

Nursery News

DEAR PARENTS

I hope you all enjoyed the Summer.... And I hope there is a bit more sun to squeeze out over the next few weeks...

WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN TERM

We extend a very special welcome to our new families joining us here at Nursery.

Oliver, Isabel, Eleanor, Harry, Abigail, Jessica, Elizabeth, Chloe, Ivan & Freddie join Sam & Hollie in the Baby Room. Ellie, sibling to Ben, joins the Toddler Room. Starters to Nursery during the latter part of last term have also settled in very well, enjoying Nursery activities & new relationships. George, Adeline & Eddie happily join Sarah & Mike in the Kindergarten and we welcome Louisa's return in the Pre-School.

We have welcomed a record number of "newbies" this term in all rooms and they are all settling in well. May I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best here at Nursery.

SCHOOL LEAVERS

Due to the new single intake at Primary Schools starting this September, we sadly said our goodbyes to an incredible 16 children this time round.

Tommi, Amelia, Leanne, George, Holly, Levi, Isabelle R, Isabelle D, Dylan, Erin, Jessica, Olivia, Jonas, Jayden, Adam and Ben began their exciting School life in September and we wish them all the very best in their new Schools.

STAFF

Rather selfishly, but first things first, Sam & I have passed our Foundation Degrees, with 'Senior Practitioner Status'. And yes, it was all worth it in the end as many people kept telling us. We would both like to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone – family, friends, staff, children, parents and each other for the support over the last two years.

We **DID** graduate from University College Birmingham on Monday 22nd September

Congratulations must also go to Alice who has successfully gained her EYPS - Early Years Professional Status, after a lot of hard work & dedication.

Welcome To:

I would like to welcome Hollie who joined us in May. She has settled in extremely well alongside Sam in the Baby Room. Hollie has previously worked with Special Needs children teaching them to ride horses. She has a definite passion for babies and together they continue to be a dynamic duo looking after your precious babies.

Katie Mandefield joined us in June to provide lunch cover and support for staff to fulfil their leadership responsibilities. She joins us from another day nursery and is continuing her Childcare studies with us.

Some of you have already met Melissa around Nursery and I would like to thank her for all the cover she has provided and to now wish her all the best as the Nursery Secretary.

I would also like to welcome Kelly Owen to the staff team. Kelly joins us from Merryvale Nursery and will provide support in the Toddler Room, working alongside Emma and under Debra's supervision.

Kate James returned to the team in the Toddler Room in July and brought along a little treat for us – her daughter Abigail. She works part time and continues in her role to offer & share her experience. Welcome back Kate.

GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK TO:

Gemma Williamson & Julie Andrews

Gemma recently left us in August after deciding to pursue training and an eventual career in midwifery. Our best wishes go to Gemma.

Sadly, Julie left us on Thursday 25th September for a similar position in her friend's Nursery in Solihull. Julie made this decision based around her own family's needs with regard to location of schools for Zara and her family's support. Needless to say Julie & Zara will be greatly missed and we wish them both the very best for their future.

STAFF TRAINING

As usual the staff have been accessing plenty of training through Dudley MBC and the local Health Service. The team have been working hard to "tweak" planning, development records and room layouts to enhance the opportunities, activities and experiences for your children through the New Early Years Foundation Stage, which is now statutory.

Early Years Foundation Stage Principles

- A Unique Child
- Positive Relationships
- Enabling Environments
- Learning & Development

These are very positive headings and terms and sum up what children should be entitled to during their childhood. We at the Nursery constantly strive to provide for these through our attitudes, activities and commitment.

ASSESSMENT, OBSERVATION & RECORD KEEPING

As a team, we have been looking at our methods of assessment, observation and record keeping. While very informative & extensive, we are in the process of updating the development records to further reflect the principles of the EYFS. Assessment of children is a very useful tool for us to analyse and review what we know about each child. We are then able to make informed decisions about their progress and plan & provide activities and opportunities for their "next steps" The tools used in assessment are as follows:

- **Formative** – Scrapbooks, detailed observations, spontaneous observations, photos, video clips, information from parents
- **Summative** – Development Records that make statements about a child's achievements over a period of time, taken from all the formative evidence

BABY MASSAGE

A Community Health Visitor recently trained baby room practitioners last term in the appropriate application of 'Baby Massage'. With the cooperation of the babies, we are able to sooth and comfort them as a regular course of action or as a response to their emotional needs. It has proved very successful with both staff & babies.

We initially tried to introduce these training sessions to parents and would like to arrange and provide the opportunity for you again. Please fill in the tear off slip below to indicate your interest.

