

# Nursery News



## Hi Parents!

We extend a sincere welcome to all new parents and children who have joined us this September. The children are all settling in well as are all those who have moved into new rooms. It can be a testing time for parents, staff and children during the initial days, as we all put in 100% to ensure the happiness of the children. If you have any concerns at all, please do not hesitate to speak to us, we will do all we can to offer our support. We hope you all had a very enjoyable summer and were able to make the most of the sunshine when it appeared. Autumn is upon us once again and we have a busy and fun-filled time ahead! Here are some dates for your diary.....



## Reporting On Summer Events

### TRIP AND UNDER 2'S FUN DAY

The Trip to Hatton Country Farm in June went off very well, the children (and staff) loved experiencing the animals and farm life as well as the impressive play areas.. Thank you to all involved for providing a fun packed day for the children. I hope you enjoyed the photographic display Heidi set up for you beside the washing machines.

The under 2's fun day went off equally well with the children thoroughly enjoying all the activities prepared for them. My sincere thanks goes to Kate and all the under 2's staff for providing a well-balanced and appropriate day for the under 2's. The babies and toddlers enjoyed quite a relaxing day all in all. The weather was with us - not too hot but comfortably warm with a good amount of cloud to protect us. The animals were a hit - especially the two curious tortoises who spent much of the day mingling amongst the children. The children also loved the morning music session with Jan, the bouncy castle, the creative sessions and of course, the teddy bears picnic.

Thank you to all parents who came with us to Hatton Farm or helped out at the fun day, your support is always most appreciated. Thank you.

### SUMMER BBQ

Unfortunately the summer barbeque couldn't go ahead this year due to the constant downpour throughout the day. We managed to set everything up, when at around 11.30 it started to rain. We thought it might be short-lived but no - it rained and rained and rained! Unfortunately we didn't have another weekend available to reschedule, so we will have to put it off to Summer 2006. Never Fear - a further social event will be held in February next year when we will be holding our annual Quiz night.

## Training and Development

### QUALITY ASSURANCE -

#### 'GROWING TOGETHER': BRONZE AWARD.

In August this year we managed to complete the fourth and final element to attain the bronze award for the 'Growing Together' Quality Assurance Scheme. The four elements we examined and provided evidence for were: *Health & Safety*, *Interactions & Relationships*, *Parents & Carers* and *Adults*. For the final assessment of the scheme a member of the Quality Assurance Team in Dudley visited us for a day on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September to inspect our quality. Since her visit we have been told verbally that we have been successful and that we should receive written notification very shortly. My thanks go to all staff members who contributed to this - Well done everyone.

### TEAM LEADER MANAGEMENT TRAINING

In October and November Kate, Sam and Lisa will be attending Team Leadership training. The training is being provided by the ILM - Institute of Leadership and Management and the course is very similar to what you may know as the 'NEBS' Management courses. The girls will attend on three consecutive Mondays, throughout which time staff cover has been arranged,

### OTHER TRAINING

Last Term Heidi and Kate updated their Food Hygiene Training.

### IN-HOUSE

We are currently in the process of developing a new 'Communications Policy' that will be available for you to read in due course. The development of any policy

requires the involvement of staff members and can take some time if it is to be done well.

All new staff will receive training - 'In-house' as well as external - in the implementation of **Birth to Three Matters**, and **The Foundation Stage Guidance**.

#### PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS:

During this term, we are hoping to provide a Paediatric First Aid Training Evening for parents and staff. At this point in time we are having problems contacting the facilitators of this training, but we are hopeful that it will be able to go ahead. This will be the second time that we have held this event, and last time it was a fun and informative evening for all who attended.

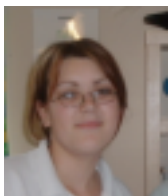
It will an opportunity for Parents and staff to refresh themselves with emergency First Aid procedures and have fun at the same time.

## Staffing

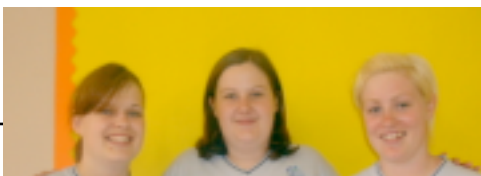
In May we said goodbye to Neelam and later to Kelly. Their roles in the kindergarten were sensitively and gently taken over by Rachel and Lisa respectively. After the big move from managing the baby room, Lisa is managing the kindergarten with great skill and dedication - Well done.

