



SUMMER TERM NEWSLETTER 2, JUNE 2010

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back. This half term we are "On the Farm". This half term will involve a visit from Bart the horse depending on the weather, a Teddy Bears Picnic, a trip to the Willows farm, a "Take That" night out for all the nursery mums (ok so not linked to the farm at all but worth a plug anyway!). The term will end with a sports day, graduation ceremony for our leavers and a visit from "Jungle Jo". We can't wait, (for all the fun we mean not for the end of term) so read on to hear more and find out how you can get involved and support your child this half term at nursery...

Topics and New Developments This Half Term

Our first week back the topic is Mothers and Babies on the farm. This will be followed by Crops, Teddy Bear week, Farm machinery, Scarecrows and Vets/caring for animals.

The Wendy house has been turned into a Farm house and the children will be making large cut out animals to live in the pens around the house in the first week or two. If you have anything from home that relates to the Farm, we would love to share it with the other children at circle time. Please label anything from home.

New Resources

Our lovely new climbing frame has been a big hit with the children. A big thank you to all of you again for your support on the Easter Fun Day in raising money for this!

We now have the new Children from around the World rug in our book corner, two ethnic dolls and science and maths trolley (Under the Registration Board). This term we hope to create a new "Our Art Gallery" board so we can quickly display and celebrate the children's latest creations with them. Thanks to Inga for her help in painting the Wendy house over half term! Martin and Bev also for continuing to audit, repair, clean and create upgrade the resources we have to ensure we really are meeting the EYFS as fully as possible. Curtains and flooring for our Farm / Wendy house should be arriving this week. We are ordering a new trolley for Fine Motor (beads threading etc) and Natural resources this half term (Fir cones, sea shells). If you have any items of interest for the nature trolley please bring them in!

Review of Last Half Term

Butterflies



At our Ugly Bug Ball the butterflies took part in a quiz with the girls and Sarah/Miss Morris against the boys and Martin. The questions were based around mini beast

facts and songs we had covered in circle time. We were so pleased at how much they remembered! The boys scored 11 and the girls 10.5 out of a possible 12. Well done to the children on this!

The trip to the nature reserve was a lovely morning lovely to see so many of the parents and carers, and we think everyone enjoyed the treasure hunt. This half term we hope to do time lines with the butterflies using their photos of them ages 1, 2, 3 and 4. Please send in photos if you haven't already done so.

Jessica told us this half term that she thought the Butterflies needed their own Monty the Monkey. Jess and her mum are going to choose one for us so the Butterflies can also have their own take home toy soon.

Graduation Ceremony for all the children going up to school will be on Thursday 22nd July. The children will be making graduation hats and will be presented with their special books on this morning. All 4's club parents and carers are welcome to join us at this morning from 10.30 onwards.

We will be visiting the school with the children who are leaving this half term. We will let you know dates once they are confirmed.

Caterpillars Update



This group is getting bigger so we have started splitting them into two groups for circle time and running the two at the same time with two staff in each group. This has been really successful and the confidence and contribution of the children in circle time continues to grow.

This half term we will be singing farm related songs as part of our circle times; so please join in with these at home with your child! We will be teaching the children 5 little ducks, Old Macdonald had a farm, Dingle dangle scarecrow, Oats and beans and Barley grow, and Driving along on my little red tractor.

Monty the Monkey's photo album is starting to look really impressive now and a big thank you to all the parents who have put so much thought, effort and humour into this – the children really love sharing it all at circle time.

The children who joined us this term will all have settling in sheets completed around now and you will be asked to add your comments. The next stage is to begin developing their portfolio or "Special Book" with them. Your key workers will be sharing these with you at Parents Evening.

...And Introducing the Ladybirds



As we have some really little ones coming in now we have decided to rename our youngest children to form a new Ladybirds group. All of these children will be the 3rd school intake year effectively so our current group will be starting Reception in September 2012 and leave us in July 2012. At the moment our Lady Birds are Freddie Webb, Alfredo Benitez-Whitehead, Cassia Gale, Freddie Burton, Rebecca Vass, Phoebe Prentice, Autumn Shine. The focus for the Ladybirds this half term will be settling in, making friends and developing their confidence when coming in.

Events This Half Term

Parent's Evening Wed 9th June 6.30pm There is a time table on the back gate for you all to book yourselves in for a slot. If you need to arrange an alternative time just let us know.

Parents Committee/ Take That Night – Thurs 10th June

Mums night Out! At Marconatos in Hoddesdon featuring a Take That tribute band. £5 deposit. Keeley and Sam are collecting money at the moment, Bev or Louise are also happy to take money for this on the door. New mums particularly welcome!

Teddy Bears Picnic Friday 25 June (During Normal Nursery Session)

We are taking part in this fundraiser for Barnardos on 25th June. If your child is in on a Friday we will give you some more information on this shortly.