PARENTS SURVEY

Parent questionnaires will continue to be left by the entrance. Please use these for anything that you would like to bring to our attention. These give us a good insight into how you feel about our service. Your feedback in the past has helped us to improve our service to you and has assured us of the many ways in which we are successfully meeting your needs.

Thank you

However, when possible please talk to/phone myself, Alice or Sam immediately should you have any concerns about any issues in the Nursery.

REPORTING ON SUMMER EVENTS

Farm Trip

The trip to the Ark Animal Sanctuary last term was very enjoyable. It was lovely to see so many parents enjoying the day together too. The children found the place very inspiring judging from the interest and activities that were cultivated from it back at Nursery. The apple tree proved to be very interesting and it was great to hear how the children would collect apples to make pies and jams at home. The staff at the farm kindly provided us with 2 huge buckets of animal feed, something the children enjoyed immensely. We were so proud of how confident and aware of safety the children were when feeding the animals. Well Done.

Under 2's Fun Day

Whilst the Kindergarten & Pre-School children were playing away, the Toddlers & Babies enjoyed a Fun Day here at Nursery. They especially took great interest in the animals that visited Nursery – Heidi's rabbit, Thumper and Alice's tortoises and dog, Linford, Christie & Alfie. The different textures of the animals appealed to most of the young children and by providing this real experience for them, the staff can plan for & promote textures in other activities. The weather was beautiful and so enabled a lot of the outdoor activities to go ahead as planned.

The ball pit proved a huge success too and all the children enjoyed exploring it.

The Music Session with Rhythm Time had all the children participating really well, having lots of musical fun!

Stay & Play

Stay & Play was enjoyed by all again this year and I would like to thank those parents very much for their involvement. The children love seeing new and familiar faces in their Nursery environment and this all adds to their confidence, self-esteem and relationship building. Thank you also for completing the feedback forms. We have found these very productive and a good communication tool about the services we are providing. As mentioned in the stay & play summary recently, we will be organising another week in the Spring Term.

PARENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN NURSERY AND WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU COME IN AND SHARE A SKILL WITH THE CHILDREN – PLEASE SEE YOUR CHILD'S KEY CARER.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

All the children have been enjoying getting out in the fresh air and accessing the "outdoor classroom" quite freely over the Summer. The areas - construction, art & craft, climbing, sand, water, bikes and scooters - continue to be available for most of the day and safety is of the utmost importance. The Nursery has new stabilized big bikes to promote a challenge and most of the pre-school children have already confidently risen to that challenge.

The babies and toddlers are also getting lots more opportunity for fresh air through regular trips out in the double buggies. They are able to sit side by side and chat to each other as they watch the world around them from the comfort of the buggies.

AUTUMN & WINTER DAYS

With the Autumn & Winter weather heading our way, the children can and will still be able to enjoy the outside play areas. Please ensure they bring coats, **LABELLED** hats and **LABELLED** gloves to Nursery to continue enjoying the great outdoors.

TESCO & SAINSBURYS VOUCHERS

Many thanks for your co-operation in sending in vouchers for both of these schemes. The Tesco vouchers have been "banked" and we will continue to collect & accumulate them next year. The Active Kids Scheme from Sainsburys has enabled us to replenish our bats and balls, purchase ribbon streamers for music, movement & creativity, bean bag scarves for easy catching, sensory balance beams, and two other larger pieces of equipment – ped-a-rollers. These incorporate a number of physical skills and a lot of fun! Thank You

NEWS FROM THE ROOMS

BABY ROOM

Sam & Hollie report that all babies are settling well into their routines and showing a great interest in mirrors and their reflections. Rhymes & listening to singing continue to be enjoyed and "The Wheels on the Bus" has been a firm favourite with all the actions associated with this rhyme appealing to the babies.

Baby signing continues to flourish and proves to be a fantastic communication tool for everyone in the room. The signing has been encouraging babies to verbally say their first words too and Sam & Hollie are thrilled with the progress.

The babies have especially enjoyed the garden over the summer months, exploring and distinguishing sounds with the new MUSIC TREE and feeding their creativity & curiosity with different textures inside & outside - soil & yogurt being favourites.

Sam & Hollie would like to acknowledge & thank the wonderful feedback from you about the opportunities babies have for such messy exploration. These activities have been successfully captured on film and parents continue to enjoy seeing their little treasures progress on the Nursery lap-top.

Social skills and self-help skills have become very apparent and babies are able to feed themselves very well with spoons and forks.

Looking forward to the next few months, Sam & Hollie are going to be extending the babies interests in mirrors and themselves by providing activities to encourage them to use their bodies creatively, encompassing the many schemas that are being identified.