More recently we said goodbye to Amy Hofton and Sarah Grennan - both well loved staff who are greatly missed. Amy is now in America enjoying her nanny career and missing us all. Sarah is beginning her studies towards a career in teaching and may be available to cover from time to time! Lauren Bache who has been with us for over two years as support staff is now Sarah's Full time replacement in our Baby room working alongside Sam. Sam became the bay room supervisor in May and is doing a really commendable job - well done to Sam and Lauren.

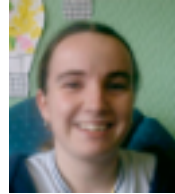
We would like to welcome Stacey Tonks to Halesowen Day Nursery who is employed as support staff taking over where Lauren left off. Stacy is gaining experience of all age groups of children throughout the week. Welcome Stacey.



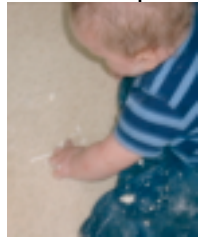
We also welcome two other relatively new nursery nurses to who are both employed in the Toddler room working alongside Kate: LR Helen, Kate, Ruth



Helen Bachelor was had been a student with us was employed as Toddler Room Nursery Nurse in May taking over Sam who became the baby room Supervisor. In July we employed Ruth Pearson, who took over Amy's role. Both girls are working well under the leadership of Kate. Well Done.



On 21<sup>st</sup> October Beccy Marsh who has been with us in various roles for over six years will be leaving nursery to take Maternity leave. Beccy's replacement has been appointed and we will welcome Jeni Duckworth on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - a few weeks before Beccy's departure.



We wish Beccy and Scott all the best for the future and look forward to congratulating them both on the birth of their first baby.

Staff changes are inevitable although we have had more than our fair share of late. I am happy that as is usual for us, staff received the motivation from working with us to go on to develop their careers in different ways.

You may also be aware that Sarah Weston Left us at the beginning of September to become the Family Centre Manager at Mount Pleasant Primary School - a step that she would not have felt confident to take on when she started with us in January 03. This is a real achievement for her and I congratulate her on her success.

I hope you agree that throughout these changes there has been minimum disruption for your children and that we have always put their needs first - trying to ensure that new staff are as familiar to the children as possible before a member of staff actually leaves. **Thank you for your continuing support with staffing issues. We strive to provide the very best service for families and staff alike.**

## General Activities

**BABIES** These are early days for our new starters who are all settling in well and getting used to the new environment. Their individual needs are very apparent and is the main focus of Sam and Lauren as they strive to get to know the new babies and bond with them. Parents have thanked the girls and commented on how well their babies are settling and adjusting to their new environment.

Our new and existing babies all seem to be enjoying their new room with its new soft play equipment opposing mirrors, new toys and equipment. They are enjoying being able to reach their own toys from the low shelves.

All the babies are still thoroughly enjoying exploring messy stuff like 'Gloop - a mixture of corn flour and water' (see Picture of Jayden trying to pick some up off the floor!) or Pasta which is always a favourite.

The babies really enjoyed the beach day we held in August, paddling in the pool and eating their ice-lollies.

Please ask Sam or Lauren to show you some recent photographs of the babies at play.

## TODDLERS

A number of one year olds have moved up to the toddler room now and are beginning to develop more independence. Their physical progress is obvious, as they become more mobile and steadier on their feet. Those who have moved up recently are enjoying exploring their new room and playing with new toys.

*Dhiern getting sticky making his shell picture.*



The older toddlers are communicating very well with each other as well as the staff, and are able to make their own

individual needs known. Our Nursery Nurses are providing lots of language opportunities and are regularly hearing the children imitate new sounds and words. All the toddlers love to go outside - recently they have been looking for insects and collecting leaves as well as their usual out-door play with bikes, dolls etc..

The beach party that we had in August was a big hit with the toddlers who thoroughly enjoyed the sand and water play and interacting with babies and staff. Eating the ice-cream was quite an event as well!

Please continue to send in photos of your child, yourselves, aunts, uncles, grandparents etc.. for the toddler room family board. If a child can not find a familiar picture on the board when others can they feel a little left out. We would really like to avoid this, so please send in pictures that your child will recognise and relate to. Thank you.

Over the coming weeks and months, they will continue to explore creative play through cardboard boxes, free painting, pasta play and dressing up. For photographs of the children at play, please ask the girls to show you their documentation folder or see the latest photographs of the children at play, at the toddler room doorway.