Flower Festival At St Johns Church

We will be making something for a one of the window sills for this with the children. The Festival is Sunday June 27th, with a family tea at 4.30 (and some games outside for those not so interested in cakes and scones!) and a child-friendly Evening service at 5.00. Everybody welcome to come and look at the displays! The church will be open on the Saturday for people to come and see the sills as well.

Visit to The Willows Farm – 2nd July

There is a permission slip at the bottom of the newsletter for you to complete if you would like to join us on this trip to the farm. We will meet at the Willows between at 10- 10.30am, and we have booked a guide for the morning to talk to the children about the animals.

Please bring packed lunch, you are free to stay as long as you want to after lunch. If you need transport or can help with transport please speak to the nursery team. If you are unable to come on the trip but would like your child to come along again let us know asap. We will need a ratio of 1 adult to every 2 children however, as per our Outings Policy for the trip to go ahead and it will be a lovely day out so please come along if you can! Cost of the trip is £8.50 per ticket adults and children over 2, Under 2's go free. Please send in money with your permission slip. Cheques to Great Amwell Nursery School Please.

Sports Day – Thurs 15th July 10am-12noon

This will take place on the field and all parents and carers are welcome to come along and watch the children. The parents committee will be providing a cake stall for this event.

End Of Term Party Arrangements

For our party this term Jungle Jo will be visiting us with a variety of exotic animals to show the children. We thought this would be a nice way to round off our term of minibeasts and farm animals. Due to increase in numbers we have decided to split the children into two party groups this time. Butterflies in 9-10.30am, and the Caterpillars and Ladybirds in 11am-12.30pm.

We would like a few parent helpers at each event so please ask if you would like to help. Face painters also if you can help let us know! All children are welcome but if your child is not normally in on a Friday, the cost will be £6.00 to cover staffing, entertainer and extra party food provided. Form at the bottom of this letter, money back with the form please.

Herts Quality Standards

Thank you to everyone who attended this forum at Van Hage and also the staff for their input at our last meeting. I now need to put the leadership module together and send it in to the panel for verification. We have invited our inspector Lucy Chadwick back in on 11 June to look at the improvements we have made as a result of our last inspection and discuss what our next steps are.

Invoices The second half of term's money is due in now. Revised invoices for any changes or additions are out this week so please ask if you don't get one! PLEASE CAN YOU PAY ASAP TO HELP US RUN THE NURSERY AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE

Changes of Address If you have moved house or changed your contact numbers please let us know so we can keep your child's records up to date. Please give a note giving details of any changes to Bev or Louise as you come into nursery. Thank you.

Procedures for Hot Weather

Please help us keep the children safe in the sun by sending them in wearing cool cotton clothing, and with Sun cream already on. There are long lasting creams available which last 6 hours (i.e. Boots Once ideally high factor such as SPF 50+) so if you child is in all day please put cream on before they come in to nursery. PLEASE NOTE WE DO NOT APPLY CREAM AT NURSERY. Also a sun hat for the field as it is mainly in the sun. Please note that if we take the children up to the field in hot weather we find a shady spot for them, we take drinks up too and we don't keep them out too long if it is full sun.

Term Dates For Next Year Please note in your diaries / calendars!



Autumn Term 2010

Mon 6 September 2010 – Fri 17 December 2010

Inset Days: Thurs 2nd and Fri 3rd September

½ Term: Mon 25th October – Friday 29th October

Spring Term 2011

Wednesday 5th January – Friday 8th April

Inset Day: Tuesday 4th January

½ Term: Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February

Dates for This Half Term

Parents Consultation Evening – Wednesday 9 June 6.30-9pm

Barnardo's Teddy Bears Picnic – 25th June during normal hours

Sports Day - Thursday 15th July 10am - 12 noon

Visit to The Willows Farm – 2nd July

Graduation Ceremony – Thur 22nd July 10.30 for parents. 9am start for children.

End of Term Party featuring "Jungle Jo" - Fri 23rd July

PERMISSION SLIP Willows Farm Trip Friday 2nd July 2010



- Name Of Child/ Children Attending:
- Names of any Under Twos Attending
- Name of Adults / Other Carers:
- *If you are NOT attending with your child please tick if you would like us to arrange transport for you.*

..... Please talk to me about arrangements for my child on the day

- Total Number Of Tickets Required @ £8.50 per ticket
- **TOTAL MONEY ENCLOSED** £.....
- I give permission for My Child to Attend This Trip.
- I understand that if I accompany my child on this trip they are my responsibility at all times.

Signed Date.....

End of Term Party with Jungle Jo Friday 23rd July



Butterflies – 9-10.30am. Caterpillars 11am -12.30pm

My child does not normally attend on a Friday but I would like them to come in for this and enclose £6.00 to cover costs.

- Name of Child/ Children
- Name of Parent /Carer
- **TOTAL MONEY ENCLOSED** £.....

