



Newsletter

Issue 19/January 2010

Welcome to our newsletter for the spring term of 2010.

Firstly, welcome to all the new children who have started at the Nursery since the last newsletter. You all seem to have settled in really well and I know you are going to have such an exciting term!

Our renovation work has been completed on the interior of the Nursery and we are proud to be able to offer such a lovely Nursery facility to you all. Work on the outside is still on-going and has been hampered by the icy conditions. We are assured that it will all be completed by mid-Feb (providing it stops being so cold!!) .

We had such a busy term last year and we filled the days with lots of new opportunities for the children. From visiting Hill House School in Finningley to watch their play to library sessions to BBQing in December to going to the Christingle Service, we did it all! The snow only added to our fun and the children enjoyed the chance to play with so much of the stuff! Photos showing some of our activities are up in the Nursery and there is an article coming out in February's Tickhill Today. We managed to stay open every day during the heavy snow and for that I would like to thank Lisa, Jo, Gemma and Jacqui while I took on "chief cook and bottle washer" duties! Well done you troopers!

Since Lisa took over as the Manager of the Nursery, I have seen a level of enthusiasm for bringing new experiences to the children that I have never, in the 9 years of having the Nursery, seen before. Lisa is qualified to equivalent teacher status. She has a degree in Early Childhood Studies and was one of the first Nursery Nurses to become an Early Years Professional. As a result, we are very lucky to have one of the most highly qualified Nursery Managers in Doncaster. The children are being given opportunities to experience new and innovative activities on an almost daily basis. As a consequence, our team are all fired up with even more enthusiasm for their work here and I walk through the Nursery every day stunned at the array of activities taking place. If any parents would like to come and spend some time watching the children please arrange to come and do just that! We would welcome you and would also like to hear your views! Please write your comments in our comments book on the table under the parents notice board!

Claire Bond, our Senior Nursery Nurse and Baby Room Supervisor will be leaving us to go on maternity leave at the end of February. I am sure she will make a wonderful mum. She

has certainly done a wonderful job of looking after so many of your babies! One baby will be a doddle for her (ha, wait til the night feeds start!!). We shall miss you Claire. Make sure that you bring junior in to see us regularly!

The 3 year old funding available to all 3 year olds from the term after their 3rd birthday still poses questions which I am sure some of you keep meaning to ask but never get around to. Here are some answers to questions you may have:

Is the grant only available to people on lower incomes? No, it is available for everyone.

Can I split my funded sessions between more than one setting? Yes, you can. You can have up to 12.5 hours of free childcare. If you want to split that between the Nursery and another setting that is fine as long as you declare it on your Parental Declaration Form and you do not claim for more than 12.5 hours in total.

Can I only claim for 2.5 hours per day? NO! you can claim for up to 5 hours in a day which means that a full day becomes almost half price and a morning or afternoon session becomes free!

Do I have to get the grant from the Council. No. We provide you with a Parental Declaration Form, you complete it and return it to us and we do the rest.

If I have twins, do they both get 12.5 hours each? Yes, each and every child is entitled to 12.5 hours.

Lastly, on this subject, from September 2010, every 3 year old child will get 15 hours of funded childcare! If you have any more questions please ask us or pop a note into your child's keyworkers plastic pouch on the parent notice board.

Dates for your diary, GET READY....this list is not exhaustive by any means!

Monday 25th Jan: Bring a Pet to Nursery Week. See separate notice on the door!

Monday 25th Jan: Dress Up as a Pet Day! And yes the staff are doing it too!

Wednesday 27th Jan: A visit from the Lollipop Lady who will talk about road safety.

30th Jan - 6th Feb: National Storytelling Week. See separate notice on door.

Tuesday 9th Feb: Shelley (our Consultant Teacher) will be coming in to do a presentation for parents from 6 - 6.45pm. Wine or juice will be on offer. Tell Lisa if you can attend.

Friday 12th Feb: Valentines Day celebration. Dress up in red or pink!

1st Mar - 5th Mar: World Book Day is on Thursday 4th March. Children are invited to dress up as a character from a book - a different one every day if they like!

8th Mar - 12th Mar: Review week. Parents can come and see their children's' observation files and talk to their Key Person. Please make an appointment.

Wednesday 31st Mar: Easter Bunny Hunt! Hunt for the Easter Bunny who will be hiding somewhere in the village!

We will also be raising money for Red Nose Day and there will be a launch of the new outdoor area with a dvd of the children, drinks and maybe a sausage or 2 providing it has stopped snowing! Dates to follow.

We are all looking forward to a great spring term! If this lot is anything to go by, your children are in for a very active term too!

