

Parents Newsletter : Autumn 2015

October Update

Well we were promised an Indian summer and here it is! We hope you're enjoying the glorious sunshine - we are! We had a very busy summer and a very productive summer closure week, with the nursery repainted throughout and many behind the scenes jobs ticked off.

This term has got off to a busy start with lots of new children joining us, particularly in Stars room. As always at this time of year we would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new children and families. We still have lots of potential new parents coming to visit even although we are running a waiting list in 2 out of 3 rooms (thank you for all your glowing recommendations)! As for our recent summer leavers, we've been hearing very good things about how well they are all getting on in their Reception Classes and have enjoyed seeing some of the children in their new school uniforms when they have come to visit!

We have a full programme of activities planned for the children up until Christmas (not so far away). All the current planning can be found on the walls of each of the rooms. You are invited to take a look at the children's work around the nursery at any time and the care staff team will be happy to answer any questions you have about the early years curriculum or the planned programmes of activities.

We will be continuing our "Explore & Learn" Programme this year, which offers the children an opportunity to work with external specialist practitioners. This term **Gill Ellis** (who runs the local catering company Buttercup Buffets) will be doing cooking and baking activities with the children and **Geri Francis**, a local sculptress (of Fired Thoughts, The Old Potato Yard, Lydeaway, Devizes) will be working with many natural materials, including clay and glass, to make beautiful creations with the children. We try to include all ages of children at some point across the term, but this does depend on the nature of the activity. This programme runs across the year thanks to your contributions (a voluntary contribution of £2.50 per session is added to your monthly invoice, itemised separately, when your child participates).

Please make a note of the diary dates for the rest of the year including our Christmas closure dates. Our **Parents Evenings for Stars and Moon** will take place in November (Sun room will take place early on in the Spring term), so please keep an eye on the **Parents Board** in the foyer where further details of these and other events will be posted. Tickets for the Bonfire & Burgers Night will be on sale from the office this week. This is a ticket only event, so please make sure you get your tickets for this annual favourite early! Details of our Christmas week activities can be found overleaf.

We've a busy and exciting term ahead and we hope to see you at some of our events.

Allyson and Ben

allyson@ablelimited.co.uk; mobile: 07947 274579



Forward Diary Dates

- **Half Term Holidays:**
October 22nd - 30th (inc)
- **"Bonfire & Burgers" Night**
Thursday 5th November at 6pm (weather permitting)
- **Parents Evenings:**
Stars Room: Thursday 19th November at 6pm
Moon Room: Wednesday 11th November at 6pm
- **Christmas Week**
14th-18th December (see over for programme)
- **Nursery Closes for Christmas**
Wednesday 24th December at 6pm
- **Nursery reopens**
Monday 4th January 2016 at 8am



Keeping Your Children Safe

Keeping your children safe whilst they are in our care is of primary importance to us. Our policies and procedures, routines and activities are all implemented with this in mind. We are updating our Safeguarding Policy and incorporating a number of new statutory requirements, which will involve some minor changes to our operational processes. Over the coming weeks we will circulate our updated policy and explain any resultant changes in our procedures. You will be asked to sign that you have read and understood the updated policy and procedures.

Outdoor Clothing

As you know we like to "embrace the elements" at nursery and spend lots of time outdoors, in all weathers. As we get into autumn we want to stress the importance of ensuring that your child **always** has appropriate wet weather clothing and footwear with them. Here is a list of what your child should bring with them for every session :

Stars Room: Full waterproof outdoor wear (all-in-one is best); wellies or old shoes for outdoor play; hat & gloves; 2 full changes of clothes.

Moon Room: Warm all-weather jacket; all-in-one or waterproof trousers; wellies or substantial waterproof shoes; warm hat & gloves; full change of clothes.

Sun Room: Warm all-weather jacket; fleece or warm jumper; waterproof trousers (we only have spares); wellies or substantial waterproof shoes; warm hat & gloves; full change of clothes.

Please remember to...

- Put your child's name on all clothing items including footwear and wellies) and hats and gloves (with strings to keep them together if possible)
- Send your child to nursery with shoes without laces, so that they can start to learn to put their own shoes on!
- **Take your child's bag and all their belongings home at the end of each session**, or the last session of the week if your child attends on consecutive days. All belongings should be removed on a Friday. (Wellies can be left at nursery if not needed at home!).
- Check the drying racks in the cloakroom at the end of each week for any clothes which may belong to your child.



Christmas Week

We have a full week of activities planned for our "Christmas Celebrations" from 14-18th December.

Monday 14th : Explore & Learn session with Geri

Tuesday 15th: Christmas songs on pick-up (we will send an email with details nearer the time)

Wednesday 16th: party cooking - the children will be making cakes for their party

Thursday 17th: Christmas Party and Christmas Party Lunch (10:00-13:00). If your child does not normally attend nursery on Thursdays and you wish to book them in, please speak to Vicki (there is a £15 charge per child).

Parent Parking

PLEASE help our local community relations by using the Residents car park at the top of the High Street - it is only a few minutes walk from the nursery. Parking in the road inevitably causes congestion and irritation for our neighbours and obstructs emergency access to the village.

Also, please do not drive up to the nursery entrance, as the drive is reserved for staff parking, deliveries and emergency access **ONLY**. Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Parents/Carers Questionnaire 2015

This term we circulate our annual **Parents/Carers Views Questionnaire**, giving you an opportunity to tell us what you think about the the nursery and the service we provide. Your views, feedback and ideas are important to us, so please do take time to complete the questionnaire, which will be handed out over the next couple of weeks. We would request that completed questionnaires are returned to us by Friday 6th November.

We operate an "open door" policy so you can talk to us and give us your views informally at any time, or you can book a meeting for a specific time with any member of the care team or Allyson, should you wish. There is also a Comments Book in the reception area. We look forward to hearing your views.