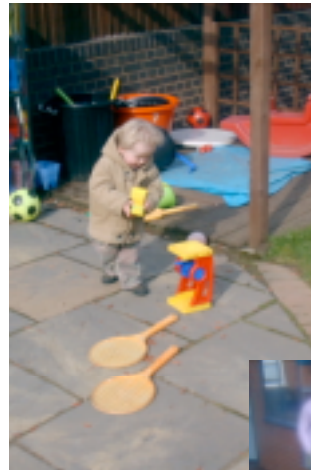
As a final note about the toddlers: You may have noticed that we no longer have our lovely big gold fish 'Mason'. Mason died a couple of weeks ago, and is sadly missed.

## KINDERGARTEN

When children move from the toddler room up to the Kindergarten, it's a whole new world. Over the last few weeks, Lisa, Louise and Rachel have been busy helping the children to adapt to a new stage in their lives. Many parents have commented on how well their children are settling in to the kindergarten.

The children have really been enjoying musical activities with the toddlers, as well as other musical experiences through stories and with Jan at music tots.

*Left: Ben enjoying the outdoors*



The kindergarten children have really enjoyed the time they have been spending outdoors..

*Below: Adam obviously enjoying his ball.*



The theme at the moment is 'All about Me' - a very popular theme when there are new children.

Through discovering about themselves they also discover

about each other, and quickly develop a sense of belonging.

The staff work alongside parents to get to know and understand the personalities of all the children in the kindergarten and do everything they can to support their development. Again toilet training is a central focus as is speaking and listening. The children are learning to understand and respect themselves and the needs of others and this is encouraged through promotion of appropriate manners and behaviour. Children are learning to feed themselves well at lunchtimes and to listen carefully to stories.

The children are particularly enjoying playing in the newly arranged home corner at the moment and the staff are providing a consistently welcoming environment for the children. They are also enjoying playing with the gems -under close supervision -and the sensory bottles and heuristic play.

## PRE-SCHOOL

Over recent months the children in the Pre-School have enjoyed being able to spend more time outdoors -having picnic lunches, and simply playing and exploring.

Notably the children have been getting a lot out of the writing activities -indoors and out as well as the puppet theatre, story sacks and various craft activities. Cutting Skills, Pencil control, counting with number recognition and phonics with letter



recognition have been the main areas of skill development.

At the moment the children are exploring the theme of 'Myself' mainly focusing on their body, their families and keeping healthy. We are actively encouraging the

children to eat more healthily -promoting fruit and vegetables and drinking milk.

In relation to **healthy eating** we have planned a trip for our pre-schoolers to Stanley's Farm shop on the Worcester Road. This will be on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October

We have taken the pre-school children to Stanley's farm shop in previous years and it has always proved to be a very worthwhile visit. The children get the chance to run through the corn fields, pick blackberries and carrots and see the amazingly huge pumpkins. More information regarding transport and requests for help will be provided nearer the time.

**ALSO - Keep an eye on the Kindergarten and pre-school notice board for any information that may be relevant to you and your child, and for details of how you can contribute to your child's learning.**

## Fundraising

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This year we will be reaching out to children around the world through a Christmas gift idea called Operation Christmas Child.

We will be asking you to get involved in this by filling a standard-sized shoebox with toys and goodies for children living in poverty. When we have all the filled boxes they will be collected by the charity and transported across the world to children in need.

We are expecting the leaflets with full details to arrive shortly, and as soon as they do we'll pass them on to you. The scheme is operated by a charity called Samaritan's Purse and is something that the children love to be involved in. It gives them a sense of 'giving to someone less fortunate than themselves'.

### CHILDREN IN NEED DAY: 18<sup>TH</sup> NOV 2005

We are planning a sponsored activity to raise money for Children in Need. To link with our theme of 'staying healthy' we will be arranging a 'sponsored circuit-training' event to include bouncing, skipping, jumping, hopping and physical exercises. We will be asking you to collect sponsors from friends and family and all money raised will go directly to Children in Need. The event will be held one week before on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November**. Nursery Staff will also be involved and will be seeking sponsors - so do come along on the day and enjoy the fun!

## Photographer

Our regular photographer Pat Thatcher from Tempest will be here on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 10.45 am**

We have always been very pleased with the service that Tempest provides and the photographs have always been of excellent quality.

### PROCEDURE FOR THE DAY:

A suitable area is found for the photographer to set up for the session and children who are not normally in and whom their parents have brought in will have their photographs taken first.

Children attending nursery that day will then have their photographs taken in turn with afternoon children having theirs taken when they arrive.