Last but not least, a new sleep basket/cosy corner has been set up in the Baby Room for babies to begin recognising their own needs for sleep & rest and to take themselves off for that much needed rest. Watch this space for how this new idea progresses.

TODDLER ROOM

Debra, Emma & Kate wish to extend a warm welcome to all new children and to say how well they are all settling.

Recently, the toddlers have been exploring a wide range of textures through a variety of activities and opportunities being planned for, following their immense pleasure of textures at the Fun Day.

The toddlers have been making the most of the outdoors over the past few months getting out earlier in the day, going for regular walks and accessing the play area some afternoons as well. Games and exploration have been key themes lately and exploring the natural world proved fun too. The children thoroughly enjoyed sorting and planting their cress seeds and have continued to enjoy the process at home.

Please continue to add your comments to the "Children's Interest" Sheet in the Toddler Room as this provides the staff with an understanding of your child and enables them to plan around what the children are interested in, in the home and Nursery environment.

Debra reports that the new routines have helped the children acquire new independence skills. Sleeping on new beds, brushing teeth, hand washing, sitting at tables and feeding themselves have all been very successful.

KINDERGARTEN

Sarah & Mike report that all new children are settling and enjoying their new environment immensely. Routine continues to be a comfort to the children. Over the summer term, kindergarten have been exploring art and activities on a large scale and this has enhanced their learning, encouraged their curiosity and enabled a lot of sharing and togetherness.

Using a wide variety of objects to paint, create & explore with, has enabled good achievements in hand-eye co-ordination and physical development.

The sand and water play tray has proven very successful, housing other various creative items such as dry pasta, cooked pasta, cornflakes and jelly. The textures have held the children's interests well and they can be seen spending longer periods of time in exploration.

Imaginative and imitative play is a very prominent area in the kindergarten age range and the children have enjoyed the home corner, dressing up, play people and animal sets.

Looking ahead, through to this term's proposed "myself" theme, the children and staff wish to explore families, friends, and independence and to continue positive healthy eating attitudes.

Sarah & Mike have requested that family photos be brought in for this theme. Thanks

Please continue to add your comments to the "Children's Interest" Sheet as this provides the staff with an understanding of your child and enables them to plan around what the children are interested in, in the home and Nursery environment.

PRESCHOOL

Children in the Pre-School enjoyed their Farm Trip immensely and this formed a large part of the planned activities that ran through the summer months. The children explored colour & texture and pattern well and 3D shape became very important and inspiring to them. A big project last term was the creation of the large 3D papler-mache and mudrok farm animals. The children participated in designing, creating and problem solving sessions to finalise the fantastic end result.

Trips and outings made a pathway for the children to become interested in travel and transport too. All the children thoroughly enjoyed getting postcards from staff and friends over the summer months. Again, problem solving – "what shall we put in our case?" "how do we get on a plane?" issues were well thought through by the children.

The Fire Engine Pack that was kindly distributed to interested settings by the Fire Service proved to be a big hit too! All the children using the dressing up clothes and costumes achieved self-help and independent skills.

The children in pre-school have been cultivating a lovely set of manners and use them confidently, respectfully and appropriately with each other and with adults. As the younger children move up this term, this will be a theme that continues too. Healthy eating also continues and the children are very confident to try new foods and combinations of foods with a positive attitude.

After our last ECERS advice, the book corner has been made a lot cosier for the children to take themselves off for a bit of quiet. This has also enabled the children to share stories with each other a lot more and to access the CD player/ story tape/music of their own choosing. Sharing is very apparent in this area. Well Done children.

Creativity continues to play a central theme throughout the Nursery and the pre-school have plenty of opportunities to create with a wide range of media to achieve their desired end result and learn new skills whilst going through the process.

Over the next term, the pre-school will be concentrating on the "Myself" theme, incorporating the children's interests about themselves, their bodies, their feelings, families & friends and their environment. Please continue to familiarise yourselves with the notice board and do not hesitate to ask any questions.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Photographer Friday 24th Oct

The photographers Fotek will be here with us once again this term.

PROCEDURE FOR THE DAY:

- Children who are not normally in and whom their parents have brought in will be slotted in as they arrive.
- Children attending nursery that day will 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.
- 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 'FOTEK'

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

MUSIC TOTS

Jan returns this term & Music Tots continues to be a success with all the children. Dates for this term are as follows:

September: 10th 17th 24th

October: 15th 22nd

Nov: 5th 12th 19th 26th

Dec: 10th

Pre-School Room Participants

2.00pm -2.50pm - £2.50/session or £25/term

Kindergarten Participants

2.55pm-3.30pm - £2.00/session or £20/term

Please pay by **CASH ONLY** in a labelled envelope where possible. Thank you to those who have already paid

Internal Music Sessions continue to be part of all room routines, with staff planning for & implementing musical based opportunities every day.

