school with one intake in September rather than the two intakes that currently run in most schools in our area. You can view the full proposal and reply on line at www.hertsdirect.org/csfconsultations. and put your views forward. These changes are likely to affect your children so do make sure you are aware of what is being proposed! The closing date for consultation is 15 Feb 2008.

Fours Club A Letter will be going out soon to parents of those children who will be joining the 4's club in April to ask you to confirm your place. Please speak to Mrs. Bonner if you have any queries regarding your child's start date.

Voluntary Contribution For arts and crafts this term is £3.00. Please send money in to help us pay for additional costs involved in cookery / arts and crafts for your children using the tear off slip at the bottom of this newsletter.

Parent Committee meeting - The George on Wednesday 13th February at 8pm. Please let Mrs. Raja know if you are on the committee and cannot attend.

Parent Helpers We would really appreciate any dads who could help occasionally with taking broken equipment to the dump as our handy man is not allowed to do this as he drives a van.

We have a computer table that needs to be taken away. Please speak to Mrs. Raja if you can help.

Spring Term Curriculum Plan has been given out now. Please read through to keep up to date with what we are doing at nursery and any way in which you could get involved.

Labeling The children still come in with many unlabelled items. PLEASE label everything especially coats and bags. Lunch boxes and book bags need to be labeled on the OUTSIDE also.

Good Friday The nursery is closed on this day but Mrs. Raja forgot this when calculating fees. All parents who have already paid will be refunded for overpayment for this date either with cash or a cheque.

Fees Please note that fees are due in at the *start* of each half term. Also if you are paying in two installments please note that your second installment should have been sent in with your first as a post dated cheque. This saves time and money chasing unpaid fees. Thank you for your co-operation.

Extension to the Hall Is now delayed until the summer we have been told.

Outdoor Play We continue to wait for the parish committee / builder to finalise details so that this can be constructed. This is very frustrating we will let you know once we have a date which really should be very soon!

Tesco Vouchers Thank you to everyone who contributed. We have ordered some new equipment.

Christmas Raffle Thanks to everyone who supported this and to Chris and Paul Houghton for organizing. We raised £356.00. We hope to use this (parent committee willing!) to buy a wooden child sized computer table that can be used by the children and possibly a mirror for fancy dress time.

Staff Changes

Miss Mardell (Lucy) will be standing down as keyworker on the Green table at half term as she wishes to spend more time with her own little boy. As many of the children are fond of her and I am pleased to say that she is not leaving us completely as she will be covering supply mainly on Fridays at least until Mrs. Mariotti returns.

Miss Morris (Sarah) will be promoted to replace Lucy as key worker for the green group from half term onwards. Congratulations to Sarah who has done a great job as nursery assistant for 2 terms now. We have already started training Sarah for this role and she is also familiar with the children, CRB checked and NVQ 3 qualified. Mrs. Crilley will be in on Mondays and Wednesdays and Miss Morris will be in every day. We wish them both every success as they work together to care for the green table children.

Mrs. Mariotti (Diana) is really missing nursery and the children. She continues her treatment which is tough but early signs are she is doing well and we are hoping she may be well enough to return in September.

Mrs. Mattina (Andrea) may already be known to some of you as she has been in on Tuesdays recently helping with supply cover. Andrea will be another regular supply cover staff member along with Miss Mardell and we welcome her to the team also.

Staff Qualifications

Mrs. Raja As some of you know (well she complained about it enough!) went for a nerve wracking "Gateway Review" assessment in London in January as part of her Early Years Professional qualification. This is a degree level (Level 6) qualification that the government has introduced as they move towards their target of having somebody qualified to graduate level in every nursery by 2015. Her feedback has now come through and luckily was very positive. She finds out what the next stage involves at college this Friday. The course will end (subject to all stages being completed) with a full inspection of the nursery in May. The EYP standards are high and it will be a credit to the whole team if she is awarded this as our nursery will need to show that we are demonstrating these high standards in our setting.

Miss Mewes Mel has started to study for her Foundation Degree in Early Years at Hertfordshire University. (Level 4/5) We wish her every success. She will be attending college on Tuesday evenings and Saturdays.

Web Site Thanks to a grant from Young In Herts we have appointed a web company called Parenta to design a web site for the nursery. They have just started building the site and we will let you know once it is ready for use.

Thanks to all of you for your support and please let us know if you have any concerns at all as we aim to provide the best possible care for your children.

Mrs. Raja and the nursery team.

Voluntary Contribution

Child's Name: _____

I enclose £3 voluntary contribution for Arts and Crafts this term for my child

Name of Parent / Carer : _____
