



SUMMER TERM NEWSLETTER – MAY 2009



Dear Parents

The term is in full swing and there is a lot to tell you! Welcome to new starters Lila Clarke, Eddie Houghton, Keenan Molloy, also to Megan Taylor who will be joining us after half term.

Sensory Garden/ Improvements. We have had many comments on the lovely garden at the front of the nursery and the allotments at the rear. At present the plants are establishing themselves and Mrs. Mariotti is watering them regularly. Once they are more settled the children will learn how to water and care for the plants. The builders have now put gates into the field to make it more secure. They are putting in a gate at the other end of the deck also. I have ordered a new sign and Parent Notice board to go at the entrance. The post box will be moved to inside the deck area and will become a feedback / comments box for you to let us know how we are doing or of any ideas you have to improve what we are doing.

Let's Groove Tonight The parents committee are organizing this 70's / 80's Disco to be held in a marquee on the field behind the nursery on Saturday 16th May 7.30 – 11pm. This is for adults only. Tickets are £8 payable in advance. Jane Piesse (Alfie's mum) and Kirsty Reynolds (Sam's mum) are selling tickets outside nursery this week and next. Cheryl Coyle (Oscar's mum) and Anne Verdin (Noah's mum) are selling tickets in the playground at St John's. There will be a DJ, dance floor and food provided. Bring your own drinks.

This is a social event more than a fundraiser and is in response to feedback from a few parents that it would be nice to organize a social event just for parents. So please support it; come along and catch up with other parents. It should be a fun night! All parents and their friends are welcome. There is a slip at the bottom of this letter if you would like to order tickets. Please hand in to Louise or one of the parents listed above.

Snack Time Fund. Please send in money for snack if you have not already done so. It is £5 this half term or £12 for the term. Thank you! Can we

remind parents we are still doing the fruit bowl and would still like one piece of fruit per child per week please.

Sessions Next Half Term There are still some spaces in the afternoons from May half term. If your child is 3 before 20th April you are entitled to up to 5 free sessions. If anyone would like extra sessions please speak to Louise ASAP.

Themes We have had a lovely start to the term following our theme of *Growing*. This week the children will be planting vegetables and strawberries in the allotments to the rear of the nursery and also looking at real tadpoles and videos of frogs during circle time. Last week we had a lovely walk to the duck pond; thank you to the parents who helped with this. Our next theme w/c 11 May is *Animals*. We hope to include dinosaurs and dragons and mini beasts in this topic. We are hoping to adopt a nursery guinea pig so that even those children who do not have a pet will be able to see and learn firsthand how to care for animals. We are talking to the hall committee about the practicalities of this and will keep you posted.

Parents Information Board This now includes a list of what topics we are covering this term, and also what we are learning each week. There is a letter of the week table under the parent's board also. This is in response to some parents who were upset that daily planning lists were no longer being sent home. We can no longer send these due to the fact we need to be flexible and extend activities if the children are getting a lot from them and also they took a lot of time to produce but we hope this board will keep you in touch with what is happening in the short term at nursery.

Self Registration Board Please can you continue to encourage your child in finding their photo and posting on the board when they come into nursery so we can all see they are here. Thank you!

Summer Outing to Hayes Hill Farm This will be taking place on **Friday 12th June** 10am – 2.30pm and will tie in with our animals theme. Hayes Hill is just south of Cheshunt and is a lovely farm with café, indoor play area and covered sand pit area, outdoor play areas, small gift shop and a working dairy farm where the children can take a tractor ride to see the cows being milked. Parents and carers are invited to join us on this trip. Make your own way to the farm for a 10am meet up.

The morning will be spent exploring the farm with your child and their friends. We will all have lunch together at 12 noon. The afternoon will include a tractor ride so see the cows being milked. You are free to stay as long as you wish until the farm closes at 4.30. **The cost per person (adult or child) is £3.20.** A form is attached at the bottom of the newsletter for you to return regarding this trip and leaflets to tell you more about the farm will be displayed on the parent notice board.

If you are unable to come with your child on 12th June but would still like them to join the trip please speak to a staff member. Also there is a website www.leevalleypark.org.uk to find out all about the farm.