PARENTS EVENING

Monday 3rd November

For Kindergarten & Pre-School only

Parents of children in the Kindergarten and Pre-school have the opportunity to attend Parents Evenings to discuss your child's individual progress

Please look out for the appointment sheet on the kindergarten door and we all look forward to seeing you soon.

“FANCY DRESS – CHRISTMAS SONGS”

Tuesday December 16th – 10.00am

With such a busy term ahead and the younger age range within our pre-school, we as a team feel it would be more suitable to have a good old Christmas sing song rather than a full blown play. So, please join us on Friday 19th Dec to hear your children sing their favourite Christmas Songs. We will be asking you nearer the time to provide a Christmas themed fancy dress costume. Thank you

“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 again 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

Thursday 18th December 2.00pm - 4.30pm

AUTUMN TERM FUNDRAISING

Children In Need

We will once again be supporting CIN this year, and with your help we would like to “DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT” as is this years theme. Please watch this space for CIN activities happening soon.

Hand In Hand Ministries

Hand In Hand is a Christian Charity that we have supported before at one of our Quiz Nights. The charity rescues young girls and children who have been forced into prostitution and gives them HOPE for the future. Please check out the website link for further details

www.hand-in-hand.org.uk

Each family will shortly be receiving a tube of Smarties from us. All we ask in return is for you to enjoy them and return the tube back to us filled with coins – SIMPLE! Obviously, the higher value the coin the better! A tube of pennies or a tube of pound coins could make all the difference to a child's hope for the future. I hope you will support us.

MENUS AND CHILDREN'S ALLERGIES

Ian, our Nursery Cook continues to provide tasty nutritious meals & snacks for the children on a daily basis. As consistent recipients of the GOLD HEALTHY EATING AWARD for the last few years, we always strive to uphold the principles & guidelines of the Award. Therefore, we recently made some additions & amendments to the menus and they now include more fresh food and ingredients including varied healthier vegetarian options. Research shows that a child has to taste a new food numerous times before their taste buds make decisions on its likeability. Hence, all staff always strive to encourage and tempt the children to try foods consistently over a long period of time –

IMPORTANT NOTICE

As you are aware, a number of children in the Nursery suffer with allergies – a common occurrence in this day and age. We would like to remind you that a couple of these allergies are life threatening and we therefore need your constant co-operation and awareness when bringing food in. Thank You.

REMINDERS

Opening Hours

Unfortunately, nursery cannot open officially until 7.30 am and although staff may arrive before that time, they cannot accept children before 7.30am. Staff need to perform important safety checks, switch the heating on and set things up in readiness for the children's arrival.

Thank you for your cooperation and for collecting your children by 6.00pm

Security

For security reasons please take care to not allow admittance to anybody whom you do not recognise as a parent at the front door. Always close the door securely behind you whenever you arrive in or leave the building.

When collecting your children from their play-rooms at the end of the day, please could you ensure that the corridors remain free for other parents to comfortably and safely walk in and out of the building

Please could all parents be aware and responsible for their children after collecting them from their playroom. The baby room half door needs to be kept closed as environment in the toddler room. Slippers will be provided by Nursery. Thank you

Has your child got everything they need at Nursery?

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

Please note that children who are TOILET TRAINING need an ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF SPARE CLOTHES your children pass by to ensure the safety of the babies behind it.

Shoes

Please can we remind you to take your child's shoes off in a morning in order to help us create the homely environment in the toddler room. Slippers will be provided by Nursery. Thank you

Your Children's Health

Please continue to inform us about your children's illnesses as soon as they occur, as we can effectively contain bouts of head-lice/contagious viruses etc. when we are kept well informed. 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 to come here, and no longer contagious before bringing them back to nursery.

And Finally.....

Alice, Sam & I would like to extend our thanks to all the staff for another successful term at Nursery. Working together as a team with dedication & commitment to the children is the key to providing a caring, safe and fun learning environment for you and your children.

Thanks also goes to you for your continued support.

I hope you have enjoyed reading our Autumn newsletter and wish you all a very enjoyable Term.

Heidi, Alice, Sam & all the Staff.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Autumn Term

- **First Music Tots** – Wed 10th Sept
- **Final Music Tots** – Wed 10th Dec
- **Photographer** – Friday 24th Oct
- **Parents Evening** – Mon 3rd Nov
- **Christmas Songs** – Tue 16th Dec
- **Christmas party** – Thurs 18th Dec
- **Nursery Closes** – 3pm – 24th Dec