



Wilsic Road Day Nursery

Newsletter

Issue 19/May 2010

Welcome to our newsletter for the summer term of 2010.

The Nursery is celebrating being open for 20 years this year! John and I will have actually owned the Nursery for 10 years in October. Time has flown by and the improvements and progress made with the nursery both outside and inside are there for all to see! Our finished outdoor area has made a dramatic impact on how much time the children can spend outside. We are no longer limited to dry fine weather as the outdoor surface allows the children to play without getting covered in mud and sliding about on wet boggy grass. The 4 way see-saw is a big hit with the children being wonderful about taking turns and sharing. The balance beams are also very popular and helping with gross motor skills. And, do you know what?...We haven't finished yet!

We have further plans to make our outdoor area even better. Firstly, we will be erecting a lean to shelter over the side of the Nursery building. We will then be mounting large outdoor panels onto the wall with a variety of musical instruments to create a musical sensory area. The children can choose from a glockenspiel, a xylophone, bongo drums and rainmakers. It will be wonderful to hear the variety of sounds that the children can make and with the equipment outside, it means that activities inside are not affected, including sleeping children! Our children will be able to wear "Wilsic Road Day Nursery" water-proofs when we go out on our walks. A whole set of jackets and trousers are being purchased for this purpose to cope with the changeable weather along with a 4 seater buggy. Ramps leading up to the front and back doors are also going to be installed making it easier for independent access by the children.

The inside of the Nursery will also be given a whole new dimension with the arrival of a smartboard. A smartboard, for those of you who have not seen one, is like a large (60 inch) screen mounted onto the wall at child height and attached to a laptop. Games and programs can then be played on the smartboard by the staff and children. It operates like a touchscreen and has special "pens" which the children can use to write on it. It is better for group activities than a standard size laptop as more children can participate and actually see what is going on. The smartboard will also be joined by a Tuff Cam which is a virtually unbreakable camera and camcorder for the children to use and a visualiser which will allow us to project small pictures onto the wall including pictures that the children have made themselves. This will, for the time being, be the final touches to our renovations over 2009-2010 and will enhance the facilities already provided tremendously!

We did send out our annual questionnaire and we were thrilled with the very positive comments that came back from those of you who completed them. Particular members of staff were singled out for their work and they were delighted to see that they are so well thought of by you. All of you are very happy with the improvements and renovations made. We did have some suggestions and comments which we have already been addressing.

Firstly, parents of children in the Baby Room did not really know where our policy file was kept. It is in a white ring binder in the reception area on the table opposite the entrance door and a notice is now up in the Baby Room pointing this out. You are very welcome to dive in and look through it.

Food offered was widely complimented with one parent asking about our Nursery nutrition and in particular the salt content of food. We have had a good look at the food served. One change made (among others) is that we no longer serve cheese biscuits because of their high salt content. These have now been swapped for cream crackers which have a negligible salt content. We are constantly monitoring the food served and we do make changes accordingly. Seasonal changes to the menu are also made. One parent felt we served chips too often. Chips are served 3 times in a one month period. We do not use a deep fat fryer and they are the far healthier oven chips. We do try as far as we can to also offer a variety of vegetables and fruit is offered at various times of the day be it snack time, lunchtime or afternoon tea time. The squash drink given is sugar free as are treats such as ice pops.

Security is a top priority for us all and I would request that parents do not open the door to any parent themselves even if they know them! Please leave it to us and please close the door behind you.

Finally, I would also like to point out that the entire Nursery site is a non-smoking zone both inside and out and the children are not exposed to passive smoke by any of the staff.

My thanks to all of you who participated in the questionnaire. Your comments and suggestions are always highly valued.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 20th May: Parents Evening with Shelley Cooling, Consultant Teacher. Wine and nibbles to be served.

2nd June: Beautiful Lifestyle Photography will be coming in to take lovely contemporary photos of your child/ children. Please note you can still bring your child/children in for photos even if they are not at the nursery normally on that day.

15th June: Launch of outdoor area and dvd night. Join us for a "bit of a BBQ" and the chance to see all of our new equipment!

3rd July: Gala Day! Children from the age of 2 can join us on our float as we parade around the village dressed up foolishly!

22nd July: Children's leaving Graduation Day at 6.00pm.

As usual, this list is not all that will be going on so look out for notices.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.