- The proofs should arrive at nursery within approximately two weeks. You will then be asked to complete the order sheets should you like to make a purchase.
- The order forms must be returned to nursery along with payment (Cash/Cheque) before a given date, and we then forward these onto the photographers.

**CHEQUES MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO 'TEMPEST' - NOT to US!!**

Your photographs should arrive within a further two or three weeks.

## Parent's Evening OVER 2's ONLY

From now on we will be reverting to the old system whereby the parent's evening is only for the **OVER 2's**.

We have found that very few parents of children under 2 years attend our parent's evenings. Parents we have spoken to feel that there is adequate opportunity to discuss their child's progress on a daily basis - which is actually more appropriate for this age group - and that they find out all they need to know in this way. If you have any objections to this change please let us know so that we can support your needs on an individual basis.

### For Over 2's: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November

Parents of all children in the Kindergarten and Pre-school are invited to our parents evening to review your child's individual progress, to enable you to keep abreast of any new developments in the kindergarten and preschool and receive any important information.

Appointments will be made nearer the time

## Parents Survey

Our fourth Parent survey will be sent out to you in October. Please take the time to complete this, as it gives us a good insight into how you feel about our service. Your feedback in the past has assured us of the many ways in which we are meeting your needs.

**A graphical analysis will be available for you in due course.**

## 'MUSIC TOTS'

The dates for the Wednesday Music

Tots sessions this term will be:

**September:** 21<sup>st</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> **October:** 5<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup>

**November:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> **December:** 7<sup>th</sup>

**Sessions times are:**

|             |             |                        |     |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------|-----|
| 2-3 yr olds | 3.00-3.25pm | £2/sess or £20/term    | 3-4 |
| yr olds     | 3.25-4.00pm | £2.50/sess or £25/term |     |

We ask for payment of £25.00/£20.00 (CASH ONLY) in advance where possible.

**Thank you to those of you who have already paid.**

## Has your child got everything they need for nursery?

Each child should have enough spare clothes in their bag to see them through any mishaps during the day. Please check for spare: cardigan/jumper; trousers/skirt; T-shirt; 2 or 3 pairs of socks and

pants. Please replace your child's toothbrush as often as necessary.

Children who have recently moved up to the Toddler Room will now require a toothbrush, to be labelled and kept in Nursery.

Please note that children who are TOILET TRAINING need an abundant supply of spare clothes each day.

### YOUR CHILDREN'S HEALTH...

Thank you for your co-operation when informing us about your children's illnesses as soon as they occur.

Unfortunately it's not possible to bring your sick child to nursery, and we're very grateful to you all for ensuring your children are well enough, and no longer

contagious before bringing them back to nursery. As you know we can effectively contain bouts of head-lice/contagious viruses etc. when we are kept well informed. Thank you for your co-operation during our recent occurrence of head lice. Regular checking of your children's hair will ensure that we do not have a re-occurrence of the problem.

Christmas is nearly upon us once more! We have lots of exciting things for the children - and yourselves - to look forward to! Please make a note of the following dates in your diary so that you don't miss the fun...

- **Christmas Play**

You are warmly invited to come along and enjoy the children performing in this years Christmas play ' The Little Red Robin' on

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am**

- **Christmas Party**

We have a fun-filled day planned this year for our Christmas party. The children will be enjoying party food and having lots of fun playing a range of games during the afternoon.

" **Zeppo the Clown** " will be coming to entertain us all as he has in previous years and as always, **Santa** will be visiting the children in the afternoon and bringing with him sweets and a special gift for each child. The children's faces are a picture when he arrives and if we can encourage him to wave to the children from the kindergarten roof again it will be a real treat! The party is planned for

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2.00- 4.30pm.**

# Christmas time!

### Dates for Your Diary September - December 2005

First Music Tots Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> September

Tempest Photographer Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 10.45 am

Stanley's Farm Shop: Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> October

Latest date for Christmas Shoe Boxes: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

Sponsored Circuit Training Event For Children In Need: Fri 11<sup>th</sup> November

Final Music Tots Wed 7<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Play Fri 9<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am

Christmas Party Fri 16<sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm - 4.30pm

Last Day of 2005 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

### AND FINALLY...

I would like to say a very big 'Thank You' to all the staff, who work together with great dedication and commitment to provide a safe, caring and fun learning environment for the children.

**Nursery will close on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 3 pm and Re-open on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2006 at 7.30 am.**

**We wish you all a very enjoyable Autumn/Winter Term, Alice, Heidi and Kate.**

