



Newsletter

Issue 17/January 2009

Welcome to our newsletter for the spring term of 2009.

I would like to start by wishing you all a very Happy New Year! I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break. As you will have seen, the Nursery enjoyed a good old revamp while we were closed. The walls have all been re painted ready for another year of fun! New furniture was purchased towards the end of last year to replace units that had been well loved over the years and we have continuing plans for the development of the Nursery.

Last term, we were involved in 3 separate fund raising events. We are contacted by lots of worthy causes but we chose these 3 knowing that we would cover a broad spectrum. In summary, we raised £33.45 for the Think Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness campaign, £200.00 for our "Beep Beep Day" for the Brake Charity and £25.00 for Children in Need. Well done and thank you to everyone who supported these causes. This term, we shall be raising funds for the Meningitis Bug Hunt in February and also for Red Nose Day in March.

Something new that we are bringing in is a Review week. Currently, we do have an annual Parents Evening and the new Review Week is being trialled to replace that. We will be holding our first Review Week on the 1st week in March. You can book an appointment with your Key Person during that week to go over your child's work, development and assessment record.

I am delighted to inform you that Donna from the Baby Room has had a little boy called Elliott. Mother and baby are doing really well and she has already been in to visit us!

Sophie from the Nursery is also expecting a baby and will be going on maternity leave from the middle of February. We hope to have her back with us from around September 09.

We do have 2 new faces in the Baby Room covering Donna's maternity leave on a job sharing basis. Monday to Wednesday we have Sarah, a qualified Nursery Nurse from Doncaster College. Thursdays and Fridays we have Jody who is also qualified and has 6 years of experience. Both have settled in well and are enjoying being part of the nursery team. You will soon see Sarah in the nursery on Thursdays and Fridays as well covering part of Sophie's maternity leave.

We are continuing with our developments for the Nursery. We will be getting a huge outdoor parasol which will line up with the back wall of the Nursery to create a big covered outdoor area. This will allow the children access to the outdoors in all weathers. We have already changed to a "mobile cloakroom" and once we have the parasol, this will move to being underneath it so that the children can access their coats and wellies outside. A digging area is going to be created (if anyone knows where we can get some railway sleepers from please see Sue or Lisa!) so that the children can grow plants and vegetables and we are thinking about getting some chickens...free range eggs here we come!

Plans are afoot for a cheese and wine evening at the nursery where parents can watch a short film of what a day at the Nursery is like for your child. Lisa and Jo are doing their best Spielberg impersonations and are busy collecting snippets to put together for you.

I recently displayed a notice regarding Nursery education. This is really important to us and I am going to point out again that the education and curriculum received by children at a private day nursery is exactly the same as the education and curriculum your child would get at a school nursery. We are governed by the same body: Ofsted. We are obliged to have 2.5 hours of planned curriculum in the morning and again in the afternoon. The difference with us is that we are able to offer care in the hours in between those 2.5 hours too! That's when the children get to eat, have a sleep or "just play"! A lot of work goes into planning for each individual child.

We will be re-issuing our Parental Feedback Questionnaires soon. Thanks to your responses last year, we now have:

- fish on the menu every week
- we now have snack time where we offer the children more fruit to choose from
- the website is regularly updated
- lists showing who your child's key person is are up on our Parents Notice Board
- a planned re vamp of the toilets will include hot air driers
- a mobile cloakroom and bags for those children in nappies are now hung in the nappy changing area reducing congestion and freeing up hooks for coats
- more frequent meetings are just about to be offered to parents
- a louder door bell has been installed
- tea time now has a wide and varied menu
- a sofa has been put into the Baby Room to encourage parents to sit down and chat with the staff about their child's day
- a separate "Baby Garden" and trips around the village are a regular feature with more pushchairs brought in for that use.

In conclusion what I trying to say is that we have listened and acted on your comments!! Your feedback is important so please take the time to fill in our questionnaire this year when it comes out! Have a lovely Spring!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue". The letter "S" is large and stylized, with a loop at the top. The name "Sue" is written in a cursive style.