



Newsletter

Issue 12/Jan 2007

I have to apologise because I never did do a September issue of the termly newsletter! It all went so fast and before I knew it, it was Christmas! So "sorry" and I hope that nobody missed anything because of it although I am sure that the deluge of notices issued will have helped to keep everyone informed!

Ok, lets start with the changes that we have made to the Nursery...

Our most significant change is that we have varied our registration. We are now registered to have up to 12 under 2's at the Nursery. We can have up to 18 children in the main Nursery and, at all times, we can still only have up to 30 children at the Nursery. We do feel that one of our strengths is that we are a small Nursery and every member of staff knows every child and every parent regardless of whether they are in the Baby Room, the Toddler Room or the Main Nursery. Having up to 12 under 2's means that we have been able to extend our Toddler Room to take up to 6 toddlers. Jessica, who celebrates being with the Nursery for 6 years this May, is responsible for the day to day running of the Toddler Area as a Senior Nursery Nurse, along with Claire who works alongside Jessica as a Nursery Nurse.

I'd also like to congratulate Emma who is the overall Head of the Baby and Toddler Rooms. She is celebrating 10 years of working at the Nursery and is doing a wonderful job of organising these 2 very important areas. We've seen Emma progress from being a volunteer to a student and Nursery assistant to becoming a fully fledged Nursery Nurse and then becoming the Head of the under 2's. Well done Emma!

Donna in the Main Nursery has passed her 1st appraisal with flying colours. She has settled into the Nursery really well and is very popular with the children. Congratulations Donna!

Due to the change in our number of under 2's in the Nursery, we are going to be employing another member of staff. Although we are not actually increasing the number of children at the Nursery, OfSTED ratios mean that we do have to employ another member of staff so you will be seeing a new face, or faces, soon...

Some of you may have heard about the Governments plans to offer funding to 2 year olds as well as the existing funding for 3 year olds. We will be able to offer this funding but it is dependent on your home address. If you would like to enquire about funding for 2 year olds, please see me, Gemma or Lisa.

The Nursery is very busy at the moment and our waiting lists are looking very busy. If you are planning to increase your sessions, perhaps when your child is eligible for a funded place, or if you are planning to increase your working days, please get your child's name down onto the waiting list early! I cannot guarantee that a place will be available if you have not put your name down, even if your child is already attending the Nursery on other days.

Last year saw lots of building work taking place and, this year, we plan on making some renovations to the children's toilets. They will be having a total overhaul with larger sink facilities and new partitions. A new covered area for the storage of high chairs and push chairs is also planned.

We have recently held our annual review of the Nursery fees and these will come into place from Monday 5th February 2007. I'd like to reassure everyone that our fees are still one of the lowest in Doncaster and that we do try our very best to provide you with a reliable and affordable childcare service. I personally have carried out some market research on other local nurseries and found that the fees we will be charging are still low and competitive. Unlike many other nurseries, we have held back on introducing a fee structure for 2 year olds but, with ever increasing costs and requirements from OfSTED regarding staffing ratios for 2 year olds, we really have had no alternative but to bring in a new structure. Our new fee list is available for anyone who would like a copy.

Finally, let's hope spring comes soon. The weather is changeable at the moment but can I pass on a request from the staff that all the children come to Nursery fully equipped with hats, gloves, coats and scarves. It isn't much fun playing outside when your hands and feet are freezing!

As always, if anyone has any concerns or questions please come and see me. I am usually around and if not I will call you or make sure I am there when you come to Nursery next.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'S' at the beginning.