Sponsored Trundle The children will be doing a sponsored trundle on **Wednesday 8th July** during nursery sessions. If your child is not in that day but you and they would like to join us for this event please speak to a staff member. Parents /carers are invited to come and watch the children carry out their trundle and there will be a cake stall and coffees / teas at the end organized by the parent committee.

4's Club The end of this term will see several of our children leaving us to go up to primary school and we will be talking about transition up to school over the next few weeks. Miss Howard and the Reception class from St John's will be joining us on the field for snack and playtime in the field at a few 4's club sessions this term. This will give the children a chance to meet up with their friends in reception and those going to St John's can meet Miss Howard and her teaching assistants.

Can you help? We would like to put old school uniforms to put in the fancy dress area for all the schools we are feeding so that the 4's club children can dress up in their new uniforms during free play. If you have any old uniform for St John's, Roseland's, Christchurch or Sacred Heart please can you let us know!

Graduation Ceremony The 4's club will "graduate" on **Thursday 16th June**. The ceremony will be at 10am followed by drinks and cakes. The children will be presented with their portfolios or special books and will be making graduation hats the week before the ceremony.

4's Club Portfolios To help with transition into school we would like to pass these on to the reception teachers at their new schools so help ensure a smooth transition in terms of where each child is at and what has been covered by us. Each child's assessment scales for the EYFS will be in their portfolio for their new teachers to reference. We hope this will help ensure each school will not duplicate work and will quickly be able to continue from the point each child is at. After the first half term at school the book will be returned to you to keep as a momentum of your child's time at nursery. A letter asking permission from each parent / carer to loan the portfolio to the school on your behalf will be given out at 4's club before the end of term.

Inset Day 1 June Cancelled I have decided to cancel this Inset day and instead will be holding staff training the week after the end of term. I am conscious that children in on a Monday have already missed 2 weeks with the bank holiday and the first inset day. Apologies for any confusion and please note that we WILL be open on this date as per usual.

Parents Evening Wednesday 8th July, 7pm onwards. A timetable will go up on door nearer the time for you to book in with your child's key worker.

End of Term Party This term we will be holding the end of term party for all the children between 10am and 12.30pm on **Friday 17 July**. We have booked Mr. Tis to entertain the children at this party. We would like some parent helpers for this party – please let us know if you would like to help. No babies please! Children who are not normally in on this day are welcome to join the party please speak to one of the staff so we can plan numbers. A list for party food will go up at the door nearer the time. The nursery will only be open between 10am and 12.30pm on this day NOT 10am until 3pm so please ensure that your child can be dropped off and collected at these times.

Music Project Miss Mewes has now produced a report on this project which can be found on our website and also she has left a copy by the entrance gate for you to read while you are waiting to collect your child. She would like to thank all who helped and contributed to this project.

Sun Hats and Sun Cream On hot sunny days please can you put sun cream on your child before they come in. There are now 1 day long sun creams for children available which we would ask you to use for children who are in all day. Also please send in sun hats (labeled!) for playtime on the field.

Naming Please label all items sent in to nursery. Toys, lunch boxes, cardigans and jackets, sun hats. We have a pile of unlabelled items which will be hung near the entrance gate this week so please check if any belong to you as we cannot store them and they will be given away to charity if no one claims them within a few weeks.

More dates for Your Diary PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THESE!!

Summer Term: Tues 21 April – Friday 17th July

Half Term: Mon 25th – Fri 29th May

Inset Days: NO INSET DAY ON 1 JUNE NOW NURSERY OPEN AS PER USUAL

Parliamentary Elections - Thurs 4th June. NURSERY CLOSED.

Louise Raja and the Nursery Team.



TRIP TO HAYES HILL FARM FRIDAY 12th June

Please complete and return to Nursery with payment ASAP.

Name of Child(ren) and ages:

Name Of Adults who would like to attend the trip

Total Number of Tickets Required @ £3.20 each:

Please note that babies under 2 go free.

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LET's GROOVE TONIGHT!! Saturday May 16th

Name

Number of Tickets Required.

Total Amount Enclosed (Cost of £8 per head payable in advance please)

Thank you for supporting our social event! Tickets will be sent home with your child or handed to you at the end of your nursery session.