



## Newsletter

Issue 15/April 2008

Welcome to our newsletter for the summer term of 2008.

I'd like to start by telling you all that Lisa, our lovely Deputy Manager who has been at the Nursery for 5 years is now a married lady! She is now Mrs Robson! We all went and witnessed the most lovely wedding. She really was a beautiful bride. Congratulations to Lisa and Mark!

We have been adopting a far more "free flow play" environment for the children. This means that activities are set up both indoors and outdoors for the children to experience and we are spending much more time outdoors than before. Please rest assured that the children are always appropriately dressed and we will of course soon be swapping woolly hats for sunhats and suncream!

From September 2008, all private nurseries will be changing their curriculum. We currently work to the Birth to 3 Matters Framework for the under 3's and the Foundation Stage for the over 3's. These will be merged and altered to become the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Lisa and Emma have been undergoing training in preparation for the EYFS curriculum which comes into force from September 2008. Lisa has already achieved her Early Years Professional Status qualification. Please feel free to ask them about our new planning, child assessments and changes that will be happening to our curriculum.

All of the nursery staff are to be trained in learning to communicate with the children using a method called "Tiny Talk". It is based on British Sign Language and will be of most use in the under 2's area. It will give the staff and the children a method of non-verbal communication and is said to ease the frustration felt by young children when they can't verbalise their needs. However, because those under 2's do move up into the over 2's all of our staff will be trained to use this method of communication. Once the staff have been trained, a parents evening will be arranged for you all to come to and see for yourselves!

We will be doing a sponsored "Pedal Push" with the children in aid of the NSPCC. Dates have been organised and sponsor forms will be distributed to you all. As I am sure you will have realised, we don't ask for you to contribute to many sponsored events so your support in this would be greatly appreciated!

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From 6th May a "No Shoes" policy for the Baby & Toddler rooms begins. This applies to the staff too so if you see them in their slippers don't go thinking that they came to work half dressed! Having no outdoor shoes in the area will keep the rooms free of soil and dirt from the outside which, when you consider that many of the babies are crawling, makes for a cleaner environment. We will also ask that you remove your shoes too when entering the Baby & Toddler area. A basket will be provided for you to place your shoes.

We are going to be asking you all for some feedback! A questionnaire is going to be issued to all parents and carers asking you to tell us about any areas of the Nursery and that you feel we could improve. We'll want to know what you think about our menu, handovers to you, information displayed on local events etc. We want to know if there has been any instance where you have left us feeling that something has not been handled as well as it could be. We also want to know if there are things you feel we do really well! I'll also be asking you to nominate a member of staff who you feel deserves singling out for an extra pat on the back! You can either hand in your responses in person or anonymously via the letter box on the wooden gates.

We are also going to issue you all with an information update sheet. We'd like you to update contact numbers, emergency contacts, address changes etc. Please complete the sheet and hand it back to your child's key worker.

I am very happy to be able to tell you that the Nursery is full! If you should happen to have friends or family asking you about spaces please advise them that the best thing to do is to phone us and ask to be put onto our waiting list. I do not think we will have any spaces coming up until the end of the school year (July 2008) and the people that we contact first to offer a place to are the ones on our waiting list.

#### Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 20th May and Thursday 22nd. Our sponsored Pedal Push in aid of the NSPCC takes place. If your child does not attend on either day they can still come and take part.

Tuesday 3rd June. Tempest photographers will be coming in from 9.30am. The usual arrangements apply. You can still bring your child or children in even if they do not attend Nursery on Tuesdays.

Saturday 5th July. Gala Day!!! Get ready for our annual dressing up extravaganza!

Monday 14th July. Parents Evening from 4.30pm to 6.30pm on an appointment basis only.

Here's to a lovely summer term!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sue', written in a cursive style.